



# 'OneChurch' a unique experience

Jenny Redfern  
Arkansas Baptist News

CONWAY - Nestled between the shops and attractions of downtown Conway, oneChurch does not look like a typical church.

Walk through the doors to be immediately greeted by one, two or 20 people dressed in T-shirts and jeans, and oneChurch does not feel like a typical church. Sit through 5 minutes of the laidback service to see a baby goat dragged down the aisle, and oneChurch does not seem at all like a typical church.

But that is kind of the point.

When God first started working on the hearts



of Paul Hudson and his wife, Christy, two years ago, it was for a church that was not-so-typical.

"God painted a picture of starting a church that was not better, just different," Hudson said.

"I believe it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people, but we saw a gap in people who had experienced, been hurt by church or been burned by church."

Hudson, who was executive pastor at Second Baptist Church, Conway, at the time, prayed and fasted throughout a 30-day period and then knew what he had to do. After much prayer and preparation, oneChurch's first service took place March 7, 2010.

A year and a half later, the church is averaging about 200 people on Sunday mornings.

About 65 percent of those attending have never

See **ONECHURCH** page 7



Glen Brooks, a member of Ruddell Hill Baptist Church, Batesville, volunteers during Make a Difference Day. See story on page 2.

## Arkansas has 'high survival rate'

# Church planting a priority for ABSC

Tim Yarbrough  
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK - While the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) aggressively supports church-planting efforts in the Natural State, the goal of the convention is not just to plant churches - but churches that have a lasting kingdom impact.

Emil Turner, ABSC executive director, feels it is important for a new church start to thrive - not just to survive. He said supporting church planters and their efforts with training, leadership tools and financial resources is a big reason why church planting in Arkansas is successful.

Southern Baptist church planting has been in the headlines a lot lately due, in part, to the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) renewed emphasis on starting new churches.

On May 27, NAMB announced, for example, that it is setting aside \$15 million for church plant loans, in addition to continuing to make loans to existing churches.

Arkansas does not make loans for

new church starts, but supports new work with funds provided by Cooperative Program giving and the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering.

See **CHURCHES** page 3



## Students to use iPads

LITTLE ROCK - Arkansas Baptist Elementary School will begin offering supplemental instruction using the iPad in kindergarten 3, 4 and 5 for the 2011-2012 school year, according to Arthur Bennett, superintendent of the Arkansas Baptist School System, which is housed at First Church, Little Rock.

The Apple iPad is a touch-pad tablet computer released in April 2010. It has

See **STUDENTS** page 9

## 'He is an unbelievable guy'

# Harris named ABN's 'Father of the Year'

ALMA - Garland "Gano" Harris, a member of First Baptist Church, Alma, has been named the 2011 ABN Father of the Year. Jessica Vanderpool, ABN assistant editor/office manager, presented Harris a study Bible during the June 12 worship service at First Baptist.

"We are so happy for him," said Bob Shelton, pastor at First Baptist. "He is an unbelievable guy."

ABN readers nominated fathers by submitting a "Tribute to a Godly Father." Harris' children, Charlene Fite, Ruth Welsh, Anita Cook, all

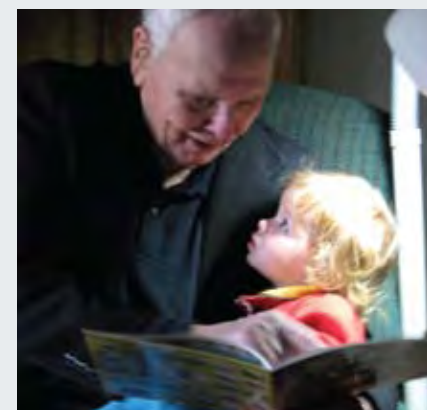
members at the Alma church; and Gano Harris Jr., of Austin, Texas; submitted the winning nomination. His tribute appears on page 14.

The 97-year-old, who still lives independently in Alma, is a retired postal worker and school bus driver. He is a World War II veteran who was inducted into the Army on D-Day in 1944, said Fite, who is a former International Mission Board missionary to Taiwan. Harris received a Purple Heart during his military service.

Fite said her father has been a faithful member of First Baptist and was very involved in serving his neighbors. She said her mother and father had a "pie route" for many years, making and delivering pies to neighbors who were "going through a hard time."

