



Prayer revival

"Spontaneous movement of God" continues to spread to churches in Central Arkansas.

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Student-led Bible study

Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, teen boys begin student-led Bible study.

page 7

400 Greene County volunteers participate 'Ministry Day' impacts lives

Lisa Watson
Arkansas Baptist News

PARAGOULD – For Paula Easton, a widow from Paragould, the incessant noise of a backhoe in her back yard signaled just one thing – an add-on room that was literally crumbling off her house was finally going to be torn down completely.

Volunteers from several Greene County Baptist Association churches spent May 7 removing the room from Easton's home and tearing down an out building in her back yard.

Easton, who said she was unable to do the job herself because of health problems, was grateful for the assistance.

"I just appreciate them coming to do this for me," she said. "If this had cost me money, I never would have been able to have it done. But they aren't charging anything. They are just doing it out of the goodness of their own hearts."

The elderly woman was among hundreds of people across Greene County who received help as part of Paragould Ministry Day, a one-day mission outreach, May 7.

More than 400 volunteers from 18 churches in Greene County Baptist Association spent the day mowing yards, building wheelchair ramps, treating people with medical and dental concerns,

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Paragould resident Ava Gates (left) has her blood pressure taken by Debbie Miles, a nurse practitioner and member of East Side Baptist Church, Paragould.

NAMB trustees approve new mission statement

Joe Westbury
The Christian Index

ALPHARETTA, Ga. – NAMB's "historic overhaul," first rolled out at the agency's February board meeting, gained momentum at its May 11 board meeting as the president,

Kevin Ezell, continued to flesh out the skeleton of the revamped missions entity.

Trustees approved a rewriting of the agency's ministry statement as first handed down by the Covenant for a New Century in 1995. Some observers criticized the original doc-

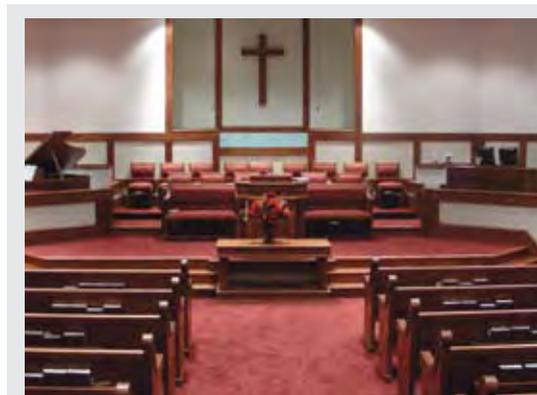
ument for being too broad and not allowing NAMB to concentrate on core assignments.

The revised document addresses that issue – realigning its priorities and reducing its ministry assignments from nine to six. Reflecting the direction as outlined in the

Great Commission Resurgence Task Force Report, the statement is more focused and places church planting at the top of the agency's hierarchy of priorities.

Notable is a shift in verbiage,

See **NAMB** page 3



Church rebuilt

Earle Baptist Church, Earle, was recently dedicated after a devastating tornado. See story on page 7.

Three Ark. churches flooded

RECENT FLOODING along the Black River and its tributaries damaged three Arkansas Baptist churches. More than 2.5 feet of water inundated Shannon Baptist Church, Pocahontas, following heavy rains May 1-2. The church sustained extensive damage, including destroyed pews, flooring and drywall. Floodwaters have receded and church members and other volunteers have

already begun clean up.

Also in Current-Gaines Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Success, and Calvary Baptist Church, Corning, sustained damage. The damage to First Baptist, Success, was limited to flooring after floodwaters deposited about 1.5 inches of water, said Don Set-

See **FLOODING** page 2

ASU's Arliss Dickerson retires after 41 years

A life invested in campus ministry

Lisa Watson
Arkansas Baptist News

WHEN ARLISS DICKERSON began serving in 1979 as Baptist Student Minister on the campus of Arkansas State University (ASU) in Jonesboro, a long-term tenure wasn't his plan. "I thought I'd stay five to 10 years," he recalled.

He did stay. For 32 years.

Dickerson retires as Arkansas State Baptist collegiate minister May 31. In all, he has served in Arkansas Baptist campus ministry for a sum total of 41 years.

Dickerson's love for collegiate ministry began while he was a student at Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College). He also served as Baptist Student Union (BSU) president when he attended college there and when he transferred to Arkansas State.

He was finishing his college career about the time the Vietnam War "was in high gear," he said. When he finished college, he was offered a position as a part-time campus minister, which he declined because he was not ordained and could not be deferred from the

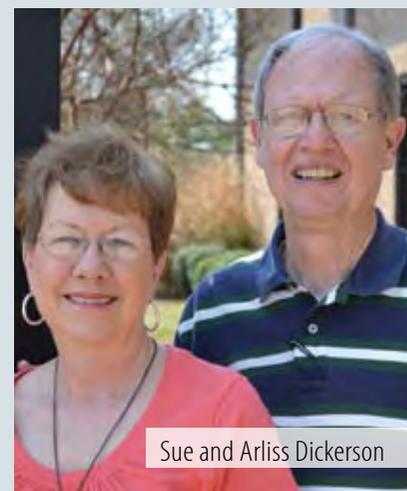
draft. He instead took a job as a teacher in Piggott.

On June 1, 1968, he and his wife, Sue, married. And just a few weeks later, he was drafted.

It was during his service in Vietnam that he was offered a position as campus minister at ASU. But, because he still had quite a bit of time left to serve in Vietnam, he was unable to accept.

Instead, the campus minister from Henderson State University took the position. Later that year,

See **DICKERSON** page 12



Sue and Arliss Dickerson

New Hope renewal event opens hearts

CARAWAY—A lay renewal event at New Hope Baptist Church, Caraway, has been instrumental in transforming the way members look at and “do” church, according to pastor Heath Hawkins.

Hawkins said the event, conducted in March, “broke down walls” and challenged the church body to “examine closely held beliefs about themselves and their church.”

The event all started quite by accident after Hawkins stumbled upon information on lay revivals on the North American Mission Board Web site. New Hope is Hawkins’ first pastorate.

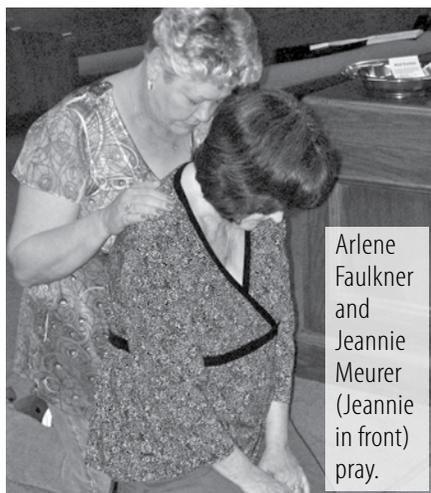
“I was not familiar with what a lay renewal was,” he said, “but as I looked at the materials and read the testimonies from pastors around the country, I prayed that God might do such a work at New Hope.”

And that’s precisely what God did.

One Sunday evening, regional coordinator Charles Brought of Linden, Tenn., visited New Hope to provide an overview of the Lay Renewal Weekend.

Though church members still had lots of questions about conducting a lay renewal, the weekend was scheduled.

During the weekend, 15 lay people from Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana came to New Hope – at their own expense – to lead the week-



end, which was church-wide, including adults, youth and children.

Hawkins said church leaders were excited when 40 members committed to participate in the weekend.

“Attendance is up, but prior to the renewal weekend, New Hope normally ran about 65 in Sunday morning worship,” he said.

FLOODING

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Calvary Baptist’s old fellowship hall was damaged as well. Fortunately, the building was already scheduled for demolition. A week prior to the flooding the church moved into a new educational facility across the

The “weekend” actually started before the entire team arrived, Hawkins explained.

“Thursday afternoon they began a 24-hour prayer vigil where God began to speak to those who participated. That was only a taste of the outpouring of the Spirit to come.”

During the weekend, members were randomly assigned to small groups led by lay renewal leaders, who asked a series of questions designed to help the groups open up to each other, said Hawkins.

“To try to describe the weekend in words would be nearly impossible,” he said. “Friday night God began to break down barriers and open hearts, and that is where the tears started to flow.”

Throughout the weekend, members participated in a variety of activities, including praise and worship time and coffee groups in homes.

The outpouring of God’s Spirit

was evident among all who participated.

“My spirit was renewed. My heart was broken (and) healed,” said Jennifer Power, 33, a preschool worker at the church and local cotton gin manager.

Children’s Sunday school teacher, Kim Couch, 42, said: “I am in awe of the power of our God when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts.”

Hawkins said New Hope was a “loving church before (the weekend), but now I think we really know what that means.

“I never dreamed the Holy Spirit would descend on us the way He did,” said Hawkins. “I love these people at New Hope, and I am so excited where God will take this country church.”

More information about lay renewal is available at www.namb.net/renewal.

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washing cars, prayer walking, providing quarters to local laundry mat patrons and cooking hot dogs, making cotton candy and painting faces at block parties.

Not even a wet, cold rain would keep these diehard believers from sharing the love of Christ through these acts of service.

‘Why can’t we do that?’

Jeff Boone, a member of Reynolds Park Baptist Church, Paragould, served as organizer for the one-day mission project. He said the Mississippi River Ministry one-day mission project held Sept. 11 in Pine Bluff served as an impetus for the Greene County mission event. More than 150 volunteers from Greene County churches attended the event.

After the Pine Bluff event, he said, “People got to talking about it and said, ‘Why can’t we do that in Paragould?’” And thus, the Paragould mission project was born.

Through these outreach activities, Boone said he has just one hope – to see lives changed by Christ. “That’s what it’s all about,” he said.

Additionally, he said, “I hope it will spark an evangelistic heart in our people so they aren’t just doing this today, but every day.”

Dave White, Greene County Baptist Association missionary, said the

event was part of a culmination of the Holy Spirit at work in the association. “It started from the Pine Bluff event and moved to an awareness that we need to be giving a cup of water in Jesus’ name, right here in Greene County.”

Three years ago, the association purchased a block party trailer and began reaching out to the area through this evangelistic tool. Since that time, churches within the association have purchased three more block party trailers. “Missions seems to have become implanted in the DNA of our association,” he said.

Noting other mission emphases within the association, White said he hopes other associations will be encouraged by his association’s mission outreach. “We are trying to reach the lost in Greene County – and we want to encourage other associations to do this as well.”

Door-to-door evangelism

Bob Wells, a member of East Side Baptist Church, Paragould, headed up the door-to-door evangelism teams for the event. He was excited about the prospects for ministry that the outreach offered.

“We’re here to spread the good news of Jesus. God told us to make disciples, and that’s what we plan to do,” he said.

In addition to the door-to-door evangelism and other events, he said volunteers shared the gospel of Christ with every person who came

street, which was not damaged.

Banks Baptist Church, Hardy, also was damaged from floodwaters. Near Martin Creek, the church was left with at least 6 inches of mud after floodwaters subsided, said Brent Powell, Black River Baptist Association missionary. Powell said church members are again holding services in the church after removing flooring and cleaning the church.

for medical and dental assistance, and 11 people made professions of faith in Christ during the event.

Wells plans to follow up with each person who made a spiritual decision to get them “plugged into a church” within the association.

Spiritual help

Debbie Miles, a nurse practitioner and member of East Side Baptist Church, Paragould, was one of the medical personnel who volunteered at the clinic. She believes there are many people in the Paragould area who need medical help.

But more than just offering medical help, Miles hoped people would receive spiritual help as well.

