



## Hundreds profess Christ

# Ark. Baptists continue Haiti relief efforts

Jessica Vanderpool  
Arkansas Baptist News

MORE THAN A YEAR after the 7.0 earthquake ravaged Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010, Arkansas Baptists are still hard at work sharing the gospel with the Haitian people.

In addition to responding to immediate physical needs in the months following the quake, volunteers are doing evangelism, providing medical attention, building houses and training Haitian believers in the areas of church planting and pastoral leadership.

"There appears to be still a large open window. People are continuing to respond," said Bob Fielding, a member of the ABSC missions ministries team and Haiti project coordinator.

"Even 15 months after the quake, they're still responding, and we want to be as effective as we can in this

window of opportunity," he said. "At this point, we believe God has us there for the long term, and we're continuing to branch out into villages that we've never been to before and, as far as we know, nobody's been to."

One such team to venture into unreached villages was from Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro. Although originally slated to do evangelism, the group morphed into an evangelism/medical team when it was discovered two of the members were medical professionals. The team got permission to take medicine into the villages with them, and - in just two days - 148 people came to Christ.

"All we can say is God had them ready to receive the gospel," Fielding said of the villagers. He explained that some of the Haitians the ABSC trained last fall to start Bible studies and to plant congregations have



Baptist collegiate ministry volunteers teach Haitian church planting conference.

now been sent to those villages to put their training into practice.

Shortly before the Central Baptist team arrived in Haiti, another medical team also served in Leogane. The volunteers, from Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, treated

750 patients, sharing the gospel with everyone. Fielding said the medicine they used was purchased with money from the Haiti relief fund, provided by Arkansas Baptists.

Teams have not been limited

See **HAITI** page 2

## Church tech

THE ABN is launching a new Church Tech page today. Articles will include using social media and the Internet for ministry, as well as information about computers and multimedia. Be sure to check it out on Page 6!

## ABN unveils revised logo, slogan

WITH THIS ISSUE, the *Arkansas Baptist News* is unveiling a revised logo.

"We wanted to update our current logo, but not lose our connection to the past," said ABN editor Tim Yarbrough.

"We think it turned out rather

nicely and hope our readers like it."

Yarbrough said the revised logo now includes a star/cross effect that reflects Arkansas Baptists' Great Commission focus and reach.

"The general typestyle of the ABN logo has been retained, with

the outline of the state of Arkansas and dove removed," said Yarbrough. "A star/cross emerging over the curvature of the earth has been integrated into the design."

In addition to using the logo as

See **LOGO** page 2



## Cowboy Church impacts Wynne

# Sharing Jesus from horseback

Lisa Watson  
Arkansas Baptist News

WHEN IT COMES to strategies to share Christ with others, riding horses on a trail ride might not be the first activity that comes to mind. But at Three Trees Cowboy Church in Wynne, trail riding is one of many non-traditional activities members employ to spread the gospel.

The church, which began meeting Jan. 9, is one of a number of "cowboy churches" that have been planted across Arkansas the past few years.

At Three Trees, they do things a little differently than the typical Arkansas Baptist church, said Tracy Wilson, pastor.

Blue jeans, boots and cowboy hats are normal Sunday morning attire. Worship music leans heavily toward country and western. There's a feed bucket at the back of the room for tithes and offerings, and baptisms are conducted in a horse trough.

Wilson admits the church is not for everyone. "This type of ministry reaches folks that, for some reason, don't go to a traditional church."

Though worship styles and

practices at the church may look a little different, don't be fooled. The church is a bona fide Arkansas Baptist church.

Three Trees partners with Higher Trails Cowboy Church, Paragould; Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro; and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

As a church, Three Trees is involved in Arkansas Baptist life, said Ray Dean Davis, Tri-County Baptist Association missionary. "They are actively participating in CP and associational giving.

See **COWBOY** page 7

# Marriage retreat brings couples closer

LITTLE ROCK - For a number of years, the Arkansas State Baptist Convention (ABSC) has sponsored a special marriage retreat as a way to help couples involved in ministry draw closer together and increase their kingdom effectiveness.

The 2011 Galatians 6:6 Marriage Retreat was held March 18-19 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Little Rock.

"It's a way we can give back to pastors and encourage them," said Ben Phillips, team leader of the ABSC family ministry team.

Phillips said the retreat is extremely popular,

and there is oftentimes a waiting list because it is limited to 30 couples.

Hotel accommodations and meals are paid by the convention, which considers the retreat an "investment" in couples involved in ministry, said Phillips.

"(It) helps them to be more effective for the kingdom," he said. "It's an investment in pastoral leadership serving in Arkansas Baptist churches."

The ABSC partners with Intimate Life Ministries to conduct the retreat.

Danny and Talissa Smith, Crosspoint Church, Greenbrier



## HAITI

*continued from page one*

to medical service. Central Baptist Church and Park Hill Baptist Church, along with Cross Road Baptist Church, Little Rock, have sent members to help with another area of ministry - construction.

After the earthquake, the ABSC began a series of housing projects to house the elderly and amputees. It was this project with which the teams helped, bringing the number of permanent shelters built in the last year to 21. This is in addition to the 2,000-plus temporary shelters that have been built.

One of the permanent houses built was for Maricia, a mother of nine. The woman lost all but one of her nine children in the earthquake. She also lost her leg and had been living in a shed supported by sticks.

"All Maricia was saying when we handed her the new house keys was, 'Thank You, Jesus,'" said Roody Joseph, a Haitian American and Florida Baptist working with the ABSC.

In addition to meeting physical needs, Arkansas Baptists are providing training to Haitian leaders, who will be able to serve their own people.

In early February, a team of three Arkansas Baptist associational missionaries - R. E. Clark, Ken Barnard and Verne Wickliffe - held the first leadership school, which was attended mostly by Haitian pastors. The school lasted four days and offered courses in basic Christian doctrine, expository preaching and servant leadership. Nineteen people completed the courses.

In addition, evangelistic meetings were held at night, and nine people made professions of faith in Christ.

The ABSC has plans to train Haitians in agriculture. Ron Baker, who spent 20 years as an International Mission Board (IMB) agricultural missionary, and Sean Milliken, pastor of First Baptist Church, Marshall, spent several days in Haiti conducting an agricultural survey "to



Graduates of the first leadership school held in Feb. 2011 display certificates from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

determine if and how agricultural ministry could tie in with evangelism and church planting," Fielding said. The conclusion was that "methods used in other third-world countries will definitely work in Haiti."

"Future agricultural teams will be going to Haiti to teach the farmers how to better use their land, protect their soil, save seed for future crops, improve their animals and more,"

Fielding said. Explaining the importance of this new training, he added that farmers do not grow enough to adequately provide for their families.

"Several of the church planters that we've trained are farmers, and they're going to be able to pass on these techniques to others and use that as a platform for evangelism (and) church planting," he said.

One of the most recent teams to travel to Haiti taught Haitian believers a skill that is just as important, though not as tangible, as tending the land. They taught them "the oral story method of transmitting the gospel to oral learners," Fielding said.

"(It) was developed to accurately and adequately transmit the gospel and the Bible to oral learners," Fielding explained. "Since 50 percent of the people in Haiti are illiterate, this oral story method is perfect for that learning environment."

The team to teach this method was composed of staff and students from the Metro, Little Rock, Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) and

the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, BCM. While in Haiti, the students on the team used the oral story method in the villages and led seven people to Christ. Meanwhile, the staff on the team, three of whom had previously used the oral story method while serving as IMB Journeymen, trained a group of Haitian

church planters in how to use the method themselves. In one morning of practicing the new skill, the church planters led six people to Christ.

While much has been done in Haiti, there is still much left to do, but Fielding said Arkansas Baptists are continuing to respond. Only a few spots are still available for churches to send teams this year.

However, even churches who cannot send a team to Haiti can still be involved, Fielding said. Churches or individuals can always donate to the Haiti relief fund, and they can also be involved through prayer. Specifically, Fielding asked for prayers for the ABSC's partner Roody Joseph, for the ABSC to make good decisions, for the traditional churches and for ABSC church planters not to "get discouraged or sidetracked in the mission."

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

**"Several of the church planters that we've trained are farmers, and they're going to be able to pass on these techniques to others and use that as a platform for evangelism (and) church planting."**

**Bob Fielding**

*ABSC missions ministries team*

## LOGO

*continued from page one*

the newspaper's "flag" (which is traditionally located at the top of the front page), the new design will be integrated into all ABN printed and display pieces.

Additionally, Yarbrough said the ABN has a new slogan that reflects its tradition and historic connection to the Arkansas Baptist ministries: "Telling the story of Arkansas Baptists since 1901." The ABN will continue to use the "INFORM ... INSPIRE ... INVOLVE ..." phrase as well.

Regarding the new slogan, Yarbrough explained, "The ABN staff feels it is important to reinforce the newspaper's strong support of Arkansas Baptists, their churches and the state convention."

Yarbrough added the revised logo is important as the ABN reaches new audiences in print, through electronic means and on the Internet.

"Traditional publishing is experiencing dramatic changes, and the ABN wants to continue to be relevant to future generations of Arkansas Baptists," he said. "The ABN is an important trust of Arkansas Baptists and is working hard to play an important role in the dissemination of information today and well into the future."



New ABN display

# SBC teams enter Japan disaster zone

Susie Rain

International Mission Board

TOKYO (BP) – It took six days for Southern Baptist disaster relief specialists from Alabama and South Carolina to gain access to Japan's tsunami- and earthquake-stricken Tohoku prefecture.

