



## Marshallese church

Cross Church begins church to reach growing Marshallese population in northwest Arkansas.

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## Chaplaincy conference

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A year after devastating Haiti earthquake:

# Arkansas Baptists bring hope

Lisa Watson  
Arkansas Baptist News

A LITTLE MORE than one year ago – on Jan. 12 – Haiti was shaken to its very foundations when an earthquake measuring 7.0 in magnitude leveled many parts of the impoverished country. In the blink of an eye, the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince, and much of the surrounding area was reduced to rubble. Thousands of poorly constructed buildings and homes were destroyed in the quake.

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians died when the buildings collapsed on them. Many who survived the original quake were trapped for days in the rubble. Entire families were killed. Those who survived faced horrific injuries and disease.

But in the midst of the terrible tragedy, God has been at work.



Arkansas Baptist volunteers work on a house in Haiti.

In the past year, Arkansas Baptists have responded with resources and volunteers – bringing God's healing hand and hope to Haitian survivors.

Though Arkansas Baptists worked throughout Haiti following the

quake, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) has established a base of operations near Leogane and Darbonne working with Roody Joseph, a Haitian American and Florida Baptist.

Twenty-one teams from 60 Arkansas churches have served on ABSC teams traveling to Haiti. Those 149 volunteers have reported leading 477 Haitians to make professions of faith in Jesus Christ, according to Bob Fielding, a member of the ABSC missions ministries team and Haiti project coordinator.

Fielding said God used the Arkansas Baptists to meet the needs of Haitians in "tremendous" ways. "Unknown thousands were fed,

See **HAITI** page 6

## Jan. 30 SBC 'Day of Prayer'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – A "Day of Prayer" is set for Jan. 30 as a part of a call for Southern Baptists to observe a "solemn assembly" during the first month of 2011.

Following the lead of Bryant Wright, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), members of the SBC's Great Commission Council, which is composed of the heads of the convention's entities, issued a letter Nov. 12 asking Southern Baptists to observe a Sunday in January as a day of prayer "that in the sight of God and His witnesses we might renew our commitment to Christ and the Great Commission."

The solemn assembly call to prayer and repentance was established in the Old Testament as a gathering in which the people of God were called to account and called to prayer, said Frank Page, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee.

More information about the solemn assembly is available at [www.sbc.net/dayofprayer](http://www.sbc.net/dayofprayer).



## Black to lead Okla. association

HARRY BLACK, 57, associational missionary of Washington Madison Baptist Association, Fayetteville, since August 2000, has been named executive director/associational missionary of Capital Baptist Association, Oklahoma City, effective March 16.

Previously, Black was Partnership Missions and Cooperative Program promotion coordinator at

the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He has pastored churches in Arkansas and Texas, in addition to serving in other church staff positions.

Black and his wife, Ivetta, served as Journeyman missionaries with the International Mission Board in Ghana, West Africa. They have two adult sons.

Ouachita's Eady Miss America 1st runner-up

## 'God still has plans for me'

Trennis Henderson  
Ouachita Baptist University

ARKADELPHIA – Declaring "God still has plans for me," Miss Arkansas Alyse Eady said competing in the recent Miss America Pageant "was a win-win situation for me; the experiences and opportunities I am about to have are incredible."

Eady, a 2010 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University (OBU), was named first runner-up to Miss America in the 2011 Miss America Pageant televised on Jan. 15.

Eady wowed the pageant crowd with her signature musical ventriloquist act,

"I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart." During her live interview question, she addressed the issue of national health care reform. Her platform in the Miss Arkansas and Miss America pageants highlighted the issue of "Developing Leaders: Boys and Girls Clubs of America."

Since the pageant, Eady has attracted a whirlwind of media attention, with appearances scheduled on "Late Night with David Letterman," "Inside Edition" and MSNBC.

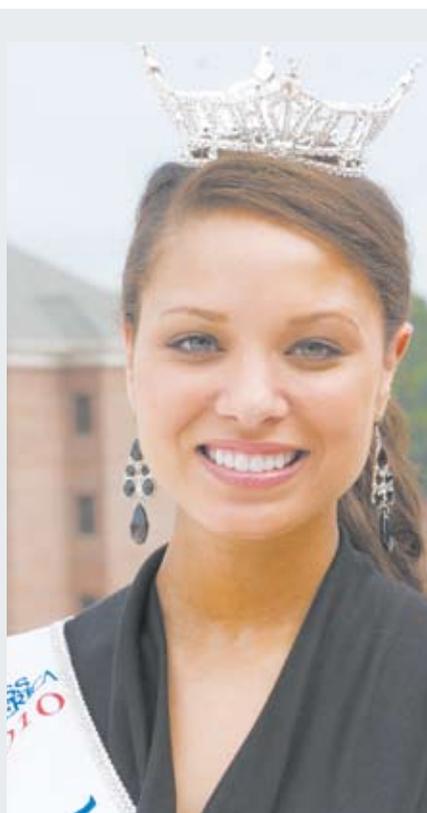
"Usually, you expect your time in the spotlight to be over once they announce Miss America," she said. "It's been different for me, and it's been quite a surprise. I've been contacted by people from all over

the world, literally. Even though I didn't win, God still has plans for me. It's neat for me to see some of that unfold.

"Coming from a small state, it's amazing the amount of support I received even before I left for Miss America. I went there with a very strong group of supporters from Arkansas. It was an honor. I wouldn't want to represent any other state.

"Not many girls get to say they've competed in Miss America," she added. "To be there with 52 other girls and get to experience the excitement and exhaustion was something that I will never forget. The time we got to spend together as

See **MISS AMERICA** page 2



# Marshallese church launches in NW Ark

Lisa Watson  
Arkansas Baptist News

SPRINGDALE – It is not widely known that an estimated 6,000 Marshallese people live in northwest Arkansas – which is considered the largest concentration of the ethnic group outside the Marshall Islands.

In an effort to reach the growing Marshallese population in Arkansas, Cross Church/Marshallese officially launched Nov. 7, meeting at the church's Springdale campus.

The church is not only the first Southern Baptist work for Marshallese in northwest Arkansas, but it is thought to be a first Marshallese work by Southern Baptists in North America, according to church officials.

The Marshallese people originate from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a Micronesian nation of atolls and islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, just west of the international date line and just north of the equator. The church, which meets on Sunday afternoons, features a live praise band with lyrics in both English and Marshallese, as well as the distinct sounds of the yukalaylee – the Pacific Island version of the ukulele – and tight vocal harmony.

Though the church has minis-

tered to the Marshallese for years, efforts to start a church began in May of last year in the home of Larry Mueller, a local Marshallese man.

Mueller, who immigrated from the Marshall Islands a few years ago, was active in another church in the area but sensed God's call to become involved in Cross Church's ministry to Marshallese.

He responded by hosting a Bible study with area Marshallese in his home. The group continued to grow, eventually overflowing Mueller's home and leading to the current church start.

Andy Goode, associate minister of missions at Cross Church, who serves as the Marshallese

church's interim pastor, said the church averages about 40 people on Sundays and includes a core group of attenders.

Church members have accepted Goode and his wife with open arms, even giving the couple gifts traditionally given to a Marshallese pastor.

"They really believe in celebrating their pastors and have accepted my wife and me as the pastor and wife of the church," he said.

