



Robbery thwarted

First Baptist, Atkins, minister of music, subdues attacker in Memphis.

page 3

Church Building

Church Building & Facilities section highlights Arkansas churches.

page 7

Gillham new Mt. Zion AM

Whitney Crews
Arkansas Baptist News

JONESBORO – Ed Gillham, 47, of Pine Bluff has been named associational missionary of the Mt. Zion Baptist Association in Northeast Arkansas.

Gillham, officially begins his duties Aug. 1. He replaces Harold Ray who retired in 2010 after 30 years of service.

“I think the folks are going to receive him extremely well,” Ray said following the announcement. He seems to be a very capable person for the job.”

Over the past 15 years, Gillham has served in

See **GILLHAM** page 3



Gillham

Davis retires after 27 years

Cassie Franklin
Arkansas Baptist News

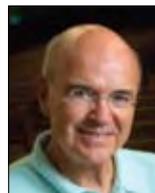
RUSSELLVILLE – “This is big. We love him very, very much,” a lady exclaimed as she made her way into the retirement service for Stephen Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Russellville.

Pews at the church were packed with people who emanated excitement. A few had tears in their eyes.

Davis served as pastor of First Baptist for 27 years, from 1984-2011.

At 10:30 a.m., the worship service began. Davis, sitting on the front row with his entire

See **DAVIS** page 3



Davis



Life Line Baptist hosts World Changers

More than 200 students and leaders from seven states served in Little Rock the week of July 18-22 during a World Changers project. Life Line Baptist Church, Little Rock, was the host church and location where students and leaders were lodged. Sixteen area churches assisted with the mission project by providing lunch each day for project participants. *Photo by Caleb Yarbrough*

Pastor and police officer advises

‘Leave your guns with the usher’

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

JACKSONVILLE – The phrase “church security” does not always mean carrying a firearm into a house of worship.

While area minister and auxiliary police officer Jeff Elmore is quick to caution that it is actually illegal to bring a gun to church, he also points out

there is a lot more to church security than simply “packing heat.”

Elmore, associate pastor of Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville, and auxiliary police officer for the Jacksonville Police Department, heads up a ministry designed to educate church members on security – along with Second Baptist church

See **SECURITY** page 6



Kristen Glover, Miss Arkansas 2011

OBU’s Glover crowned Miss Arkansas 2011

Trennis Henderson
Ouachita Baptist University

HOT SPRINGS – Miss Ouachita Baptist University Kristen Glover was crowned Miss Arkansas 2011 July 16 at Summit Arena in Hot Springs.

It was a memorable Ouachita moment as Glover, a 2011 Ouachita graduate, was crowned by outgoing Miss Arkansas Alyse Eady, a 2010 Ouachita alumna. Adding to

the university’s tradition of success in the Miss Arkansas Pageant, this marks the fifth time that a reigning Miss OBU has been named Miss Arkansas and the 10th time that a Ouachita student or alum has been awarded the state crown.

“Kristen Glover is a young woman distinguished by discipline, zeal, commitment and excellence in every area of life,” said Rex Horne, the university’s president.

“Ouachita could have no better

ambassador. Now Arkansas will benefit by Kristen’s grace and character.”

Glover, a member of First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, is the daughter of Keith and Mary Glover, who are also members of First Baptist Church. She graduated magna cum laude from Ouachita in May with a degree in chemistry. She will represent Arkansas in the 2012 Miss

See **PAGEANT** page 2

Sports camps connect children to church

Jenny Redfern
Arkansas Baptist News

WITCHERVILLE - Teamwork, responsibility and perseverance - all are valuable lessons learned from participating in sports. But for the past 10 years, Fellowship Baptist Church, Witcherville, has taken this tool one step further by using sports to connect children to the gospel through sports camps.

"A sports camp is a program by which sporting events and games are used as a platform to present the gospel," said pastor of Fellowship Baptist, Gary Martin.

Each day, the children are introduced to fun and competitive sports, generally ones they have never played before. Some of these sports include tug-of-war, kickball, street hockey, field polo, volleyball, kick ball, basketball, flicker ball, ultimate frisbee, archery, fish-casting, soccer, badminton, pony rides and trust games.



While rotating between sports, the children also rotate into a Bible study, where they have the opportunity to hear God's Word. Sometimes the rotation is followed by an "overtime" service, where the children are served refreshments and watch a puppet show or hear a brief message.

The church was first introduced to the idea of sports camps on a

mission trip to Coatsville, Penn., in the summer of 2001. The mission team had traveled there to hold a traditional vacation Bible school for Thorndale Baptist Church.

When a Georgia mission team that was scheduled to run a sports camp for a nearby church was delayed, the mission team from Witcherville was asked to fill in for a day. Though they had never heard of sports camps, they were eager to assist.

"The team embraced the challenge," said church member Jeania Brown. "Monday morning came, and with it our ability to see the Lord at work. Ninety-one kids came, and 10 of those trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior that day."

The next summer, the church decided to use sports as a draw for their vacation Bible school instead of the usual material. They have been organizing these sports camps ever since.

Martin said the church has helped run sports camps in Oklahoma, North Dakota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Canada and across Arkansas.

"We do about six to eight sports camps a year," he said. "So we have probably conducted 50 to 60 sports camps in all, maybe more."

Recently the church conducted a camp at Wye Mountain. Martin said 120 children attended, and 20 deci-



Children participate at a recent sports camp in Wye Mountain, near Lake Maumelle.

sions were made.

Martin described several advantages sports camps present over traditional vacation Bible school.

The first and greatest is that it is easier for the church to get people involved. Martin said because people are already interested and knowledgeable in a certain sport, they are more willing to teach and lead the children in it.

"When you go to do vacation Bible school, it's almost like pulling teeth getting volunteers," he said. "But if I need someone to do golf, I just go to the golfers in my church. And, the same for fishing and horse riding."

The leaders of each sport are required to pray for each group of children and share their testimony.

The second advantage is that children are naturally interested in

sports, Martin said.

"Almost every kid has some interest in sports, whether they are athletic or not," he said. "We aren't doing high-tech athletics; we just have kid games."

The final advantage is that it is inexpensive.

"You can actually do a sports camp with just a kickball, a basketball and a volleyball," He said. "You don't need much."

Martin added that Bible study material could be found from a number of resources.

"It is just a great stage upon which to present the gospel," he said. "When they are taking a break, give them a snow cone, give them time to cool down and present them the gospel."

Contact Jenny Redfern at jenny@arkansasbaptist.org.

PAGEANT

continued from page one

America Pageant in January in Las Vegas.

Glover, 21, will tour the state for the next year promoting her platform issue of "Second Chances: Empowering Youth to Rise Above," as well as the Children's Miracle Network. Following her year as Miss Arkansas, she plans to attend the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy.

In a series of media appearances and interviews, Glover said the moment her name was announced as Miss Arkansas "was just unreal."

"I had worked so hard for that week," said Glover, who was competing in her third Miss Arkansas Pageant and was named third runner-up last year. "It was absolutely incredible to see all of that work finally pay off."

"I would love to travel across Arkansas speaking about my platform which is basically focused on mentoring," she said, noting "how important it is for us to pour into and invest in my generation."

In addition to being crowned Miss Arkansas, Glover received the crowd favorite award, interview award and lifestyle and fitness award, as well as preliminary awards for lifestyle and fitness and evening gown. For the talent portion of the competition, she tap danced to an arrangement of "I Got Rhythm."

Active in campus and community service during her years at Ouachita, Glover served as student recruitment co-chair of the Ouachita Student Foundation and Tiger Tunes director for Tri Chi women's social club. She also was involved in the American Chemical Society and intramural sports. A Ouachita Scholar, she was named to the Ouachita President's List and Dean's List and was a recipient of the Mondy-Provine Chemistry Scholarship.

Glover also served as an intern with the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries' (AB-CHomes) Promise House Maternity Homes in 2009.

During her first press conference as Miss Arkansas July 17, Glover spoke of the need for mentoring troubled teens, which she first discovered while serving at the AB-

CHomes' ministry to unwed, pregnant preteen and teenage girls in Little Rock.

"I realized these girls are desperate for a role model," Glover said in an *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* report. "... I realized how important it is for us to pour into and invest in my generation."

Glover first entered the Miss Arkansas competition in 2008. She didn't compete in 2009. Instead, she spent 10 weeks mentoring girls at Promise House. Glover said her experiences at Promise House were "life changing," according to her blog <http://www.secondchanceskg.blogspot.com/>.

"Working with those disadvantaged, pregnant teenagers opened my eyes to so much. It was then that I realized this life isn't really about me ... it's about service," notes Glover. "Miss Arkansas is an opportunity for me to fulfill my purpose of service while using the talents and abilities God has given me."

Trennis Henderson is vice president of communications at Ouachita Baptist University. Additional reporting by Stella Prather, Arkansas Baptist Children's Home director of communications.



Kristen Glover is crowned by outgoing Miss Arkansas Alyse Eady, a 2010 Ouachita alumna. Photo courtesy of You've Got the Look Photography

Arkansas minister thwarts robbery attempt

Lisa Watson
Arkansas Baptist News

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – When Ralph and Mila Baker traveled to Memphis recently to visit with Homeland Security as part of Mila's American citizenship process, they expected to take care of some business and maybe have a little fun.

What they didn't expect was to be robbed.

The day started off innocently enough for Baker, who is music minister at First Baptist Church, Atkins, and Mila, who is from the Philippines.

After the Bakers attended the required meeting, they decided to make a day of it by visiting downtown Memphis. As the couple walked along Beale Street, they got a surprise they weren't expecting. A man appeared out of nowhere, jumping Baker and attempting to steal his wallet.