“If one person is touched and brought to Jesus, then I think that would be a wonderful thing,” said Miles.

Dawn Seaney and Demi Morgan came to the medical clinic for medical attention. But they also served as volunteers. Both are part of Camp Hope, a faith-based program for women and children with addictions. “We want people to understand that there are people out there that care about them and want to help them,” Seaney said.

Don Slatton, Unity Baptist Church, Paragould, member and retired pastor, served as coordinator for a block party held at Calvary Baptist Church, Paragould.

He said the volunteers planned to spend the day cooking hot dogs,

Current-Gaines Baptist Association’s feeding unit was dispatched to nearby Neelyville, Mo., and completed service May 6. And the Calvary Baptist Association feeding unit has been providing meals in Des Arc, which was hard hit by flooding.

Experts indicate flooding may continue in Arkansas for some time as the Mississippi River continues to rise above flood stages.

making cotton candy and popcorn and providing opportunities for children to play a variety of games, all in hopes of being able to share Christ’s love with them. “We’re hoping to meet some folks that don’t know the Lord, and we are hoping to be able to share Jesus with them,” he said.

Breck Freeman, a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions ministries team, coordinates the one-day mission projects for Arkansas Baptists. Though the Mississippi River Ministry one-day mission project had been offered only once every two years, he said the success of last year’s Pine Bluff mission project prompted his team to begin offering similar events and an Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip on a yearly basis.

This year’s project is scheduled for Oct. 1 in the Ouachita Baptist Association.

From mission projects like the one held last year in Pine Bluff and the upcoming Ouachita Baptist one, Freeman hopes church members will see that they can host a similar event closer to home.

For more information about the Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip in Ouachita Baptist Association or for details about planning a similar event in your association or church, contact Breck Freeman at 800-838-2272, ext. 5150, or bfreeman@absc.org.

Contact Lisa Watson at lisa@arkansasbaptist.org

Called a 'spontaneous movement of God'

Prayer revival continues to spread

Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

NORTH LITTLE ROCK - What started as "a spontaneous movement of God" and prayer revival in North Little Rock appears to be spreading to more churches in Central Arkansas.

Bill Elliff, pastor of Summit Church, North Little Rock - where 65 people have been baptized since April 3 - said a major "reconciliation event" in the life of the church occurred May 2 when Summit members met at First Baptist Church, Little Rock.

First Baptist was starting a "First Monday" prayer meeting and wanted to know more about what God was doing at Summit, said First Baptist pastor Jim Lagrone.

Summit was founded more than a decade ago as a result of a split with First Baptist.

"The pastor (Lagrone) asked me to share, and after giving a report of God's activity in the city and at the Summit," said Elliff, "we opened up the microphone."

It wasn't long before a member "stood to confess that she had been critical and a part of the problem that led to the division of the two churches," he said.

"It was a beautiful moment of reconciliation, which opened the door for multiple people to come and express their hearts," said Elliff.

The Summit Church pastor said he had personally forgiven those involved in the split, "(but) I had not loved as Christ desires and sought the church's forgiveness for that."

"We had a wonderful spirit, ... nearly three hours of confessing and repenting and getting our hearts together," said Lagrone. "It was an awesome night." Like Elliff, Lagrone said he is a "student of revival movements" and sees God's hand clearly in the meeting of the churches.



Mike Wood rubs baptismal waters out of his eyes April 13 at the Summit Church in North Little Rock as Gary Goldman, right, celebrates. Goldman was instrumental in leading Wood to Christ. Wood had been living on the streets for seven years.

- Photo by Guy Lyons

"Before the night was over, there was love and grace poured out upon us all," Elliff said. "(It was) a wonderful beginning of reconciliation and healing. I wonder, if God chooses to spread His work of revival and spiritual awakening around the city, if we would not see many more meetings occurring between churches."

Nehemiah Network grows

For about 15 years, according to Elliff, a large group of evangelical pastors in Central Arkansas - known as the Nehemiah Network - have been praying for revival. Each year for a number of years, the group has joined together for a three-day prayer retreat, with this past year being "un-

usually intense."

While a number of the churches hold their own prayer meetings, quarterly meetings conducted by the network specifically focus on revival and spiritual awakening.

On Thursday, May 5, members of area churches met at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, for a citywide prayer meeting attended by more than 500 people. May 5 was the National Day of Prayer in the United States.

In addition to Elliff, Immanuel pastor Gary Hollingsworth and Kevin Kelly, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, facilitated the prayer meeting.

"Three different churches led worship, which was phenomenal, and the prayer times were out the roof," said Elliff.

Immanuel hosted the citywide prayer meeting as part of its involvement in the Nehemiah Network group, Hollingsworth said.

"It (the Nehemiah Network) has grown to include a handful of projects within the community," said Hollingsworth. "The prayer gatherings happen to be one of those projects."

He said the group is considering holding monthly prayer meetings instead of quarterly meetings, "based upon comments from a large number of laity and pastors regarding the positive impact the gathering had."

Elliff said he is humbled that God is allowing Summit and other central Arkansas churches to be a part of what He is doing among His people.

"There are several churches holding prayer meetings or opening up their services for extended ministry times," he said. "I think it's growing."

Elliff is writing a periodic blog about occurrences at Summit Church at www.thesummitchurch.org.

Contact Tim Yarbrough at tim@arkansasbaptist.org.

NAMB

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which is designed to reflect the desires of the Task Force document. NAMB's primary emphasis shifts from its founding purpose as a missionary-sending agency to that of a church-planting agency. In order to accomplish that, the new document reorders the priority of the agency's first three emphases: church planting is No. 1 (formerly No. 3), evangelism remains No. 2 but adds "making disciples," and missionary appointment and support (formerly No. 1) shifts to No. 3.

The introduction to the original nine ministries stated, "The North American Mission Board exists to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, start New Testament congregations, and minister to persons in the name of Christ and to assist churches in the United States and Canada in effectively performing these functions." The nine priorities then follow.

The revised introduction states, "The North American Mission Board exists to work with churches, associations and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North

America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church planting by..." and then continues with the six priorities.

The proposed ministry statement will now advance to the SBC Executive Committee for its consideration at its June meeting and then will be voted on by messengers at the SBC annual meeting being held this June in Phoenix.

Mission education remained in the new statement, though much of the work will be accomplished through a new partnership with the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). And the agency's former responsibility to communicate the gospel through emerging technologies was deleted since the Radio and Television Commission and its accompanying broadcast mediums no longer exist.

The final document will most likely include brief explanations of work to be assigned to each area, much as is the case in the original statement from 1995.

The separate responsibility for Christian social ministries (formerly No. 4) was eliminated and will be folded into the final program area, No. 6, which is disaster relief.

Following the board meeting, Ezell responded to a reporter's question about the future importance

of Christian social ministries, also known as Church and Community Ministries in past years. He affirmed the importance of the program area and said that the missionaries, with their disaster relief counterparts, might come under the umbrella of a new ministry category named something similar to "Love Loud" or "Love Loud Ministry Evangelism."

However, he said that in many instances the decision to continue those missionary positions on a state-by-state level will be shared by state conventions that decide where to allocate their NAMB monies. If some state executives feel church planting is more important, they may elect to delete some ministry evangelism positions.

That power of state conventions to control how some NAMB monies are used in their states comes from a surprise decision by Ezell on April 11 to continue to have "jointly funded missionaries in every state. We're not going to totally reduce all of those," he told the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

The announcement came on the heels of a generally understood mandate from the GCR Task Force that many expected would eliminate

the jointly funded positions.

Although the report does not explicitly recommend ending jointly funded missionaries, it does suggest NAMB "budget for a national strategy," while calling for a seven-year phase-out of cooperative agreements to be replaced with "a new pattern of strategic partnership with the state conventions."

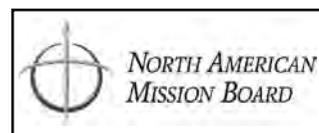
Ezell said NAMB intends to eventually have a ministry evangelism person in each of North America's top 50 population centers.

In other business, trustees elected Arizona state executive Steve Bass to the position of vice president of NAMB's West Region and reelected board chairman Tim Dowdy, pastor of Eagles Landing First Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga., to a second term.

Speaking of the overall changes the agency continues to experience, Ezell told trustees that NAMB "is in a much better place now than we were when we met in Los Angeles" for his first board meeting.

"We now have the infrastructure to move ahead at a much faster pace."

Joe Westbury, managing editor of the *The Christian Index in Georgia*, attended the May 11 NAMB board meeting.



Church planting and NAMB

I can't count the number of times I have been asked the question, "What in the world is going on at NAMB?" in the past eight years. Today, it seems the question is being asked more than ever.

Of course, prior to January 2011, I served at the Southern Baptist domestic mission entity in a ministry role, so the question was a natural one because I was actually employed there.

Now, friends and colleagues ask me the question as a state Baptist newspaper editor and as one who has recently left the organization.

My answer is the same now as it was then: "I don't know. But let me tell you what God is doing in my ministry!"

OK, that may be a cop out, but I really mean it when I say I didn't have a lot of time to worry about daily chatter about NAMB when I served as the Acts 1:8 Challenge national coordinator. I felt then as I do now; I choose to focus on what I see God doing among His people and not get mired by idle talk.

That being said, Arkansas Baptists – and Southern Baptists as a whole – should be concerned about their convention agencies and how they are going about their work. The *Arkansas Baptist News* is committed to keeping Arkansas Baptists up-to-date on what is happening in the Southern Baptist Convention. This past week more major changes were announced for NAMB (see related story in this issue).

For what was judged by some to be a lack of vision and direction by previous NAMB administrations, has certainly not been the case following the election of Kentucky mega church pastor Kevin Ezell as its new president.

When you listen to and read about his philosophy, there is little doubt Ezell has a passion for church planting and wants Southern Baptists to embrace church planting as a major strategy in reaching North America for Jesus Christ. You certainly can't argue with that. Studies indicate

that new churches grow faster and reach more people than existing churches.

Ezell is raising eyebrows among some Southern Baptists with such a heavy focus on church planting.

It seems to be the topic of conversation everywhere I go in Arkansas. Southern Baptists are a people who want to support their leaders and have the desire to see them succeed.

I believe Ezell is being afforded the same opportunity to make changes he feels necessary in leading our denomination to reach North America for Christ.

However, an important question to ask is, "Should everything Southern Baptists do in North America be somehow tied

to church planting?" After all, Southern Baptists have historically been holistic in their efforts to reach a lost and dying world. Southern Baptists are a people passionate about evangelism and other efforts that many times don't result in a church being planted.

Take, for example, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and our own Across Arkansas emphasis. Many – if not most – of the churches participating in those ministry efforts consider what they are doing as pure evangelism and without an explicit intent to plant a church. Does that mean they shouldn't be doing evangelism? I think not.

Pastors I talk to here in Arkansas and across the nation pray for church planting efforts and support them through gifts to the Cooperative Program, their state missions offering and in other ways. My guess would be that many

of these same pastors are more concerned with furthering the kingdom and strengthening their own church than planting a new one.

After all, assimilation of precious souls into the body of Christ is still the primary charge of the gospel, which isn't always tied to the planting of a new church. I guess the argument could be made they are one and the same.

For now, I suggest when you think about the North American Mission Board – or any of our Southern Baptist entities for that matter – pause and pray for their leaders and for God to be glorified by all they do.

At the end of the day, we're in this thing together and ultimately want to see the world won to Jesus Christ for His glory. While we may disagree on some of the details and tactics, we all should unite around His cause.