"My dad has always been the first one to step forward when anyone had any need. He's always had a servant's heart," she said.

Harris has 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



Harris

# Chaplains important in tornado aftermath

Jessica Vanderpool  
Arkansas Baptist News

JOPLIN - More than 100 people died as a result of the tornado that ripped through Joplin, Mo., May 22. Many more were left to pick up the pieces. Police officers, sheriffs, chaplains and others - these became the first responders, the men and women left to sort through the rubble, locate missing people and comfort survivors.

And it is these first responders with whom volunteer law enforcement chaplain Chuck Miller was sent to work.

Miller, an Arkansas native who says he was "born and bred a Hog (Arkansas Razorback)," pastored Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, Batesville, prior to moving to Fort Worth, Texas, to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a member of a professional training organization called the International Conference of Police Chaplains. It was this or-



Chuck Miller recently graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

ganization's disaster response team, which Miller is part of, that was deployed to Joplin a few days after the tornado to help with death notifications and debriefing.

Once there, his job became more about debriefing, and although he was sent to work specifically with law enforcement, Miller said he reached out to anyone in his path.

He explained that chaplaincy isn't about having the words to say. It's about having the ears to listen.

"The main thing with chaplaincy is ministry of presence," he said. "A chaplain goes where the church doesn't go. Of course we have our specialties in chaplaincy sometimes, but it's listening to people's stories. Sometimes you just need to let people tell their stories without giving a lot of input yourself."

As for working with first responders, he said the goal is for them to talk, so things don't "build up inside of them like a pressure cooker

because eventually it's going to spew out, and usually it spews out on someone they love."

Miller explained, "You might ask them, 'What was the first thing that you thought? What was your first thought when you got on (the) scene?'"

Miller spoke of "the trauma of seeing bodies." He said one officer found the body of a child "hunkered down," covering his face.

"Those things aren't normal," Miller said, adding that some parents literally had their children sucked from their arms during the storm.

One of the chaplains worked in the makeshift morgue for 28 hours straight, witnessing bodies arriving.

Miller explained he considers chaplains to be first responders, as well.

"Whether we're out in the debris or not, we're still first responders. Or I consider ourselves first responders because we want to get on the scene (and) start helping folks, as far as spiritually and just listening," he said.

He said the desire is for his conversations to lead to an opportunity for him "to share Christ ... because He is their only hope. He's my only

hope. He's your only hope.

"So we're here to hopefully bring hope and comfort and some peace in a chaos and not normalcy because it's going to be a long time before there's some of that around here, but it's just great for the Lord to open this door and to have the opportunity to be a small part of what His kingdom's doing."

Miller and the disaster response team were also deployed to Tuscaloosa, Ala., following the tornado that hit in late April.

He asked for Arkansas Baptists to pray for him and other chaplains in Joplin - that they will walk through open doors, that God would protect their families at home and that God would give them "discernment and stamina."

"I've been to a lot of disasters and tornados, and this is just so widespread. ... You know, everywhere you look, if you get in certain spots, you can turn around completely and see nothing but destruction."

Despite the devastation, all unaccounted-for individuals have now been accounted for, according to the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

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

## 'Making a Difference Day'

# Batesville churches share gospel message

Lisa Watson  
Arkansas Baptist News

BATESVILLE - More than 200 volunteers from at least eight Arkansas Baptist churches spent May 21 being "the hands and feet of Jesus" in Batesville during "Making a Difference Day," a one-day mission outreach event sponsored by Independence Baptist Association.

Ron Toon, who serves as Independence Baptist Association missionary, said the outreach event gave members an opportunity to get "outside the walls" of their churches.

He said he wanted church people to "engage their community with the gospel" through the event.

Association leaders planned the ministry event but asked the churches to come up with "creative and innovative" ways to reach out to their community.

Projects included a "free" yard sale, volunteering at a local Habitat for Humanity build, offering a free "no strings attached" car wash and giving away coffee to people waiting at a stoplight.

"We want our people to engage their community with the gospel," said Toon, noting, "We often think of missions as far-away places, but missions is also right outside the door."

Volunteers, including youth and adults from First Baptist, Desha, helped with a flooring project at a



Ruddell Hill Baptist Church, Batesville, members Renae Keck (left) and Joe Shell were among more than 200 volunteers who participated in Making a Difference Day.

local crisis pregnancy center, said Troy Sharp, pastor of the church, adding, "I think it was a great day for us."