Baker said it happened in a split second. Fortunately, Baker, who knows jujitsu, reacted quickly. "I gave him a rear elbow strike that Mila said knocked him off balance," he said.

Unfortunately, the force of the man's fall also ripped Baker's pocket and wallet from his pants. Again, Baker responded as the man attempted to run away with his wallet.

"I jumped on him around the shoulders and got him in a headlock," he said.

At that point, three bystanders helped Baker subdue the man until the police arrived.

At press time, Baker said the suspect was being held at the Memphis City Jail awaiting charges. After praying about it, he and Mila decided to press charges. But they

are also hoping for an opportunity to minister to the man, who Baker suspects is homeless. "I can't talk with him until after the trial, but I want to visit with him," he said. "I have a point of contact with him that will affect his life for a long time."

Regardless of the outcome, Baker is thankful for God's "protective hand." He and his wife were uninjured, sustaining only minor scratches and bruises.

He's also thankful God allowed him to respond quickly when the attack came. "I work out with jujitsu and even use it in my ministry, but I've never had a real-life altercation until now," he said. "I praise the Lord that we weren't hurt. It could have been a really different outcome."

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Ralph Baker displays pants torn by attempted robber.

DAVIS

continued from page one

family, tapped his feet to the music. By all accounts, it was an ordinary Sunday worship service at the church.

But then it was time for Davis to take the pulpit. The longtime pastor reflected on a question he had once asked his wife, "When I first started preaching, I told Jonya, 'Will I ever be able to preach without crying?'"

Comparing himself to the weeping prophet, Jeremiah, Davis added, "I hope I can do that."

Speaking to the congregation, Davis said, "I came as your pastor, seeking to base everything that we did on the Word of God, that we would let the Word of God be our guide and our rule and our direction, and that we would set our hearts to know Christ in a personal and intimate way and to make Him known out of that first relationship. And you've done just that."

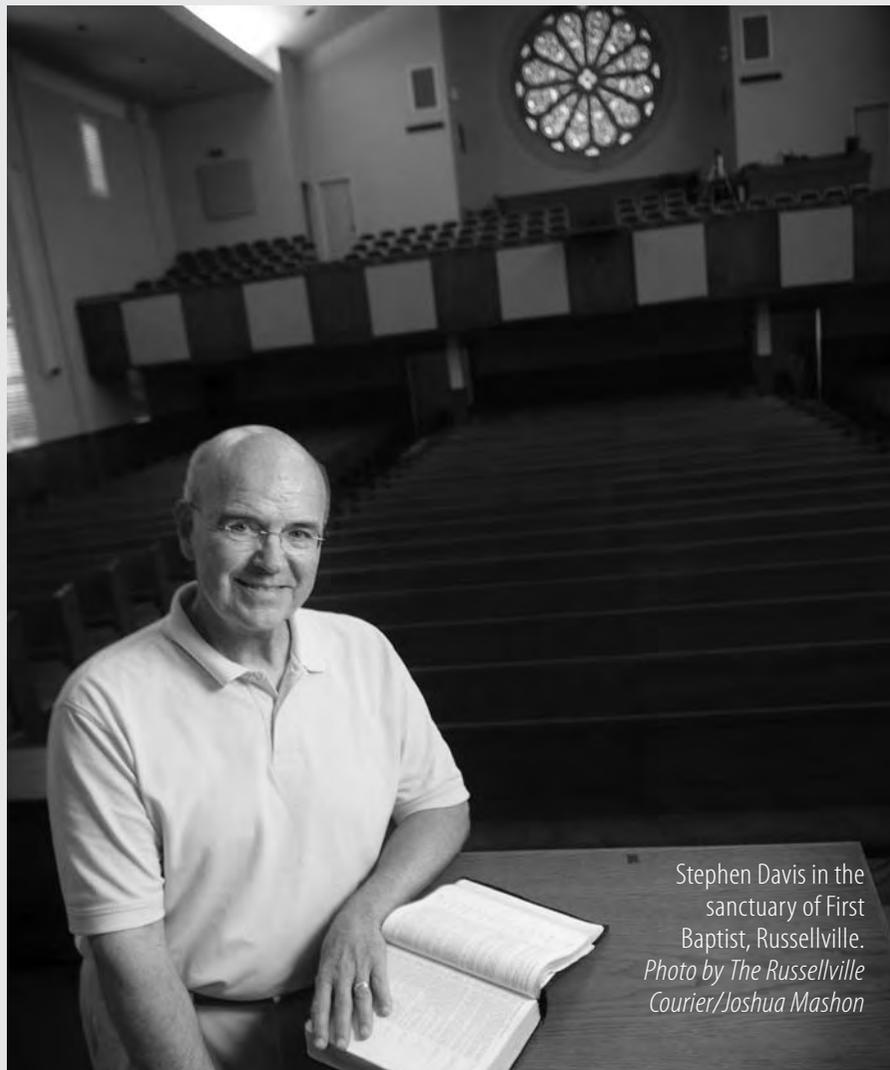
Preaching from 1 Thessalonians, Davis told the church to find encouragement from the evidence of changed lives.

"You see, it makes no difference who stands at this pulpit or what goes on in a church if the people are not willing to respond to the demonstration and the power of God and obey Him; nothing's going to happen."

Davis encouraged the congregation by reminding them of the number of lives they helped save through the years. "(We've) born fruit of over 450,000 people throughout the world. ... There's no explanation except that God did it."

He also reminded the church to constantly evaluate themselves as individuals and then the church as a whole.

"We evaluate; we don't stay where we are as a church," Davis said. "The leadership team is going to come together and see



Stephen Davis in the sanctuary of First Baptist, Russellville.
Photo by The Russellville Courier/Joshua Mashon

some things that are good, but others that just aren't right. God says 'excel still more.' How do you excel with no evaluation?"

In his last sermon as pastor of First Baptist, Davis urged the congregation to "excel still more."

"When we excel still more, God is going to work in mighty ways," he said.

Concluding, Davis called First Baptist's leadership team to the platform to join him. He encouraged the church to pray continually for their staff and cooperate with them.

"Excel still more with God," Davis said as he left the pulpit and handed the service over to the new pastor, Greg Sikes.

"It's been my privilege to serve here under Stephen's leadership,"

said Sikes. "It's certainly a humbling privilege to be your pastor now. God's laid quite a legacy at First Baptist, Russellville."

During his 27 years at First Baptist, Davis served as a trustee for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (1986-1990), Ouachita Baptist University (1996-2000) and the International Mission Board (1993-2003).

Davis preached at the Arkansas Pastor's Conference (1998 and 2003) and received the "M.E. Dodd" Award (2003), given to individuals who have demonstrated excellence in lifetime church leadership.

A reception for Davis and his family followed the service.

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GILLHAM

continued from page one

numerous pastoral positions in Pine Bluff, Texarkana, Osceola, Quitman and Maumelle. He received a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Gillham served as associational coordinator for World Changers in Harmony Baptist Association, where he was a member of the association's executive board.

In May 2010, Gillham attended training at Camp Paron for new and prospective associational missionaries sponsored by the state convention.

"It was a clear call for me to go into association missions," Gillham said.

"I'm very humbled and excited about the opportunity to reach Northeast Arkansas with the gospel."

The Mt. Zion association includes 40 churches and five missions located primarily in Craighead County. Gillham said he has plans to visit each church and spend time with pastors during his first five months.

"There is so much growth in Jonesboro," Gillham said in anticipation of his work in the association.

"Planting churches, missions – I want to help churches reach for those opportunities.

"I want to help every church understand they can be involved with missions and also be a pastor to the pastors."

Gillham and his wife, Robbin, have a daughter, Abbey, who will be a sophomore at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Gillham enjoys duck hunting, woodworking and building stained glass windows and lamps.

"We are just very excited about the opportunity. It's a high-growth area, and helping the church reach that area is an exciting goal."

Contact Whitney Crews at whitney@arkansasbaptist.org.

The immorality of our debt crisis

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way ..."

So opens the novel "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens, about the plight of French peasants demoralized by the French aristocracy in the years leading up to the country's revolution.

Ironically, what Dickens wrote in 1859 seems eerily applicable to Americans living in today's culture.

On one hand, our country has never enjoyed a higher standard of living than today. On the other hand, we have never before carried so much personal and collective financial debt.

While it seems many individuals have gotten the message of our lean times and have tightened their finances, our government has not. What do most of us do when confronted with having more bills than money with which to pay them? We

cut our expenses. But this doesn't seem like a viable option for some of our nation's political leaders.

It seems few Americans have been immune to the secular message of materialism over the years. We are urged to spend, consume and borrow like there's no tomorrow. The availability of credit has swallowed U.S. citizens in a sea of debt that starts right after they

graduate from high school or college with their first jobs. We are told, "Why wait when you can just charge it to your credit card?"

Well, it may just have caught

up with us. Not only is our country suffering, but so is the work of God.

With a financial crisis looming in Washington, it seems our nation's leaders are more interested in playing politics than demonstrating real leadership and doing the right financial thing for our country.

The Bible is clear on the subject of money. Luke, a vocational physician who I'm sure charged money when serving his patients, wrote in Luke 16:13 (NASB), "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to

one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

While everyone enjoys the comforts and conveniences of modern society, so often contentment isn't a part of the equation. It seems sometimes the more we get, the more we want. Scripture warns against such indulgences. In Hebrews 13:5 (NASB) it says, "Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.'"

When we indulge ourselves selfishly through materialism, we rob Christ and the work of His church.

Even Jesus was known to give financial advice. He said in Luke 16:9-11 (NASB), "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?"