PRESSING ON



Tim Yarbrough

Arkansas' exec. director

We read with interest, "Turner reflects on ministry at ABSC." We know Brother Emil Turner, and we have heard him preach several times. When our daughter, Judy Tate Creek, was sick with cancer, he was there for the family. Judy Creek worked for Arkansas and Texas Baptists, and her husband was director of missions for Southwest Arkansas. If every church had a pastor like Emil Turner, who said, "The ability to listen, to ask questions you need to ask, to help

Missions more than trips

We as Southern Baptists are horrible with local, state and national missions. We love to go on trips outside the USA, but we aren't even willing to do anything in our own neighborhoods. Going on a trip isn't real missions/evangelism, but sharing the gospel with your neighbors on your street and block, that is real missions/evangelism. We as Southern Baptists have completely forgotten what evangelism is what we are all about. Maybe it is time for us to dust off our Evangelism Explosion material and introduce ourselves to evangelism once again!

John Casey, Jr.
First Baptist, Benton

when you can, to pray with people, you have to do that before you can do anything else." We wish every leader/pastor would do this so we could see people grow in the Lord, and then see souls saved.

It seems too many leaders/pastors have "the me-isms." Our children, who were busy for the Lord like Emil Turner, are only people like any of you out there. The difference from the world is they turned their lives over to the Lord 100 percent – if not more. At this time we are without a pastor,

and we pray each day, all day for a pastor who loves people he works with. As a pastor, he can teach the word as one pastor used to say, "If you don't make your point in 15

minutes you lose your audience." As elders [old folks] we have witnessed this many times.

How to teach/preach in a church is preach so a child can understand and maybe the dads and moms, granddads, grandmams can get it too. Hats off to Emil Turner.

W. G. and Daisy Wintery Tate
Union Avenue Baptist, Wynne

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Tribute to Godly Fathers ABN Father of the Year Contest

Arkansas Baptists, write a brief tribute (300 words or less) about your father or another worthy father. The ABN will recognize the winner in his local church and present him with a gift, as well as highlight his tribute in the June 16 issue.

Send your tribute by June 2, along with your phone number and/or email address, your father's name and what church he attends to Father of the Year Contest, *Arkansas Baptist News*, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204, or email to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



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Family Matters

Modest choices

Gaze at the TV, view a music video, examine a magazine, saunter through the mall, dare I say enter a sanctuary. It's easy to observe that modesty is not the fashion trend in today's American culture. A 2007 report by the American Psychological Association on the sexualization of girls reveals the negative consequences of this pervasive societal drift.



I have a teenage daughter and two sons, so I've wrestled with this issue from a biblical perspective. One writer says, "modesty is more about the heart than the hemline." To apprehend modesty correctly, one must inform the heart with scripture.

As a young girl, my daughter desired to get her ears pierced because "everyone else had theirs pierced." One of the ways we guided our daughter was requiring her to memorize verses related to modesty, engaging her to think biblically in her approach to outward appearance. We provided a series of verses and asked her to choose at least two passages to memorize. Some of the verses we considered were Proverbs 11:22, 31:30; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; and 1 Peter 3:3-4. One of the verses she memorized, Proverbs 11:22, says, "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion." It has a blunt way of stating a truth she has not forgotten. After she memorized her verses and adequately explained what they meant, she got her ears pierced and new earrings.

However, with the sexualization onslaught in our culture, we realized that we also needed to interact frequently with our children, guiding them to prayerfully make wise modesty decisions from a biblical worldview. One CNN opinion piece titled "Parents, don't dress your girls like tramps," highlights the importance of parents making wise decisions on dressing their children. Parents, just because it is in the store does not mean that it's appropriate to wear. Make wise choices for your younger children, and guide your older children to make wise choices. You also need to be good models in what you wear, read and watch. "Modesty is always beautiful."

For help in making modest clothing decisions, view this handout: http://purefreedom.org/documents/TruthOrBare_FashionChallenges.pdf.

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

Why state conventions are important

Some time back a pastor asked me what a state convention could do that his church could not do. The answer requires only a little reflection before a light goes on: A state convention cannot do anything that churches don't do, and member churches do everything that the state convention does.

But that answer requires a basic understanding of Baptist polity. Because churches create, instruct and supervise the work of conventions, a state convention does nothing unless the churches authorize it. And a state convention does everything churches authorize it to do.

Rather than deal with polity issues, I chose to give an example. "How many homeless, abused or abandoned children did your church take care of last year?" I asked. "The state convention, through its Arkansas Baptist Children's (ABC Homes) ministries, took care of a bunch - and in an excellent way." I chose this ministry because I hoped it would be quickly apparent to my interrogator that his church, however large and energetic, could not hope to do as much valuable ministry as is done through our ABC Homes. (My hopes went unrealized.)

Recently, we have had another example of why state conventions are important: disaster relief (DR). One of the best ministries that we have had through the

years has been the disaster relief work of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team. As tornados and floods hit us with a "one-two punch," the DR folks have stepped up, and stepped in to help. Chain saw crews, feeding units and others who assist have been dispatched across our state. Volunteers from churches and associations across Arkansas make up this valuable ministry. The work is done by churches. Disaster relief is coordinated, and workers are trained, by ABSC staff and volunteers who work with us. Some of the best folks in the world serve as volunteers in DR.

Bill Cantrell, on our ABSC staff, gives leadership to this ministry overall. Because of ABSC churches, his impact extends across Arkansas, into flooded areas of Missouri, down to New Orleans, into Alabama ... and everywhere there is a need. But none of it is done without the churches. Dixie Jackson State Missions Offerings and Cooperative Program gifts of the churches are critically important in the process. But these also are gifts of the churches.

Want to be involved in disaster relief? Email Bill Cantrell (bcantrell@absc.org), or call him at 800-838-2272, ext. 5249.

Disaster relief: Reason No. 543 that state conventions are important.



A PASTOR'S HEART

Emil Turner

Stewarding your legacy

Stewardship seems to be a term used in many venues today. However, have you considered how to steward and prepare your perpetual legacy?

One way you steward a legacy is through your estate plan. The ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation encourages estate stewardship. We believe that this is the last and perhaps most important stewardship decision you will ever make.

A free web-based tool (www.abf.org/epo) is provided that allows you to organize your thoughts regarding estate planning and your legacy. This tool can be helpful in organizing your intent in order to be a good steward of your estate.

Many important issues can be settled in estate documents. Guardians for minor children can be named. Estate administrators can be listed. Beneficiaries (who, when and how much) can be clarified. In case of incapacity, agents for health care and financial matters can be authorized.

If desired, Foundation staff will review your plan and make appropriate suggestions. If you are planning to at least leave a tithe of your estate to Baptist ministries, the Foundation attorney can use the data en-

tered through the web-based tool to provide free drafts of estate documents for you and your attorney. If you are an ordained minister serving an Arkansas Baptist church, the Foundation attorney will even represent you in completing the documents without charge.

Perpetual legacies to benefit God's work can be written in various ways. You can leave a portion of your estate outright to one or more ministries through a will or revocable trust. You can also establish an endowment that provides annual income payments to ministries you love that impact the kingdom.

Some donors set up charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts that provide income for their lifetimes or a period of years. After the payments end to the donor, the remainder is left to ministry as a legacy. Other stewards have established a charitable giving fund that provides the donor (and, if desired, their children later) the right to advise on future distributions to ministry. There are many ways to steward one's legacy to benefit God's work.

The Foundation wants to encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will steward your perpetual legacy.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Jeffrey W. Steed, Arkansas Baptist Foundation

Tornadoes, hamburgers and BCA

My first day working at the *Arkansas Baptist News* was Jan. 25, 2010. For all intents and purposes, it was my first real job ever, and my fear-o-meter was reading just short of petrified. OK, maybe it wasn't quite that bad, but I was still a little nervous.

Nevertheless, I piled in the car at my new apartment, in my new town and went to my new job. I had a couple of hours in the office, during which I learned the more detailed and technical aspects of my job - such as how to forward the telephone. Then, I was unceremoniously whisked away with my new co-worker, Lisa, to cover the state evangelism conference.

It was at some point during our time together that day that Lisa told me about the Baptist Communicator's Association (BCA).

I remember it sounded like a great professional group, and I couldn't wait to be a part of it. However, the organization remained the better part of a mystery to me - until this spring.

Early April 27, I again found myself in the car with Lisa, and more excited than nervous. The clock read 5:15 a.m., and we were on our way to Georgia - a trip plagued by tornados, floods and fallen tree limbs - for the annual 2011 BCA Workshop.

Thankfully, God delivered us safely to Georgia, and to my delight, BCA was worth every death-defying minute of the 9-hour car ride. I met influential Southern Baptist leaders and spent time getting to know other Baptist communicators from around the country. I spent a full

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Jessica Vanderpool, assistant editor/office manager



ABSC calendar

- **June 1:** Engage Sochi Arkansas Summer Tour - *Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro*
- **June 2:** Engage Sochi Arkansas Summer Tour - *ABSC, Little Rock*
- **June 3:** Engage Sochi Arkansas Summer Tour - *Southwest Baptist Association Office, Texarkana*
- **June 6-10:** Arkansas Baptist Assembly Faith Week - Youth Only - *Siloam Springs*
- **June 8-11:** Mission Trip for Royal Ambassadors - *Wichita, Kan.*
- **June 13-16:** JoyWorks - *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia*
- **June 13-17:** Arkansas Baptist Assembly Youth & Children's Week - *Siloam Springs*
- **June 14-15:** Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting - *Phoenix, Ariz.*
- **June 18-21:** Super Summer JV (grades 6-8) - *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia*
- **June 20-23:** 4 Day Teen Camp - *Camp Paron*
- **June 20-24:** Arkansas Baptist Assembly Children's Only Week - *Siloam Springs*
- **June 21-25:** Super Summer (grades 9-12) - *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia*
- **June 24-25:** Mother/Daughter Camp - *Camp Paron*
- **July 4-8:** Collision 2011 Youth Missions Project - *Independence Baptist Association*
- **October 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.

COLLISION set for July 4-8

BATESVILLE - COLLISION 2011, a weeklong missions experience for middle and high school students who have completed the sixth grade, will be held July 4-8 in the Batesville area.

Dubbed by organizers as, "When the love of Christ meets a broken world," COLLISION 2011 is the result of a partnership between Independence Baptist Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), said Robby Tingle,

team leader of the ABSC missions ministries team.

Students participating in COLLISION 2011 will work in numerous ministry projects in Independence Baptist Association.

"We are excited about partnering with the Independence Baptist Association," said Tingle. "We believe this week will provide a quality mission experience for students at a very reasonable price. The ultimate goal is to provide opportunities for

students to live out the Great Commission that will result in impacting lostness in the Independence Baptist Association."

Registration includes lodging, meals, ministry project supplies and program personnel.

For more information about COLLISION 2011, including registration costs, contact Ron Toon, Independence Baptist Association missionary, at rtoon@sbcglobal.net or by calling 870-793-7162.

PraiseWorks at Ouachita July 18-22

ARKADELPHIA - PraiseWorks, a music and worship arts summer camp for students who have completed grades 7-12, will be held on the Ouachita Baptist University campus in Arkadelphia July 18-22.

The weeklong camp features a number of worship clinicians in the state, said Larry Grayson, Arkansas Baptist State Convention leadership and worship team member and PraiseWorks coordinator. "We've got people who are experts in all areas of worship leadership to give students more opportunities for training."