Eight teams of volunteers from Ruddell Hill Baptist Church, Batesville, spent the day helping out around the community in a number of ways, said Alan Brown, the church's pastor.

These activities included painting at a Habitat for Humanity house, building a family playground ministry area at Ruddell Hill Baptist and laying 2,500 square feet of laminate flooring at a local crisis pregnancy center, with assistance from First Baptist, Desha, members. The vol-



unteers also landscaped yards, repaired a home, gave out quarters and New Testaments at a local laundry mat and prepared meals for all volunteers and even homeless people living in the area, said Brown.

Brown said the event was a "key part" of helping to fulfill the church's mission strategy to "love God, love our neighbors and make disciples."

"It means more to me, as a pastor, to see people putting their faith into practice instead of just talking about it," said Brown. "Who cares unless we care enough to get up, get out and be the church before the people."

The "inspiration" for the mission project came from the Mississippi River Ministry One Day Mission Project, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) Sept. 11 in Pine Bluff, said Sharp, who attended the event, along with several others from the Independence Baptist Association.

He said members of the association who attended the event realized they could do something similar in Independence County. Sharp worked alongside Toon and others to plan and promote the event as a way to give the churches positive exposure in Batesville.

"Exposure of churches doing ministry opens the door for us to be more effective in our presentation of the gospel," said Sharp, noting he wanted people in the community to see his association's church members "as people who do ministry and love folks," which he hopes will open the door to more ministry in the future.

The ABSC is planning a one-day mission project similar to the Pine Bluff mission project Oct. 1 in the Ouachita Baptist Association.

For more information about the project in Ouachita Baptist Association or for details about planning a similar event in your association or church, contact Breck Freeman at 800-838-2272, ext. 5150.

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

Part of Greater Things campaign

## Cross Church plans 50 new church starts

Mickey Noah

North America Mission Board

SPRINGDALE - Greater Things is an ambitious three-year church planting and missions mobilization campaign launched by Cross Church, Springdale, late last year with the purpose of planting 50 new churches over the next three years.

In an interview with Baptist Press, Cross Church Pastor Ronnie Floyd said he initially challenged the people in Cross Church's three campuses to plant 50 new churches over three years and, in 2012 alone, to mobilize at least 1,000 church members to experience a cross-cultural

missions experience outside Northwest Arkansas.

"To God's glory, 2,000 members of Cross Church have committed to undertake a cross-cultural missions experience ... somewhere in North America or the world. The ultimate goal is to reach 10,000 people in the world for Jesus Christ in 2012," said Floyd.

Floyd first shared his God-sized Greater Things vision last November - challenging Cross Church to raise \$20 million over the next three years to turn the vision into reality.

Despite today's weak economy, Cross Church is well on its way, with members already having com-

mitted \$16 million - over and above the church's annual ministry budget. In addition, the church received a property gift that appraised for \$2 million.

Floyd, in leading the charge for Southern Baptist mega-churches like Cross Church to plant new churches in unreached areas of North America, is carrying forth from his work as chairman of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force in 2009-2010.

"We prayed that God would give us a resurgence of the Great Commission, and we are now seeing an awakening to Jesus' command," Floyd said.

Cross Church - in addition to the main Springdale campus - has campuses in nearby Pinnacle Hills and Fayetteville, the home of the University of Arkansas and its 21,500 students.

In January, Cross Church enlisted 350 members of its Springdale congregation to launch the Fayetteville campus, located about nine miles south of the Springdale church. After only three months, in one of the region's most unreached cities, the Fayetteville site - led by Campus Pastor Nick Floyd, Ronnie's son - is averaging more than 1,400 in weekly attendance and has baptized 126 people.

## CHURCHES

continued from page one

"The ABSC starts nearly 30 churches a year, and we give money to new church starts, rather than loaning it," said Turner. "Our survival rate for new congregations is one of the highest in the SBC."

### 'Biblical' church planting

With NAMB's renewed emphasis on church planting, how will it affect church planting in Arkansas?

"We will continue to help start churches in Arkansas and North America using the biblical, proven methods that God has blessed," said Turner.

"A 'mother church,' associational involvement, a commitment to missions giving and to the Baptist Faith and Message are all implanted in the DNA of the new congregations we help start," Turner added.