I have traveled a number of places in the world where the thought of owning an automobile or house is unimaginable. Yet, in America,

there is a car for every man, woman and child – and, on average, we not only own our own houses, but we are always striving for something bigger and better.

God desires good things for his children, but when a new car, a new house or other material items come before Him, things are amiss, and it is a sin. While God only asks for 10 percent of our income, we should strive to give more to see the furtherance of the gospel during our lives on earth.

A man's worth isn't determined by his possessions (Luke 12:15).

God doesn't look at our outward appearance, rather at our hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). In fact, God considers a man who stores up treasures for himself a fool (Luke 12:20-21).

Without a doubt, it is a great day to be a follower of Jesus Christ, but as Christians, we must exercise prudent fiscal responsibility to be at our maximum effectiveness in doing kingdom work.

There has never been a debt crisis in God's economy. God owns all that is (Psalm 50:10). Jesus paid the debt of sin for all humanity on a dirty cross at Calvary. While we can never repay Him, we can tell others about Him so they can benefit from a gift that is "free and clear" for all eternity.

Tim Yarbrough is editor of the Arkansas Baptist News.



PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough

Tax credit for churches requires careful attention

In 2010, Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a law that included a provision called Small Employer Health Insurance Credit.

Essentially, the law provided a refundable tax credit to certain small employers that pay in excess of 50 percent of their employees' health insurance premiums. For exempt organizations, such as churches, the credit is 25 percent of the qualified health insurance coverage paid by the employer in years 2010-13, and 35 percent after 2013. After 2013, an exempt organization can only claim the credit for two consecutive years.

It is my fear that many churches will overlook this tax credit for the reason that they don't file a tax return. Churches are included in the general category of "exempt organizations" for this refundable tax credit. Congress has provided

a means for claiming the refund by properly completing a form 8941 and attaching it to a form 990-T, the form usually used by exempt organizations with "unrelated business income," or UBI.

The refundable credit is reserved for employers that meet certain eligibility rules:

The employer must employ 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees (FTEs).

The "average annual wage" per FTE must be less than \$50,000 per employee.

The employer must pay the majority of the employee's health insurance for the calendar year for each employee enrolled in (covered by) the plan.

For purposes of this credit,

ordained ministers are considered in the calculation of the number of FTE's and for the inclusion of their health insurance premiums

paid. However, the calculation of "average annual wage" does not include the minister's wages. This actually works to the

church's benefit in that a highly paid minister's wages would not inflate this "average annual wage" amount.

As an example, assume a church has five employees and pays all of the employees' health insurance. Let's assume the "average annual wage" of the four non-minister salaries is \$25,000. Let's also assume the total premiums paid by the church for the five employees are \$35,000 for 2010 (including the pastor). The potential tax credit

is \$8,750. This amount is then limited by the total employees' income tax withholding for both employee and employer portions of the Medicare tax. This odd limitation would not normally reduce the credit, but could.

The purpose of this discussion is to bring this benefit to the attention of all churches and to encourage churches to evaluate the cost benefits of filing for the credits. It is possible that, in a church's congregation, there may be a qualified person that would be willing to help in the evaluation process and in filling out the tax forms. However, if not, securing the services of a qualified accountant for a few hundred dollars could certainly pay off in receiving a tax credit such as the \$8,750 in the example. And remember, this credit extends for six years – 2010 through 2015.

GUEST VIEWPOINT

William T. Kinneman
certified public accountant
Little Rock

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Baptists Ask

What is the best Bible translation to buy?

When most Christians buy a new Bible, they want one for home and church use that is easy to read and understand. Because there are so many translations available, it is not always easy to decide which to buy. Therefore, it is essential for Christians to understand some fundamentals of Bible translations.



Gore

Some of the best English translations have been produced in the last 40 years. They have been written by committees of Bible scholars who have devoted their lives to the faithful translation of the biblical text. Committees try to balance the accuracy of the translation with a readable English. This is not a simple task, and most committees will prefer one side to the other.

It is not easy for a committee to decide how verses should be translated. Grammar and syntax can be difficult at times. Ancient weights, measurements and money are not easy to explain. Word plays, idioms and euphemisms make the task even harder, and there may be multiple ways to translate the verse. Therefore, every translation is also an interpretation.

Good modern translations provide an excellent tool for the reader: footnotes. Footnotes explain how a word, phrase or verse can be understood. They may elaborate words and phrases, or furnish the variations from the ancient manuscripts. They may also provide references to a biblical or extra-biblical source. Footnotes give the reader a lot of freedom to decide how best to understand a text.

With these fundamentals in mind, Christians should examine various translations, find the one they like and choose it for daily reading. They should also choose a couple of other translations to aid in their personal Bible study. A good commentary is also a helpful tool. These resources will provide Christians a valuable understanding of the biblical text.

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

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

Failures are never final

The most lopsided game in college football history took place in the early 1900s between Georgia Tech and Cumberland College. What is amazing is that so many points were scored in a day when running three yards in a cloud of dust was common and spread offenses didn't exist.

The story goes that after a 63-point first quarter onslaught by Georgia Tech, the only question that remained was whether or not Cumberland College would quit or actually stay and finish the game after halftime. Cumberland stayed, and the score ended with Georgia Tech winning 220-0! An interesting event happened toward the end of the game that became

a memorable play and a teachable moment for life. A kick returner took the kickoff, ran up the field, was hit by a Georgia Tech player and fumbled the football and in sheer exhaustion yelled to a teammate, "Quick, pick up the ball!"

The teammate replied, "Pick it up yourself. You dropped it!"

Have you ever fumbled in life? Sure you have. We have all been there, haven't we? We are tired and frustrated. In fact, we might even say that we are exhausted from the rat race of life, schedules that are overflowing and more to do on our "to-do lists" than we could ever get accomplished. We get distracted, and without warning, when faced with temptation, the opportunity to bend the rules or a chance to take a shortcut, we

find ourselves fumbling. We make the wrong decision, or we say the wrong thing. Maybe we let someone down, even ourselves, and we make a mess of our lives. Perhaps we just were not paying enough attention to what we were doing, but we discover that we have fumbled again. Guilt, discouragement, depression and

frustration move into our lives. Satan shows up to point out all of our mistakes again and how we are failures.

Even churches sometimes fumble. We try things, and they don't succeed; or, we allow opportunities to pass us by without ever trying to move forward. We forget that, in our churches, it is new things that reach new people.

If you find yourself in such a place today, then let me remind you the good

news of God's Word is that failures are never final. We need to remember the words of David in Psalm 55:22 when he said, "Cast all your cares on the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." David overcame many obstacles, mistakes and failures in His life for God to use Him in a great way. God has not forgotten you or your church, and He has certainly not written you off. If you have fumbled or if the church has fumbled, then pick up the ball and get back into the game. It is always too soon to quit. You will be amazed at what God will do in your life or in your church once you get up, dust yourself off and begin following Him in obedience!

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



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Clay Hallmark

All the Wrong Places

by Rebecca Fisher, *Rebecca Fisher Books*, 2010

A California mortuary - a place of corpses, a place of death. And for author Rebecca Fisher, a place of life.

It was at the mortuary that, after fleeing her abusive husband, Fisher raised her daughter. And it was there, amid death, that Fisher sought to rebuild her life.

Now, in her semiautobiographical debut novel "All The Wrong Places," Fisher weaves pieces of her own experiences into the fictitious life of single mother Casey Wheeler.

Fleeing with her daughter from her own abusive husband, Wheeler crashes her car near Golden Oaks Funeral Home and soon finds herself not only given shelter, but also given a home and a job at the mortuary.

In the midst her ironic new life in a place

of death, Wheeler finds a family in the characters of the funeral home. But as she goes about her odd new job, she is also forced to take part in a brutal custody battle.

BOOK REVIEW

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

Throughout her book, Fisher addresses the topics of single motherhood and domestic abuse - topics that relate all-too-well

to an astonishing number of people today. But along with these, Fisher writes about faith and friendship.

"My pursuit of self-discovery, independence, love and faith are all lived out in this book," said Fisher, who holds English and education degrees.

Fisher, who teaches high school English, lives in California with her husband and two daughters.

For more information about Fisher, visit <http://rebeccafisherbooks.com>.



Personalizing information in a data-driven world

When you realize how fast the quantity of information is growing, you understand the difficulty Christian leaders have trying to get people to remember God's Word. There are about 540,000 words in the English language. That is about five times as many as during Shakespeare's day. It is estimated that a week's worth of *The New York Times* contains more information than a person in the 18th century was likely to come across in a lifetime.

The amount of technical information is doubling every two years. For students starting a four-year technical degree, this means half of what they learn as freshmen will be outdated by their third year of study.

It took 38 years for radio to reach an audience of 50 million, television only 13 years and the computer four

years. But, Apple's iPod took only three years to reach 50 million people; Facebook did it in two. In 2006, 2.7 billion searches a month were performed on Google.

In America today, 60 percent of the general population could not list five of the Ten Commandments, and half of all high school seniors thought Sodom and Gomorrah were married.

No wonder people are not as interested in the Bible and church. Many never hear about it. There are too many things competing for their attention and time. This makes it imperative that

we, as believers, live in a way that draws attention to Christ, His goodness and His power to transform lives. Personalizing information is one way to make it stand out from the mass of data people come in contact with daily. Are you allowing Christ to live through you each day to draw attention to Himself and His glory?

GUEST VIEWPOINT

Steve Baillio
minister of education
First Baptist, Blytheville

Pastor says missions 'spreading like wildfire'

River Valley church lends a hand in Joplin

Jessica Vanderpool
Arkansas Baptist News

DARDANELLE – To some, it was just a blanket. But to the team from First Baptist Church, Dardanelle, it was an answer to prayer and a way to serve the hurting.