It only took a few minutes, however, for them to understand the intense fears surrounding the nuclear crisis and how it affects disaster response.

Hardly anyone was at the Tokyo airport when John Hayes of Birmingham, Ala., and Eddie Pettit of Sunset, S.C., arrived March 19. With no traffic, the bus trip into town took only an hour that Saturday, a ride that normally takes two or more. Even the busiest crosswalk in the country only mustered 15 to 20 people. Normally, this corner is a sea of hundreds dressed in black business suits, jockeying for space to cross the street.

Despite living more than 200 miles from the failing Fukushima nuclear plant, Tokyo residents stayed home, creating a "ghost town" atmosphere. In a city of nearly 13 million people, most venture out only to purchase bottled water and toilet paper.

"The fear of radiation is really the biggest obstacle in responding to Japan's disaster," Pettit admitted. "It's not only affected the Japanese, but it's dominated the media and created fear throughout the world."

"We have to convince the people in the States that it's safe to work here," he added. "I want Southern Baptists to know that the radiation scare is a lot worse in the States than it is here now."

Tokyo and surrounding areas are slowly coming back to life three weeks after the nightmare began. People are venturing back to work, and restaurants are opening. The fear, though, is still hidden just below the surface. It comes out in



John Hayes of Birmingham, Ala., photographs areas in Ishinomaki, Japan, hard-hit by the March 11 tsunami.

simple things like wondering if the fruit or vegetables you buy came from Fukushima or if the tap water has radiation contamination.

The possibility of radiation is always at the back of people's minds, especially when members of Tokyo Baptist Church sit around a table to talk with Hayes and Pettit on ways to launch a disaster relief ministry amid Japan's triple disaster.

Every idea put on the table immediately gets thrown into the "do later" pile as team members grapple with how to handle the nuclear crisis. It seems like the radiation concern is a roadblock to every ministry possibility, until Hayes quietly pulls out something that looks like a credit card. He peels back the red plastic and points to the blue dot on the radiation detection card, called a dosimeter.

"Look! I've been wearing this ever since I arrived in Japan, and it hasn't registered any radiation exposure levels yet," Hayes said, noting that all Southern Baptist workers and their children were issued a card to measure their exposure to radiation, allowing them to return to their ministries and homes. "Volunteers will wear one of these cards at all times, too. We want everyone safe

while they are ministering in this disaster."

Having a way to measure radiation exposure changes the climate of the meeting. It goes from "What will we do in the future?" to "Let's do something now." The timing could not have been better. The very next day, the Japanese government lifts restrictions to most areas of the disaster zone. Tokyo Baptist Church immediately sends the newly trained disaster relief team in one direction and Hayes and Pettit go another. All leave with a dosimeter hanging around their necks, offering a sense of safety, but not invincibility.

Pettit said the long wait to actually visit some of the disaster area for assessment is not normal for their teams. In other natural disasters, the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Network responds immediately and hits the ground running. In Japan, however, they are just now making their first assessment trip into the heart of the region struck by the

March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The radiation fears have a little to do with this delay, but the main reason is government restrictions and the lack of gasoline.

"Developing countries do not have a disaster plan or the infrastructure Japan has," Pettit said, explaining how important it is to work within the Japanese system and not just respond unilaterally, like many did after Haiti's earthquake a year ago.

Any fears of radiation are quickly forgotten as Hayes and Pettit survey an area safely outside the 50-kilometer radiation zone suggested by the United States. The magnitude of this disaster and the need for future relief work sinks in as the pair walk down the streets of Ishinomaki. Despite Japanese government forces working around the clock since the quake, the destruction is still overwhelming, a stark contrast to the normally pristine and orderly Japanese lifestyle.

Hundreds of cars pile up at odd angles. Some stack on top of each other three or four high. Broken boats sit stranded on side streets and open lots. Ships lean to one side on empty roads. Seven-foot-high walls of trash line streets outside homes filled with a foot of mud.

Entire neighborhoods are still without electricity or kerosene. Nearly 377,000 people are in shelters and thousands more shiver in damaged and waterlogged homes. People sit in the cold all day and night. A snowstorm and cold front hit northeastern Japan just hours after the tsunami.

Susie Rain is an International Mission Board writer/editor living in Southeast Asia.

## Rodgers addresses House

Stella Prather  
ABCHomes

FORMER ARKANSAS Baptist Children's Homes (ABCHomes) resident Stephanie Rodgers was among a group of former foster care or residential childcare residents who addressed a U.S. House of Representatives panel April 1 in Washington, D.C.

The panel event, held at the House of Representatives Rayburn House Office building, was sponsored by the Coalition for Residential Education (CORE), a non-profit organization promoting and strengthening residential education programs for economically and socially disadvantaged youth.

Speaking to the House Ways and Means Committee and Education and the Workforce Committee, Rodgers of Benton shared her personal history, what she gained from ABCHomes and how her life was changed.

The impetus for this panel was

to ensure the option of residential education is preserved for youth in the child welfare system and for youth whose homes cannot support them. Some national child welfare organizations have made great strides in preventing children in the foster care system from being placed in residential education programs.

Some federal policymakers are considering legislation to further limit the ability of youth to attend these programs.

Rodgers, 34, who was in ABCHomes' family foster care program and residential program at Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, has long been a dedicated advocate for ABCHomes. She is an active member of the ABCHomes women's volunteer board, recently appearing on Little Rock's KATV morning news show representing the volunteer board and ABCHomes. She was recently elected to the ABCHomes' Board of Trustees.



Pat Melancon (left) of Baptist Global Response opens food and supplies brought into a neighborhood in Ishinomaki, Japan, March 28 by a Southern Baptist relief team. Melancon led the disaster response team, which included Eddie Pettit (center), of South Carolina, and Kevin Qualls, an International Mission Board church planter based in Sendai, Japan.

## 'God surely has blessed us with the Cooperative Program'

I am Southern Baptist by choice. Sure, I was raised in a Southern Baptist home and saved in a Southern Baptist church, but I have come to appreciate Southern Baptists as a people blessed by God.

It seems today that it's popular to criticize mainline denominations like the Southern

Baptist Convention and the denomination's united giving plan, the Cooperative Program.

It's easy to criticize something one does not understand, and I'm afraid some of today's leaders haven't taken time to understand what the Cooperative Program is all about and why it came to be.

While in some circles it's equally unpopular to bring attention to denominational emphases, I pray that you will pause this Sunday, April 10, or at least some time in April, to thank God for providing Southern Baptists with what is possibly the most innovative

and kingdom-focused giving plan ever known to man. April 10 is Cooperative Program Sunday.

### PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough



I have seen firsthand the tremendous kingdom impact the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program has made in funding mission efforts and deploying missionaries in North America

and around the globe.

When I served at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, I came face-to-face with the reality of how special our giving plan is as compared to that of other missionary organizations.

The year was 1991, and I was working with others to set up the first international World Changers mission experience.

A colleague and I were traveling in the Dominican Republic and had hired a Dominican national to assist us with setting up the mission project (it's a long story why we were working with a Dominican

national, but I'll have to save that story for another time).

The Dominican national was a missionary for the Disciples of Christ denomination and wasn't very familiar with Southern Baptists and their work. My Brotherhood colleague and I were quick to give him a bit of a history lesson, and it included information about our united giving plan, the Cooperative Program.

I will never forget his reaction when we started talking about the Cooperative Program and how it

funded Southern Baptist mission efforts and our missionaries' work.

After listening intently, he told us how much time he had to spend each year raising support so he could stay on the field. It really saddened him how much fundraising kept him away from doing kingdom work. Then, he said this in broken English, "God surely has blessed Southern Baptists with the Cooperative Program."

Celebrate God's blessings by thanking Him for the Cooperative Program this month.

## The world's 7 billion people

Bill Webb  
Word&Way

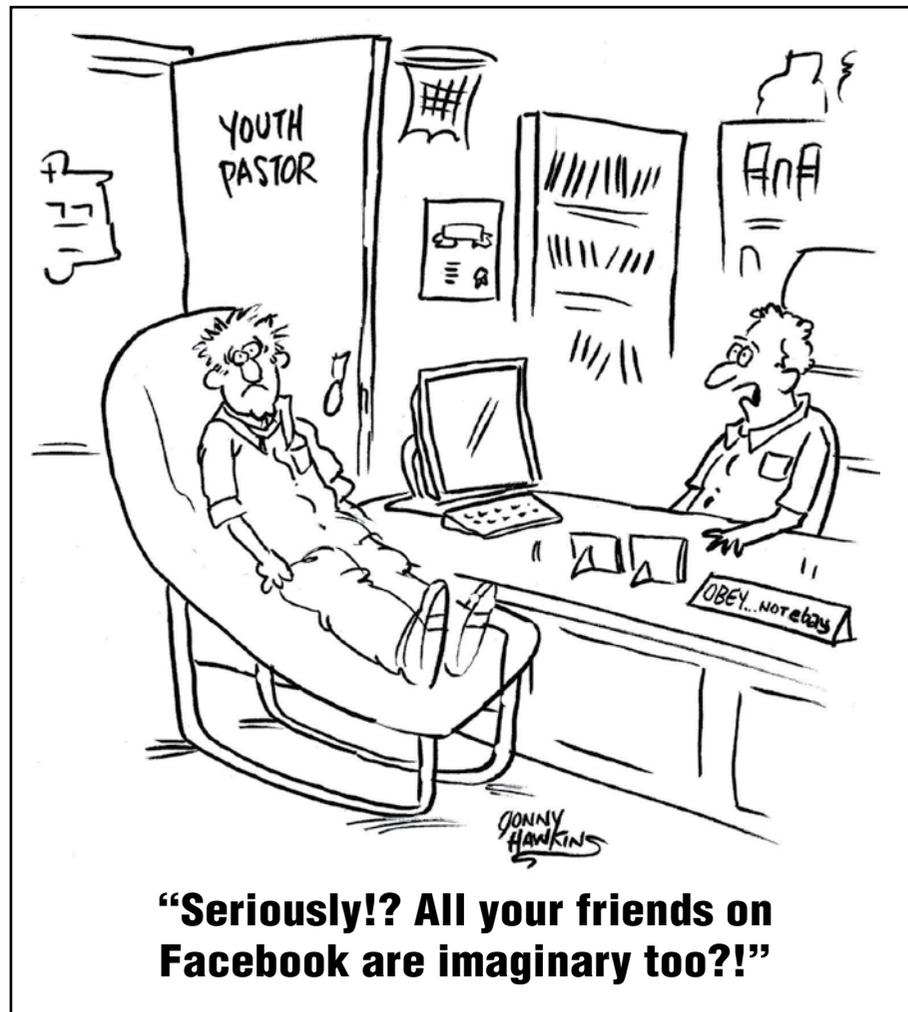
THE NATIONAL Geographic Society packed a poster into its most recent edition of National Geographic magazine detailing how various segments of the world population - which will reach 7 billion this year - stack up in a variety of categories.