Goode is excited about the ministry. "We are seeing adults saved and baptized every week. There's a movement of God there. We are seeing a lot of repentance and get-

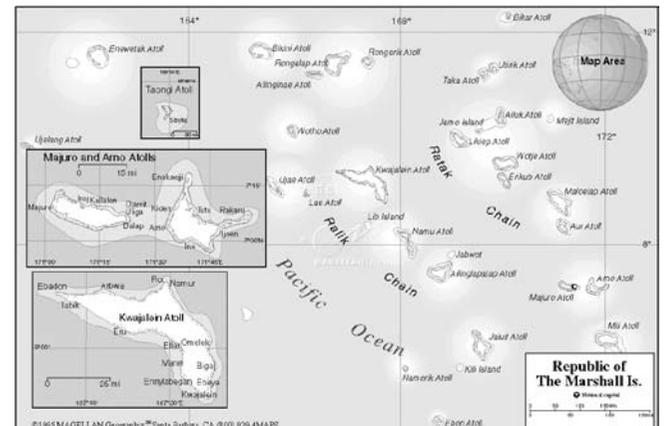
**"We are seeing adults saved and baptized every week. There's a movement of God there."**

**Andy Goode,**  
Cross Church/Marshallese



Members of the Cross Church/Marshallese praise band (above) leads worship at a recent service.

Republic of the Marshall Islands on map (right).



ting things right with God. There's a work of consecration and revival among them."

Cross Church's outreach to the Marshallese is part of an overall strategy to reach the area's 65 people groups who speak 38 languages.

Church members are also involved in a project to make the "Jesus Film" available in the Mar-

shallese language.

Mueller translated the film's manuscript into Marshallese, and members of the Marshallese congregation will be featured on the film.

Mueller believes this is no accident. "God has a plan for everybody. People have been praying for many, many years for a Marshallese church."

## MISS AMERICA

contestants, learning about each other's states and planning trips to see each other, was such a good experience."

As Eady progressed in the Miss America competition from the field of 53 contestants to the top 15, 12, 10, five and first runner-up, Facebook and Twitter posts from her fans kept track of her achievements. Enthusiastic posts ranged from "What a great representative for Arkansas and OBU!" and "Woooooo! Let's go, Alyse! So proud of you!" to "My vote is for the ventriloquist. If you can yodel without opening your mouth, you deserve a crown."

Reflecting on the pageant's live television production, Eady said, "There are cameras that are right in your face and certain cues to remember. When they called the names for the top 15, I one hundred percent was not expecting to hear my name. I was shocked. I was so excited.

"I just kind of stayed in the moment, and that's what kept me calm. As I went further and further, I became calmer. I did the very best I could and then was at peace that I had done everything I could."

Recalling pageant host Chris

Harrison's dramatic pause before announcing Miss Nebraska Teresa Scanlan as the new Miss America, Eady said, "In the final moment when it was the two of us, so many thoughts went through my head, but I was so genuinely excited for her. She's going to make a great Miss America, and I know the judges made the right choice."

After graduating from Ouachita in May 2010 with a double major in mass communications and speech communication, Eady was crowned Miss Arkansas in July. Prior to beginning her reign, Eady served as the fundraising and event coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She is the daughter of Lewis and Lady Eady of Fort Smith; her father is a former member of the Ouachita Board of Trustees.

"The Ouachita community and I, as president, could not be more proud of Alyse Eady," said Rex Horne, president of OBU. "She is a committed, talented young woman

whose beauty shines in every noble way.

"Becky and I watched the pageant with great pride and expectancy," Horne added. "The poise with which Alyse performed is a credit to her family, her own work and, I think, the impact Ouachita has upon her life's path. We congratulate Alyse as we do her parents, Lewis and Lady."

Eady, 22, competed as Miss South Central Arkansas in the Miss Arkansas Pageant. In addition to being crowned Miss Arkansas 2010, she was named the Coleman Dairy Overall Talent Award winner. She also previously held the title of 2004 Miss Teen Arkansas. Eady was one of six contestants with Ouachita ties who competed in last year's Miss Arkansas pageant.

During her years at Ouachita, Eady was named to the Dean's List, performed as a Tiger Tunes Hostess and on the Miss OBU Court of Honor and spent a semester study-

**"Even though I didn't win, God still has plans for me. It's neat for me to see some of that unfold."**

**Alyse Eady**

*continued from page one*

ing at the University of Alicante in Spain.

Affirming the impact of her liberal arts education at Ouachita, Eady said, "Getting that broad education where you learn a little bit about everything helped me in my interview with the judges. Legislation, world events, state issues – those are all things I had classes about at Ouachita. The interview portion of the competition was so much easier for me because of what I learned at Ouachita. I feel like I was confident in knowing how to communicate with each judge on a personal level.

"One thing I really like about Ouachita is that going to OBU teaches you how to stand strong in your faith, knowing what you believe and why you believe it, but also to be able to listen to other people and to share your beliefs with them," she concluded.

Prior to Eady being named first runner-up, another Ouachita alumna was a Miss America finalist in 2005. Lacy Fleming Glover, a 2004 Ouachita graduate, was third runner-up to Miss America that year. Glover held the titles of Miss OBU 2004 and Miss Arkansas 2004.

# Conference addresses 'grief dynamics'

**Lisa Watson**  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Baptist chaplains and clinicians at the Healthcare Ministry Training event held at Baptist Health Medical Center, North Little Rock, Jan. 15 gave participants the tools needed to provide effective help to people in grief situations.

The one-day conference was sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) missions ministries team.

Chaplain Hope Coleman, an academic and spiritual counselor at Baptist Health in Little Rock, defined grief as “an anxiety over loss or separation of a relationship that is meaningful, crucial or significant.”

People experience grief over anything they perceive as a loss, including death, job loss and divorce. Coleman noted grief may be minor or extensive, and may last six months to a year.

A person’s “grief experience” is shaped by a number of things, including the nature and depth of the relationship, manor of death and loss, previous experience with grief and timeliness or untimeliness of loss, said Coleman.

A host of physical symptoms can accompany grief, including fatigue, tightness in chest, breathlessness, dry mouth, lack of energy, sleep disturbances and social withdrawal.

Coleman said she always inquires about sleep and appetite disturbances when talking to grieving people, noting if someone continues to have problems in these areas, she may refer them to a doctor.

Emotional reactions common to grieving people often include sadness, anger, guilt, anxiety, shock, jealousy, confusion, inability to make decisions and even a sense of relief, she said.

Stan Wilson, director of Baptist Health, said grief comes in all shapes and forms. “We grieve because it’s something that cannot be replaced,” he said.

It is because of this that ministers must be “fluid and flexible” when ministering to the grieving, he said.

Wilson doesn’t believe grief happens in stages; instead it is “dynamic.” These dynamics may include denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance, though he pointed out not everyone will experience all the dynamics.

“Everyone’s grief is unique,” Wilson added. “They have to hear the message that it is okay to think, act and feel the way you do because it’s your grief.”

Wilson listed several things ministers can do to minister to the grieving. These included “being yourself,” being a non-judgmental, non-advice-giving listener, not being afraid to touch someone if appropriate, crying, calling before visiting, showing up when you say you will show up

and offering specific practical help, such as mowing the yard.

He said ministers shouldn’t try to rescue or solve problems. They need to avoid using platitudes such as ‘I know how you feel,’ ‘This will pass,’ ‘I’ve been where you are,’ ‘They are in a better place,’ ‘I understand,’ ‘God won’t put more on you than you can bear’ or ‘Just take one day at a time.’

In an afternoon session, several chaplaincy experts answered ques-

tions about related chaplaincy issues. Panelists included Glen Norris, a chaplain with Baptist Health; Marion Reynolds, retired ABSC team member and military chaplain; Kay Hardin, chaplain with Baptist Health; and Coleman. Wilson served as panel moderator.

Additional notes on the conference are available online at [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).