It was late May, just a couple of days after a deadly tornado ripped through Joplin, Mo., and a team from First Baptist had come to lend a hand in the midst of the destruction.

They had brought a U-Haul full of bottled water, much of which had been donated by their community, and had delivered it to three distribution centers. Now they were helping victims sort through the rubble that had once been their homes. At this particular location, there was a specific request – find the beloved blanket of the homeowner's little girl.

Almost an hour went by as team members searched.

"It was like looking for a needle in a haystack. Nothing looked like anything!" exclaimed Chris Weber, missions coordinator at First Baptist and team leader for trips to Joplin.

As the team was "about to give up," Weber uttered a prayer.

"I just said, 'God, there is nothing I can do here for these people. All they have asked from me is for that blanket. Please, God, I am not leaving until I find it.'

"Literally moments after praying those words, we lifted a mattress and box springs out of the rubble, and there it was sandwiched between them," said Weber. "I never knew a blanket could bring so many tears."

In fact, he said the majority of the day included "lots of digging, lots of praying, lots of crying and hugging."

And when the team left at the end of the day, they felt confident they would return.

That first trip was prompted by church member Melinda Adams, who stayed in Joplin for the remainder of the week after the team left. Originally, the church had been planning to minister in Alabama following the tornado that hit Tuscaloosa. However, when Joplin was nearly destroyed by another tornado, Adams contacted Weber about shifting their focus to the newly devastated area.

A second team from First Baptist traveled to Joplin July 7-9.

Weber explained it was a fairly spontaneous trip, but he was able to get in touch with Jon Smith, the Baptist Student Union director at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, and he gave them a place to stay. And then, just hours before

leaving for Joplin, Weber also got in contact with a local church through which they could work. With that, they hit the road with a trailer full of supplies.

"We did a lot of yard work, debris removal, home cleanup and some light construction," Weber said. "In a day and a half, we were able to help five families at least get to where they can start the rebuilding process."

Weber explained how God put a man in their path who had no insurance, but needed repairs done. Weber requested his team be assigned to the project, and they were able to serve by tearing down siding. Then, team member Terry Mitchell learned of more work that needed to be done



Home of tornado victim.

SECURITY

continued from page one

deacon Jason Wilkinson.

Elmore and Wilkinson began their ministry after Second Baptist fell victim to theft.

The theft occurred on a Saturday morning in 2008 while the women's ministry group at the church was holding a meeting. A few exterior doors were left open, allowing a man to enter the church building. Among other items, a video camera and a computer were stolen. A number of the women saw the man walking around the building but did not question him.

'Not us!'

"The reaction is to think, 'This doesn't happen here, so he must be all right,'" said Elmore, recounting the events.

Following the theft, Elmore and Wilkinson decided to start a church security ministry. "We go out to churches and talk to them about, basically, common sense things that most churches don't think about."

Elmore stresses the importance of churches securing themselves without silencing the gospel.

"It's more preventative medicine, if you want to look at it that way. It's, 'What can we do to reduce the odds of these bad things happening at our church without harming the message of the gospel or our reputation to the public.' It's a fine line," he said.

The church security consulting ministry has grown mostly by word-of-mouth.

"We haven't tried to bring at-

ention to ourselves," said Elmore. "We don't charge for this. If we are going to a church or association, we just ask that you would get us there and feed us while we are there."

Elmore said he and Wilkinson are "just attempting to meet needs with the skills that God has blessed us with." Both have long been active in church; Elmore's father was a Southern Baptist minister when he was growing up. They both see their newfound church security ministry as a blending of their passions for God and for what is right.

Both men feel fortunate that their schedules usually allow them to work within the availabilities of the members of the churches they minister to. Elmore said they usually hold their meetings on Saturdays.

The men customize curriculum specifically for the church or association with which they are working, in an attempt to provide them with practical steps to insure the members and church, as a whole, are kept from harm.

The conference attempts to address all forms of church security, not just the blatant things, such as exterior theft, said Elmore.

"In our conferences, we talk about financial security. We talk about property, the physical buildings; we get into insurance and other things like that. Then we get to the personnel aspect of your staff, your children and of corporate worship." Elmore said most issues churches face seem to stem from domestic problems.

While church security is an issue everywhere, Elmore and Wilkinson focus their efforts on Arkansas.

"Every state has different laws according to who can do what in a

church and what constitutes security," said Elmore. "And also, most of this is designed for the small church. The large churches, the mega-churches, all have huge security budgets and security on staff, or they are getting off-duty local law enforcement from the jurisdiction in which they live. But the small churches don't have those kinds of resources."

Being a full-time pastor has really helped him to connect with Arkansas churches, Elmore said.

"At our church, especially, we have a whole bunch of walk-up benevolence cases, and we have a strict way that we go about that and giving out benevolence assistance. We talk a lot about that in our conference, and we have found a lot of churches want to talk about that, too, because they have the same issues. It just helps to form a bond. There are some issues that all churches share; all are unique, but there are just some things that we can all relate to," he said.

While conferences attempt to prepare churches to provide their members with a healthy and safe environment, Elmore admits, "Truthfully, you can't prevent anything; you can only deter."

The best advice Elmore provides to churches is to make it difficult for criminals to strike.

"Most criminals or people who have bad intentions are opportunistic people, and they don't want to work hard for whatever it is that they are trying to achieve," he said. "Anything that you can do to be a deterrent is going to help. If they come by and think, 'Oh no, I've got to do all this,' then they'll move on to the next target."

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.

Contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@arkansasbaptist.org.

Church Building & Facilities

IN SPITE OF tough economic times, Arkansas churches are building, renovating and updating furnishings in an effort to more effectively reach their communities for Jesus Christ.

The *Arkansas Baptist News* is launching a new section – Church Building & Facilities – which will appear periodically, highlighting how God is leading Arkansas churches to find new ways to make disciples.

From Calvary Baptist's completely new building in Little Rock, to extensive renovation work done by First Baptist, Fordyce, you'll find inspiring stories about the work being done – all for God's glory.

Photo by Ed Simpson

Calvary building mixes 'old with the new'

Jenny Redfern
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – A 100-year-old bell rings to signal the beginning of worship on Sunday morning. Members fill the curved pews that reflect the arched beams above. Organ pipes are on display for all to see, and a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system enhances the

worship experience.

The new sanctuary at Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, presents a unique combination of both old and new.

Calvary Baptist members realized the need for a new sanctuary in 2000. They agreed the building was dated and lacked sufficient restrooms and space for special worship services.

“When the foundation deteriorated and began to flood with periodic rains, building a new worship center became a necessity,” Calvary Pastor Ed Simpson said.

Additionally, Simpson said the building was no longer meeting the expectations of guests or the church's ministry objectives.

See **CALVARY** page 10



First Fordyce undergoes \$750,000 renovation

Cassie Franklin
Arkansas Baptist News

FORDYCE - First Baptist Church, Fordyce, has undergone a \$750,000 renovation. Pastor Stacy Reed said the church launched a capital campaign in June 2010 with the help of Denny Wright and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC).

Though the campaign began in 2010, the need for a new facility was realized long before that time. "The process began about five years earlier when a long-range planning committee was created to study the needs for the church five years out, 10 years out and further," said Reed.

"Each time the committee met and tried to start planning, it was noted that well before we do anything, this or that needs to be fixed and brought up to date."

With the realization that many changes were needed, the committee evaluated the facility and determine exactly what needed to be repaired.

"The team decided to do a walk-through of our facility and identify some fixes that needed to be made before we began to look too far down the road. It was in that process that we began to realize how

bad our facility had gotten over the years," said Reed. "It was estimated that much of our worship space had not been touched since it was built in the 50s."

After the walk-through, members realized the need and plans were set in motion for renovation work.

"Our committee chair asked a construction company he was familiar with, Hydco, to come and do a walk-through with us and put together some suggestions and bids," said Reed.

Due in part to the depressed economy, church members were surprised with the bid. They "tabled everything, and prayed and met and prayed and met," said Reed. "Then about a year ago, we decided, regardless of what the country's economy was doing, if this was God's will, He would see it through."

The church contacted Wright, who serves as the ABSC leadership and worship team leader. With the convention's assistance, the church launched a "Partners in Purpose" campaign.

"Through that campaign, we visited each church member's home and asked them to pray about what they felt led by the Lord to give to help



A renovated worship center was part of extensive work at First Baptist, Fordyce.

meet our needed costs for remodeling," said Reed. "Then a couple of weeks later, members turned in their pledged giving for the next three years to reach our goal at our church-wide celebration banquet."

The staff and committee were overwhelmed by the response of the pledges. "At the celebration, we announced the pledges and were amazed at how God had led our people to give above their regular tithes for this need."

Through the campaign, the church was able to renovate multiple areas, including the sanctuary. The "stage, sound system, choir loft, ceiling, pews and floors" were all renovated, along with the sanctuary foyer.

Walls and flooring were redone, and the men's and women's restrooms were expanded in the adult education building.

Reed said the youth area was made handicap accessible, two rooms were expanded, an automatic humidifier was installed and the entire building was waterproofed.

In the children's area, major renovations were completed, including new restrooms, flooring, walls and ceilings. Reed said to create a more child-like feel to the area, Christian-themed murals appropriate for children will be completed by the end of August.

Additionally, the church's family

life center was renovated to include new flooring, paint and carpeting.

While the renovations were going on, it was evident to the community that things were changing at First Baptist.

"Our community became very curious at what was going on at First Baptist," said Reed.