The Society grouped these population groups first by annual

income, determining 1 billion people earn \$995 or less per year, 4 billion earn from \$996 to \$3,945, 1 billion earn from \$3,946 to \$12,195 and the final billion earn \$12,196 or more in a year's time.

Overall, according to a brief explanation on the poster, the standard of living is higher than it has ever been. Still, inequity abounds. Two percent of the population

See **WEBB** page 10



**"Seriously!? All your friends on Facebook are imaginary too!?"**

### A Tribute to Godly Mothers ABN Mother of the Year Contest

Arkansas Baptists, write a brief tribute (300 words or less) about your mother or another worthy mother. The ABN will recognize the winner in her local church and present her with a gift, as well as highlight her tribute in the May 6 issue.

**Send your tribute by April 21, along with your phone number and/or email address, your mother's name and what church she attends to:**

**Mother of the Year Contest, Arkansas Baptist News,  
10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204 or email to  
tim@arkansasbaptist.org.**

### Prison spending

While the crime rate in Arkansas is not increasing, prison spending is increasing. The problem, according to Prison Fellowship (Chuck Colson), is that non-violent prisoners are now taking space needed for truly dangerous criminals. State Senator Jim Luker has introduced SB 750, the Public Safety Improvement Act, a package of reforms already approved

by Governor Beebe, Chief Justice Hannah and legislative leaders from both political parties. Prison Fellowship thinks these reforms will not only help repair broken

lives of offenders, but will save money, improve public safety and restore peace to communities.

Visit [www.justicefellowship.org/arkansas](http://www.justicefellowship.org/arkansas) for more information on this worthwhile project.

**Gwen Carpenter**  
Magnolia

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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**Baptists Ask**

*How should Christians understand Old Testament prophecy today?*

Because of its unfamiliarity and misuse, Christians often find Old Testament prophecy difficult to understand. Believers, however, will find the prophets less perplexing if they remember three interpretive points: the prophet's role, his theme and his writing style.



Although some believe the role of prophets is to predict the future, further reading shows that they spoke much more about God's commandments. The main role of prophets, then, was to proclaim God's covenant. The prophets reminded the Israelites to worship God completely. God would forgive those who repented but would judge those who refused.

The prophets used various themes within their pronouncements. Some focused on God's saving power and immanent judgment (soteriological prophecy). Others focused upon the One who would save them (messianic prophecy). Still others spoke about the "end of time" judgment in a form that was either cataclysmic (eschatological) or symbolic (apocalyptic). The majority of their prophecy, however, focused upon the Israelites' ethical behavior. In fact, there is more ethical prophecy than any of the other themes combined. These prophets were concerned with the people's behavior, both to God and to one another.

Finally, readers must remember the prophet's writing style. While some prophecy is written in prose, the majority of it is poetry. As such, readers should carefully contemplate interpretation. For example, when Isaiah declared that the people would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah (Is. 1:9), he referred to the two cities that God destroyed (Gen. 19). When Isaiah used the same names again in the next verse, they serve as metaphors for Israel and Judah. The Israelites, Isaiah said, may not have received the penalty of those two cities, but their sins were no different.

Understanding Old Testament prophecy can be a daunting and perplexing task, but careful reading will allow believers to find it a rewarding study.

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

**Easter: There is hope!**

A 200-year-old church was being readied for the Easter celebration when calamity struck: the bell ringer was called out of town. The church immediately advertised for another. When the replacement arrived, the pastor took him to the steps leading to the bell tower – some 150 feet above them. Round and round they went, huffing and puffing all the way. Just as they reached the landing, the person applying for the job of "bell ringer" tripped and fell face-first into the biggest bell of all.

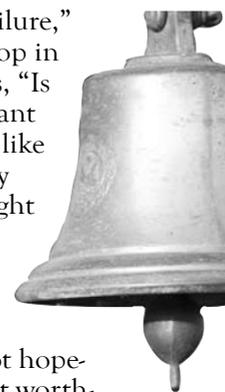
Bo-o-o-ong! Dazed by the blow, the bell ringer stumbled backward onto the landing. The railing broke loose, and he fell to the ground. Miraculously, the replacement bell ringer was unhurt – only stunned – but the pastor thought it best to call an ambulance. "Do you know this man's name?" asked the paramedic when he arrived. "No," the Pastor replied. "I'm sorry. He never told me his name. But his face sure rings a bell."

Sometimes we can feel a little like that bell ringer. No matter how hard we try, we always seem to fall hopelessly face-first into another problem, another temptation or another bad decision. Life just keeps coming at

us, and Satan's ringing words of "failure," "hopeless" and "worthless" never stop in our ears. We may even ask ourselves, "Is this what Jesus meant by the abundant life?" We may feel like life is passing us by or that we are caught up in a whirlwind with no promise of escape.

Easter reminds us life is not hopeless and we are not worthless. Easter reminds us our

failures are never a final verdict on our lives and in Jesus we can have great victory. A Lord who has the power to conquer death and the grave has the power to work in the situations, hurts, challenges and pain of our lives for our good, the good of others and His glory. This Easter, let Arkansas Baptists shout for all to hear, "He is Risen and for you there is salvation and hope!" Let us point people to the power of the cross and the love of Jesus. This is our one shot to share the good news with many in our communities. Let's make the most of it and give them real hope in 2011!



**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

*Clay Hallmark*

**'We the People: Know the Past, Understand the Present, Secure the Future'**

*by Carol Sewell, Generation to Generation, 2010*

Reading the U.S. Constitution is fashionable among Tea Party types. That's great and to be encouraged, but we also need a national civics lesson. We must reclaim the treasure that is the American system of government.

Our freedoms were painstakingly enshrined in the words of our founding documents. Our forefathers died for them. But we're failing to teach our children and our immigrants the true history of our government and how it can be employed by a free people to retain freedom. We're not teaching it partially because we don't know it.

That's why author Carol Sewell has published a new book: "We the People."

It's an education, in 200 pages, in American citizenship. It's written for Christians not because we are a Christian nation, but because Christians have a special stewardship in bringing Christ to the culture.

"We the People" is an engaging primer. First, it shows the reader how to develop a worldview that is distinctly Christian, informed by

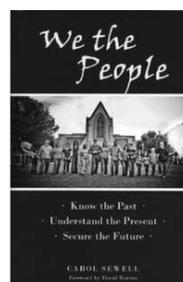
principles found in the Bible. Then, it chronicles our history. The reader is reminded that until the founding of the United States, it was mostly kings who ruled nations. But our Founders wrote documents that "allow a people to govern themselves through elected representatives who answered to the people."

Has it always been Christians who have run this country? No. And do the believers always act as wise citizens? Certainly not. Right now, it appears we're getting worse at governing ourselves. When people want things from the government, they support its growth at the expense of their freedoms.

But, now more than ever, we're opening up to forces that would strip us of our freedoms.

Within our system are the tools to stop this if we'll use them. It's the people who must capitalize upon what the Founding Fathers did 200 years ago.

That's why Carol Sewell wrote her book, and that's why Americans should read it.



**BOOK REVIEW**

*Penna Dexter  
Amazon.com*

**Being intentional**

Probably the biggest obstacle to successfully living for Christ is that we are not intentional. It is easier to do what we feel like doing at the moment. Some call this living by our emotions.

Scripture teaches us that Daniel purposed in his heart. He made decisions – ahead of time. He was intentional. Joseph had dreams. God showed him what was going to happen in his future. He had no control over how these events came to pass, but he had purposed to live for God, not to defile himself or sin against God, regardless of the consequences. He spent years in prison, unjustly by the way, but when his dream came to reality, what did he say? "God sent me ahead of you, to preserve life." (Gen. 45:7) "You meant it for evil, but

God meant it for good." (Gen. 50:20)

What's the difference in Daniel or Joseph and you and me? They were intentional. They committed themselves to God, and that was it – decision made. No matter what happened, their course was set.

We will never faithfully serve and glorify our God until we purpose in our hearts – to be faithful, to obey His Word, to put Him first.

Here's the good part – what was the end result? God was glorified, and they were blessed.