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

**“Everyone’s grief is unique. They have to hear the message that it is okay to think, act and feel the way you do because it’s your grief.”**

**Stan Wilson**  
*chaplain*

## Chaplain Hardin overcomes fears

**Jessica Vanderpool**  
*Arkansas Baptist News*

AS KAY HARDIN jokingly says, she “fell over a log backwards into God’s will for (herself) as a chaplain.”

Chaplaincy was not Hardin’s original plan for her life. She said she was afraid of hospitals, or more specifically, “of (her) own mortality and all that involves.”

“I would even hold my breath as I drove by a hospital,” Hardin admitted.

When Hardin entered a one-year residency program, she only planned to stay for that year. She was grateful to learn about pastoral care, but being a chaplain was not her goal. Although she is secure about God’s plans for her after death, she had grown up “terrified” of death, dying and sickness. Nevertheless, it seems God had different plans, and she has now served as a chaplain for more than 16 years.

Hardin defined a chaplain as “a minister who works and serves in a non-religious institution, meaning it’s not a church.” Examples include serving in the military, prisons, universities and hospitals, like the ones in which Hardin serves.

As a hospital chaplain, Hardin visits patients, responds to referrals from doctors and nurses, cares for families who are in emergency situations or who have lost someone and “reach(es) out to the hospital employees and clinicians.”

And though this may sound like a lot, she is surrounded by other chaplains.

“We all have our part to do, our units to visit, our rounds to make and our loads to pull in this intensive ministry, but we do all that as a team,” Hardin explained. “We not only share the load of visits, emergencies and counseling, but we also depend on each other for personal debriefing, renewal, prayer, refocusing and laughter.”

She said Baptist Health chaplains “take 24-hour ‘call,’ which means we



*Kay Hardin*

are available day and night for ministry at any of our three hospitals – Baptist Health, Little Rock; Baptist Health, North Little Rock; and Baptist Rehab Institute.”

“We are ambassadors of God and are reminders to our patients that God is present, active and involved in their lives. Sickness and hospitalization is a prime time for patients to seek the Lord.”

When chaplains are with a patient or his family and friends, they cry, laugh, listen, pray, offer support counseling and even give referrals to professional counseling if needed – but there is one thing they do not do.

“As chaplains we don’t ever try to impose ourselves, prayer or the Bible on a patient,” Hardin explained. “Like Jesus, we first seek to listen to the person and then respond to what we hear. Sometimes we respond with Scripture, and oftentimes we respond with prayer.”

She referred to a pastoral care article she once read that talked about Jesus’ response in Emmaus, found in Luke. The article suggested chaplains use Christ’s words as a model

for pastoral care.

“After Jesus, somewhat incognito, had saddled up alongside the two sad walkers on their way to the village of Emmaus, he heard them discussing and bemoaning all the recent crucifixion incidents,” Hardin said, summarizing the passage from Luke. “When He asked them why they were so sad, they answered with grief and melancholy about all the things that had transpired. Then Jesus simply but accurately asked them, ‘What things?’ (Luke 24:19).

“From there on they poured out their hearts and souls, which brought them to an incredible spiritual epiphany with the Lord. Jesus’ question teaches me how to listen to the hurts, hopes and unhappiness of patients, families and staff with a short, simple but powerful question along the lines of ‘What things?’ And from there I welcome them to speak out their questions, pain and fears as we bring all that to the Lord.”

Hardin is no stranger to pain in her own life. In 2006, she watched as her friend, Monica Keathley, was struck with a crippling illness that nearly killed her and then left her ventilator-dependent. Two years later, Hardin’s mother died of an ascending aortic aneurism. Both instances tested her faith, but they also help her “get” what others are going through.

Two issues people struggle with most as they face illness or death are the fear of death/dying and the fear of losing personal autonomy, she said.

Hardin has learned she doesn’t always have to have all the answers.

“My ministry is to provide a safe, accepting and loving place for the hurting person to ask questions, while I prayerfully seek God to minister to their spiritual, emotional and physical pain,” she said.

When it comes to grief, Hardin explained, “The best gift I can give (people) is less talking and more listening.”

To read more about Hardin’s struggle with loss in her own life, or to read about the challenges of chaplaincy, visit our web site at [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).

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

**“My ministry is to provide a safe, accepting and loving place for the hurting person to ask questions, while I prayerfully seek God to minister to their spiritual, emotional and physical pain.”**

*Kay Hardin*

# Revisiting Haiti: Hope and faith amid tragedy

**T**hink of the worst day that you've ever had. Now consider this: Your worst day is every day for the average Haitian. The country is a mess. There's poverty and widespread illness. There's no infrastructure. The roads are decaying. There's no welfare or safety nets for the poor. Much of the water is not drinkable.

When I think of the people and country of Haiti, I can't help but recall the words of 2 Corinthians 7:14, "If my people will humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways, I will heal their land."

The above comments about Haiti could have been written this year by any number of Arkansas Baptist volunteers making disaster relief trips to the country, but they were not.

They were some of the words I used during a presentation in October 1994 following a trip to Haiti as a part of Baptist World Relief efforts through the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

I wish that I could say a lot has changed in the country of Haiti over the past 16-plus years, but it has not.

The country's fragile infrastructure was shaken once again by a monstrous earthquake in

January 2010. We all were moved with compassion watching scenes on TV of death and destruction and of the pain and suffering Haitians experienced following the quake.

Haiti's pain and suffering didn't catch God by surprise, however. God loves all people and seeks that all come to a saving knowledge of Him (1 Tim. 2:4). While it is difficult for us to truly understand the nature of God, the earthquake may have been a blessing in disguise for the people of Haiti.

Following the earthquake, the world's collective attention turned to help the nation. Supplies, money and volunteers poured in.

Southern Baptists were mobilized.

Ministering in a country like Haiti is difficult on a good day, but volunteers traveling to the country in the aftermath of an earthquake have additional challenges and concerns, such as safety, supplies, clean water and lodging.

In just one year, literally thousands of Haitians have been fed and provided eye care and medical assistance, and numerous homes have been constructed for the displaced, as a re-

sult of the work of Arkansas Baptists. And most importantly, efforts of Arkansas Baptists have resulted in nearly 500 professions of faith.

Consider the following (according to the CIA World Factbook):

- Haiti is one of poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere (where we live), with 80 percent of its residents living in poverty.

- Life expectancy of Haitian males is about 61 years and females 64 years, compared to 76 years for males and 81 for females in the United States.

- Per capita income for the average Haitian is about \$1,200, compared to \$47,000 in the United States. It is estimated that two-thirds of the Haiti work force do not have formal jobs.

- And finally, it is estimated that roughly half of the population of Haiti practices voodoo.

There is little doubt the country of Haiti desperately needs a Savior. I am proud that Southern Baptists in Arkansas are answering the call to be Jesus' hands and feet and making an eternal difference.

*"He will answer them, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was Me – you failed to do it to Me.' - Matthew 25:45 (The Message).*



## PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

## The church: A holy temple of 'living bricks'

Matt Norton

First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff

**I**n 2008, some Orthodox Church officials in Russia discovered that one of their church buildings had disappeared. The 200-year-old building had been unused for a decade, but the church was considering reopening the building. That was when they discovered their building was no longer there. It had vanished!

As they investigated the matter, church officials learned the building was not brought down by a bulldozer or wrecking ball. Rather, they learned villagers from a nearby town were taking bricks from the building and selling them. Each person would receive one ruble (about 4 cents) for each brick. One by one, the bricks that gave the building its structure and beauty were chiseled away at a price.