Phill Hall, member of the ABSC missions ministries team and coordinator of church planting, said the convention has a close partnership with local churches and associations to discover, enlist and train Arkansas church planters.

A new church planter training and coaching process is being developed for Arkansas.

"We are currently developing a church planter 'farming system' that will aid in finding and enlisting new planters through referrals from lay people, pastors and associational missionaries," said Hall. "As a part of this initial phase, there will be personal interviews, pre-assessment, evaluation and formal assessment. The heart of the process is an equipping component of skills development."

### CP mentoring

A candidate for planting a new

church will have the advantage of being mentored by an Arkansas pastor in performing the practical side of ministry (baptism, Lord's Supper, pastoral care, etc.), as well as a coach who is a successful Arkansas church planter, Hall explained.

"The coaching process will include the challenges and opportunities of planting a new church. This part of the plan will be an apprenticeship for about six months to one year. Finally, there will be a deployment of the new church planter in conjunction with a local church partner, the association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention," said Hall.

"We are excited about the possibilities of this process helping us increase the number of church plants from the current yearly level of about 28 to 30 new churches a year to 35 or 40 a year."

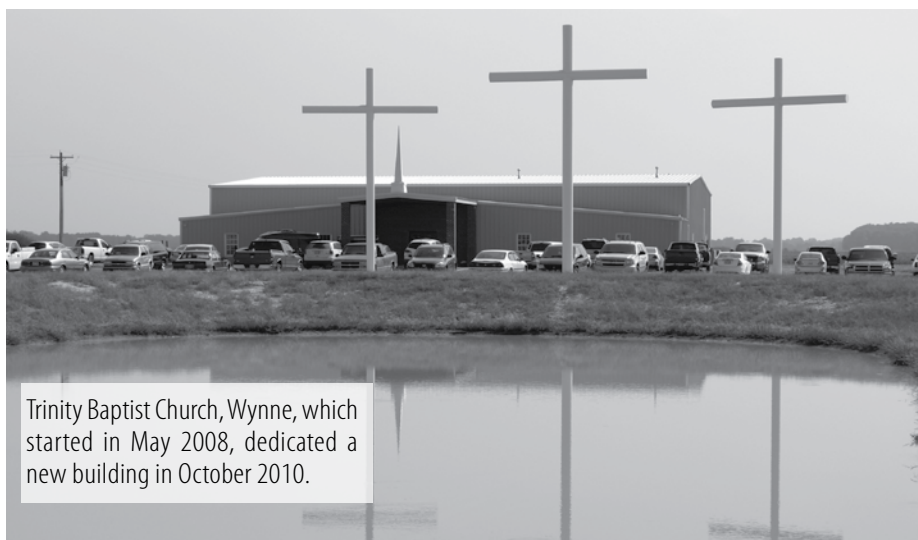
Hall said an increase in the number of churches in the state is key to reaching Arkansans with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every church planting pastor or church that receives assistance from the ABSC is required to support the Cooperative Program and Dixie Jack-

son Arkansas Missions Offering, he said.

### Nine languages

Presently, new churches in Arkansas worship in nine different language groups.

"And we are planning to strengthen our number of churches in various ethnic groups within the state," said Hall, who added an orientation and educational institute has been developed for working with pastors who may not understand Southern Baptist life but who have a desire to connect with the Arkansas Baptists and participate in the mission ef-



Trinity Baptist Church, Wynne, which started in May 2008, dedicated a new building in October 2010.

forts of the convention. The institute will include weekly classes on topics relevant to the education of potential new planters.

ABSC church planting strategists have rewritten the materials for training church planters called Essentials for Church Planters, said Hall. "(Training materials are) specifically designed to meet the needs of Arkansas church planters. Training is offered twice each year and is financed by the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering."

An advantage of having Arkansas-centric church planting training materials and instruction and carrying it out with churches and associations is to "address planting needs with an Arkansas perspective," said Hall.

### Task is huge

The Great Commission task in Arkansas is huge, said Hall, as there is an estimated 1.6 million lost people living in the state.

"Local churches, associations and the state convention have a passion for reaching those folks because they are our neighbors and friends. God has blessed Arkansas with the opportunity for Arkansans to reach Arkansans with the gospel through church planting, and we support that effort through our giving to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering."

Currently, the ABSC supports five church planter strategists in

Arkansas to resource individuals, churches and associations in church planting.