We, too, can be a Daniel or a Joseph in this generation, and we can also depend on God to give us the same end result. He never changes – praise His wonderful name.

**GUEST VIEWPOINT**

*Jay Weaver, pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Osceola*

# Sharing Christ through social media

**Tim Yarbrough**  
Arkansas Baptist News

I AM BY NO MEANS an expert at social media; rather, I see the growing trend in social media as something to be embraced by the church.

The reason is simple: Facebook, Twitter and other forms of “new” media are just simply ways of connecting people to Jesus Christ, and after all, isn’t that what church ministry is all about?

A number of years ago, when the Facebook phenomenon started gaining steam, I reluctantly signed up for a personal account. A year or so later, I also started a Twitter account. Little did I know (or understand) how important social media would become in my personal life and ministry.

Soon after starting personal accounts and witnessing firsthand how powerful these tools are, I established accounts for the Acts 1:8 Challenge ministry that I led at the time. The Acts 1:8 Challenge is a joint ministry of the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and participating state conventions and associations.

In practically no time, mission strategists and others interested in furthering the cause of Christ and the Great Commission through Acts 1:8 missions were connected through a Facebook group and regular Twitter updates. Our Facebook page swelled to more than 2,000 members in a matter of a few weeks.



I used the Facebook and Twitter feeds for polls and to distribute all kinds of information about the Acts 1:8 Challenge. By “friending” on Facebook and “following” on Twitter other mission-passionate Christians and organizations, I gained a lot of knowledge about Acts 1:8 missions that went far beyond my own personal knowledge, research or book knowledge.

That’s the beauty of social media in the 21st century: it’s immediate, interactive and highly customized.

Here are a few things I learned working with Facebook:

- Regularly update information on your page.
- Notify members of upcoming events.
- Share tips and

other ideas of your own and from other members.

- Post topics of current interest, and ask for member feedback.
- Request members and others to write on special topics of interest.
- Encourage members to post photos of their ministry activities.

Here are a few things I learned using Twitter:

- “Tweet” something interesting every day. Think about what you

write and whether it is something you would be interested in reading. Avoid Tweeting what you had for lunch, dinner, etc.

- Re-tweet interesting information from other followers.
- Provide links to important news, resources and other information when possible.
- Comment on Tweets by others and include hash tag identifiers, such as #mission or #missions (organizations like the International Mission Board actually track these hash tags). Other ministries track hash tags by churches and other Christian organizations.

• Follow other Christians and Christian ministries, and always follow back those who follow you!

Chris Forbes of Ministry Marketing Coach ([www.ministrymarketingcoach.com](http://www.ministrymarketingcoach.com)), has written a free resource, “Facebook for Pastors,” which is available for download at <http://ow.ly/4pHPz>.

In the book, Forbes encourages pastors and other ministers getting started with Facebook to do the fol-

lowing:

- Join a network (Facebook allows users to have up to five networks).
- Upload your photo (people love to see people’s faces).
- Post your interests (this is what social networks are for).
- Tag friends on Facebook (which helps people find people).

Additionally, Forbes encourages pastors to connect with people by finding friends. This is done by simply searching for people by name, finding them through a network or locating them on another person’s “friend” page.

Facebook includes a feature that allows you to send people you regularly email a Facebook friend request.

Building a social media presence – either for yourself or for your ministry – takes time and effort, but it is well worth it. You never know, you might even get the chance to lead someone to Christ – what could be more important than that?

Contact Tim Yarbrough at [tim@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:tim@arkansasbaptist.org).

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## Readers talk Facebook

ABN FACEBOOK users respond: “Do you use social media in your ministry? If so, how? And what do you use?”

“We use Facebook to keep church and community members informed of activities and other information that would be helpful. I’ve been able to keep church up to the minute on our mission trip by updating Facebook, Twitter and texting.”

**Daniel Haigwood, pastor**  
Hermitage Baptist Church, Hermitage

“I am a new pastor at Etowah Baptist church in Northeast Arkansas, and I am in the process of setting up a Facebook account for our church. We have about 20 regular attenders. I will be using it to allow members and others to keep up with events and activities, prayer requests, sermon topics and possibly to be able to listen to past sermons. I think Facebook can be a great ministry tool.”

**Danny Helms Jr., pastor**  
Etowah Baptist Church, Etowah

# Using Facebook in your church ministry

**Matt Ramsey**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

IF YOU HAVE BEEN using the Internet the last few years, then you’ve heard of the social network called Facebook. A social network is an online community that allows you to connect with a group of individuals on a regular basis.

Whether or not you use Facebook, this social network phenomenon is not going away anytime soon. In fact, a movie has been recently made about the founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg. According to Facebook, there are more than 500 million users worldwide, and half of them log onto the site daily. With this in mind, we have to ask, “Why is the church not embracing this technology?” Take a look at these five reasons why your church should be on Facebook today.

- **Effective communication**

– One of the challenges that we constantly face in ministry is the competition for people’s attention. It is hard for those on the receiving end to sort through the daily information overload and actually figure out what is important. Instead of sending out more snail mail and email, why not use a tool that people are already using to aid the communication process? With more people connecting on Facebook, it allows an easy way for churches to send out important messages and stay in touch with their members.

• **Free advertising for your church** – With Facebook being so popular, you might think it would cost a lot of money to use. This is the best feature about Facebook: it’s free! All you have to do is sign up and set up a fan page, and you can advertise your church to the world. Facebook allows you to post videos and pictures of recent events

so people in your community can see in which outreach programs you are involved.

• **Connect with other members** – Church Web sites are great, but let’s face it, a church Web site is a one-way conversation. When people visit your fan page on Facebook, they can see other members and interact with one another. It also is a great way to see when someone is in need. Since people will often respond quicker on Facebook than email, it’s a great way to get the word out when someone needs help, prayer or encouragement.

• **Provides a non-threatening environment for unbelievers** – Since Facebook makes it so easy for a conversation in an online environment, it can also be a great way for your people to invite others to church. When unbelievers see your church on Facebook and begin using your fan page as a “connection point,”

it can really make the unfamiliar seem more familiar and give people courage to visit on a Sunday.

• **Visibility** – The reality of the matter is that social networks and Facebook have become so popular that if your church is not a part of this movement, you could be overlooked. Young people today connect through Facebook on a daily basis, and if you don’t make an effort to be a part of their world, then they won’t know what you have to offer.

Facebook provides a free, fun way of interacting with your church members and reaching out to new people in your community. Why not try setting up your church with a Facebook account today by visiting [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

Matt Ramsey serves in the area of information and communications for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Contact Matt at [mramsey@absc.org](mailto:mramsey@absc.org).



Tracy Wilson (above) baptizes a young woman at Three Trees Cowboy Church. Church members (right) enjoy a trail ride.



## COWBOY

*continued from page one*

“It’s an SBC church – with a cowboy church flare.”

The cowboy church currently meets at the Tri-County Baptist Association campground facilities. Providing a place for worship allows the association to give the fledgling church a boost.

The church is growing, said Wilson, noting Three Trees has baptized 10 people and attendance has grown to more than 65 people for Sunday morning worship and about 50 for Tuesday night Bible studies. “We have visitors nearly every Sunday,” said Wilson.

Trail rides are another of the non-traditional tactics Three Trees plans to use to share the gospel.

They plan to be involved in the Arkansas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches, participating in upcoming “top hand challenge events,” where cowboys participate in a variety of rodeo-type events, said Wilson, ex-

plaining the gospel is preached during breaks in the competition.

“Other events like roping and ranch sorting are very popular,” he continued.

“Every time we do one of those events, we invite folks to church, and we see folks get saved.”

Wilson said the Lord used another ministry to “prod” him to begin a cowboy church in Wynne.

Wilson has operated Christian Wrangler’s Camp, a Christian riding camp for children, each summer since 2000. Through the ministry, 317 children have made professions of faith in Christ.

“The wrangler camp ministry is evangelistic,” noted Wilson. “We reach out to kids that aren’t going to church or can’t afford to go to camp. The goal is to reach unchurched kids.”

“Just by meeting different people in the horse industry and through dealing with other cowboy churches, the Lord started dealing with me,” said Wilson. “I thought [a cowboy church] would work in this location.”

Wilson said his goal in starting the cowboy church was simply this – to reach people other churches aren’t reaching with the gospel of Christ.

Though most of the people who attend the church identify with a

more western lifestyle, there are a few that “don’t know one end of the horse from another,” said Wilson.

“That’s the awesome thing – they just like the atmosphere here.”

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

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# Seven ways to budget for a family vacation

Francine L. Huff  
HomeLife

VACATION SEASON is just around the corner. Now is the time to begin planning the perfect getaway that fits your family's budget.

"Travel, in general, has been way up over previous years," says Nancy Schretter, managing editor of the Family Travel Network ([www.familytravel-network.com](http://www.familytravel-network.com)). "People feel comfortable and safe about traveling, and there's a huge push for multi-generational traveling with family members."

Whether you're looking for sand and sun or historical sites, you can find the right vacation for a pleasing price. Keep the following money-saving tips in mind.

**It's never too early to make reservations.** "Book early if there are specific things your family wants, such as quad cabins or connecting cabins on a cruise," Schretter said.

**Bargain for the best airfare.** "When flying, I'll search all the major online sites to find the best

deal, then call and quote that deal," said Laura Bartha, a frequent traveler from Seattle.

**Be flexible.** When booking plane tickets, stretch your dollars by being open to different scenarios such as driving a little farther to fly out of a smaller airport or allowing Web sites such as Hotwire.com or Priceline.com to choose your airline and flight time.