Charlie Fuller, Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, minister for congregational life and former Ouachita professor of music and dean of the school of fine arts, will lead the PraiseWorks chorale, while Craig Hamilton, professor of music and director of bands and chairman of the music education department at Ouachita, will direct the orchestra.

This year, the camp will feature two track times. Tracks include morning celebration, sound in black and white, drama, interpretive movement, stomp, sign language, song writing, beginning guitar, intermediate guitar, advanced guitar, bass guitar, keys, advanced piano, drummers 101, drums with experi-

ence, vocal, graphic design, photography, video production and tech sound and lighting.

Joel Winters, worship leader at Cedar Heights Baptist Church, Little Rock, said his experiences at PraiseWorks were significant.

"I don't know that I'd be in music ministry had it not been for PraiseWorks," said Winters. "Now I have seen that same calling take shape in two of our students' lives through PraiseWorks, and for our church, that is priceless."

The deadline for early registra-

tion is June 20. Regular registration wraps up July 5, and late registration ends July 13. Registration includes four nights lodging, 11 meals, a T-shirt and camp materials.

Grayson said students from churches, both large and small, benefit from the camp. "It doesn't matter how many kids you have in choir," he said. "You can bring one kid or 50 kids."

"Give your students the opportunity to experience, grow and learn more about worship."

For more information or to register, go to www.absc.org/music, or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5121.

JoyWorks July 13-16

ARKADELPHIA - JoyWorks, a music and worship arts summer camp for students who have completed grades 4-6, will be held on the Ouachita Baptist University campus in Arkadelphia July 13-16.

The weeklong camp features 2Talk42 ministries, which utilizes ventriloquism, puppetry, drama, illusions and more.

Other camp activities include blowin' and goin' (pipes and bottles), movin' and groovin' (move-

ment in lines and squares), drummin' and hummin' (drum circle and kazoos), fivin' and jivin' (black light and white gloves), mass choir, orchestra, a talent show and swimming.

The deadline for early registration is May 20. Regular registration wraps up May 27, and late registration concludes June 6.

For more information or to register, go to www.absc.org/music, or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5121.

Wellspring Conference in Hot Springs July 29-30

HOT SPRINGS - "Unhindered! Realize - Reflect - Radiate" is the theme of the 2011 Wellspring conference, a two-day missions event for women set for July 29-30 at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs.

Sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions support team, the event includes worship, fellowship, hands-on ministry opportunities, breakout sessions and more.

"Wellspring is our annual women's event for all Arkansas women," said Debbie Moore, ABSC missions support team member. "We look forward to all that God's going to do as we spend these two days in worship, ministry and fellowship together."

Speakers include Andrea Lennon,

True Vine Ministries; Wanda Lee, national WMU executive director; Deb Douglas, LifeWay Christian Resources ministry multiplier; Kay Bennett, Baptist Fielding House,

New Orleans; and Jennie Taylor, International Mission Board missionary to southeast Asia. Bentonville native Amanda Lacewell, Christian recording artist, will lead worship,

and Mrs. Bertha and Miss Bernice are also scheduled to stop in for a visit.

For registration information, go to www.absc.org/women.

Ark. Baptists appointed to SBC committee

PHOENIX, Ariz. - Two Arkansas Baptist pastors have been appointed to the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Committee on Committees, SBC president Bryant Wright announced.

Scott Maze, pastor of First Baptist Church, Van Buren, and Donnie Edwards, pastor of



Edwards

Dallas Avenue Baptist Church, Mena, will represent Arkansas on the Committee on Committees, which is comprised of 70 members, two from each of the 35 state or regional conventions qualified



Maze

for representation on boards of

Southern Baptist entities.

The Committee on Committees will assemble in Phoenix prior to the June 14-15 SBC Annual Meeting to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations, who in turn, nominate trustees to serve on boards of the various entities of the SBC.

Park Hill Baptist students start Bible study

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

WHEN HUNTER WALLACE, a freshman at the North Little Rock High School – East Campus in North Little Rock, told his mother he needed to go over to his friend’s house, it wasn’t just to play video games, watch sports or talk cars. It was to take part in a Bible study.

Naturally, Jennifer Wallace had a question for her son.

“Who’s facilitating?” she asked.

“We’re doing it,” Hunter replied. “It’s going to rotate around, and each one of us is going to do a devotional and Charlie (a fellow student) is going to lead our worship.”

Jennifer didn’t think much about it. And then they met again the following week.

Then, Hunter explained they were rotating host houses, but since it was a peer group, they might not feel comfortable discussing certain issues if parents were around. Jennifer agreed to give the boys privacy if they came to her house.

“But can you bring food, by the way though?” Hunter added in usual teenage fashion.

And of course, Jennifer agreed.

“It just blossomed,” Jennifer explained. “I mean, they started having people not from our church – friends of theirs from school – that were coming. I mean, whenever it was meeting at my house, I never knew how much food to fix because I didn’t know if it would be five of them one week, or 12 of them or whatever.”

En Fuego – “on fire”

The idea for the study, which the boys call “En Fuego,” the Spanish phrase for “on fire,” originated with Tyler Whitmore, sophomore at Catholic High School for Boys in Little Rock, around the beginning of the 2010-11 school year.

“It just kind of popped in(to) my head,” he said. “I was like, ‘You know, it’d be pretty cool if we all just like got together and talked about God some nights,’ and it turned out to be pretty fun.”

Regarding what they talk about, Hunter explained, “We’ll go through the week and just think about different things that have affected us and what’s been going on, and we’ll just kind of go off of that and see what happens.”

Topics discussed included issues like sexual pu-

rity, temptation and peer pressure.

Griffin Peeples, a junior at Central Arkansas Christian School in North Little Rock who also played a role in starting the study, said the study has “played a huge role because you want to come back every week and have something to say, ‘Well, I did good on this, this week.’”

“It’s always bad if you came and you were like, ‘I had a bad week,’” he added. “But it kept you up; it kept you encouraged. And it made me feel like I needed to be better for these guys. Helping them with their stuff, them helping me, it helped me a lot.”

What affected Seth Boyd, also a junior at Central Arkansas Christian School in North Little Rock, was being able “to get around guys and talk about what you’re going through, and just to help each other, hold each other accountable and stuff.”

Bond grows

Hunter agreed, noting, “It makes us closer as a group, but the individual friendship, it grows, and you get a bond between each guy individually.”

“This group has really come out as real leaders,” said Jennifer. “I mean, they’re on the front row, worshipping. And it’s a real diverse group.”

And the boys have seen results outside of their own lives, as well. Peeples said one of his neighbors came to the Bible study and was saved.

Jennifer said the junior high boys even started their own Bible study.

Hayes Wallace, Hunter’s younger seventh grade brother who attends Lakewood Middle School in North Little Rock, started this study and says it helped him act more “Christianly,” as well as helped him “stop and think about things a little bit better.”

Park Hill youth director John Cowling said he sees “a life-change” in the students.

“I think these guys’ hearts were definitely in it,” he said. “I did see their hearts, their mind(s),



opened to the gospel.” He added that one of the visible signs was the boys’ presence on the front row, singing on Wednesday nights.

“(In) how many student ministries do you have a large group of guys, sitting on the front row and waiting for the music to start?” he asked. “And they would sing, and they would sing hard. And it was amazing to see them leading worship on that front row and singing

their hearts out to the Lord, and then of course right after that being willing to listen, and then in invitation time to pray together.

“And man, as a student pastor, that’s probably one of the most amazing things that I saw was them leading out as far as in that worship time, but man, their lives are getting changed ...”

He said the boys will probably begin meeting again in the fall.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org

Earle Baptist Church dedicates new facility

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

MEMBERS OF Earle Baptist Church, Earle, held a dedication service May 1 for their new church facilities, which were rebuilt following a devastating tornado that severely damaged the church almost three years ago to the day May 2, 2008.

Though the fellowship hall did sustain some damage, the congregation was able to meet there while construction took place.

The gym was replaced with a full weight room, walking track and basketball court.

The sanctuary was rebuilt and some new equipment was added. And the church’s Christian school, which had been shut down and used for Sunday school classrooms, was rebuilt and redesigned for the same purpose.

All steps to the buildings were

eliminated in order to make them handicap accessible. Construction crews were able to save the stone front entrance to the sanctuary, as well as 40 stained glass windows.

The day of dedication included a morning service, preached by pastor Steven Bailey, dinner on the grounds and an afternoon ceremony.

During the morning service, Bailey said he preached on “what it meant to dedicate a church to God.”

“My prayer the whole time we were building it (was) that, when it was finished, God would approve of what it looked like and everything because it was His house; it’s not ours,” he said.

He referenced 2 Chronicles 6:12-7:3, which tells of Solomon dedicating the temple. Bailey preached on the temple being open to everyone, the importance of following God in His building, and making sure

God’s house reflects Him.

The afternoon service included music led by the praise team from Ridgewood Baptist Church, Forest City, a dedication message by Ray Dean Davis, associational missionary for Tri-County Baptist Association in Wynne, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which Bailey said symbolized “opening the doors of the church to anybody that wanted to come in.”

Bailey shared about what certain aspects of the new building represented. He said the building’s 8,000 feet of wood trim represents the cross, the white walls represent forgiveness of sins and the burgundy carpet represents Christ’s blood. The gold on the pews represents the King of kings and Lord of lords. He also mentioned the stained glass windows, which depict Bible stories.

“And when the light shines

through that, it’s just the light shining through the Word of God to illuminate our lives and tell us how to go,” he said, further explaining the symbolisms in the new building.

Bailey said his hope for the church’s future is “to reach the community with Jesus, open the doors to anybody that wants to come in, no matter who they are or what color they are, open the doors to Jesus, to reach this community and as far as we can reach for Jesus with this building.

“The facilities we have now are just fantastic for preaching the gospel,” Bailey said. “We can do anything any other church in the whole area can do.”

He specifically mentioned video equipment that makes it possible for them to put church services on DVDs for the homebound.

Earle Baptist’s Sunday school attendance is about 50.

Planning a great family vacation on a budget

YOU CAN HAVE a quality vacation on a shoestring budget. Making that happen requires you to plan cheap, pack cheap and play cheap.

Plan Cheap

Begin by deciding what type of vacation spot your family would like to visit.

Consider the following: amusement parks, national parks, historical places, educational attractions, beaches, religious retreats, family visits and campgrounds.

Make decisions about what type of destinations to include in your travel plans.

Get family input. Include the money issue from the start. Plan more than one type of activity in your plans. Do some research in the dreaming stage. Make a tentative itinerary. Develop a budget, including details such as money for parking, toll roads, gas, motels, entrance fees, meals, souvenirs and snacks.

Pack Cheap

Include as many snacks and drinks as will fit in the car. Take a variety of medicines and a first aid kit. Bring extra film, disposable cameras, memory cards, videotapes and batteries for your cameras.

Play Cheap

Look for and use coupons. Try splitting meals at nice restaurants. Decide in advance that everyone will drink water for certain meals out. Eat your biggest meal at noon from the luncheon menu. Buy

small, inexpensive souvenirs, like magnets and Christmas ornaments, rather than T-shirts for everyone. Have the children in the family earn their own souvenir money before the vacation.

Look for free fun, such as swim-

ming in the hotel pool, walking around a mall, hiking at a park, playing a game in the room, free fireworks displays or walking on the beach and watching the sunset.

Reprinted with permission from Life-Way Christian Resources.

Hot Springs profile

'The Witness' opens 31st season

"THE WITNESS," Arkansas' only musical passion play, enters its 31st season June 3.