"We have specialists in traditional church planting, innovative church planting, cowboy church planting, African-American church planting and various language church planting," said Hall.

"We have helped organize an innovative church network, a cowboy church fellowship and continue to network planters and their wives for fellowship and education. We partner with other state conventions to resource their church planting efforts in North America as we share the gospel with a kingdom perspective."

While not all churches can plant a new church alone, nearly all churches can be a part of church planting efforts through partnerships, Hall said. "One of the greatest needs in Arkansas for planting new churches is for partner/sponsor churches to see the vision of expanding the kingdom of God by helping start new churches to reach people that are not in any church," he said.

"We believe everyone in Arkansas needs the opportunity to hear the gospel and personally meet Jesus. That means sharing the gospel with them where they live and establishing a church in their area and context."

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



Life Church, Searcy, members pray. The church began one year ago.

# My, my, where have the years gone!

It seems like yesterday that she was born," I thought as my daughter approached the podium to receive her high school diploma. "My, my, where have the years gone!"

Proud of her accomplishment, Hannah reached out to receive her diploma and symbolically made a "rite of passage" into a new world. My wife and I beamed.

Shouts were heard from fellow graduates on the arena floor and Hannah's other friends in the stands. "Hannnnah! Hannnnah!" Hannah looked

up, seemingly a bit embarrassed by the added attention, and walked slowly to her place in line to exit the stage.

I was firing off as many shots on my digital camera as I could in an attempt to capture the moment. But just like the 19 years prior, Hannah's graduation day passed like a rocket ship in the sky.

The next day, Hannah celebrated another milestone ... that of turning 19. I remember the birth of my daughter well, as she couldn't wait to enter this world on June 2, 1992, at Baptist Memorial Hospital East in Memphis, Tenn.

The year of 1992 was the elec-

tion of Bill Clinton as president. It was before the first bombing of the World Trade Center, before several "floods of the century," before Sept. 11, 2001, and before Hurricane Katrina. The world is certainly a different place than it was 19 years ago.

While we all age with the passing of the years, God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

What an awesome and comforting reality.

I believe God created time so humans could reflect, evaluate and plan their lives. While she doesn't realize it today, Hannah,

one day, will look up like I did on her graduation day and think, "My, my, where have the years gone?"

I remember, as if it were yesterday, a time when I was a small boy who loved to play with Matchbox cars. I would play with the little toys for hours and hours on end. One day, out of nowhere, I had this thought: "It will always be like this. I will always like to play with cars ... even when I am my dad's age."

Well, I played with the little cars for a number of years after that, but one day I put them away and did not play with them anymore. The only time I have played with the little cars since was when my



## PRESSING ON

Tim Yarbrough



My daughter, Hannah, receives her diploma at a ceremony held in Georgia.

own son and daughter were small, and God willing, I will again someday when my grandchildren come along.

The point, of course, is that we all go through different stages of life. God made us that way. That doesn't mean maturity is bad; it's just different and the way God intended life to be.

The best I can figure, we all experience about three or four distinct stages of life. Birth to 20 (childhood into early adulthood); 20 to 40 (adulthood to early middle age); 40 to 60 (middle age to retirement); and finally, 60 to 80-plus (retirement to death).

Some people literally grieve themselves to death over the passing years of their lives. I am not one of them. I have loved every stage of my life and am now in the middle (age 50) of the 40 to 60 (middle age to retirement) stage.

I love watching my children mature, and I cheer them on as they enter adulthood (my son, Caleb, is 21). I wouldn't take anything for this stage of my life.

As for Hannah, she will be starting college this fall at the University of Arkansas. God has given her much talent and so many gifts. I can't wait to see what He is

going to do with her life.

God may choose to open doors for Hannah to be a professional singer, a missionary or a CEO of a major corporation. But whatever her future holds, He'll be right there guiding her and cheering her on as long as she stays true to Him.

In the eternal scheme of things, our lives pass with the blink of an eye, but while our earthly lives are fleeting, we can make our time on earth count for all eternity through those with whom we share Christ and whom we take with us to heaven.

At age 19, Hannah is already a veteran of dozens of mission trips - both domestic and foreign - because we made that a priority for our family. She is fortunate to have had a great deal of ministry training at her age.

My prayer for her now is for God to use those ministry experiences as she enters a new stage of her life and strives to be a light for Jesus Christ during her college years and beyond.