**Eat with the locals.** Instead of dining at pricey restaurants geared toward tourists, ask local residents to tell you their favorite places to dine. Check Entertainment.com for coupon books for the area you'll be visiting to find discounts on restaurants, movie and sporting event tickets, hotels and popular attractions.

**Travel with a group.** If your family is visiting a foreign country for the first time, you may want to sign up for a tour. "I usually advise a family to go with a group if they haven't had much experience," said Bill Petersen, co-author of *The Christian Traveler's Companion* guidebook series ([www.christiantraveler.com](http://www.christiantraveler.com)).

**Travel where the dollar has a strong exchange rate.** By using the currency converter at [www.gocurrency.com](http://www.gocurrency.com), you can create a wallet-sized conversion sheet to carry with you. Keep in mind that exchanging money at airports and hotels may result in higher transaction fees than visiting a local bank or ATM and using credit cards.

**Use membership rewards clubs.** "Many people think these programs aren't worth using if they don't earn enough points for a free hotel stay or airfare, but that's not necessarily true," Schretter said. "It doesn't usually cost to register for it. People may not be getting the points, but what's important may not be the points, but that you are a frequent guest at a hotel."

Taking a vacation doesn't have to destroy your budget. Be aware of good deals, and avoid being haunted by credit card bills long after your trip ends.

Francine L. Huff is a financial journalist, news editor at the Wall Street Journal and author. This article is courtesy of HomeLife magazine.



Downtown Eureka Springs. Photo by Stephen Foster.

## Eureka Springs "Coolest Small Town"

EUREKA SPRINGS - A massive grassroots voting campaign raised this town from 12th place to a 4th place finish in a contest to determine the Coolest Small Towns In America.

To be eligible for the *Budget Travel* magazine contest, cities had to have populations of less than 10,000.

The magazine also specified that the town had to be "on the upswing - beginning to draw attention and new residents because of the qual-

ity of life, arts, restaurants scene, or proximity to nature."

Lewisburg, W.Va., placed first in the contest, followed by Astoria, Ore., Clayton, N.Y., and Eureka Springs. As one of the top finishers, Eureka Springs will be featured in the September issue of *Budget Travel* magazine.

Full contest results are available online at <http://www.budgettravel.com/bt-srv/coolest-smalltowns/CST2011.html>.



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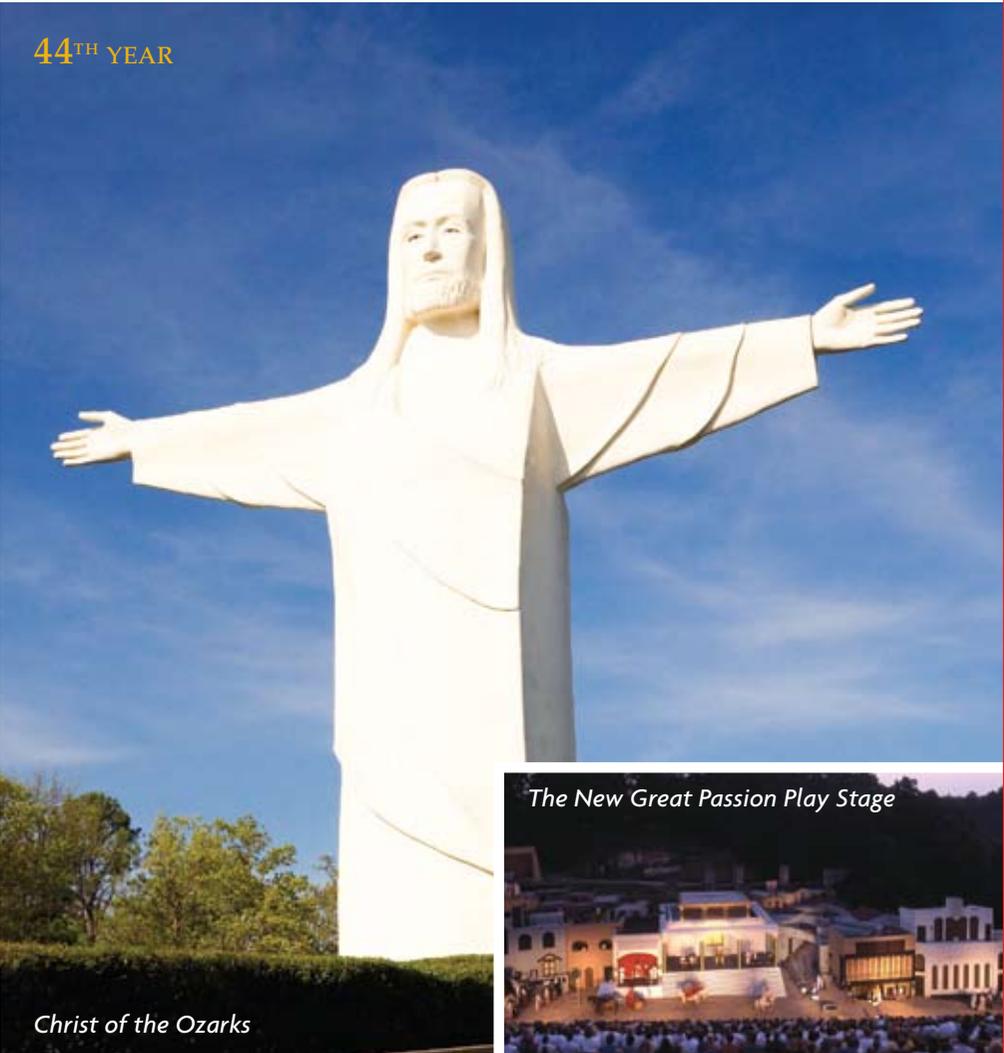


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## Tips for a safe vacation

**Terry Whaples**  
*ParentLife*

WHEN TRAVELERS are surveyed about what is most important to them when planning a family vacation, the No. 1 answer is not sunshine, a wealth of activities, great food or even a low price. Invariably, studies show that the most important element of a family vacation is a safe environment.

But while safety is essential when planning a vacation, many families often forget the most common-sense safety rules once their vacation begins.

Here are some simple tips that parents can follow to ensure their families enjoy a fun, safe vacation:

- Make sure the door to your hotel or motel room always is locked, and instruct children that only adults should answer the door, even when someone identifies himself as a hotel employee.

- Review the resort's safety information with your children upon check-in. Make sure everyone knows how to find the nearest exit and how to reach the front desk in case of emergency.

- Even in resorts with lifeguards, parents always should monitor their children's activities in the pool.

- Accompany children at all times in a hotel's public areas. Hotels and

resorts are getting larger and larger, and it is easy for a child to become lost.

- Make sure your children know the name of the hotel where they are staying in case they get lost.

- Whenever you leave the resort, place an index card in your children's pockets with your name and contact number. If your children become lost, this will help authorities reach you quickly.

- Keep recent photographs of all children with you, which can speed up the search process if family members get separated.

- Ask your family doctor or pediatrician to recommend a doctor near your vacation destination.

- Bring plenty of water with you on airplanes, while driving and while walking through theme parks. Children can become dehydrated quickly.

- Dress your children in brightly colored clothing so they are easier to spot in crowds.

Keeping your family safe and secure while traveling does not require a lot of work. Simple attention to some general safety guidelines will allow you to enjoy a fabulous family vacation.

*Terry Whaples is president and co-owner of Holiday Inn Family Suites Resorts. This article is courtesy ParentLife magazine.*



Branson Landing at night, Branson, Mo.

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## Presleys' family entertainment

LONG BEFORE Highway 76 became America's lighted boulevard of family entertainment, long before Branson became what 60 Minutes called "the live country music capital of the universe," long before any of that, the Presley Family built Branson's Original Show on the Strip. Presleys' Country Jubilee was a smash hit. People from across the country lined up every night for a chance to hear the country music and comedy the Presley family loved to perform.

Pretty soon, other theaters started popping up around the Presleys. The years passed and Hwy 76 became a glittering mecca of music stars. And smack dab in the mid-

dle of it all were the Presleys.

Today, 45 years later, at the center of it all, and still singin' and making people laugh, Branson's first family of entertainment remains. Four generations of entertainment have passed with the Presleys doing what they do best - delighting millions of families with an unforgettable show the *Los Angeles Times* quoted as a "stomp your feet mix of music and comedy."

From new country favorites to country classics - from the zany antics of Herkimer and Cecil to the soulful reflection of southern gospel hits - it's the one Branson show Regis Philbin says, "You've got to see."

### BRANSON PROFILE

*Jennifer McCullough  
Presleys' Country Jubilee*

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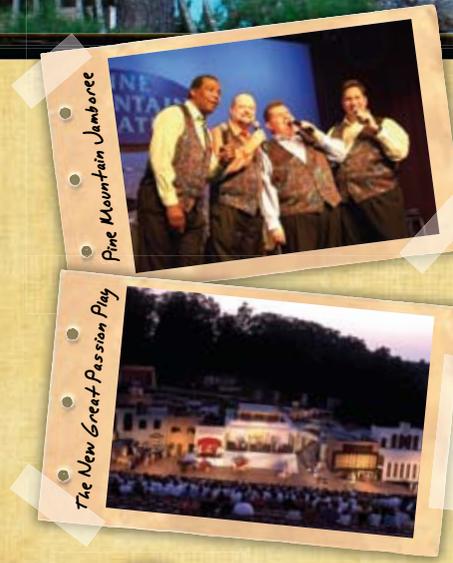
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## WEBB

*continued from page four*

owns 50 percent of the wealth. More children live to become adults, and fewer adults die of preventable diseases. The birthrate is falling, but by 2050 – only 39 years away – 9 billion people will share Planet Earth.