In the same way, some churches – not built of bricks but of "living stones" – are disappearing. This is not caused by one fatal stroke but by Christians, one by one choosing not to be involved. In the end, the church, intended by God to display

His glory, is chiseled away. But when each person gets involved in the church's ministries, he or she helps to build a holy temple made up of living bricks where Christ is

glorified. This is what Peter has in mind when he describes the people of God – "you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to

offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).

Do you realize how important you are to God's church?

### Prayers do not cease

Isn't it great to live in a country where freedom is enjoyed by those of every color, religion and political persuasion? I must say that Barack Obama is my president. I pray for him, and I support him.

I said the same when George Bush was president, when Bill Clinton was president and when those who preceded them were in office. I support the freedom that permits dissent. When there's a president of one party identification, there is loud dissent from the other party and those who adhere to their ideals. When the other party is in power, the dissent comes from the out-of-power folks. I respect those who respectfully express their convictions while respectfully supporting

my freedom to disagree. My respect wavers, however, when I read or hear denigrating comments toward and about any of our elected lead-

ers. My prayers do not cease, however, even when those elected leaders have feet of clay, as do those who

make denigrating comments about them, and as do I.

Dennis Coop  
Sherwood

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Proud member

Just recently I have been accused of being proud. To this I plead guilty. I am proud to be an American and to live in the land of the free. I am proud to be a Christian and believer in Jesus Christ who lived a sinless life and died on the cross to save me.

I am proud to be a member of a church that Jesus established, where I can learn and come together with other saved people to worship as we believe the New Testament teaches.

I am proud our church supports all the mission projects that we do, including the Cooperative Program. I am proud our church supports children's homes, shelter for unwed mothers, anti-abortion centers, boys and girls ranches and homeless center in Van Buren.

Our church does this through joining together with other churches of like faith and order to help people and spread the gospel.

Yes, I am very proud to be a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, where we are hearing the gospel preached in its simplicity and power of the Holy Spirit.

Harold Oliver  
Alma



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## Family Matters

### Snow memories

My family enjoyed watching the snow fall in Arkansas on Sunday, Jan.

9. We played in it some that evening, but the real fun began early Monday morning when we got up and bundled up to sled down some



hills. I lasted a couple hours. The boys continued to play outside in the snow and cold off and on for about six hours. We created some good memories!

Memories are great, and they're even better when you connect them with the One who created our ability to remember. Ultimately, God's creation points to Him, so that we would come to know, understand and remember what He did by sending His Son to die on the cross and pay the penalty for our sin and give us the gift of eternal and abundant life.

We had fun around the supper table Monday evening sharing the Scriptures below and talking about our high and low experiences playing in the snow.

Utilize these verses of Scripture to share with your kids and connect some spiritual truths with the Maker of the Snow.

#### TEACH Faith at Home Idea

**1:** Read Isaiah 55:10-11. Talk about how important rain and snow are for the earth to help plants and people grow and survive. Talk about how God's Word does the same.

#### TEACH Faith at Home Idea

**2:** Read Psalm 51:7 and Isaiah 1:18 together to discuss sin and how God forgives us of our sin.

#### TEACH Faith at Home Idea

**3:** Read Job 37:5-7 as a way to discuss God's wonderful creation and observe His mighty work in progress.

Like a child who is enthralled with the beauty and wonder of snow, we make snowmen, snow angels, snowballs, snow forts and the like but fail to behold the beauty and wonder of the One who created the snow for us to enjoy.

Have fun in the snow with your kids or grandkids. Make snowmen and snow forts and sled and have snowball fights, but don't forget to point them to the Maker of the snow in order that they may know and enjoy Him.

The snow will melt and fade, but God and His word will stand forever.

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

2011. Here we go. Another year. More grains through the hourglass of life. When I was 10 years old, it seemed that a week lasted forever. Now at 60 years of age, a week is but a thought, and a year is like a moment in time. Perhaps it is a function of the comparison between how long I have lived and how long I have left to live ...

Each year brings with it milestones. This year will be my 15th with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. It will be my 36th with Mary, my 56th as a believer and my 38th in the ministry. I always thought I'd be a better employee, a better husband, a better disciple and a better minister by now than I have proven to be. Next year ...

I am a firm believer in resolutions, so I resolve, first, to get ready for what God wants to do with me this year. To begin the year with a clean heart and conscience, yielded to His will, clinging to nothing but Him. Second, I resolve to try harder not to interrupt people. Mary will be glad to read this and will pray for my success in it. Third, I want to study more. For me, this means to prepare to preach more. This one will be the greatest challenge.

Although we are a month into this year already, I would humbly offer the following suggestions as resolutions for us all:



### A PASTOR'S HEART

*Emil Turner*

1. **Let's resolve not to repeat a rumor unless we have spoken to those involved.** The unfounded accusations of immorality, liberalism and other problems have ruined too many in 2010.

2. **Resolve with me to reclaim soul winning.** Don't hide behind the term evangelism; return with me to telling people about Jesus and asking them to receive Him.

3. **Resolve not to buy anything that you cannot pay for, and not to buy anything if you have not paid what you owe or will owe to others.**

4. **Resolve not to send an anonymous letter.**

5. **Resolve to treat sinners as victims, not enemies.**

6. **Resolve to be honest with all, whether they are pulpit committees or pastoral candidates.**

7. **Resolve to do the hard jobs first.**

8. **Resolve to get better at some ministry skill in 2011.**

9. **Resolve to listen.**

10. **Let's resolve to pray for one another - you for me, and I for you.**

We may not keep our resolutions, but with God's grace we can keep them. We can be better in 2011 than we were in 2010.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you this past year. May God give you a great year.

## Preparing for retirement

Retirement usually does not come as a surprise to a person. Individuals and their families anticipate a timely change of pace and hope for new freedom after years of service or employment. Retirement should be a blessed transition, but it requires a lot of preparation. Research indicates those reaching age 65 can anticipate 20-30 additional years of life. Adequate preparation involves spending some time, even months and years, anticipating some of the challenges that retirement will bring.

Many retirement advisors deal only with the financial preparation for retirement. These are vital concerns, considering it requires most people 30 years or more to build a financial base for a comfortable level of support. However, there are many other concerns that must be considered and for which preparation is just as important: Where will you choose to live? How will family relationships change or be challenged by this life transition? Will there be prospects for continued or part-time employment? How will you continue to fill the days of life in meaningful ways? Are there physical or mental health concerns to consider? How will friendships and peer relationships be maintained in retirement? How will you continue to apply the spiritual gifts God has provided during the later years of life?

Those who serve in Christian ministry have responded to a call from God. This calling has directed most of their life decisions, and this should continue to be true as retirement approaches. Most will question whether it is possible to retire from such a life call. Reality dictates that transitions will come throughout life, and retirement is recognized to be one of the biggest of these changes. Good preparation will provide a way to continue pursuit of the ministerial calling, possibly at a reduced level of time involvement or by seeking a new venue of service, through employment or as a volunteer.

Most communities offer a wide variety of services and opportunities for retirees. Christian leaders who retire can find time to be involved in schools, senior adult centers and on boards and commissions of local government. Free or reduced tuition encourages retirees to continue learning through courses at community



colleges. Often there are exercise or recreation facilities available to senior students. These activities bring retired persons into active contact with unreached people groups and provide opportunities for a witness.

Some ministers face the danger that Oswald Chambers, author of the devotional book "My Utmost for His Highest," called "spiritual laziness." After a life career of Bible study in preparation for preaching, teaching and presentations and organizational leadership, retirement changes can threaten the personal devotional life of a minister. Public ministry may have robbed time and meaning needed for personal spiritual growth. This can become evident when the pace changes at retirement. New energy must be invested for healthy spiritual development to continue throughout a lifetime.