Then, when that moment comes when she thinks, "My, my, where have the years gone?" there will be no regrets, but only praise for what God has allowed her to do with her life for His glory.

"A year ago I couldn't even spell GRAD-JIT and now I are one."



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Member of the Association  
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Tim Yarbrough, editor

Lisa Watson, associate editor

Jessica Vanderpool, assistant editor/office manager

Becky Hardwick, business manager

Nelle O'Bryan, advertising representative

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## Family Matters

### Question adventures

Did, let me tell you what we did! We played kickball and bocce ball. Then we ate pizza and swam. Oh, and let me tell you about the bus ride back to the church." These enthusiastic comments rattled off my middle child's tongue after a recent Sunday school party. I didn't have to ask any questions. Some kids share information freely, especially in the middle school years, but that tends to change in the teen years.



Most kids look forward to their summer experiences, such as camp, vacation Bible school or even a mission trip. These concentrated times expose their minds to consistently hear spiritual truths that God uses to transform their hearts.

Jesus was a master at asking questions that caused people to reflect below the surface. You can help children reflect and learn from these adventures, whether you're a parent, grandparent or someone who loves kids, by asking some penetrating questions. Walk with them again on their weeklong journeys by utilizing some of the following questions to advance some intriguing discussions as you navigate the sharing of your children's stories.

- What caused you to laugh most this week?
- What was your favorite part of recreation/games?
- Who were some of the new people you met?
- What was the best/worst food or snack you ate this week?
- What was your favorite/least favorite part of the week?
- What was your favorite/least favorite part of each day?
- What was the best/worst thing that happened to you this week?
- Did you experience any disappointments this week?
- What did you learn during your Bible study times?
- What did you learn during the large group worship times?
- What did you learn about God this week?
- In what ways did you see God at work in your life? What about in others' lives?
- What did you learn about yourself/others this week?
- Did you make any decisions you would like to share?

By helping children reflect on their experiences, they can learn about themselves and how God is at work in and through them.

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

## Have You Forgotten?

Unjustly accused of disloyalty, he finds himself in prison with a co-worker. The man's case is being deliberated by an autocrat who has more important things to do than to contemplate justice for a minor employee. Surprisingly, the jailer is kind to him, and soon he looks forward to the brief visits with this "trustee." The cold confines of the prison make sleep difficult and dreams worse. Preoccupied and worried by one particular dream, he confides it to the jailer, who interprets it and assures the prisoner of his eminent release.

Genesis 40 and 41 give the story of the cupbearer to Pharaoh. As he leaves the prison, Joseph asks him to intercede with Pharaoh on his behalf. Genesis 40 ends with, "Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." For two full years. Two years is two full eternities to a middle schooler and time enough for a starlet to be married, divorced and do a stint in rehab. If we interviewed the Mr. Cupbearer, we'd ask, "Why did you forget Joseph?"

He was too busy. Too busy to remember a friend's need? He was too busy to help the only person who helped him? Too busy to mention a friend's name? For two years? C'mon, man! No one is that busy.

He was embarrassed. Embarrassed to be identified with a Hebrew who had been rejected by his own people? Embarrassed to help a man against whom no

one could offer a legitimate complaint? Embarrassed to admit he knew someone who could speak for God?

He was afraid. Afraid he'd say the wrong thing? Afraid he would turn Pharaoh against Joseph? Afraid he'd make things worse? Just afraid.

By neglecting Joseph, the cupbearer deprives himself of the improvements that could have come from associating with this good man. He deprives Pharaoh of the wisdom God had given Joseph, and he deprives Egypt of the benefits that could have come from Joseph's counsel.

There is an app for that. Well, three applications actually.

**1. We have an obligation to those who have ministered to us.** To forget a kindness should be beneath us.

**2. Need should be enough motivation.** The cupbearer should have helped Joseph because he needed it. After all, that is what Joseph would do for Egyptians.

**3. Joseph is a type of Jesus.** We must not neglect to tell others of the One who can solve their problems.

On the day the cupbearer testified to his relationship with Joseph, he said to Pharaoh, "I would make mention of my own offenses." It is an offense to neglect the story of the One who fulfills our dreams. Let not the great King find us guilty of such an offense.

Now, you can straighten this out and preach it.