A lot of the data is somewhat predictable, although contemporary numbers might be surprising:

- The life expectancy of men in the lowest billion people is 58, but in the most affluent billion, it is 77. The age for women in the lowest group is 60, compared to 83 in the highest group.

- During the past 50 years, the number of children who die before they reach age 5 has dropped by half. Still, in developing countries, 120 of 1,000 children die before age 5, compared to seven per 1,000 among the most affluent billion people.

- More people have access to improved sanitation, defined as toilets – even pit toilets – that keep human excrement away from people, animals and insects. Among the poorest billion people, 35 percent have such access, compared to 99 percent among the most prosperous billion.

- Deaths caused by infectious diseases (acute respiratory, HIV/AIDS, diarrhea, TB and malaria) account

for 36 percent of deaths in the poorest group, compared to 7 percent in the most affluent billion people.

- The fertility rate among the poorest is four children per family, compared to half that among nearly a third of the population.

- Today, 50 percent of the population lives in urban centers. The percentage is 27 among the poorest billion people, compared to 78 percent among the most prosperous billion.

- The explosion of cell phone use is evident across the population spectrum. In the lowest billion, one in 100 people has a land phone, but 22 have cell phones. Among the next 4 billion people, 14 in 100 people have land phones, but 47 have cell phones. In the third group, the number jumps to 22 phones and 92 cell phones per hundred people. Among the wealthiest billion, each 100 people has 46 land phones and 106 cell phones.

Viewing the population as a whole, 82 percent are now literate; 40 percent earn a living in the ser-

vice sector, 38 percent in agriculture and 22 percent in industry; 13 percent speak Mandarin as their first language, compared to 5 percent Spanish and 5 percent English; 19 percent are Chinese, 17 percent are Indian and 4 percent are American.

Among the religious distribution, 33 percent are classified as Christian, 21 percent Muslim and 13 percent Hindu.

Why is data about the state of the entire human race important to us? There are a number of reasons.

Each of these people is a part of something 7 billion times larger than himself. Living like a majority of one has no place in our world. For most of us, ignorance of the world's people and their needs is inexcusable.

Seven billion people share a single planet. While the planet has not expanded, the population certainly has.

We share Earth and all its resources even though not every area is blessed with the same natural re-

sources or an equal supply, nor has the population always been good stewards of God's creation.

The earth's people share necessities like a water supply, a food supply and an oxygen supply. Until now, in human history, tribes and nations have tended to selfishly acquire, guard and dole out such basic life commodities for themselves. Even in the richest nations, the commodities produced as a result of adequate water and soil are seen as objects to generate income, not resources to assure that no one on Earth goes hungry.

Many infectious diseases have been long eradicated in some countries and hemispheres, but they still kill significant portions of the population in other parts of the world. How can that be justified?

Most of us need help in seeing the big picture. People who regard the needs of infants and children around the world as highly as those in their own community have something to teach us.

Those who claim to be among the spiritually faithful have a particularly important reason to be circumspect in the world – we have been commanded to demonstrate the love of God to every person.

Our world is changing, and we are obligated to stay current.

*Bill Webb is editor of Word&Way newspaper based in Jefferson City, Mo.*



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- **May 31, 2011 First Baptist Church, Fayetteville**  
Lunch served 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
11:10 - 11:30 a.m. Presentation  
12:10-12:30 p.m. Repeat presentation

- **May 31, 2011 East Side Baptist Church, Mountain Home**  
Evening meal 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.  
6:45-7:15 p.m. Presentation

- **June 1, 2011 Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro**  
Lunch served 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
11:10 - 11:30 a.m. Presentation  
12:10-12:30 p.m. Repeat presentation

- **June 2, 2011 Baptist building, Little Rock**  
Lunch served 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
11:10 - 11:30 a.m. Presentation  
12:10-12:30 p.m. Repeat presentation

- **June 2, 2011 Baptist Building, Little Rock**  
Evening meal 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.  
6:45-7:15 p.m. Presentation

- **June 3, 2011 Southwest Baptist Association office, Texarkana**  
Lunch served 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
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## 'Experience' Life Church

Lisa Watson  
Arkansas Baptist News

COME AS YOU ARE and experience life.

That's the message Life Church, Searcy, wants to convey, according to Robert Branscum, pastor.

The church start, which began a little less than a year ago, meets in a storefront building just off Race Street.

"One thing we want people to understand is we are here for them," said Branscum. "We don't want them to feel like they have to dress or look a certain way."

Instead, Branscum said he wants people who attend the church to find out what life is really all about. "It is a relationship with Jesus," he said.

For this reason, Sunday morning attire at Life Church is casual and worship is contemporary. "It's been neat to see the vast differences between people who come in (to the church)," said Branscum. "On Sunday, we might have an older gentleman in a suit and tie and a teenager in jeans and a T-shirt."

Regardless, Branscum said church members love one another because of "who" they are in Christ, not because of how they look or dress.

Life Church targets the more than 40,000 people in Searcy who do not regularly attend church, specifically those who live in apartment complexes, said Branscum. "We felt strongly that people in apartment complexes were being left out so that's where we began."

A strategy the church has used to reach people is block party min-

istry. Partnering with Unity Baptist Church, Paragould, the church has held three block parties including one April 30 of last year at Meadowlake Apartments in Searcy.

Through that outreach, Branscum and other Life Church volunteers met a family who wasn't attending church but felt "drawn" to the church plant. They joined the church that first Sunday and "have been there ever since," said Branscum.

And they have become involved in ministry through the church. "The husband plays guitar and puts all the worship music together for Sunday," said Branscum.

Life Church also holds services on Thursdays and Saturdays, targeting people who have to work on Sundays. "We want to offer Jesus to people at any time," said Branscum.

To advertise the services, Life Church members passed out flyers at local businesses. "We want people to know we love them enough to give them the opportunity to worship," he said. "We want this to be a kingdom-focused thing."

Branscum feels blessed to be able to serve as pastor of Life Church. "It's been the hardest ministry and the most time-consuming, but it's also been the most rewarding and the most fun."

Life Church partners with First Baptist Church, Judsonia, where Branscum served on church staff before he began serving as pastor of Life Church.

He and his family live rent-free in First Baptist Church's parsonage.

Branscum said he believes God has blessed First Baptist Church because of the church's faithfulness to



Life Church members pray at a recent Saturday evening worship service.

partner with Life Church. "FBC, Judsonia, is growing. There are lots of people being saved and baptized. I think it's a direct blessing for those stepping out in faith."

To help pay the bills, Branscum drives a school bus and works as a substitute teacher, a job he says has opened up doors for ministering to the students.

"Whatever we do, it's a ministry, wherever we go. ... I'm showing the love of Jesus in practical ways."

Life Church has made a world of difference in the lives of another family, the Hills. When the family was experiencing extreme financial problems, the church provided financial help to get them back on their feet.

"Before we came here, we didn't pray," said Michael Hill. "We didn't live our lives for the Lord."

Jennifer Hill agrees. "We prayed when we were in trouble, and then when things were better, we would quit."

But God used Life Church's ministry to the family to change their lives and give them a new perspective.

"It's changed our lives; it's changed our decision making," said Michael.

Jennifer said it has also changed their relationship for the better.

"We've found a home here," said Michael.

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

# Classifieds

## PASTOR

**Pastor** needed for small church in Imboden, Ark. Regular attendees number around 30. This church has a heart for missions, a strong tithing base, a wonderful unity and a certainty that God intends all members to use their gifts. Mail resumes to Koinonia Christian Fellowship, Box 386, Imboden, AR 72434.

South Main Baptist, Crossett, Ark., seeking **full-time pastor**. Send resume to South Main Baptist, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 430, Crossett, AR 71635. Resume deadline April 30, 2011.

Southern Baptist church seeking **bi-vocational pastor**; parsonage available if needed. Please send resume to Cocklebur Baptist Church, 4138 Cocklebur 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 [\[denlink.net\]\(http://denlink.net\), or call Dennis at 479-754-8299.](mailto:dstandri@sud-</a></p>
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FBC of Park Hills, Mo., is accepting resumes for the position of **pastor**. Please submit resumes by June 1, 2011, to First Baptist Church of Park Hills, 12 N. Coffman, Park Hills, MO 63601.

First Baptist Church, Unionville, Mo., a dispensational, fundamentally conservative church, is prayerfully seeking an experienced **full-time senior pastor**. Send resume and detailed doctrinal statement to 104 N. 15th, Unionville, MO 63565, or email to [fbc-unionville@hotmail.com](mailto:fbc-unionville@hotmail.com).

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.

## OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

The Washington Madison Baptist Association in Northwest Arkansas is seeking a **full-time associational missionary**. Please send resumes to WMBA, 1925 Green Acres Road, Fayetteville, AR 72703, or e-mail [amresume@wmbaonline.net](mailto:amresume@wmbaonline.net) by May 31.

FBC Harrisburg ([www.harrisburgfbc.com](http://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](mailto:kellyjones@rittermail.com).

FBC Farmington, Ark., is seeking a **full-time worship/arts and media pastor** to serve in a contempo-

rary style of praise and worship. Email resumes and videos to Brian Hester, chairman, Personnel Committee ([brian@hesterappraisals.net](mailto:brian@hesterappraisals.net)).