"Some families joined our church during this time because of the excitement around our church and what God was doing in the lives of our church members."

The first worship service was held in the newly renovated sanctuary in February. "We held our first worship service to a packed house of close to 400," Reed said.

While the church realizes that changes needed to be made, they are grateful for the opportunity they have been given to reach the community with the new facilities, Reed added.

"Our facilities have given us more space and better resources to be creative in our ministry, and our church continues to grow," he said.

"I know that the remodeling, itself, did not lead to growth, as that is the work of the Lord, but God used this moment in the life of our church to cause us to renew our commitment to Him and to the work of His church."

Contact Cassie Franklin at cassie@arkansasbaptist.org.

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At Heber Springs Baptist Church

New activity center promotes fellowship

Jenny Redfern
Arkansas Baptist News

HEBER SPRINGS – After months of stops, starts and delays due to weather, Heber Springs Baptist Church was handed the keys to the new family activity center in June 2010.

Pastor Mike Love said the church had been in the planning stages for the center since 2004 when they realized the need for additional classrooms, a kitchen and fellowship hall space.

In 2006, they made the commitment to start fundraising. After the three-year process, the actual building started in April 2009, through the help of architect Rik Sowell and contractor NOACON.

That summer and fall it rained on and off. Love said the Little Rock TV stations reported that it was the most rain the area had received in many years.

“By the time we finally got to pour concrete and begin the framing, it turned real cold,” he said. “It went from wet weather to cold, snowy, icy.”



The Heber Springs Baptist Church family activity center includes classrooms and a kitchen.

The rainy weather let up in the early part of 2010, and the building started up again in February at top speed.

“They were able to get a lot of work done in a short amount of time,” Love said. “Overall, we were delayed about two months.”

The \$950,000 building holds

eight classrooms, a childcare office, a commercial kitchen, a small dining room and a basketball court.

The center features two bathrooms that also serve as safe rooms during bad weather.

“Our sanctuary is a metal building, and tornados do a lot of damage to metal buildings,” Love said.

“For our childcare area, we were able to make the toilet areas safe rooms, so we are able to get our children in there if there is a threat of tornado.”

Love said the family activity center has benefited several areas of the church’s ministry.

The childcare ministry, which takes care of bed babies, provides a pre-kindergarten curriculum and offers a before-and-after-school program, reaps many of these benefits.

The new kitchen allows the church to prepare hot meals and snacks for the children so parents do not have to pack sack lunches. The basketball court also provides a game room where the children can play when the weather is too hot, cold or rainy.

The basketball court functions in many other roles. The whole church is now able to gather for fellowships to meet or eat, Love said. It also has the AWANA game court mapped out on the floor for Wednesday nights, as well as serves as a place for fall festivals and other major events.

Contact Jenny Redfern at jenny@arkansasbaptist.org.

Church building checklist

WHEN IS THE right time to build? Your church should ask the following questions before building:

- Does the church have an existing recreation program that involves children, youth, adults and senior adults?

- Does the church have a full-time staff person, other than the pastor, with recreation programming responsibility?

- Does the church understand the additional manpower, both volunteer and paid, required for proper operation of a facility?

- Does the church have adequate financial resources to perpetually budget each year for the ongoing expenses of church recreation programming, staffing, maintenance, equipment, utilities, insurance, etc.?

- Does the church have a plan for controlling, staffing and maintaining hours of operation of the building?

- Is the current need for a facility being met by rented or borrowed space from other community groups (schools, community center, YMCA, etc.)? If so, has the use of these been maximized?

- Is there an ample amount of good, quality space to meet the education, worship and parking space needs for all age groups for at least the next five years?

- Does the church own adequate property for expansion of worship, education, recreation

and parking facilities for the foreseeable future of the church?

- Does the church have a long-range master plan for the stewardship of all property owned?

- Can the church afford to build commercial quality, durable construction that fits with other buildings on-site and purchase heavy-duty furnishings that will withstand the recreational use and potential abuse of such a facility?

- Does the church recognize that a recreation building alone will not make it grow or be more evangelistic?

If the answer to all of these questions is yes, go full speed ahead. You are a good candidate for a church recreation or multi-purpose facility. If the answer to even one of these questions is no, the church should do one of the following:

1. Reconsider building a church recreation facility until these issues have been addressed.

2. Plan to address them in the early planning stages of the project.

For more information about master planning and building design contact LifeWay Church Resources at 615-251-2466.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention offers help to churches that want to more effectively use existing space and plan for growth. For more information, contact Lynn Riley at 800-838-2272, ext. 5132, or lriley@absc.org.



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CALVARY

continued from page 7

The actual vote to build came in 2009, after years of research, planning and town hall meetings. Deciding to build during a low-point in the economy was one of the church's biggest challenges.

"It was a huge step of faith, which now is viewed as a wise move," Simpson said. "An 85 percent approval was required in order to build. The vote was 91 percent in favor."

The \$4.9 million building took 16 months to build. Almost a year and a half later, the debt stands at \$3.9 million.

"Giving has been generous, despite the tough economy," Simpson said.

The new sanctuary is what Simpson calls a "beautiful traditional design." The 17,500-square-foot building is largely dedicated to worship

and seats 600 people. Additional rooms allow for fellowship, teaching, weddings and storage.

The exterior is made of brick, wood and stone, while the interior is constructed of large wooden beams, a wooden ceiling and oak trim.

Although the new sanctuary has only been in use about three months, Simpson said it has already made a huge impact

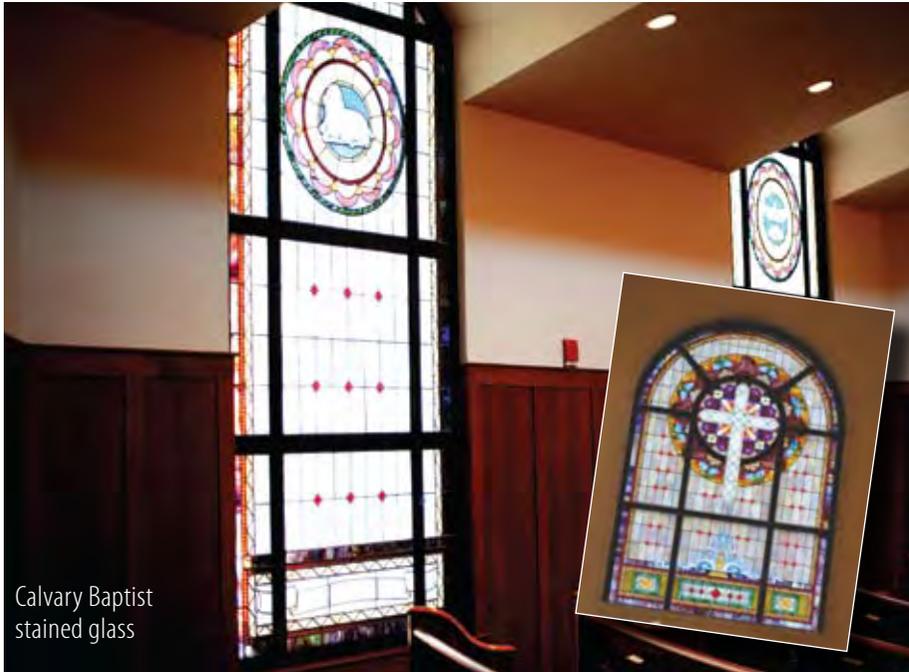
in the community. Calvary Baptist has seen new guests almost every Sunday, and the worship services are "more engaging and inviting," Simpson explained.

"A building is merely a tool to help the believers, the real church, reach more people," he said. "Our desire is to offer an open door, allowing those outside the church to find their way to Christ and our people to find their way into their hearts."

Contact Jenny Redfern at jenny@arkansasbaptist.org.



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Crossett Baptist woman records song

Jenny Redfern
Arkansas Baptist News

CROSSETT - "When I look at you, I see forgiveness, I see the truth," sings Miley Cyrus as the credits roll at the end of the 2010 film "The Last Song." The lyrics are from her single, "When I Look at You," from the album "The Time of Our Lives," released in 2009.

On August 25, 2011, Alex Edmonds of First Baptist Church, Crossett, will release her rendition of the song to Christian radio.

The 21-year-old does not claim to be a Cyrus fan, but after hearing the lyrics to this song, she said she knew it had to be about more than just a person.

"We all deal with different struggles, but if we can put ourselves before God, He is faithful to take care of them," she said. "Our problems kind of melt away, and that's what this song is really about."

The new single will not be the first time Edmonds has received radio play, but she said it is by far her favorite and the most personal single she has released.

Her record "The Blue EP" debuted nationwide in January 2010, and her songs have been featured on many stations in the United States and around the world. Currently, Edmonds is busy booking dates for her fall 2011 tour and writing songs for her 2012 album.



Edmonds

"I haven't recorded anything I've written yet," she said. "But I'm really ready to do a new album and start a platform for teenage girls and the problems we have with self-esteem."

Edmonds said she was excited about writing songs about her past that were more relatable to this target audience.

Edmonds' parents divorced when she was age 3, and her mother remarried five times. She remembers rarely seeing her father and her mother working long days at the local mill to support her and her siblings.

"From that, there were a lot of neglect issues," Edmonds said. "But the absence of a loving family at home brought me closer to my church family and closer to God."

Edmonds accepted Christ as her

Savior at age 9 at vacation Bible school.

The next several years, Edmonds became more involved in music through the church and with the support of her grandmother and family. She sang in the children's choir and the youth praise band.

It was during those teenage years she began to struggle with stress and low self-esteem. After the death of her great-grandmother and cousin, two of her favorite people in the world, Edmonds hit a low point.