"The Witness" is a compelling musical-drama of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth as narrated and sung by the Apostle Peter (the witness) with an accompanying chorus of Galilean villagers.

"Many have said the production is unmatched in its realism and scriptural accuracy; God's presence is always there!" said 30-year veteran and director/board president Judy McEarl.

Located on Millcreek Road in Hot Springs (3.3 miles behind Magic Springs from Highway 70 East), "The Witness" features a 1,000 seat outdoor amphitheater nestled between Arkansas mountains in a wooded valley on Panther Valley Ranch.

"Singing and enacting the gos-

pel of Jesus for nearly two decades has dramatically changed my life," said Apostle Peter lead actor, Dewayne White of Hot Springs Baptist Church, Hot Springs. "I'm humbled when I see the audience leaving with teary eyes; I know it's the Spirit's work."

The group of mostly volunteers from more than 50 area churches started basically as a prison ministry and continues to reach out during its off-season to the state prisons with this dramatic musical. In 1985, the leadership of Hot Springs invited them to lease the city amphitheater where the production became a tourist attraction for the state of Arkansas. In 1997, Panther Valley Ranch united with "The Witness" in the construction of a new amphitheater on their 100-acre property that is home to the production today.

Opening weekend festivities will include door prize giveaways of "The Witness" CDs, DVDs, cookbooks and T-shirts.

"The CDs and DVDs have been shipped all over the world," said Mle' Tipton, administrative assistant and actress/singer of the troupe. "New Zealand, Australia, Europe, Africa and South America ... they have found our Web site." Products are available at "The Witness" gift shop before and after the production or by calling the office. Shipping is also available.

Performances for "The Witness" are Friday and Saturday evenings at dusk (about 8:30 p.m. - after Labor Day, 8:00 p.m.) June 3-Aug. 6 and Sept. 2-Oct. 22. For directions, reservations and ticket information, call 501-623-9781 or visit www.witness-productions.com.

The Witness!

ARKANSAS' ONLY MUSICAL PASSION PLAY

At Panther Valley Ranch in beautiful Hot Springs (behind Magic Springs)



LIVE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES:

June 3 - Aug 6 || Sept 2 - Oct 22

Every Friday and Saturday Evening

WWW.WITNESSPRODUCTIONS.COM

501-623-9781



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presents

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for *Living Sacrifice* and *POD*

**Please bring a small donation to benefit Southern Christian Homes in Morrilton. Donations may include school supplies, minor medical items, cleaning supplies and toiletries.*

NEW THIS YEAR!
2 Track Times

YOUTH + MUSIC + WORSHIP
PRAISE WORKS + ARTS

Preparing Tomorrow's Worship Leaders Today!

DISCOVER • PRACTICE
CREATE • CONNECT
EXPLORE • IMPROVISE
DESIGN • COMMUNICATE
LEARN • COLLABORATE
IMPROVE • EXPERIENCE

7-12 grade

JULY 18-22

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

epic

To register visit us on the web at www.absc.org/music

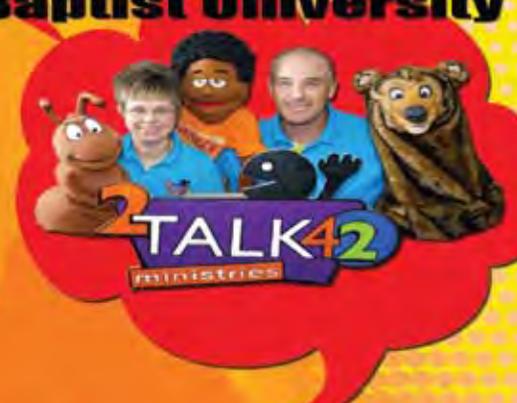
COST*
Early registration: \$185 by June 20
Regular registration: \$195 by July 5
Late registration: \$215 by July 13
No registration after July 13
*Includes four nights lodging, 11 meals, t-shirt and materials.

JOYWORKS

Worship Arts Camp for Children who have finished 4th-6th Grades

June 13-16, 2011
On the Campus of
Ouachita Baptist University

Jeremiah 1:7-8
WE CAN USE ANYONE



Blowin' & Goin'
Pipes and Bottles

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Movement in Lines & Squares

Drummin' & Hummin'
Drum Circle & Kazoos

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



Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip



For information, go to www.absc.org, or call Breck or Oleta, toll-free in state, 800-838-2272, or in Little Rock, 501-376-4791, ext. 5150. A ministry of the Cooperative Program and Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions offering.

Saturday, Oct. 1
Ouachita Baptist Association

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Deadline to register: Sept. 9

Late registration: Sept. 16

(Any registrations received after Sept. 9 will receive confirmation and information by email only.)

Mail to: Acts 1:8 Mission Trip, Missions Ministries Team, ABSC, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock AR 72204 by Sept. 9. (Copy & complete this form for each person attending.) Make check payable to ABSC or call 800-838-2272, ext. 5150 with credit card information.

Your name _____ Phone # _____
E-mail _____ Cell # _____
Mailing address _____ City _____
Zip _____ Church _____ Age if under 18 _____
Team choices (must list 3 in case first choices are full):
1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____
Special skills: _____
Amount enclosed \$ _____ Questions? _____

Ministry Opportunities

- Prayerwalking
- Children's activities
- Senior adult ministry
- Home repairs/painting
- Health clinics
- Youth sports camps
- Evangelistic team
- Yard work team
- Children's fishing derby
- Block parties/concerts
- Cowboy ministries

Spicer interim at Washington Madison

FAYETTEVILLE – Fayetteville native and retired director of missions T.O. Spicer, 74, was named the new interim associational missionary of the Washington Madison Baptist Association March 1.

He replaces Harry Black, who became executive director/associational missionary of Capital Baptist Association in Oklahoma City.

“Serving as interim missionary is a joy,” said Spicer about his “new” role in the association. “Except for the demands of the two positions, pastor and missionary, being back in harness again is a wonderful and refreshing experience.” Spicer



Spicer

also serves as pastor of Sang Avenue Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

Prior to his retirement in 2002 as director of missions of Spring River Baptist Association in Missouri, Spicer served as pastor of numerous Arkansas churches, including First Baptist Church, Walnut Ridge; Johnson Baptist Church, Johnson; and Liberty Baptist Church, Dutch

Mills. He also has pastored churches in Missouri and Texas.

Spicer has held positions on the Historical Commission of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and served as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

The Director of Missions Fellowship of Missouri named him Director of Missions of the Year in 1997.

Obituaries

Carl E. Fawcett, 81, of Austin, died April 22. He served more than 60 years in the ministry and pastored churches in Mississippi and Arkansas. He served for 31 years as director of missions for the Arkansas Valley Baptist Association, retiring in 1995 and moving to Austin. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara Fawcett; three children; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother; and a sister-in-law. A service was held April 25 at Westbrook Funeral Home in Beebe.

Church life

First Baptist Church, Kensett, will celebrate its 125th anniversary June 5 with a worship service at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck and testimony and sharing service.

Board Camp Baptist Church, Mena, will celebrate 150 years with a homecoming service June 18 at 1:30 p.m. and June 19 at 9:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Pangburn, and several other area churches will host a premiere of the movie “Heaven’s Rain” at the Pangburn

Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. May 21. The true story tells of Brooks Douglass as he learns to forgive the man who murdered his parents. Douglass will make an appearance after the premiere for a question and answer session. A limited number of tickets are available. Tickets may be purchased at mmc-

nabb@windstream.net. For more information about the movie, visit <http://heavensrainmovie.com>.

On the move

Robert Race has resigned as camp manager of Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs, where he has served for five years.

Leadership Profile for ABSC Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee for the 2011 Arkansas Baptist State Convention invite Arkansas Baptists to submit names of persons to that committee to consider when they bring the convention nominations for state committees and boards.

This recommendation will not insure nomination, but the committee will consider each recommendation. The committee will not contact any person recommended until they approve the nominations. The Nominating Committee will hold its first meeting in early July and needs all recommendations no later than June 15.

Members of the committee are: Kim Bridges, chairman; Jeff Paxton; Steve Tiner; Hugh Quimby; Clint Ritchie; Phillip Runyan; Mark Fischer; Gary Hunnicut; and Larry Lloyd.

June 15 is the deadline for recommendations.

PLEASE PRINT

Nominee _____ Minister Layperson Occupation _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Member of what church? _____ Association _____

Current leadership responsibilities

Professional _____
 Civic _____
 Church _____
 Association _____
 State or SBC Boards _____

Past leadership experience (within last five years)

State or SBC Boards _____
 Association _____
 Local Church _____

Personal

This person’s greatest contributions, based on his or her past record, knowledge and experience, should be in the area of: _____

Is this person currently active in a local church? Yes No

Is this person able to be away from family and work for at least one or two days, three times a year? Yes No

Give the name and phone number of at least one person, other than his or her pastor or associational missionary, who knows of the nominee’s involvement in Baptist life. _____

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank this person’s understanding of and commitment to the Cooperative Program? (Circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (10 being the highest rating)

Check the board, committee or commission on which you believe this person could best serve.

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CWJC site celebrates 10th anniversary

THE ARKANSAS River Valley Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC)/Christian Men's Job Corp (CMJC), a ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union, held a graduation ceremony for six women participants at First Baptist Church, Atkins, April 28.

However, the event celebrated more than just a graduation. It also celebrated the organization's 10 years of service. The Arkansas River Valley CWJC site was established in 2001 and is a ministry of the Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association in Russellville.

Nora Earnest, the Arkansas River Valley CWJC site coordinator, said Corp programs help participants both prepare for and keep a job.

The April 28 ceremony included an address by State Sen. Randy Laverty, a speech from a past participant, musical specials and the

presentation of certificates. Debbie Moore, Arkansas Baptist State Convention women's missions/ministry consultant, also presented the site with a plaque, which she noted is "for 10 years of faithful service by the association site."

"Arkansas River Valley CWJC has made an impact in the lives of many women over the last 10 years," said Moore. "I'm grateful for Nora Earnest, site coordinator, and her team of volunteers. God is working through CWJC - changing lives in the present and for eternity."

"Our goal is to teach women, to mentor them and to help them get a job, but also for them to give back," Earnest added.

Since the Arkansas River Valley CWJC site has been in existence, 143 women have graduated, 14 of whom made professions of faith in Christ. Additionally, several par-



Front row from left: Heather Woody, Natalea Verwiebe, Jamie Chance, Arkansas River Valley CWJC Site Coordinator Nora Earnest and Christian Men's Job Corp (CMJC) co-site coordinator Charlie Simers. Back row from left: Meagan Thien, Glynis Hankins, Suzanne Dow, CMJC co-site coordinator Ronel Foster and State Sen. Randy Laverty.

ticipants' children have accepted Christ.

The site also began Arkansas' first Christian Men's Job Corp, with Ron

Foster and Charles Simers as co-site coordinators. So far, eight men have graduated, four of whom have accepted Christ.

Students compete in state Bible drill

PARENTS AND children from across Arkansas gathered at Second Baptist Church, Conway, for the 2011 State Bible Drill Xtreme Blast competition April 30.

More than 300 students competed in the earlier church rounds, 187 progressed to regional rounds and 131 converged in Conway for the state round.

In the state Children's Bible Drill, 101 students participated, 88

were winners and 27 earned a perfect score.