Bayou Meto Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Ark., is accepting resumes for **part-time music director**. Resumes may be sent to [bayoumeto@centurytel.net](mailto:bayoumeto@centurytel.net) or Bayou Meto Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Team, 26200 Highway 107, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

East Side Baptist Church is looking for an **associate children's minister**. This position will primarily be working with the preschool department of the church by assisting with preparation and teaching during Wednesday and Sunday services, be responsible for maintaining the preschool department, working with parents and volunteers and assisting with special large children's events throughout the year. Experience in children's ministry and/or degree preferred. Please send resumes to East Side Baptist Church, 718 E. 9th Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

East Side Baptist Church is looking for a **full-time assistant youth minister**. This position will be assisting the youth minister in various capacities. Experience in youth ministry and/or degree preferred. Please send resumes to East Side Baptist Church, 718 E. 9th Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

Calvary Baptist Church, Benton, Ark., is seeking a **full-time minister of youth**. Complete job description on our Web site [www.cbcbenton.com](http://www.cbcbenton.com). Send resumes to CBC Search Committee, 612 Valley View, Benton, AR 72019 or [cbcbenton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbcbenton@sbcglobal.net). Resumes accepted until April 15.

Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy is seeking a **full-time**

**student minister**. If interested, send resume to 1601 E. Moore, Searcy, AR 72143.

Traditional, conservative, growing Southern Baptist church in Memphis, Tenn., metropolitan area seeks **minister of youth and recreation**. Send resume by April 15 to Personnel, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

Seeking **bi-vocational minister of music/youth**. Send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, 2201 So. Dallas St., Fort Smith, AR 72901, or visit us on the web at [www.immanuelbaptists.org](http://www.immanuelbaptists.org).

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 N. Main Street, Fordyce, AR 71742, Attn: Search Committee.

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.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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# Our Pastors: Lindsey celebrates 36 years

FLORENCE BAPTIST Church, Monticello, recently honored Joseph L. "Jake" Lindsey and his wife, Martha, through a donation made to Hope Place, a pregnancy resource center in Monticello. The gift was in recognition of the couple's 36 years of ministry at the church and their 60 years of marriage.

"This is a special story of their love for each other, God and Florence Baptist Church," said Pat Burke, director of music at Florence Baptist Church.

"Once upon a time, there was a tall, lean young man, and he met a short, feisty young lady," Burke said. "It was love at first sight."

After the couple married in 1950, Lindsey began serving as pastor of Florence Baptist Church in the 1970s after surrendering to God's

call at one of the church's revivals.

"Brother Jake has been the spiritual leader for five generations of Martha's family, baptizing many of them into the fellowship of the church," said Burke. Among those he baptized were his son and grandchildren.

Jake has supported numerous building programs over the years, from the addition of a well and pump in 1974 to the construction of a gym for children's programs in 2003.

Martha has served as church clerk for 39 years and has served as pianist, song leader and Sunday school teacher along the way.

"While Jake was making a living, he and Martha not only loved each other, they touched people's lives wherever they were," explained



Jake and Martha Lindsey

Burke. "They inspired people through their friendships and their special love for God. The joy of the Lord is evident in all their actions as

servants of God."

She continued, "Jake and Martha's vision has transcended to the congregation and molded Florence Baptist Church into a mission-minded church in the 36 years of their leadership. The Lindseys' devotion, love and commitment to people bless all who know them."

The couple has a heart for missions and for the support of needy people in the Florence community and congregation, said Burke. They support several ministries in the area, including the Hope Place ministry.

"The Lindsey's comments after their recognition were so indicative of their love for God," Burke said. "Jake said, 'to God be the glory,' and, truly, that is the attitude of this couple as servants of God."



## Baptist Memorial Health Care banquet

Emil Turner (first row, right), executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and his wife, Mary, were among members of Baptist Memorial Health Care's boards and leadership team, who were recently treated to dinner at the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock during the organization's annual retreat. Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and his wife, Ginger, are on the lower left.

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## A Literacy Missions Conference

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For people who have completed the North American Mission Board (NAMB) National Literacy Missions Leadership Workshop in Oklahoma in years past, those attending this year, and those who are desiring to attend in future years, anyone currently teaching or interested in teaching a church literacy class (ESL, Adult Reading and Writing, or Tutoring Children and Youth).

Please fill out the form below and return to Literacy Missions Conference, Attn: Oleta Raines, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 10 Remington Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204.

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### Food ministry

Patricia Ashley and her sister Gene Long, members of Calvary Baptist Church, Timbo, helped prepare boxes of food to be distributed to the community as gifts for area residents. They also helped start a clothing ministry. "Calvary is a smaller church in a small community, and so this was an incredible event carried out by these ladies," said Danny Robbins, pastor of Calvary.

### Disaster relief training

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention will hold disaster relief training at First Baptist Church, Searcy, April 9; First Baptist Church, Hope, April 16; and Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, April 30.

### On the move

Jess Sumrall is serving as pastor of Belview Baptist Church, Melbourne.

Joel A. Koch is serving on the staff of First Baptist Church, Evening Shade, as youth minister.

Danny Helms is serving as pastor of Etowah Baptist Church, Etowah.

### Ordinations

Zion Hill Baptist Church, Cabot, recently ordained Cary Brown as deacon.

Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, recently ordained Scott Self and Aaron Jensen as deacons.

Kearney Baptist Church, Jefferson, recently ordained Daniel Harper as deacon.

Berea Baptist Church, Jacksonville, ordained Jeffrey Rudd to the ministry March 20. Rudd is the son of the church's pastor, Ronnie Rudd.

### Church life

Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, will host the Secret Church Simulcast from 6:30 p.m. to midnight April 22. The event will feature the teaching of David Platt, author of "Radical." Tickets are available at [www.parkhillbaptist.org](http://www.parkhillbaptist.org).

Ridgewood Baptist Church, Forest City, will host an Autism Spectrum Disorder Workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 30. The workshop is designed for those interested in reaching out to the individuals and their families.

Crossgate Church, Hot Springs, launched two morning worship services with two small group sessions available for all ages April 3. The services will take place at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. For more details or to find out how to join a small group, please contact the church at 501.262.9779 or [info@crossgate.org](mailto:info@crossgate.org), or visit [www.crossgate.org](http://www.crossgate.org).

### Milestones

Pee Dee Baptist Church, Clinton, recently dedicated its new worship center.

Glen Putman recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church,

Jonesboro.

North Pulaski Baptist Association, Sherwood, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Maple Avenue Baptist Church, Smackover, honored Lawrence and Donna Harrison with a special retirement day March 13th. Lawrence served as pastor of Maple Avenue for more than 13 years. He was ordained more than 50 years ago and has pastored churches in Texas and Arkansas. He was also active in Liberty Baptist Association leadership, including service as chairman of the Beech Springs Baptist Camp board. The couple received a plaque honoring their service to the church and a money tree. Their children and grandchildren were present, and their son, Lane, preached the sermon.

### Obituaries

J. D. Leonard Passmore, 80, of Corning, died March 19 at Corning Therapy and Living Center. Born April 20, 1930, in Oxley to Orvil and Cora (Wallis) Passmore, he was a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas, Conway. He also attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Central Washington State College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Passmore served as director of missions for Independence Baptist Association, Batesville, and Current-Gaines Baptist Association, Corning, and he served as pastor for Calvary Baptist Church, Corning; Witt's Chapel Baptist Church, Maynard; and Hopewell Baptist Church, Corning. He also served as director of missions in Missouri and for the Northwest Baptist Convention and as pastor in churches in Alabama and Washington. He is survived by his wife, Helen (Holland) Passmore; two daughters; two sons; three sisters; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held March 23. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, the Gideons International or Hopewell Baptist Church.

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## Knowing truth

Nothing is more important or more valuable than the truth. The word "truth" in Colossians 1:5 is a Greek noun that objectively describes "the reality behind the appearance." The reality behind the appearance or essence of truth is "God." The Old Testament calls God "the God of truth" (Deut. 32:4). Jesus refers to Himself as "the truth" (John 14:6) and God's Word as truth (John 17:17).

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE APRIL 17, 2011

Gerald Nash, member  
Second Baptist Church, Conway

Scripture passage:  
Colossians 1:1-20

The Apostle Paul says the church is to be "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). A pillar was used to support a structure and post public notices. As such, the pillar became a proclaimer. God chose the church to be His instrument to proclaim and be living examples of His truth. The church is not only to be the pillar of truth, but also the ground of truth. The church has been entrusted with de-

fending and supporting the truth.

Paul applauded the Christians at Colosse for having the triad of cardinal virtues: "faith, hope and love" (v. 5). They had placed their faith in Christ, secured a hope of eternal life and demonstrated love to each other and to all the saints. This was possible because they had "heard the word of truth of the gospel" (v. 5) and responded to it. This truth was bearing fruit in Colosse and in all the world (v. 6).

Gnosticism denied the person and work of Christ. So responding in faith to the truth of God's Word was not enough for the gnostic. They did not believe in an absolute truth.

Gnostics emphasized special knowledge and man-made philosophies. Paul describes their teachings as philosophy (2:8-10), legalism (2:11-17), mysticism (2:18-19) and asceticism (2:20-23). Paul wanted the Colossians to know Christ is preeminent and His Word supersedes any and all religious rituals and beliefs.

The cultural relativism of our society doesn't believe in absolute truth. God's Word is not the standard in this culture's thinking. The Colossians are good examples for us. They heard the truth of the gospel message; they held fast to it and heralded it to those around them. The church today should do the same.