After church camp one summer, Edmonds felt like God was telling her He had to break her before He could use her. The new understanding transformed her into a completely different person, she said.

"I feel like He's let me break, and it's brought me closer to Him so I'm ready to use my testimony and my life to help others," she added.

Edmonds said it was experiencing this connection during performing with the praise band that drew her to the ministry side of music.

"I remember nights after the band would sing people coming up and saying they felt God speaking through my voice," said Edmonds. "I was in awe, and I just remember thinking, 'Is this really what you

want me to do, Lord?'"

Edmonds was performing a solo in the Christmas program at her church in 2008 when Christian recording artist Jim Murphy heard her sing for the first time.

"The very first thing I thought when I heard her sing was, 'Wow, she's definitely got something really special with her voice,'" Murphy said.

Murphy said he worked with her, recording songs in his home studio, but soon realized she needed a bigger platform. He helped sign her on with Mission House Music, and she released her first EP in 2009. The two now tour together.

To this day, Edmonds said she is still reminded of Matthew 6:33, "Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."

"He had to let me break before He could use me," she said. "And from that experience, I'll always know and be able to testify that in a time when it seems Jesus is all you have, you realize that He's all you truly need."

Learn more about Alex Edmonds at www.arkansasbaptist.org.

Contact Jenny Redfern at jenny@arkansasbaptist.org.

NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital receives top 5 percent award

JONESBORO - NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital has been awarded its third consecutive Outstanding Patient Experience Award by HealthGrades, an independent health care ratings organization.

NEA Baptist is only one of four hospitals in Arkansas to receive the honor, ranking it among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation for patient experience, according to HealthGrades. The ranking is based on patients' responses to the annual Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey.

"We believe when patients choose to come to our facility, we have a duty to provide them with the very best care possible," said Al Brodell, NEA Baptist's director of rehabilitation services, who spearheads the hospital's patient satisfaction efforts. "Our administrative team, our directors and managers, our front line staff and support personnel all understand that patient satisfaction comes from quality care."

Brodell said NEA Baptist staff invest time and energy in various patient satisfaction initiatives, from setting high standards for care to visiting patients. He added that a team of employees is charged with ensuring everyone in the hospital

adheres to the principles of Service First, which is designed to encourage employees to make patients and their needs a priority.

"Our Service First committee oversees these initiatives and works to ensure we give quality care using evidence-based practices and techniques. Our administration team visits patients daily, and staff visit patients every hour," said Brodell. "Simply put, we strive to satisfy every patient at every interaction every time."

NEA Baptist is a 100-bed facility in Jonesboro affiliated with both Baptist Memorial Health Care and NEA Baptist Clinic, with services that include cancer, emergency, neurology, radiology and surgery.

The hospital's Women's Center offers labor and delivery services, in addition to childbirth and breastfeeding classes. The Heart Center offers interventional cardiology, cardiac rehabilitation and chest pain emergency care, among other services.

NEA Baptist Health System, which comprises NEA Baptist and NEA Baptist Clinic, is in the process of building a new medical campus that will include a new hospital and patient clinic. For more information about NEA Baptist, visit www.neabaptist.com.

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Briarwood Baptist gardens for Christ

MEMBERS OF Briarwood Baptist Church, Cabot, planted a garden this spring as a way to reach out to the community. Church member Wayne Jenkins was instrumental in beginning the project, said Fred Reddoch, Briarwood's pastor.

"(Jenkins) told me he wants 'to use the earthly harvest of the garden to produce a heavenly harvest for the kingdom of God,'" said Reddoch. "We plan to use the Briarwood garden to bless our own church members, but also to bless those outside the church."

He said vegetables grown will sup-

plement the church's food pantry ministry, as well as be given to visitors and shut-ins.

Jenkins said it was during a spiritual gifts class he discovered his "gift was probably in the field of service." After some thought, he realized he enjoyed gardening and often gave away his produce. That's when he thought about using unused land at the church for the garden.

"It's a way to involve your youth,

and it's a way to involve your seniors," he said. "So many projects within a church seem to be geared for people 20, 30 and 40 years old. This thing here, it's geared for all age groups because ... I can use them from 5 years old all the way up to 90."

Jenkins said he hopes other churches with vacant land will consider using it for something like a garden.

"Because you're not going to ruin your land," he explained. "If your church grows so big that you've got to have that land for the parking or something, pave it."

Reddoch noted, "We have a lot of excitement for the garden and how our Lord will use it to be a blessing."

For more information on starting a garden for outreach, contact Jenkins at 501-529-0226.

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Classifieds

PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Charleston has begun the search for a **full-time pastor**. Charleston is located 20 miles east of Fort Smith. We are looking for a man to lead our loving congregation in our beautiful town. A student pastor and secretary are on staff at this time. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 297, Charleston, AR 72933, Attn: Pastor Search Committee. Or send email to damonmckenzie@fbcharleston.com.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor or an interim pastor** to fulfill that office in a godly manner, upholding God's Word, as it is written, and can minister to the needs of the church. Contact Fred Goshen at frednbea@suddenlink.net.

Philadelphia Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ark., is seeking a **senior pastor**. Please send resumes to pastorsearchpbcc@gmail.com or mail to Philadelphia Baptist Church, 620 W. Philadelphia Rd., Jonesboro, AR 72401, Attn: Barry Bryant.

Cherry Street Baptist Church is currently seeking a **pastor**. CSBC is located in Clarksville, Ark., a city of 9,600 residents in Johnson County, where over 19,000 people reside. We have a loving, Christ-centered congregation and a beautiful sanctuary with a Sunday morning attendance of over 40. Our sanctuary accommodates approximately 250. We also have many classrooms to accommodate growth. The pastor's salary is \$40,000, plus a two-bedroom parsonage located next to CSBC. The University of Ozarks and downtown Clarksville are three blocks

from CSBC. Staff includes a part-time secretary, nursery worker and custodian. We are praying for a God-called pastor who is willing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in a variety of possible ministries. Send resumes to P.O. Box 378, Clarksville, AR 72830 or dstandri@suddenlink.net, or call Dennis at 479-754-8299.

Small central Arkansas church is seeking **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resume to Maddox Road Baptist Church, Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 6055, Jacksonville, AR 72078.

Tate Springs Baptist Church, located in Arlington, Texas, is a multi-generational, conservative Southern Baptist church looking for a **senior pastor** who can operate in a team approach with pastoral staff. Our total Sunday morning attendance is 600-650. Please forward resume to Terry Jeffries, pastor of administration, at terry@tatesprings.com or directly to the pulpit committee at pastorsearch@tatesprings.com.

First Baptist Church, Winslow, Ark., is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. We will accept resumes until Aug. 10, 2011. Please send to Pastoral Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 200, Winslow AR 72959.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

FBC, Pea Ridge, has an opening for a **part-time children's ministry position**. For more information, email jobs@prfbc.org or call 479-451-8192.

Traditional, conservative, growing Southern Baptist church in Memphis, Tenn., metropolitan area seeks **minister of youth and recreation**. Send resume by July 31 to Personnel, Covenant Baptist

Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

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

Area Baptist church located in Garland County is seeking a **part-time secretary** to work 20 hours per week. This position performs a multitude of clerical and light bookkeeping duties while maintaining absolute confidentiality. The successful candidate will be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher. We offer a smoke-free workplace with a family environment. The work schedule is flexible. However, it may require being available Sundays and Wednesdays. Starting pay is \$8.25 per hour. Resumes and a cover letter should be submitted by close of business August 31, 2011 to Search Committee, 110 Cordova Dr. Suite C-1, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909; scsboone@aol.com.

First Baptist Church of Kearney, Mo., is receiving resumes and recommendations for the **full-time position of associate pastor for youth ministry**. The position will include secondary responsibilities, based on the individual's giftedness. Send information to Dr. Ken Parker, pastor, First Baptist Church, 303 S. Grove Street, Kearney, MO 64060 or kparker@kearneyfbc.com.

Central Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., is seeking a **full-time worship pastor**. We are seeking a man that can lead in a variety of worship styles. We are seeking a man that can lead our people to live a life of worship as we seek to reach our community and beyond. Send resumes to P.O. Box 20336, White

Hall, AR 71612, or email to cbcpastor@cablelynx.com.

First Baptist Church of Paris, Ark., is seeking a **full- or part-time youth minister**. Send resumes to "Personnel Committee" at P.O. Box 567, Paris, AR 72855 or to jshearhart@parisfbc.com by Aug. 1. Please indicate on resume the desire for the full- or part-time position.

Bi-vocational youth director needed. Contact River Road Baptist, P.O. Box 161, Redfield, AR 72132. 501-397-2576 or 870-536-4109.

Marshall Road Baptist Church is interviewing for the position of **bi-vocational youth director**. Call 501-982-4564, ext. 22, or email at sammons2@comcast.net.

First Baptist Church, Forrest City, is seeking a **full-time minister of music**. If interested, send resume to 507 N. Rosser St., Forrest City, AR 72335.

Full-time position for worship leader/education/senior adults. If interested, please send resume to 501 North Main Street, Fordyce, AR 71742, Attn: Search Committee.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

We have 19 **pews**, 11 feet in length, with cushions. Asking \$100 each OBO. Contact 501.592.3787 if interested.

Obituaries

J.C. Myers, 87, of North Little Rock, died June 20. Myers graduated from Ouachita Baptist University and Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. He served as pastor of several Arkansas Baptist churches, including Rosedale Baptist Church, Little Rock, and First Baptist Church, North Little Rock. Myers was a member of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; one brother; one son; one daughter; one grandson; three granddaughters; two great-granddaughters; and two great-grandsons. Funeral services were held at Griffin Leggett-Rest Hills Funeral Home in North Little Rock June 24.