Bridgett Williams, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Brinkley, won first place in the Youth Bible Drill for grades 7-9. Sara Weick, First Baptist Church, Pocahontas, won first place in the High School Bible Drill for grades 10-12. And Megan Weick, First Baptist Church, Pocahontas, won the Youth Speakers Tournament. All three winners will have

the opportunity to compete in the national competition, which takes place at Meadow Brook Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., June 24.

Josie Barrick, First Baptist Church, Gentry, won second place in the Youth Bible Drill and received a scholarship to the Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs. Nicole Drummond, First Baptist Church, Nashville, won second place in the High School Bible Drill and received the choice of a scholarship to Super Summer or to the Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs. There was no second place winner in the Youth Speakers Tournament.

Shay Caldwell of Highland Drive Baptist Church, Jonesboro, presented "Wacky Time Live," a children's ministry, in the afternoon.



28 years ago - May 1983

- "NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) - A \$125 million Cooperative Program budget for 1983-84 featuring nearly 70 percent to home and foreign missions, will be recommended to the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh."

- "Messengers to the Pittsburgh SBC convention are being asked to participate in a locally sponsored evangelistic effort.

"Forty volunteers are being asked to join with local Baptists with a saturation witness effort in 40 western Pennsylvania towns and cities immediately prior to the convention June 6-12."

Happy Birthday!

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

- ◆ June 4: Elizabeth Quick, OBU Box 3854, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Uruguay.
- ◆ June 8: Kyle Smith, OBU Box 3131, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Costa Rica.
- ◆ June 18: Chad Bullington, OBU Box 3361, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Namibia.
- ◆ June 25: Jessica Bowling, OBU Box 3943, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Chile.
- ◆ June 28: Charissa Fortenberry, OBU Box 3890, Arkadelphia, AR, 71998-0001; Botswana.

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DICKERSON

continued from page one

he received a letter asking him to serve at Henderson.

This turn of events was all part of God's plan, said Dickerson.

"I was not ready to come to ASU, and that would have been the right place, but the wrong time. Henderson was a much better starting place for me, and we really had a wonderful experience there."

Dickerson said he just picked up where the former BSU director had left off. In addition, his Arkansas State BSU director, Dick Bumpus, had

a great influence on his ministry at Henderson, as well.

"I didn't realize how well that all served me. My role models have been so terrific before me," he said.

The couple has two daughters, both of which were born at Henderson. They remember fondly how BSU students were actively involved in the lives of their children, serving as "instant babysitters."

Dickerson said he felt "blessed" to have had such a great experience as a first-time collegiate minister.

After serving for nine years at Henderson, Arliss and Sue moved to Jonesboro to serve in collegiate ministry at Arkansas State University.

At that time, Dickerson said he planned to stay for a few years and then move on to national collegiate ministry work.

Dickerson said the idea was a reaction to the sense of futility that was rampant among the soldiers he served alongside while in Vietnam. Instead, Dickerson jokingly said he going to run for governor of Arkansas. "What I was trying to say is that I wanted my life to count."

At the time, he thought that included working at the national level for collegiate ministry.

Instead, when the opportunity for Dickerson to move in that direction

came, he stayed put.

Some people would imply that if he stayed at Arkansas State, other ministry opportunities for him wouldn't materialize and that he would be forgotten.

Dickerson's response was that God would know where he was. "And then I have come to regard that has been true."

Dickerson said his time at the university was the best of both worlds.

"A lot of the things I wanted to do, like going into a national role, I've been allowed to do here," he said.

He served on a national level as chairman of leadership development for a number of years.

"A minister like Arliss does not come along very often, and he will be missed!"

John Moore,
LifeWay Christian Resources

In addition, he has also helped plan the national conference for Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) directors, which meets once every three years.

From this, Dickerson said he began to be seen as "an expert in leadership development" and would often be asked to speak on leadership development at conferences for campus ministers.

He later became a leadership development contract worker with LifeWay Christian Resources.

Dickerson was also asked to teach collegiate ministry on a seminary level, and some materials he wrote about campus ministry have been used as textbooks.

Sue has also been actively involved in collegiate ministry at ASU, serving as administrative assistant for a number of years, though she initially only took the job on a temporary basis.

"I stayed because I enjoyed it and

it became more important to me to know those students and be part of the ministry and to help Arliss," said Sue.

Dickerson said Sue often served as a "mother figure" for the students.

She said she has enjoyed keeping up with students during her long tenure at the university, noting many have gone on to serve in full-time Christian ministry.

By working together, the couple also came to understand they had another role - modeling a Christian marriage for the students. "A lot of students don't come out of good, healthy families, and they were watching how we did life together," said Dickerson.

In his years of service at Arkansas State, the couple has seen a lot of changes, both with students and in campus ministry.

When he was a college student, Dickerson said the BSU offered eight program options during the week. Now, he said, campus ministries have less programming, but it's "more high-quality."

He also said it has become more commonplace for students to have a job while attending college.

Stress is also a big problem for today's students. "You never used to hear the word 'stressed' from students except maybe at final exam time. Now you hear it all the time," he said.

Other changes include more opportunities to work alongside churches in a complementary fashion to reach college students and a lack of loyalty to collegiate ministry organizations among students.

Retirement plans are already in place

"Through [the Dickersons'] ministries, thousands of lives of college students have been impacted."

Emil Turner, exec. director
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

for the couple. Sue plans to continue working with her church and on various projects she hasn't had time to pursue, while Dickerson plans to expand his role as a LifeWay consultant, visiting at least one campus a month to provide some leadership for campus ministers. He'd also like to serve as an encouragement to college ministers who may feel alone in their work. "One of the reasons we've been able to stay here for so many years and have so much success is we've never felt like we were the only ones that cared."

And of course, they will spend more time with grandchildren.

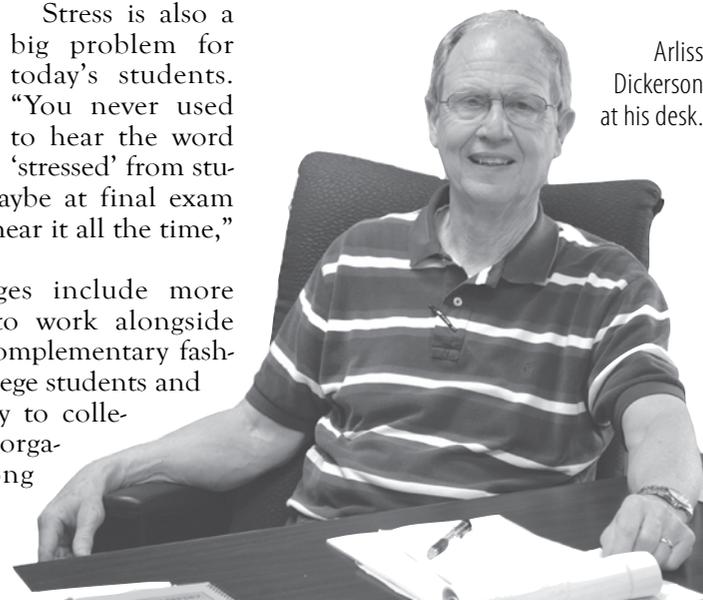
Oh, and it should come at no surprise that Dickerson plans to continue investing in the lives of campus ministers.

"You know, I've made all the dumb mistakes, so I can tell them 100 ways not to do it," he laughed.

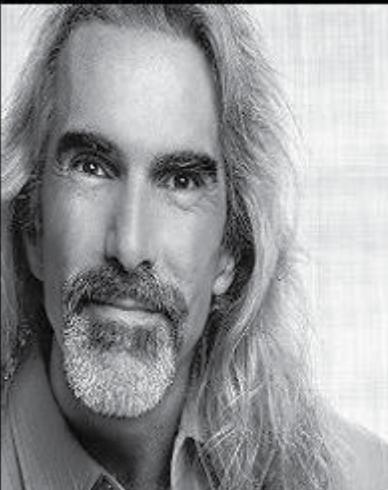
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David James, CMT leader
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Arliss Dickerson at his desk.



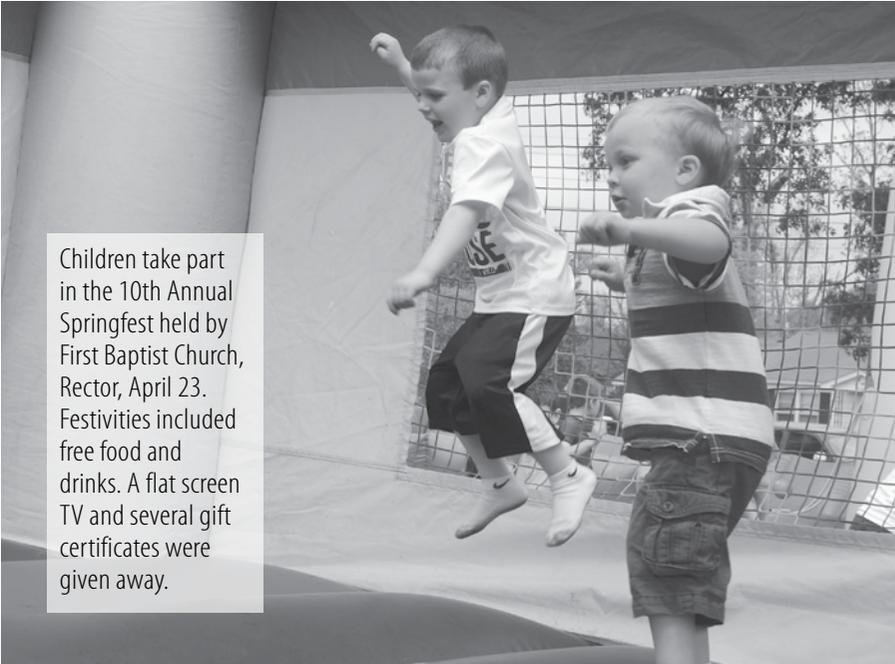
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Children take part in the 10th Annual Springfest held by First Baptist Church, Rector, April 23. Festivities included free food and drinks. A flat screen TV and several gift certificates were given away.

Arkansan reaches out to Native Americans

Karen L. Willoughby

Special to Arkansas Baptist News

ALMA – Before the mid-1800s, five Native American tribes called Arkansas home. Now they're in other states, except for the few who have assimilated into what anthropologists call "the dominant culture."

Some Arkansas churches have a heart for Native American ministry, however, and they're doing what they can in what some are calling a national "revival of interest" in Native American ministry.

"I don't know anything about reaching Native Americans," said Doug Sarver, missions pastor at Cross Church, Springdale, when he was introduced at the April 27-28 North American Native Peoples Summit, which took place at Cross Church.

"Is it okay to say 'yet'? Maybe the Lord will lead us to connect with you," Sarver said to the 200 or more Native Americans who had gathered for the Summit that featured Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby and Ronnie Floyd as keynote speakers.

First Baptist Church, Alma, in western Arkansas, has been involved with Native American ministry since 2007. The church – through its missions pastor, Bakary Doumbouya – now is encouraging other Arkansas Baptist churches to get involved in Native American ministry.

First Baptist, Alma, pastor Bob Shelton had become burdened about Native Americans, Doumbouya said. Shelton led the church to prepare for a year and to send a youth mission team to lead VBS the last week of June, 2008.

"On the last day, I was wondering if they actually learned something from the lessons," Doumbouya said. "A little girl, 7 years old, said, 'We learned about Jesus.' 'Really? Who is Jesus?' I asked, and an 8-year-old girl said, 'Jesus is the one who cleanses us up and takes us to God.' That really touched me.