I have just finished reading "The Shack" by William P. Young. The book describes the tragedy that overtakes the Phillips family - Mack and Nan and their two daughters, Kate and Missy. Missy is abducted while the family is on vacation. Some blood found in a deserted shack leads authorities to believe she died there. Mack questions the goodness of God. If God is loving and kind and generous, then why does evil exist? Why do good people have to suffer?

Mack receives an invitation to return to the shack for an encounter with God. Much like Naaman in 2

Kings 5, he must have thought there were better places to meet with God. All that was left for him was a lot of pain and a whole lot of memories, and none of them were pleasant. Mack decides to go back and finds things were just exactly as they had been the last time he was there. A large bloodstain was all that was left of Missy. God was not there. He decided to leave.

God showed up, and everything changed. Nothing was the same. There were questions that he wanted answered, and God was able to answer the questions Mack had.

Most people do not believe that

## Receive comfort, give comfort

God speaks today, let alone writes letters to someone. I thought that and expressed my thoughts to God,

who reminded me that yes, He had written letters, or books if you prefer. There are 66 of them in our Bible. It is not God's fault if I do not read them. Mack wanted the right answers, and to have the right answers is good, but to have God is even better.

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians that God really does care. God has a purpose for comforting us. He bless-

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE APRIL 17, 2011

Charles A. Collins, chaplain  
Baptist Hospital, Little Rock

Scripture passages:  
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

es us so we can - and hopefully will - be a comfort to others. Paul was familiar with suffering.

We all have a "shack" in our lives. It is a place of pain, and we try to avoid it.

God invites us to come back to it and in so doing find Him.

## Believing the truth

After Jesus' resurrection, He did not appear to the scholars, politicians, religious leaders or unbelievers (Saul, in Acts 9, was the exception). The evidence of His resurrection would not have convinced them, just as the miracles had not. The god of this age had blinded them and prevented their belief (2 Cor. 4:4).

Jesus chose to appear to His followers. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene outside the tomb on Easter morning (John 20:1-18),

to 10 disciples in the upper room (20:19-23), to 11 disciples in the upper room (20:24-29) and to seven disciples in Galilee (21:1-25).

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE APRIL 24, 2011

Gerald Nash, member  
Second Baptist Church, Conway

Scripture passage:  
John 20:1-18

It didn't make any sense to appear to His followers. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, and in that day, no one would believe a woman - not even the disciples (Luke 24:11). He appeared to His disciples, who had abandoned all hope and were hiding from the Jewish authorities (John 20:19). His resurrection was proof that He was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.

His appearances would fortify their faith and give them the courage to be His witnesses. They would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the world (Acts 1:8).

Jesus' post-resurrection appearances galvanized and inspired His followers to carry the good news of Jesus from Jerusalem to Rome and beyond (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus' post-resurrection appearances caused deserters to become martyrs, deniers to become confessors and women to be taken seriously as providing evidence to the truth.

In the upper room, Thomas said he would not believe Jesus arose unless he could touch the nail prints and place his hand in the Lord's side. Jesus appears and gives Thom-

as an opportunity to do just that. Jesus tells him, "Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" (John. 20:27, NLT). In Thomas' case, seeing was believing. Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). Then Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Me" (v. 29).

Why does John write these things? "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (v. 31). We accept the resurrection of Christ through the eyes of faith - faith in the testimony of Scripture and faith given to us by the Holy Spirit.

## Encounter the risen Lord

He asked her what she was looking for. She was looking for Jesus but did not recognize Him until He called her name. She grabbed Him and did not want to let go.

Mary went back to the disciples to share what she had seen. She said, "I have seen the Lord" (v. 18). She was only able to share because she had seen for herself. She had experienced the risen Lord.

This is the story of salvation. It begins by looking, watching until one sees and holding on to what

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE APRIL 24, 2011

Charles A. Collins, chaplain  
Baptist Hospital, Little Rock

Scripture passages:  
John 20:1-18

one is shown. It is the story of a personal encounter, much like Job, who declared he had only heard about the Lord but after his experience he had seen with his own eyes (Job 42:5). The final "see" is in Rev. 1:7 when every eye shall see Jesus coming in the clouds.

The secret of understanding the book of John, for me, lies in his use of these words: "see," "behold" and "look." These words are used a total of 38 times in John's gospel, five times in 1 John and twice in Revelation.

The first "saw" is in verse 1. Mary Magdalene "saw" that the stone had been moved. The stone had been placed at the entrance to Jesus' tomb. Some Romans soldiers had been placed there to see that it was not disturbed. Mary did not see the stone. She ran to tell the others what she had seen. Peter and the other disciple ran back to the tomb.

The second "see" is the other disciple looking into the tomb (v. 5). He did not see the body, but he saw the linen strips lying there. Peter arrived and went inside, and he saw there was no body but the strips of clothes were lying there (v. 6). The other disciple went inside, and he also saw (v. 8) and believed.

The men left and went home, but Mary lingered. When she looked inside, she "saw" two angels (vv. 11-12). Perhaps the men would have seen what she saw if they had not been in such a hurry. Mary asked where the Lord was, turned around and saw Jesus, but she did not recognize Him.

# Calvary works with deaf in Honduras

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Little Rock, recently sent a mission team to encourage and increase the mission work of New Life Deaf Ministry (NLDM) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. NLDM focuses on evangelism, equipping deaf leaders, education and outreach to deaf Hondurans, their families and professionals who work with them.

Carolyn Jolley, a Calvary team member who also serves on the board of directors for NLDM in Little Rock, said the team worked on the facilities used by New Life Deaf Church and Happy Hands Christian School for deaf children.

Volunteers had the opportunity to see the city, to meet and interact with families of the children who attend Manos Felices (Happy Hands) School for the Deaf, to serve a meal to homeless Hondurans living at the city dump and to hear the testimonies of those who are “on the front lines” of day-to-day deaf ministry in Honduras – impacting and changing lives for Christ.



Aura Diaz (right), NLDM national missionary, teaches “You’re Welcome” in Honduran sign language.

In addition to giving the facilities a fresh coat of paint in preparation for the new school year, Jolley said the teams tiled floors. Members of the team partnered with Honduran staff, church members and students to work side-by-side on construction projects.

“Partnerships such as these have (a) far-reaching impact long after the team leaves,” Jolley said. “Due to a

lack of education and training for the deaf in Honduras, skilled labor employment is hard to find. Hondurans working alongside North Americans learn and develop skills enhancing their employability, as well as ensuring sound construction and enhancement of a facility.

“Most importantly, however, for the Hondurans, such partnerships foster a sense of partnership in

the mission of the school and the church.”

This was the fifth trip to Honduras for team member Lance Waters.

“I was prepared for the poverty, the homelessness, the lack of food, education and medical care – the basic needs of life,” he explained.

“What I was not prepared for was the incredible needs of the deaf in Honduras. When I heard Melvin and Larry talk about their experiences in the education system in Honduras, I was floored.

“It never dawned on me that most of the deaf in Honduras do not know how to read or write; only the elite are at a first or second grade reading level,” said Waters.

“What encouraged me about New Life Deaf Ministry is that this mission is solving a problem and is attacking it head on,” he continued. “Not only is this ministry giving the deaf a spiritual and academic education, it is changing the way Honduran’s view deaf people. It is changing a culture.”

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## NEWS DIGEST

### Uruguay agricultural missionary dies

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (IMB) - Chris Alan Ingram, International Mission Board (IMB) missionary in Uruguay for 24 years, died March 25 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill, N.C., after a nearly year-long battle with a rare form of leukemia. He was 53.



Chris Ingram

"Honestly, I can close my eyes and see his smile," said Jackie Miller, a family friend and IMB missionary to Chile who earlier served with Ingram in Uruguay. "I know the missionary kids just all loved him. He's going to be very, very missed."

Those who knew Ingram describe him as a hard worker, an effective storyteller and an encouraging friend. And he was someone willing to try anything to share the gospel with the people of Uruguay.

The family suggests memorial contributions for the completion of Ingram's dream of establishing a Uruguayan missions training center. Gifts may be sent c/o Jessie Crooks Evangelistic Association, P.O. Box 2445, Thomasville, NC 27361.

### China may drop one-child policy

WASHINGTON (BP) - China may consider lifting its one-child policy, but that does not mean it will terminate its practice of coercive population control, an American advocate for women's rights says.

A two-child policy to start in 2015 was proposed at the annual meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and

the National People's Congress the week of March 6-12, according to *The Lancet*, a British medical journal. If enacted, the change would discard the current one-child policy in cities. A two-child policy already is in place in rural areas and among minorities if the first is a girl.

Communist Chinese officials often have brutally enforced the one-child policy since it was implemented in 1979.

Government actions against those found in violation have included forced abortions on women in the eighth and ninth months of pregnancy and compulsory sterilizations. Penalties also have included fines, arrests and the destruction of homes.

The program - which requires all women to have a birth permit before becoming pregnant and monitors the reproductive cycles of women of child-bearing age - also has resulted in the infanticide and abandonment of female babies, according to reports.

### D.C. convention calls Creech as exec

WASHINGTON (BP) - The District of Columbia Baptist Convention (DCBC) has called Ricky Creech as its executive director/minister. Creech is a former associational director of missions in Birmingham, Ala.

The DCBC Executive Board approved the search committee recommendation of Creech during a special meeting March 28, following a 15-month search process.

Creech succeeds Jeffrey Haggray, who became pastor of First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., in October 2009 after eight years of DCBC leadership.

### Subscriber services

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### Haiti relief

Arkansas Baptist teams continue relief efforts, training in Haiti.

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### Travel section

Check out tips for planning a fun, safe family vacation.

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## Galatians 6:6 conference

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