Being proactive in preparation for retirement can set a pace for continued fulfillment in a person's later years. Most should consider visiting with a family counselor in addition to financial advisors. Retired friends can offer wisdom, share victories and offer valuable suggestions as an individual approaches retirement. Seeking God's direction in this transition should not be neglected. Some experts will list coming to retirement as one of the most stressful times in a person's life. Purposeful preparation can relieve tension and make the transition to retirement the positive experience it should be.

### GUEST VIEWPOINT

*George Sims,  
retired,*

*ABSC collegiate ministry team*

# Team provides medical, eye care in Haiti

**Lisa Watson**  
Arkansas Baptist News

LONNIE BURROW has traveled with a team of volunteers "from Honduras to Africa and back again," conducting eye care clinics and sharing the love of Christ. Though the people the team treated have different cultural backgrounds, he said they have one thing in common, the need for God. "It doesn't matter what country we go to, there's always a hunger and a need to learn more about God and His Word."

Burrow, optician and member of Central Baptist Church, Little Rock, and his teammates recently provided eye and medical care in Haiti.

The team saw about 2,000 Haitians, providing basic medical care, eye care, prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses. The volunteers also presented the gospel to each patient.

Fred Oaks, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Quitman, was also on the trip. While there, he was able to lead a voodoo priest and his wife to Christ.

Following their conversion experience, the couple asked if they should burn their home down since it also served as a voodoo temple, said Bob Fielding, ABSC missions ministries team, quoting



Lonnie Burrow (left) fits a Haitian girl with glasses.

Roody Joseph, who is assisting Arkansas Baptist Haiti relief efforts.

Joseph advised the couple to clean out and burn all the evil fetishes, clean the walls of satanic images and pictures and "start praising the Lord" in the home.

"Please say a prayer now for this man and his wife," said Fielding. "They came to the clinic to have their eyes checked so they could get some glasses, but ended up having the scales removed by God so they could see the truth about Jesus."

Oaks has traveled with Burrow on the eye care mission team since 1986. Other regular team

members are Bobbye Nofflet and Etheline Williams, who are both retired. Oaks' wife and son, Burrow's wife and Pam Spears, a nurse practitioner, rounded out the Haiti team.

Doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, opticians and others, in and out of state, have been a part of the team. "There has never been a shortage of team members who want to go," said Burrow. "They have felt the need and desire to go."

Burrow's son, Josh, makes all the glasses, often working after hours and/or on weekends to complete the task before each trip.

Through the years, Burrow has been able to obtain newer and better equipment, including the quality of the eye care the team provides.

"Ninety-nine percent of all glasses we take are brand new lenses and frames," he said.

Financial support for purchasing glasses and other supplies comes from various sources. Crystal Hill Baptist Church, Little Rock, provided funds, along with Faith Baptist.

Arkansas Baptist churches contributing to the ABSC Haiti relief fund helped as well. "Because of the Haiti relief fund, we are able to purchase things that directly help the people, and in this case, it was glasses," said Fielding.

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

## HAITI

most in the months after the quake. Thousands of pounds of medical supplies were flown to southwestern Haiti after the quake. Five medical teams saw almost 5,000 patients. An eye-care team provided glasses for some 2,000 (see related story)," said Fielding.

"Through direct partnership with the ABSC, our partner was able to place 2,004 transitional homes - getting families out from under tarps and trees. Seven permanent homes for the disabled and elderly have been built by Arkansas Baptists, with 43 more scheduled between now and March."

Fielding added that seven water purification systems have been installed in area villages, 44 church planters have been trained and are working to establish churches and eight bathrooms were installed in a local orphanage. Additionally, thousands received emergency deliveries of water after the November 2010 hurricane and hundreds of Haitian church members have attended discipleship classes. "God receives all of the glory for this," said Fielding.

Fielding asked for prayer for the upcoming year's ministry in Haiti. "God has so blessed already, that between now and the end of June, there are only five weeks open for teams to claim," he said, adding weeks of service remain open for the summer.

"We are broadening our operational area for evangelism and discipleship, so teams are still needed," he said.

In the next months, teams are scheduled to conduct pastoral training, survey the area for agricultural needs and work in children's ministry, evangelism and discipleship.

*continued from page one*

Fielding said two teams that recently ministered in Haiti reported great success.

College students from Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, went to Haiti the week before Christmas, doing door-to-door evangelism. College students from Henderson State's collegiate ministry joined members of First Baptist Church, Benton, leaving New Year's Day for a weeklong mission trip. While there, the volunteers ministered in a local orphanage and held the first "children's church" at a local church.

Plumbers from the Benton team worked in the Arkansas Baptist compound, while the college students ministered to children in area villages. Team members also built two permanent houses for amputees.

"Arkansas Baptist churches, even those that haven't gone to Haiti, have had a great ministry there," said Robby Tingle, ABSC missions ministries team leader. "In addition to praying and going, through giving to the Haiti relief fund, medical supplies have been purchased, food given, water purification systems set up and homes built. These things would not have been possible without the generosity of our Arkansas Baptist churches."

Arkansas Baptists remain committed to ministry in Haiti, said Fielding. "As the Lord leads, we'd love to partner with you."

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

For more information about Arkansas Baptist ministry in Haiti, go to <http://www.absc.org/haiti>, or contact Bob Fielding at 800-838-2272, ext. 5149, or [bfielding@absc.org](mailto:bfielding@absc.org).

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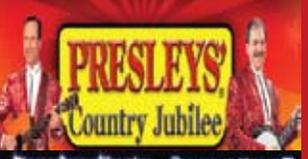
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# Arkansas Baptist volunteers spend Christmas break 'freezin' for a reason'



Volunteers from two Arkansas Baptist churches sang at a rescue mission (inset) and served as trail guards for a dog sled race on a recent mission trip to Alaska.

MEMBERS OF TWO Arkansas Baptist churches spent Dec. 25-Jan. 2 "freezin' for a reason" in Anchorage, Alaska.

The 12-member team, which included volunteers from Zion Hill Baptist Church, Cabot, and Bayou Meto Baptist Church, Jacksonville, painted a head start center, stocked shelves at a food bank, cleaned the Alaska Baptist boys home and sang at a rescue mission.

But that's not all. The team

threw a New Year's party for residents of a senior adult retirement center, held a carnival at a boys and girls club and volunteered as trail guards for a dog sled race.

Terry Fortner, pastor of Zion Hill, preached at two churches, including Calvary Baptist Church, Whittier, Alaska, where the group stayed during the week.

Fortner said the trip was a "good experience" with many unexpected things happening.

"For me, on every mission trip, there's always that one moment when I know why God had me go," said Fortner. "That moment was when I was talking with an elderly man named Lou."

Though the older man grew up in a Baptist church, Fortner said it has been decades since he had regularly attended any church. Fortner prayed for the man and shared the gospel with him.

Fortner said he also encouraged

an 11-year-old boy "in his Christian walk."

While much of the work of the team during the week was painting and stocking shelves, the value of their ministry to the community was undeniable.

"We helped the people there in Alaska so they can focus their energy on reaching people," said Fortner. Volunteers from North Carolina, Texas and Indiana also assisted with projects.

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# Our Churches: First Baptist, Morrilton

Jessica Vanderpool  
Arkansas Baptist News

FEW CHURCHES CAN claim their ministry has literally spanned two centuries, a civil war, two world wars and a worldwide depression – but First Baptist Church, Morrilton, can.

The church, which recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, has certainly seen its share of history.

Established in 1860, it has also seen its share of hard times. Members pitched in and worked together to build a building in 1935, only to see it burn in 1936. Though the walls still stood, the inside had to be refinished, and the building was rededicated in 1937.