"After that I was thinking, 'We came and created excitement about Jesus for five days,'" the missions pastor said. "I was really burdened about what was next. Who would teach them more about Jesus?"

A few days after the mission team's July 3 return, Doumbouya told Shelton, "Those people need help, and I wouldn't mind going back there to help." The pastor said, "Let's pray about it," and Sept. 7, 2008, the missions pastor left for 40 days of praying and fasting on the Lower Brule Reservation.

He stayed until January 2011, and has continued discipling, by long distance, the men he reached. He's also involving other Arkansans in Native American ministry.

"When I came, we had about 12 (gather for Sunday morning worship), and we went to having 25," Doumbouya said. "What the Lord showed me was the people needed discipling. There was no actual

growth in their Christian walk.

"I started a men's group with two men, and it grew to nine men," Doumbouya continued. "They really went through a life transformation. I give God glory for that."

A trip to a Promise Keepers event in Colorado solidified the transformation.

"Now they were inviting other men to the group," Doumbouya said. "There was a real Christian community being created in Lower Brule. The men in different church-

es were hanging out with each other. They enjoyed saying, 'This is my brother in the Lord.' It was a bold witness in the community."

He was in Lower Brule in early May to show the area to an Arkansan, Johnny Clayton of Eastside Baptist Church, Fort Smith, who had expressed interest in investing in Native American work, as well as to meet with Doumbouya's men's group and others in the church and community.

Doumbouya is seeking Arkansas

individuals, churches and associations that want to be part of God's work among Native Americans. For more information, email him at dbakary@hotmail.com, or call 479-632-2020.

"I also want to give God all the glory," Doumbouya said. "I just feel blessed to be a tool in His hands. Being on the reservation has allowed me to really experience the faithfulness of God."

Karen Willoughby is managing editor at the Louisiana Baptist Message.



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Mother of the Year Lisa Byrd

'She takes great care of our kiddos'

"God has been good to us and we thank Him for our Nana every day. Without her, [there is] no telling what would have happened to us by now." – Excerpt from *Tribute to Lisa Byrd, First Baptist Church, Harrisburg, the 2011 Arkansas Baptist News Mother of the Year, submitted by Lyndsie, 12, Leah, 11, and Austin, 8.*

HARRISBURG – When Lyndsie Byrd was just four months old, she and her parents moved in with her grandmother, Lisa Byrd, a member of First Baptist Church, Harrisburg. Over the next several years, the

family would grow to include three more children.

In 2002, because of personal circumstances within the family, Lisa was awarded custody of Lyndsie and Leah. Two years later, she gained custody of Austin. Another grandchild, Owen, 6, lives with his mother.

Lisa officially adopted Lyndsie, Leah and Austin in 2010.

Lisa was selected as the 2011 *Arkansas Baptist News* Mother of the Year, based on a tribute submitted by her three children. She was rec-

ognized at her church May 1.

She said her church family has helped her provide for the children, noting, "I'm just blessed to have the help. I can't imagine doing this without them."

Kelly Jones, pastor of the Harrisburg church, said the church feels the same way about Lisa, who serves as a paid nursery worker at the church. "She takes great care of our kiddos," he said.

He also said she is faithful to bring her children to church "all of the time."



Lisa Byrd (bottom left) and her grandchildren: Owen (bottom center), Austin (bottom right), Lyndsie (top left) and Leah.

Excerpts from ABN mother of the year entries

Editor's Note: Each year the ABN receives many entries for the Mother of the Year contest. It's a difficult task to choose the winning entry. Below are some excerpts from other tribute submissions.

Tribute to Betty Herring O'Neal, Immanuel Baptist, Warren:

"B is very family oriented. She mentors her whole family from the Bible, writes weekly letters of encouragement including Bible study to each of her grandchildren. She is a fierce prayer warrior and leader of our telephone prayer chain. Any time there is a need, you can always depend on B to go to her knees for you." Submitted by Annette West

Tribute to Lou Anne Moody, Central Baptist, Bald Knob:

"My mother has always been my best friend. I am constantly thanking the Lord for her and the blessing she is to me. She has taught me to be original and compassionate and proud of whose I am. She has also taught me by example and words that Jesus is for me and loves and delights in me." Submitted by Courtney Holt

Tribute to Wenonah Meyer, Sonora Baptist, Sonora:

"Mother's interest in missions greatly influenced us daughters. LaVeta was an IMB missionary for over 30 years; Karen served two terms as an ISC volunteer; Willene

served 20 years on state WMU staffs in Arkansas and Maryland and now directs the Native American LINK ministry in Oklahoma; Donna has been on a China mission trip; and Deanna is on the staff of Friendship Baptist Church in Springdale." Submitted by LaVeta Sergeant, Karen Smith, Willene Pierce, Deanna Tannehill and Donna Reed.

Tribute to Joyce Cooper, First Baptist, Almyra:

"I have never heard her say anything negative about anyone. She always sees the good. She has instilled this same love in her children; they love the Lord and cherish her." Submitted by Sabrina Cooper

BCA

continued from page five

videos, during which I visited with refugee women in Clarkston, Ga.

By the time we found ourselves in the car again for the trip home, Lisa and I were thoroughly exhausted. And one bad trip to Wendy's – and nine less harrowing hours in the car later – I was back in my not-so-new apartment, in my now-familiar town more prepared for my amazing job.

God made us relational beings for a reason, and He gave us the ability to acquire knowledge for a reason. Events like BCA simply meld these together into a harmonized few days of fun, fellowship and learning. It was a blessing to take part in these activities in order to be able to better serve Arkansas Baptists.

Classifieds

PASTOR

Clarendon First Baptist Church seeks full-time pastor. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 324, Clarendon, AR 72029.

Evening Shade First Baptist Church of Evening Shade, Ark., is accepting resumes for pastor. Will consider a full-time or bi-vocational pastor. Please send resumes to Frank Gay, 9 Arkansas Hwy. 115, Cave City, AR 72521, or email to fullcircle73@yahoo.com.

Small, rural, non-traditional Baptist church seeking bi-vocational pastor. Send resumes to Koinonia Christian Fellowship, Box 386, Imboden, AR 72434.

Southern Baptist church seeking bi-vocational pastor; parsonage available if needed. Please send resume to Cacklebur Baptist Church, 4138 Cacklebur Road, Ward, AR 72176.

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, or call Dennis at 479-754-8299.

Southern Baptist church seeking bi-vocational pastor; parsonage available if needed. Please send resume to the attention of Bonnie Wilbanks at First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 117, Gillett, AR 72055.

Salem Baptist Church, Stephens, Ark., is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please send resume to John Moore, 1454 N. 1st St., Stephens, AR 71764.

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.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Church of White Hall, Ark., is accepting resumes for minister of worship. Send resumes to Worship Search Team, P.O. Box 20307, White Hall, AR 71612-0307, or email at office@fbcwhitehall.net. Job description available upon request.

First Baptist Church of Bismarck, Ark., is seeking someone to lead our ministry to junior high and high school students. Inquiries and resumes may be submitted to jgreer@1stbaptistbismarck.com or P.O. Box 147, Bismarck, AR 71929.

Central Baptist Church of North Little Rock, Ark., is seeking a full-time minister of youth and a full-time minister of administration and education. Please send resumes and inquiries to

wyman@cbcnr.org.

Full-time minister of students/director of family life at First Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark. Send resumes to Search Committee, P.O. Box 1863, Blytheville, AR 72316, or email to normjennings@sbcglobal.net.

Elliott Baptist Church in Camden, Ark., is looking for a bi-vocational youth pastor. Incredible facilities, with gymnasium. Excellent opportunity in a growing church. Call 870-231 6411 or 479-883-0380. Email tabrown23@yahoo.com.

FBC Harrisburg (www.harrisburgfbc.com) is looking for a part-time music minister for our two worship services on Sunday. For more information, contact Pastor Kelly Jones at 870-344-0173 or kellyjones@rittermail.com.

Immanuel Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music and youth. Send resume to 2201 S. Dallas, Fort Smith, AR 72901, 479-782-1009 or visit www.immanuelbaptistfs.org.

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.

Barcelona Road Baptist Church (SBC), Hot Springs Village, seeking part-time organists Wednesdays and Sundays. Salary range: \$9,000 - \$10,000 for qualified person. Contact 50-922-0692 or brbc3music@att.net.

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

Cullendale First Baptist Church, Camden, Ark., is

seeking a full-time youth/student life minister. Salary based on experience and education. Current youth program averages 45-55 students weekly. Please send resume and, if possible, audio or video to bwilliams@cullendalefbc.org or 1850 Cash Road, Camden, AR 71701. Applications accepted until June 30, 2011.

First Baptist Church of Fordyce, Ark., is seeking a full-time position for worship leader/education/senior adults. If interested, please send resume to 501 North Main Street, Fordyce, AR 71742, Attn: Search Committee.

Oak Grove Baptist Church, located in Van Buren, Ark., is seeking a bi-vocational youth minister. For details, call 479-474-6674, or send resume to OGBC, 4929 Industrial Park Road, Van Buren, AR 72956.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Parkview Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., is closing and has many items for sale: pulpit, Lord's supper table, chairs of all kinds, kitchen equipment, hymnals and sheet music. Too much to list. Please call 318-221-1825 for details.

Send classified ads to nelle@arkansasbaptist.org or call 800-838-2272 ext. 5155.

Be forgiving

Aren't you glad it ain't over till it's over? I am reminded over and over again that who I am today is not who I was.

I must remember this fact as I deal with and respond to others.

Just as God continues to refine me, I must acknowledge that He is also doing a refining work in others who may have hurt me along the way.

I recall vividly a few years ago com-

ing face to face with someone whom I had met several years earlier. I was new to the area and really needed

a friend, but this person didn't give me the time of day - which hurt me deeply. Seeing this person again after all those years, I was faced with a choice: I could respond as I had been treated, or I could choose to

respond differently.

The Lord immediately reminded

EXPLORE THE BIBLE MAY 29, 2011

*Frances Raley
minister of adult education
First Baptist, Benton*

Scripture passage:
Philemon 1, 3-22

I have never met Billy Graham. I have read his books and studied at "The Cove" in North Carolina. I have watched his crusades on television. Without knowing it, he has invested in my life and ministry.

In our scripture lesson, Saul arrives in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26). The Christians don't trust him due to his history of persecuting Christians (Acts 8:3; 9:1,13). They question the sincerity of his conversion.

God raises up Barnabas to help Saul. Barnabas introduces Saul to the apostles and gives testimony to his conversion experience. He also tells them about Saul's call and Saul's boldness in preaching in Da-

mascus. The apostles are convinced that Saul's conversion was genuine.

A great spiritual awakening was occurring at the church in Antioch (Acts 11:19-21). News of this revival reaches the church at Jerusalem (11:22). Barnabas is sent to assess the situation (11:22), and he sees the hand of God at work in the church (11:23). He encourages them (11:23) and recognizes the need for them to be disciplined. He brings Saul to Antioch. Their investment pays off. The Christians at Antioch grow spiritually and numerically.

At the beginning of their second missionary journey, Paul suggests they revisit the churches in which

they preached. Barnabas wants to take his cousin, John Mark. Paul strongly opposes the idea. John Mark had left them while they were in Pamphylia. Paul probably thought he would leave again. The dispute causes Paul and Barnabas to part company. Paul takes Silas with him to Syria and Cilicia. Barnabas takes John Mark, and they sail to Cyprus.

Barnabas was a mentor to John Mark. Just as he did with Paul when

will provide for us, as well.