Klois L. Hargis, 89, of Hamburg, died June 27. He held degrees from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He served as a Southern Baptist pastor for more than 60 years in Oklahoma and Arkansas, including as pastor of First Baptist Church, Hamburg. He is survived by his wife, Margie; a son; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and multiple nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church, Hamburg, June 29.

Euna Faye Macks, 66, of Mountain Home, died June 7. On Aug. 4, 1967, she was married to Manuel Macks, pastor of Arkana Baptist Church, Mountain Home. She was active within the church and association, including Woman's Missionary Union and vacation Bible school. She also served on various committees, volunteered with the Red Cross in New Orleans and had 37 years of perfect Sunday school attendance. She is survived by her husband, one son, two grandchildren, four sisters,

one brother and many other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at Arkana Baptist Church June 10.

Church life

Tommy Cunningham, pastor of Mountain Home Baptist Church, Mountain Home, will hold a book signing for his autobiography, "The Preacher," Aug. 14 from 2-4 p.m. at Mountain Home Baptist. Copies of "The Preacher" will be available for purchase.

Central Baptist Church, Bald Knob, will host the Fishers of Men Retreat 2011 at the Norfolk River Resort in Norfolk Aug. 19-21. It will

include services led by evangelist Jack Daniels and a guided trout fishing trip. For more information, call Jamie McAnelly at 501-230-4397.

First Baptist Church, Rector, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Sept. 4 with a worship service at 10:15 a.m. Former friends and members are invited to attend.

Hot Springs Baptist Church, Hot Springs, will host a "Salt & Light" workshop Aug. 27. Brought by Christian Financial Principles in Hot Springs and Liberty Counsel, it will feature Scott Dixon, a constitutional attorney who will be informing attendees of their rights and privileges in the public schools. Call Liberty Counsel at 800-671-1776 to register and get your ticket.

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, will host The American Cancer Society Relay For Life-Walking By Faith fundraiser, beginning at 6 p.m. Aug. 12 and ending at 6 a.m. Aug. 13.

Ordinations

First Baptist Church, Green Forest, ordained Luke Stockeland to the gospel ministry June 26.

Milestones

Clarence Guest, member of First Baptist Church, Marvell, recently received the Silver Star for his service in Vietnam. U.S. Senator Mark Pryor, who pinned the Silver Star on Guest, said President Nixon had ordered that Guest be awarded the Silver Star in March 1971, but the award had never been presented due to an administrative oversight.

Literacy workshop rescheduled

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST State Convention-sponsored literacy missions workshop, scheduled for Aug. 12-13 at Baring Cross Baptist Church, Sherwood, has been rescheduled for Oct. 28-29. The two-

day conference, which will still be held at Baring Cross, will begin at 2 p.m. Oct. 28 and conclude at 5 p.m. Oct. 29. For more information, contact Breck Freeman or Oleta Raines at 800-838-2272, ext. 5150.

Called to Teach workshop set

CALLED TO TEACH, a workshop for educators, is set for July 28 at Fellowship Bible Church, Little Rock, and will feature Virginia educators Ray Moore and Scott Habeeb. It is sponsored by Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock; Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock; The Church

at Rock Creek, Little Rock; and Fellowship Bible Church. The event will teach attendees about living out their faith in the public school classroom and allow them to network with each other. For more information, visit www.nehemiahnetwork.org/called-to-teach2.

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Get away from the colder weather during the first week in January, avoid the post-holiday blahs, and enjoy the best New Year's Eve and New Year's Day you have had in years! Start in Los Angeles (4 nights) with a free day Saturday, December 31 to visit friends or family in L.A. or take an optional tour to the J. Paul Getty Museum or Reagan Library. That evening, New Year's Eve, delight in an exclusive, pre-parade, after public hours, float building and viewing at the Floats and Flowers Expo. Watch the artists put the finishing touches on the floats unencumbered by public crowds and enjoy a YMT exclusive presentation put together by the Tournament of Roses Committee. On Sunday, January 1, YMT will take you on your Los Angeles City Tour including Hollywood and Beverly Hills. On Monday, January 2, 2012, enjoy your **reserved grandstand seats at the Rose Parade!** You've seen it on TV for years, now see the most famous parade live and up close. On Tuesday, January 3, depart for Central California along the coast. Visit Santa Barbara and its Camino Real Mission; the Danish Village of Solvang; tour the Hearst Castle; and travel along Big Sur and California's famous Scenic Highway One, to Carmel-by-the-Sea and Monterey. Next, spend three nights in San Francisco with an included city tour one day, a tour of Alcatraz Island the next day, and a Saturday at leisure before flying home Sunday, January 8, 2012. *Per person, double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

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Christian recording group reunion tour comes to Arkansas

Truth 40th Anniversary Tour

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock
Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011 ❖ 6 p.m.

❖ The 40th year of TRUTH will be celebrated with an amazing tour beginning this fall.

❖ Songs that defined the generation who grew up with TRUTH will be introduced to a new generation of listeners, and the powerful message of the gospel will be shared with all who listen.

❖ Admission is free and a love offering will be taken. Make plans now to attend!



Stay true

The Rechabites were the descendants of Jehonadab, the son of Rechab (2 Kings 10). They were not ethnic Jews, but they lived among the Israelites and were faithful to the Lord. Jehonadab forbid his descendants to drink wine, farm or live in cities. The Rechabites were faithful to these rules for nearly 250 years. The Lord used the Rechabites as an object lesson for Judah.

The Lord told Jeremiah to gather the Rechabites in a room of the temple and instructed him to offer them wine (Jer. 35:2). Although a prophet was commanding them to drink the wine, the Rechabites refused to break their vow (Jer. 35:6).

Note the contrast between the Rechabites' faithfulness and the faithlessness of Judah. The Rechabites were faithful to a man (Jer. 35:14). Judah had not been faithful to the Lord their God (Jer. 35:15). Jehonadab was a fallible leader, but Judah's leader was the infallible God. The restrictions placed on the Rechabites were temporal. The commands of God had temporal and eternal consequences. The Rechabites were faithful to these commands for more than 200 years, while Judah constantly disobeyed the Lord (Jer. 35:16). The Rechabites would be rewarded for staying true, whereas Judah would

be punished (Jer. 35:17-19).

This past March my wife and I were part of a medical missions team in Armenia. The host Baptist church in Armenia was phenomenal. It was not because there were so many workers in the church that they had to create ministry positions for those who wanted to serve, but because of their faithfulness. Some of the church members were driving two and three hours to moun-

tain villages to start Bible studies and to do evangelism without any compensation. The church was always full of people doing ministry. To these believers, being faithful was a natural outflow of who they were in Christ.

God is faithful, and He expects His people to be faithful. As Christians, it should be our life goal to hear the Lord's commendation, "Well done, my good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).

There are about 40 "one another" passages in the New Testament, ranging from "forgive one another" to "submit to one another." These passages were relevant 2,000 years ago, and they still apply to us as we endeavor to be Christ's body in a dark world. "Love one another" is the most frequently repeated "one another" commandment.

It is found five times, underscoring that our lives must be characterized

by authentic love for each other.

I am always happy to see people who witness for Christ via bumper stickers, but let me give a word of warning to those who use such witnessing tools: Don't negate them by driving like a maniac! Last week, I was almost run over by a trucker whose bumper sticker invited me to "Follow him to (blank) Baptist Church." Bumper stickers, T-shirts, and

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE AUGUST 7, 2011

Greg Bowers
pastor

First Baptist Church, Blytheville

Scripture passage:
John 13:34-35;
1 John 3:10b-12, 16-18, 4:7-13, 19

Follow orders

The remnant in Judah asked Jeremiah to pray on whether they should stay in the land or go to Egypt (Jer. 42:1-3). They promised to obey whatever the Lord said (Jer. 42:6). After 10 days of prayer, Jeremiah told the people that the Lord wanted them to stay in the land under His protection (Jer. 42:10). They were told not to be afraid of the king of Babylon (Jer. 42:11). They were also given explicit warning not to go to Egypt (Jer. 42:19).

Jeremiah was accused of speaking falsely (Jer. 43:2). The remnant had already made up their minds and were on their way to Egypt (Jer.

41:17-18). Asking Jeremiah to pray was only pretense. They had no intentions in following orders.

Obedience is a mark of maturity in the life of the believer. The Lord places great value on obedience, even above sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22). Obedience is an outward expression of our worship (John 14:15).

We can express our obedience in several ways. First, we need a hunger to know God's Word. If we are going to be obedient, we need to know what He has commanded. Whether you read the Bible from a worn leather bound volume, Kindle or Nook, God's commandments

other witnessing items are great, but your best witness is having a loving heart. If the people of the world could see us genuinely in love with Jesus and each other, they would beat a path to our church doors.

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus gives last minute instructions to His disciples (John 13:34-35). He knows that they are about to face the greatest challenge of their lives, and He gives one guaranteed way to demonstrate their relationship to Him - genuine love for each other. The Greek word used here (and in 1 John) is "agape." It refers to loving someone in spite of his or her flaws and faults. That is

how God loves us, and that's how we ought to love each other.

The absence of love (1 John 3:10b-12): Cain is an example of how not to act. He killed his brother in the Bible's first recorded act of violence. Keep in mind that murder is not always physical. It is possible to kill the person within the person.

The application of love (1 John 3:16-18): Love is best demonstrated in a life of service to others. It is a lifestyle, not a slogan.