Yet, despite the ups and downs of a century and a half, the church remains. It was in 1966 that they built the sanctuary where they now worship. Current pastor Bill Brown came in 1989.

Brown has a history of his own at the church. Not only was he baptized there, but it is also where he surrendered to the ministry and where he was licensed and ordained.

“As I look back on these nearly 21 years, my call to come home to my home church has been confirmed in different ways,” Brown said.

“Not many families have a pastor who has known them all their lives and loves them like I do.

“This has made it possible to minister to them in a personal way. They were people who I knew all my life.”

He added, “We hope to continue to be a Great Commission church in this area until Jesus comes.”

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at [jessica@arkansas-baptist.org](mailto:jessica@arkansas-baptist.org).



Bill Brown (inset right), pastor of First Baptist Church, Morrilton, with former state Sen. Bob Johnson (inset left) at First Baptist's 150th anniversary celebration Nov. 14.

## Hispanic women's conference Feb. 5 at Valley Baptist, Searcy

THE WOMAN'S Missionary Union will hold its Hispanic Women's Conference at Valley Baptist Church, Searcy from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 5.

“Spreading Our Faith” – based on 1 Thess. 1:8 – is the conference theme. Noemi Vera of Fresno,

Calif., is guest speaker.

Sessions for young women, ages 12-18, are included during the conference. Speakers are Clara DeLeon and Noemi Garcia, members of the worship group Grupo Ebenezer. Topics include “evangelism through music.”

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Students and staff from Northwest Arkansas' Shiloh Christian School recently honored Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and the National Day of Service by giving new pairs of shoes to almost 500 Springdale elementary students. Along with giving them shoes, they washed the children's feet and shared hope with the children. The event was hosted by the school, Transportation Insight and Samaritan's Feet.

## ABN Archives

1901-2011

### 25 years ago - Jan. 1986

- "RICHMOND, Va. (BP) - Southern Baptists added a record 429 new overseas missionary personnel in 1985 and also moved close to the \$10 million mark in world hunger and relief giving.

These reports, made at the December meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, came amid reports of new ways the board is exploring to reach areas of the world where missionaries cannot go.

At the same time, the board warned financial support is lagging behind missionary growth and urged Southern Baptists to give sacrificially both through the Cooperative Program and the 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. The goal this year is \$70 million."

### 50 years ago - Jan. 1961

- William E. Brown, executive secretary of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., writes, "We wish to alert all members of the Foundation throughout Arkansas to the importance of the coming session of the State Legislature. Preceding the Primary we sent a

questionnaire to all candidates for office and we were greatly pleased with the response made to it. Most of the Representatives and Senators are in sympathy with efforts to give greater protection to our children and youth. We requested their cooperation in securing the following amendments to the liquor laws:

1. A law to prohibit the sale of beer and other alcoholic beverages in food stores.

2. A law to prohibit packaged liquor sold in drug stores.

3. A law to make it unlawful to possess in a dry county more than one-fifth gallon of intoxicating liquor."

### 100 years ago - Jan. 1911

- "Spanking does not cure children of bedwetting. There is a constitutional cause for this trouble. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 319, South Bend, Ind., will send free to any mother her successful home treatment, with full instructions. Send no money, but write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child, the chances are it can't help it. This treatment also cures adults and aged people troubled with urine difficulties by day or night."

## December 2010 NOBTS graduates announced

NEW ORLEANS - The following graduates with Arkansas ties received degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) Dec. 18.



**Master of Music in Church Music**  
Reed Endel  
Hamburg



**Master of Divinity**  
Daniel Jordan Savage  
Fayetteville



**Master of Theology**  
Bobo Newton  
Star City



**Doctor of Ministry**  
David M. O' Dell  
Bryant

# Classifieds

### PASTOR

Shiloh Baptist Church of Harrison is accepting resumes for **pastor**. Resumes may be mailed to Shiloh Baptist Church, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 667, Harrison, AR 72601, or email to tj\_tomlinson@cox.net.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: A healthy, growing, mixed-generational church is looking for a **full-time associate pastor** for adult education, new member/member assimilation, administration, missions. Great people skills and wisdom are musts in growing church's spiritual health. Send resumes: Waterloo Road Baptist Church, Attention: Personnel Committee, 3100 East Waterloo Road, Edmond, OK 73034, or email to jbroyles@waterlooroad.org.

### OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Cullendale First Baptist Church, Camden, Ark., is seeking a **student/youth minister**. Full-time position. Salary based on experience and education. Full job description available. Email bwiliams@cullendalefbc.org, or call 870-231-5441. Resumes will be accepted until Feb. 28, 2011.

Leonard St. Baptist Church in Hot Springs is seeking a **part-time family minister**. His duties will be primarily dealing with students and their families. This should be someone with a missionary mindset focused on shepherding those who come to Christ. For more info, please contact Pastor John Graves at 501-623-7205. For more info on the church, visit [www.hotspingschurch.org](http://www.hotspingschurch.org)

Crystal Hill in Little Rock is taking resumes for **youth pastor**. Contact office, 501-455-0669, or pastor, 501-912-3545.

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.

East Side Baptist Church is looking for a **full-time assistant to the children's director**. 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, 718 East 9th St., Mountain Home, AR 72653.

### MISCELLANEOUS

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

For rent, **gulf-front two-bedroom condominium** on Okaloosa Island, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Low owner rates. Call Lucy, 770-831-3651, or email [Lucyclark9@aol.com](mailto:Lucyclark9@aol.com).

Moving to Northwest Arkansas? Insurance agency specializing in churches seeks **property and casualty experienced support staff position**. Please send resume to Position: P.O. Box 6546, Springdale, AR 72766, or fax to 479-657-6369.

1995 Ford Goshen Coach, **29-passenger bus** for sale. 31,000 miles. \$12,000. Immanuel Baptist, Pine Bluff, 870-534-7603.

New and used **church organs and Baldwin pianos**. Capitol Keyboard, 13401 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, 501-228-9999.

### Church life

**Current-Gaines Baptist Association** will hold its winter youth rally at Witt's Chapel Baptist Church, Maynard, at 7 p.m. Jan. 29.

**Tumbling Shoals Baptist Church**, Tumbling Shoals, will hold their annual Wild Game Supper at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 3. It will include a venison dinner, a door prize and guest speaker David Fortenberry of Crossland Game Calls of Brookhaven, Miss. No tickets will be sold at the door. Call 501-362-3987 for more information.

**First Baptist Church**, Paragould, will hold Lifeline Screening Feb. 3.

### Milestones

**Lao Liberty Baptist Church**, Fort Smith, recently constituted as a church in Concord Baptist Association. Led by pastor Vilath Saysombath, it was formerly a mission of Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith.

Former Arkansas Baptist Bobby Shows:

## A big man with a big heart for children

Tim Yarbrough  
Arkansas Baptist News

HOLTS SUMMIT, Mo. – Bobby Shows is a big man with an even bigger heart.

Standing 6 feet, 8 inches tall, Shows towers over most people. His height has actually made him a celebrity in some places in the world – like Belarus.

While traveling in the former Soviet state in 1998, Shows gained special status – partly because of his height – among the Belarussian people during a Sports Crusaders evangelism tour in the country. Every place the team stopped, Shows would be asked his height, to which he responded with a smile, “About two cubits.”

The Belarussians knew there was something special about Shows that went beyond his height. The love Shows has for people and for Jesus Christ is contagious.

Born Oct. 10, 1941 in rural southern Mississippi to educator parents, Shows lettered in baseball and basketball at two high schools before being named an All-American athlete in 1959.