God first offered Jeremiah His presence. God said He would be with him every step of the way. He would defend Jeremiah from those who would oppose him. When God is present with us, He empowers our lives. Satan uses fear to hold us back from serving God to the fullest. We feel the pressure of the world to conform and to maintain the status quo, but when God is with us, we can stand firm. The Apostle Paul would later write, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13 NKJV).

God touched Jeremiah's mouth and promised He would give him

based on Onesimus' actions. What he had done was wrong and he deserved to be punished, but God had been at work. Onesimus was not who he had been when he ran away from Philemon. Philemon was faced with a choice. He was being asked to forgive.

Matthew 6:14-15 reminds us, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

We aren't told what Philemon did, but I think he knew the good he was supposed to do and he did it.

Invest in others

no one believed in him, Barnabas takes John Mark on a mission trip and nurtures him personally and spiritually. Paul would later recognize John Mark's value in ministry (2 Tim. 4:11).

We can intentionally invest in others' lives by providing things like encouragement, prayer, discipleship, trust and finances.

Your investment can have an impact now and for eternity in the lives of others.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE MAY 29, 2011

*Gerald Nash, member
Second Baptist, Conway*

Scripture passages:
Acts 9:26-27; 11:19-26; 15:36-41

Accept your commission

God called Jeremiah to preach an unpopular message - one

of God's impending judgment on the nation of Judah. Jeremiah had seen the moral decay of his nation with his own eyes. God's people had turned their backs on Him and now worshiped idols and did what was right in their own

eyes. Judgment would come and the punishment would be severe.

When Jeremiah heard the call

of God, he began to focus on the weaknesses in his life. He was young

and lacked the polish of a seasoned communicator. The message God had for him to preach would be unpopular and difficult to deliver. How would he prevail?

God saw the fear and apprehension in Jeremiah's heart. His response to Jer-

emiah encouraged and empowered him to faithfully live out his calling. God would provide for him, and He

EXPLORE THE BIBLE JUNE 5, 2011

*Doug Fulton, minister
to adult singles, Geyer Springs
First Baptist, Little Rock*

Scripture passage:
Jeremiah 1:1-19

Matters of wealth and possessions can be sticky subjects for Christians. Sometimes we get caught up in materialism and pursuit of success that the world tells us we need. We can become consumed by thoughts of home ownership, vehicles and investments. We can see this preoccupation with ownership in children, as well, as they lay claim to toys, exclaiming, "Mine!" But when we look at our lives from a biblical perspective, we get a different picture of ownership.

In 1 Chronicles 29, we see the people of Israel sacrificing for the construction of the temple. David's prayer at the end of this chapter

highlights some significant points regarding the things we have. First of all, David acknowledged that everything we own is merely a gift from God (1 Chron. 29:11). We see this same concept in Psalms 24:1. Here David writes, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." When we acknowledge that all we have belongs to God and we are mere stewards of His earthly gifts, we find different significance in the things with which we've been entrusted. Our focus turns from amassing wealth (or spending beyond our means) to using "our things" the way God has purposed.

David also recognized the tem-

poral nature of our earthly possessions. In verse 15, he refers to us as "strangers" or "aliens," whose "days on earth are like a shadow."

When we recognize we own nothing apart from God's blessings in our lives and our citizenship lies elsewhere, we experience freedom from the burden of materialism and the never-ending cycle of want. This freedom gives purpose to the blessings we have

and lays to rest the anxiety over things we think we lack. We see a response of gratitude at the conclusion of David's prayer as the people bowed in honor of God's provision (1 Chron. 29:20). It was only because of God's blessings in their lives that they had been able to give to His temple.

Our understanding of these principles is what leads us to a place of contentment in light of God's sovereignty in our lives.

Matters of ownership

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Our understanding of these principles is what leads us to a place of contentment in light of God's sovereignty in our lives.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE JUNE 5, 2011

*Melissa Riley
youth minister
Baring Cross Baptist, Sherwood*

Scripture passages:
1 Chronicles 29:11, 15, 20

GuideStone Funds rank 8 of 212

DALLAS — GuideStone Funds were ranked No. 8 among their 212 peers for the period ending March 31, 2011, by fi360 Fund Family Fiduciary Rankings, GuideStone Financial Resources announced.

To determine the standings, mutual fund and ETF families are ranked by the fi360 Fund Family Fiduciary Rankings. In these rankings, fi360 determines the percentage of the individual funds in a family that have a fi360 Fiduciary Score Quarter in the top quartile of their peer group. Fund families must contain at least five distinct funds with a three-year history to be considered in the report.

GuideStone Funds ranked higher than many household names in the mutual fund industry.

Billy Graham in hospital with pneumonia

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) - Evangelist Billy Graham is recovering from a bout with pneumonia and is listed in fair condition, according to a statement from Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., which is near his Montreat, N.C., home.

Graham, 92, "had a comfortable night and was able to sleep well," his nurses reported May 12, said the statement.

Proclaim! is theme of WMU SBC meeting

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - National WMU will explore the theme Proclaim! - based on Luke 4:18-19 - with missional speakers, breakout conferences and worship, during the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, June 12-13, held this year in Phoenix, prior to the

Southern Baptist Convention.

Ginger Smith, executive director of the Mission Centers of Houston will be the keynote speaker on Sunday evening.

Participants in the meeting are encouraged to bring school supplies to help an ongoing ministry at Seyenna Vistas, a 67-acre mobile home and RV park in Phoenix that is home to more than 100 children.

New York Times notes Southern Baptist DR

RAINSVILLE, Ala. (BP) - The *New York Times* highlighted Southern Baptist Disaster Relief in a May 9 article, noting that after the Red Cross and Salvation Army, Southern Baptists form the largest disaster relief organization in the country.

"From an elaborate 'war room' in a church building in Montgomery, Ala., to direct lines of communication with federal and local emergency agencies, the Southern Baptist disaster ministry is a model of efficiency," The *Times* reported.

"Its renowned chain saw crews were cutting fallen trees so medical crews could get to the injured in the hours after the tornadoes hit. They had an enormous mobile kitchen, complete with a hot-water heater for dishwashing and five convection ovens, set up here a day before the Red Cross arrived," the newspaper said, reporting from Rainsville, Ala.

The *Times* called Southern Baptist teams "the backbone of disaster relief" in Rainsville and focused on Marteen and Wiley Blankenship, a retired Alabama couple who were among the first to arrive on the scene after the tornadoes hit.

Subscriber services

The *Arkansas Baptist News* offers subscription plans at three rates for the printed edition and three rates for the *ABN Now*, the digital edition:

■ The **Every Resident Family Plan** offers churches a premium rate when they send the *ABN* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday school enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$7.75 per year (print) and \$4 (digital) for each subscription.

■ The **Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscriptions together through their local church. Subscribers pay

\$8.75 per year (print) and \$5 (digital).

■ **Individual subscriptions** may be purchased at the rate of \$11 per year (print) and \$6 (digital).

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When inquiring about a subscription by mail, please include the address label. Individuals also may call the *ABN* at 501-376-4791, ext. 5153 or toll-free in state at 800-838-2272. Be prepared to provide code line information printed on the mailing label.

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



Greene county

More than 400 volunteers ministered in a one-day event in Paragould.

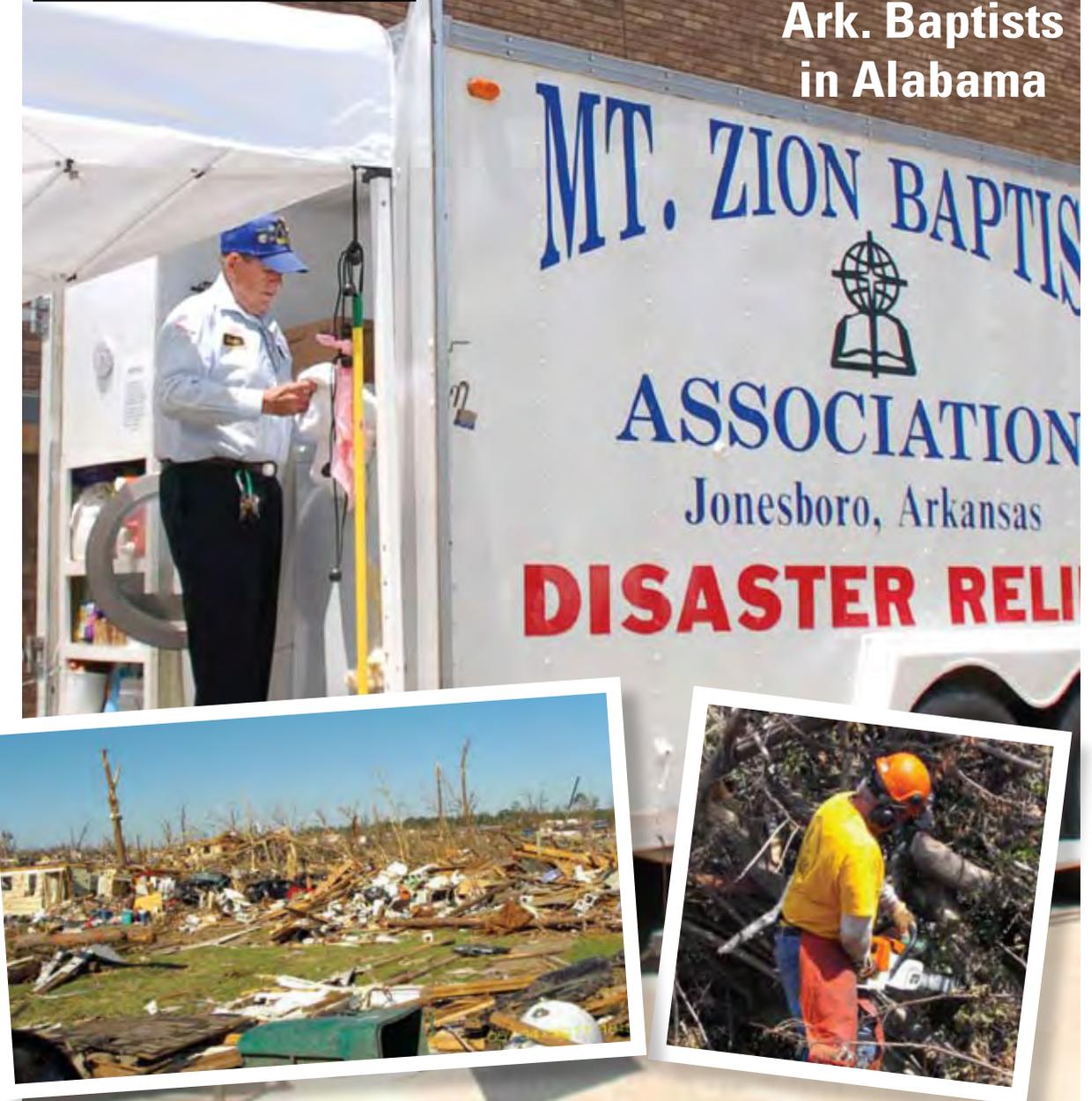
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Dickerson retires

Arliss Dickerson retires as ASU Baptist campus minister.

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Ark. Baptists in Alabama



Several Arkansas Baptist disaster relief crews helped with clean up in Alabama after recent tornadoes and severe storms destroyed areas across the South. Mt. Zion Baptist Association, Jonesboro, shower unit was set up in Tuscaloosa, Ala., while Central Baptist Association, Benton, and Harmony Baptist Association, Pine Bluff, recovery unit worked in Huey Town, Ala., outside Birmingham.

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