The archetype of love (1 John 4:7-13, 19): God is the supreme model of love. We must follow His example as best we can until He calls us home.

never change. Culture, customs and technologies are constantly changing, but God's Word never changes (Isa. 40:8; 1 Pet. 1:25).

Secondly, we should have a desire to live righteous lives. To be righteous is to forsake sin, lust and the evil things of the world and live right before the Lord (Titus 2:11-12; 1 Pet. 1:15-16).

Lastly, we need to be receptive to receiving constant direction from

the Lord. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us, remind us, correct us and help us to understand the direction the Lord wants us to go (Psa. 25:4-5).

We need to know God's commands and keep them (Luke 11:28). God would never command us to do something we could not do. Obedience is always possible anywhere and in any situation.

Irina Porchek has lived in the same house in the Ukraine for 70 years. During World War II, she came home one night to find a big hole in the floor of her bedroom. Assuming it was a sinkhole, she had it repaired and thought nothing else about it. Fifty years later, workers who were laying new phone lines under her house brought some distressing news. They'd found a huge bomb! The hole Irina had cov-

ered up was from an errant German bomb. She had slept over it for 50 years, blissfully unaware of its potential damage.

Some people sleep with something even more destructive - a heart full of bitterness and an unwillingness to forgive someone who has hurt them. It affects a person physically, emotionally and socially, but most importantly, it affects them spiritually. An individual will never enjoy the abun-

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE AUGUST 14, 2011

Greg Bowers
pastor

First Baptist Church, Blytheville

Scripture passage:
Colossians 3:12-13; Philemon 1:8-22

The corrosive cancer of unforgiveness

dant life promised by Jesus until he or she learns to forgive.

In Colossians 3, Paul commands that we dress for success, spiritual success. We must clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness. He commands that we forgive in the same way that God has forgiven us. Forgiving us cost God more than we will ever be able to comprehend. We pile on more hurt when we refuse to forgive our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Forgiving someone is not the same as excusing someone. For example, if you are the victim of a crime, you probably need to press

charges and let the justice system do its work. You can forgive and still allow for justice. You forgive primarily for your sake, not someone else's sake.

In Philemon, Paul speaks of forgiveness as acceptance. Onesimus, a former slave, had escaped but had become a Christian while living on the lam. He becomes a great help to Paul. Paul insists that he return to his owner, but Paul writes Philemon in order to plead for mercy and acceptance, rather than vengeance as permitted by the law. Forgiving a brother or sister in Christ includes willingness to fellowship with them and to serve God alongside them.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE AUGUST 7, 2011

Gerald Nash
member

Second Baptist Church, Conway

Scripture passage:
Jeremiah 35

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

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Deadline to register: Sept. 9

Late registration: Sept. 16

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

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

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

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Church security
Arkansas pastor and police officer discusses church security.

PAGE 1

Joplin missions
FBC, Dardanelle, members serve in Joplin and share their love of missions.

PAGE 6

Sturgis rally goal: plant church for bikers

STURGIS, S.D. (BP) – After this year’s Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Baptists in the Dakotas want to birth a church.

“We would like to have a church planter and core group in place in the Black Hills by the end of this year,” said Garvon Golden, interim executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention.

“What we envision is that this would be the first of many churches across the Dakotas and beyond started as a result of what we do here at Sturgis the first week of August each year.”

Dakota Baptists’ evangelism ministry at Sturgis involves about 250 volunteers from across the country who share their faith at the annual gathering of about 500,000 bikers and biker-wannabes – arguably the largest motorcycle event in the world.

Volunteers are trained in giving 3-minute testimonies of the change God has made in their lives to “the affinity group we call ‘bikers,’” as Golden put it. Anyone at Sturgis willing to listen then can enter a drawing for a brand-new Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

‘Cru’ is new name for Campus Crusade

FT. COLLINS, Colo. (BP) – Campus Crusade for Christ has announced it is ditching its name in the United States for a new, simplified one – Cru.

The old name is being shirked for a new one because, as Campus Crusade for Christ said in its press release, the ministry hopes to “overcome existing barriers and perceptions inherent in the original name.”

One contention with the old name is the word “crusade.” It no longer carries the same reputation it did when the organization was founded by Bill and Vonette Bright in 1951.

For some, in a post-9/11 world “crusade” conjures

up thoughts of jihad or of the Holy Wars of the 12th and 13th centuries.

“Cru” is a nickname frequently used throughout its campus ministries since the mid-90s.

Although “Cru” may not seem far from “crusade,” Campus Crusade for Christ has field tested the new name since the 1990s and has found no negative connotation with the ministry’s future name. In contrast, the name “Campus Crusade for Christ” has caused some people to lose interest in the ministry’s message, the organization says.

Pastor must recant or face execution

WASHINGTON (BP) – Iranian pastor Yousef Nadarkhani faces execution unless he renounces his faith in Christ, a written verdict from the country’s supreme court has confirmed.

Baptist Press reported July 8 that Christians in Iran were challenging news reports that Nadarkhani’s death penalty had been annulled. The Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) human rights organization reported July 14 that the court’s written verdict had been released, confirming that Nadarkhani faces execution unless he renounces his faith.

The original verdict on charges of apostasy was based on “fatwas” by Iran’s most powerful religious leaders – Ayatollahs Khomeini, Khamenei and Makarem Shirazi – meaning the Supreme Court may have been reluctant to overturn the verdict for fear of inviting controversy, CSW advocacy director Andrew Johnston said in a press statement.

Following reports of the verdict, the U.S. State Department issued a statement expressing “dismay” over the situation, according to *Fox News*. Human rights advocates, however, say apostasy isn’t even identified as a crime under Iranian law.

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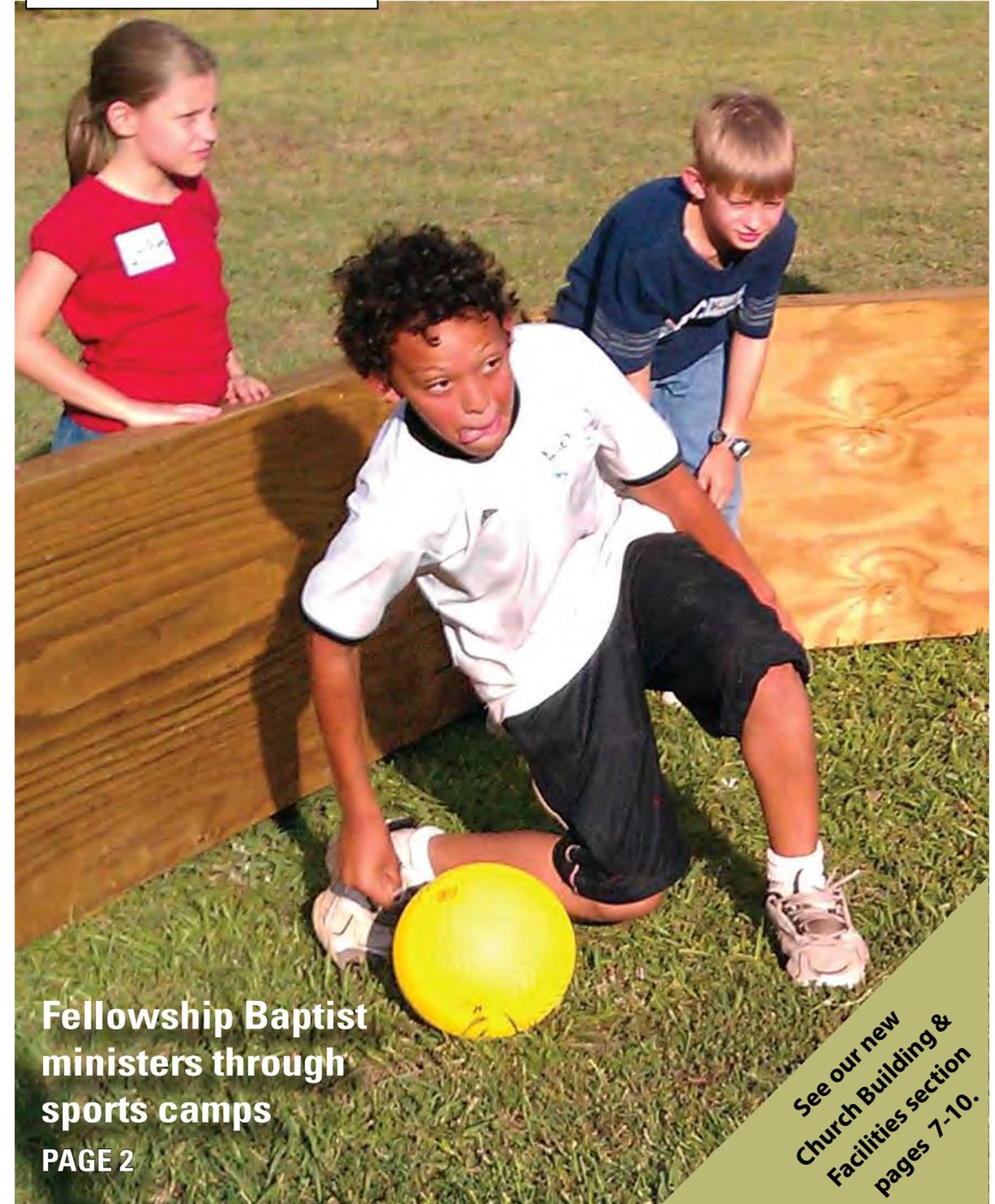
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Individual subscriptions for both editions may be purchased at www.arkansasbaptist.org. Please call the *ABN* office to discuss church plans.



Fellowship Baptist ministers through sports camps

PAGE 2

See our new Church Building & Facilities section pages 7-10.