Shows’ athletic success in high school provided him with a scholarship and an opportunity to play center at Mississippi State University. While there, the Bulldogs won three Southeastern Conference (SEC) championships from 1961-63.

But God had even bigger plans for Shows. In his sophomore year, Shows made a profession of faith at Gulf Shores Baptist Assembly – changing his life and ministry forever.

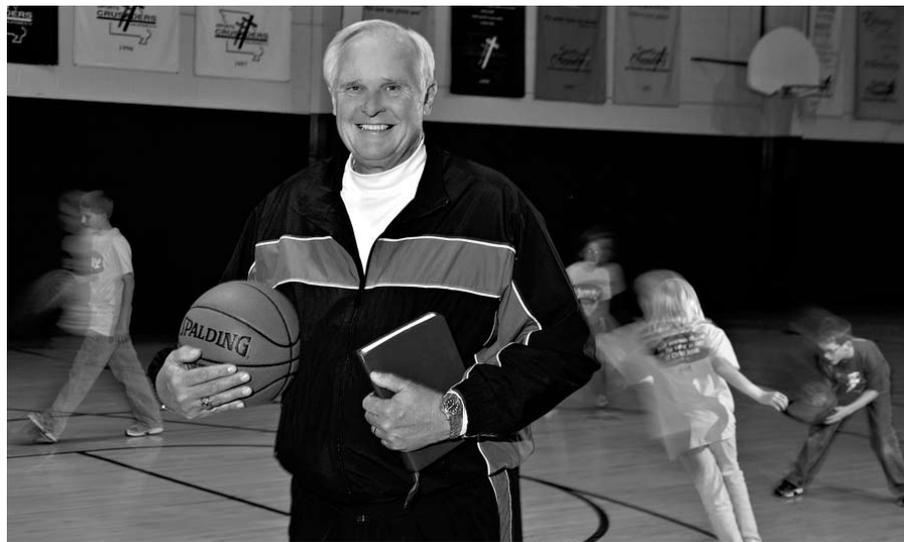
“(After that) I began to search for my Christian calling. God made it very clear that sports would be my media for sharing Christ,” said Shows.

“God said, ‘You don’t have to do anything else. Just use what you’ve already got.’ We used sports, and I became an indirect sports evangelist at that time ... in 1961. I went to church recreation and led teams overseas, in prisons and all of that kind of thing.”

Shows’ calling eventually led him into church recreation ministry at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock in 1979. He describes his call to Park Hill as simply, “A God thing!”

“(Park Hill) was unbelievable. The folks accepted my family and me at the very first. It was easy to have friends (there), which I still have,” said Shows. “Going to North Little Rock felt like going home ... the South! Warm and likable people.”

The creativity of the Park Hill staff and members led to a great recreation ministry at the church, said Shows, which eventually resulted in an activities center being built dur-



Sports Crusaders founder, Bobby Shows, at the Union Hill Baptist Church gym. Below: Shows presents basketballs to a Belarussian camp director and staff.



ing his 14-year tenure.

Shows credits the leadership of long-time Park Hill pastor Cary Heard – who Shows also served with at First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. – and then church administrator Jimmie Sheffield, as being the catalysts in bringing it all together.

“If God led us to do a certain ministry, there were folks there who could get the job done and were more than willing to use their talents. We started (there) in a closet, and God led us to a beautiful Christian activities center,” said Shows.

“We had the best team anyone

could dream of being a part of. I had not felt such teamwork as I did with that team God had called together. We not only worked together, but we played together. What a joy!”

Little did Shows know that his ministry experiences in college and later at Park Hill would be instrumental in helping establish the Sports Crusaders sports evangelism ministry at the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) in 1994.

“Sports Crusaders is the result of God, but humans (working at MBC) played a very big part in developing it,” said Shows.

In 2001, Sports Crusaders left the Missouri convention to become what Shows calls “a faith ministry,” finding a home at Union Hill Baptist Church in Holts Summit, Mo.

Literally tens of thousands of children – in the United States, Canada and abroad – have participated in Sports Crusaders since it was established. Last year alone, 2,051 children participated in sports camps, with 335 making professions of faith. “It’s grown from one team to as many as 10 teams (annually),” said Shows. “We have been in, I think we figured, about 10 different countries, and we’ve been in about 12 different states, and our purpose is to do sports camps, get the kids’ attention and share Christ.”

Shows said Sports Crusaders claims 1 Corinthians 9:22 as its charge, “To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.”

“Paul says he tries to find common ground. With children, it is athletics.”

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

## Reaching out through school sports

WHILE SHOWS RETIRED from Sports Crusaders in 2008 – in part due to some reoccurring heart health issues – he has continued to play an active role in the ministry. He smiles, “I primarily play a role as advisor. I’m here. When (the staff) asks questions, I make up answers.”

In addition to leading recreation conferences and training sessions for groups planning to do sports evangelism trips, Shows has written or co-authored a number of books and guides over the years, including “Reaching Out Through School Sports” and “I’m Not Here to be Dusted.”

His newest, “God’s Game Plan for Young Athletes,” was co-written with former Union Hill Baptist pastor and Sports Crusaders board member, James Preston.

“God’s Game Plan for Young Athletes,” which was printed at

Print Connections in North Little Rock, is designed to address faith questions of children and to help them understand the game plan God has for them, said Shows.

“It’s a topical Bible (study) for children who play athletics,” said Shows. “It’s taking questions and concerns children have had in the athletic world and applying scriptures to help them deal with that question or that concern.”

Shows said “God’s Game Plan for Young Athletes” was written primarily to assist coaches and parents in answering spiritual questions of children.

“We have parents who don’t know how to deal with those questions. God’s Word answers the questions.”

The book is divided into several

sections: attitude, character, competition, faith and teamwork.

Shows said today more than ever, parents need solid, biblical advice as they raise their children in an increasingly competitive and demanding world. In some ways, children today deal with more complex issues that previous generations of children did not – and parents are oftentimes caught up in all of it.

“I never faced that,” said Shows. “I played because I liked to play, put on a uniform, and just go out there and play.”

For more information about “God’s Game Plan for Young Athletes,” or the Sports Crusaders ministry, go to [www.SportsCrusaders.org](http://www.SportsCrusaders.org). Contact Shows at [bobby@sports crusaders.org](mailto:bobby@sports crusaders.org).



## Danger! Unbridled passion

Do the ends justify the means? I suggest that it is rarely true and is certainly false when doing the Lord's work. Unfortunately, King Jehu of Israel let his passion and ambition, rather than the Lord, control him.

A man who was sent by the prophet Elisha anointed Jehu king of Israel. God commissioned him to kill the family of King Ahab. Jehu did this with great zeal, killing King Joram, his mother Jezebel and

the seventy sons of Ahab. Along the way, he also killed King Ahaziah of Judah, a close associate of Ahab's family. This was a very bloody scene, but accomplished God's will.

That was when the problem began. His zeal and bloodlust got the best of him, and he went far beyond his commission. Through lies and trickery, he assembled all the ministers of Baal in Israel inside their temple. He then commanded

80 of his guards to slaughter the ministers. While the end result of destroying Baal worship in Israel was a good thing, Jehu had no direction from the Lord to do so.

While it appears that Jehu had a great deal of zeal for the Lord, by no means was he wholeheartedly committed to Him. He continued to worship the golden calves at Bethel and Dan. He was an idolater at heart. Zealous reformers can excuse in themselves what they condemn in others. This was certainly the case with Jehu. The Lord honored Jehu for carrying out His will against Ahab's family by granting that his descendants would sit on the throne

of Israel for four generations. However, since Jehu did not keep the law of the Lord with all his heart, land was taken away from Israel.

We should always be passionate in our pursuit of God and His will for us. Jehu's story warns us to wholeheartedly commit to the Lord and to bring honor and glory to God. Jehu is remembered more for the people he killed than for honoring God.

While we as Christians shouldn't succumb to political correctness or cultural pressures, we should make sure our actions honor God, point people to Christ and follow Jesus' law of love.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE FEB. 6, 2011

Bruce Wilson, member,  
Geyer Springs First Baptist,  
Little Rock

Scripture passage:  
2 Kings 2 9-10

## God's outrageous love

In our society we tend to throw around the word "love" carelessly. We love hamburgers. We love this new song, and on and on. Seldom do we stop to consider the real meaning of love. God loved His creation so much that John 3:16 tells us He gave His only Son to redeem it. To God, love is much more than a passing pleasure. Love is commitment in God's mind.

God used Hosea to paint a living canvas of forgiveness and love. Laws governing marital fidelity for the Hebrew people were dramatically different from the culture around them. God pictured Himself to His people as a husband, and they were

to be His faithful wife. Israel chose to accommodate the Canaanite cultic practices, eventually becoming entrapped by them. God required His people to be an example of purity and holiness to the world, to lead them to know Him.

God named Hosea's children as indications of the progression of sin: Jezreel, the place where judgment would come; Lo Ruhamah, the time of no mercy; and finally, Lo Ammi, not my people.

Those refusing to obey God's law would bring disaster upon themselves. Those refusing to accept God's correction would prevent His mercy. Those abandoning God's

ways would not be identified as His people.

It's like today when many want to be called Christian but prefer the lifestyle of the world. I love folk-sayings, and one favorite is, "If you lie down with dogs, likely you'll get up with fleas." The company and activities we choose influence us more than a little.

God used Hosea to tell the Israelite people they were being adulterous.

The Israelites didn't start out

to forsake God. They just thought those little statues were cute in the corner of the living room. That

led to thinking God was a kind of super Baal; you know, doing what those other folks assumed their Baal did.

Finally the Israelites got so used to overlooking evil that they bought into the

entire Canaanite worship system. But there is hope. Hosea 3:10 promises restoration.

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE FEB. 6, 2011

Mary Kisor, member,  
First Baptist, Dardanelle

Scripture passage:  
Hosea 1:2-9, 3:1-5

## U-turn: here and now

The nine-year reign of King Hoshea in Samaria was the sad end of Israel, the northern kingdom. The Assyrians finally overran the country and deported the remaining inhabitants of Israel. There is no mention of Hoshea ever looking to the Lord for guidance. He murdered his predecessor to ascend to the throne and then made a secret pact with Egypt against Assyria. In Israel's darkest hour, no mention is made of the king or the

people seeking the guidance and protection of God.

Over hundreds of years, Israel moved further and further away from God. They worshipped other gods and did other detestable practices making God very angry. They were stubborn, rejected the Lord's covenant and ignored all warnings. Finally,

God's anger turned into rejection, and He allowed Assyria to overrun them.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE FEB. 13, 2011

Bruce Wilson, member,  
Geyer Springs First Baptist,  
Little Rock

Scripture passage:  
2 Kings 17:1-20

## God loves for His people to be loyal to Him

Our military has deeply rooted in every service person's heart the idea that no one be left behind.

Anyone returned from combat will tell of great efforts made to bring every man home, living or having given all. That concept of loyalty springs from the very heart of God.

Hosea's life was a long-term lesson to Israel of the price of love and commitment God would pay to save His people. Gomer left Hosea's loving care, just as the Israelite people left God.

Chapters six and seven are not

so much retaliation by God for the wickedness of Israel, as a lament over the result of sin.

Let me give an earthy example. If I enjoy a diet cola and pie without other food, no one will be surprised at my upset stomach and bad complexion.

The Israelites were reaping the harvest they had sown.

Today many of us dress, talk and participate like the world, but want to blame God for the result of our actions.

Our young son liked standing in the rocking chair and rocking wild-

ly. I often told him to sit down so that he wouldn't get hurt. Not until

he turned the chair over - pinching his fingers - did he understand I wasn't trying to keep him from having fun, but attempting to keep him from harm.

In the same way, God mourned over the suffering Israel brought on herself through disobedience.

Even in the grief God expresses over Israel's sin, there is a word of

hope. Hosea 6:11 and Hosea 7:1 speak of harvest and return. The most beautiful roses come on the bush that is pruned, the sweetest fruit on the vine that is lifted up and trained on the arbor.

Obedience brings blessings to believers.

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE FEB. 13, 2011

Mary Kisor, member,  
First Baptist, Dardanelle

Scripture passage:  
Hosea 6:1-7:2



## NEWS DIGEST

### U.S. passes 53 million abortion mark

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) – At some point in 2010 – 37 years removed from the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision – a doctor in the United States performed the nation's 53 millionth legal abortion, a sobering statistic that ethicists say should drive the public to speak up for the unborn.

The statistic is based on data compiled by the Guttmacher Institute, a pro-choice organization whose studies are acknowledged by most major pro-choice organizations.

The nation's abortion rate reached a peak of 1.6 million in 1990 and has steadily fallen in most years ever since, although Guttmacher's latest data, from 2008, showed the abortion rate had risen slightly to 1,212,000 million from 1,206,000 in 2005, the most recent data point. Because Guttmacher no longer releases abortion data every year, the 53 million figure is based on assumptions that the abortion rate remained relatively unchanged in 2009 and 2010.

The 1973 Roe decision, coupled with the companion Doe v. Bolton ruling, legalized abortion nationwide for effectively any reason during all nine months of pregnancy.

### Prof settles over religious discrimination

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP) – An astronomy professor has won a settlement after suing the University of Kentucky for religious discrimination, a case that could have national implications regarding religious intolerance in academia.

The university agreed to pay \$125,000 to Martin Gaskell, who was represented in the case by the American Center for Law and Justice.

"In bringing this case and successfully resolv-

ing it, we believe we have shed some light on a problem that is by no means limited to the University of Kentucky," Frank Manion, senior trial counsel for ACLJ, said Jan. 18.

Gaskell, now a research fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, was one of two finalists in 2007 in the search for a founding director of the University of Kentucky's MacAdam Student Observatory.

### Snowbound, pastor preaches via web

TOCCOA, Ga. (BP) – Like every Southerner, Andy Childs was thrilled with the Christmas Day snow. Like every pastor, however, he kept an eye on road conditions and the possibility of cancelling services the next day at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Toccoa, Ga.

"Most of the day we watched weather reports, deciding to take a wait-and-see approach," Childs said. Around 8 p.m. he phoned worship/media leader Caleb Jones on whether to cancel the church's Dec. 26 activities. Jones reported that the Ebenezer church parking lot had ice in it.

An hour and a half later, Childs and Jones had a plan to go ahead with worship – though not at Ebenezer.

Using the social media site Ustream, Childs was able to broadcast from his home while church members logged in online for the 10:30 a.m. service. Jones created a link to Ustream from Ebenezer's website to simplify the process.

Church members were notified of the broadcast through the church's website, Facebook page and emails. After a 30-second commercial (required for the free Ustream account), Childs appeared on viewers' screens with his family's Christmas tree in the background.

### 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).

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Individual subscriptions for both editions may be purchased at [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org). Please call the *ABN* office to discuss church plans.



### Miss America

OBU graduate wins first runner-up in Miss America pageant.

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### Bobby Shows

Former Arkansas Baptist's sports ministry reaches children.

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# Haiti: one year later

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