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



### A PASTOR'S HEART

*Emil Turner*

## Just getting by

In a recent survey (March 2011 – American Institute of Certified Public Accountants), 56 percent of more than 1,000 American adults claimed their current cash flow situation did not allow them to save money for their future retirement. Add the findings of an earlier survey to the foregoing revelation, and the future emerges as a certain problem for many. A study of 1,000 adults in January 2011 (by Scottrade) revealed that only one out of every seven Americans had already saved even a minimal amount needed for an adequate retirement.

The above scenario begs the question: If Americans haven't saved enough and are not able to systematically save, then how will they fund their retirement? Given the current economic downturn, many Americans declare they will simply work longer. Such a rationale defies the possibility that their companies or their health may not allow them to do so.

Will the government provide the answer? If Social Security is earmarked as one's only source of income, most Americans will be unable to live just on its payments, assuming that we will receive them in the future. Current projections are for fewer entitlements, not more. So how, then, will these people live?

A wise man once noted that even "ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer" (Proverbs 30:25). Should we not be as wise as ants?

When my wife and I were preparing for marriage,

Charlie Shedd, a minister and syndicated writer, admonished the two of us to practice the 10-10-80 plan. I thought he was selling a long-distance service; but, in essence, he was directing us to give the first 10th of our income to our church, save the second 10th and live on the remainder.

Giving the first 10th is a clear mandate in Scripture. The tithe, however, should not be treated as the totality of one's giving, but only as the beginning point. Saving the second 10th of one's income, or even more if possible, constitutes wise advice for all Americans.

As a financial planner, I encounter situations where people have not planned adequately for retirement. The escalating costs of health and medical care have eroded their meager resources.

Surely all of us would profit from the model demonstrated by the lowly ant.

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

### FINANCIAL TIMES

*David Moore  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation*

## Have you had your foot washing?

The Christian life must be a life of service. The Book of Mark presents Christ as the Amazing Servant. Christians are expected to serve. The last parts of John 12 and John 13 emphasize service. Jesus was instructing His disciples on the night of His arrest, the eve of His crucifixion. Surely it was valuable time reserved for the most important instructions.

Christ began the lesson by girding Himself with a towel, the dress of a slave/servant, intending to do the work of a servant – washing the feet of His disciples. In his own unique way, Peter blurts out that he will never, never, ever allow Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus responds with an absolutely shocking statement. He tells Peter that if he does not allow Him to wash his feet, Peter will have no part with Christ.

This passage makes clear that salvation is not the

issue, but rather what Peter will forfeit is union, fellowship, relationship and intimacy with Christ. Christ said that all the disciples were already "saved," with the exception of Judas. They had already been given the "head-to-toe bath." What they lacked was the "foot washing," the spiritual refreshment.

A Christian is not "saved to serve," but rather "saved to be served, so that he/she can serve." We are not qualified to serve anyone else until we have been served by the Master. We cannot wash anyone else's feet until Christ has washed ours. We cannot provide spiritual refreshment to anyone until Christ has spiritually refreshed us. Almost every believer can point to the day when they had the bath – the head-to-toe cleansing – but few can

See **WASHING** page 11



## ABSC calendar

- **July 4-8:** Collision 2011 Youth Missions Project – *Independence Baptist Association*
- **July 5-8:** Arkansas Baptist Assembly Youth and Children's Week – *Siloam Springs*
- **July 11-15:** Arkansas Baptist Assembly Youth and Children's Week – *Siloam Springs*
- **July 13-16:** Blume Girls Missions Gathering – *Orlando, Fla.*
- **July 18-22:** PraiseWorks – *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia*
- **July 18-22:** Arkansas Baptist Assembly Youth Only Week – *Siloam Springs*
- **July 22-23:** Mission Service Corp Campus Ministers Workshop – *Camp Paron*
- **July 25:** WEE Workshop I – *First Baptist Church, Fayetteville*
- **July 25-30:** Arkansas Baptist Assembly Children's Only Week – *Siloam Springs*
- **July 25-28:** Hispanic Children's Camp – *Ouachita Baptist Assembly, Mena*
- **July 27-31:** Hispanic Youth Camp – *Ouachita Baptist Assembly, Mena*
- **July 28:** WEE Workshop II – *Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock*
- **July 29-30:** Wellspring – *First Baptist Church, Hot Springs*
- **Aug. 1-30:** Arkansas Baptist Children's Home Back to School Offering
- **Aug. 4-6:** Ouachita Baptist University New Students Retreat – *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia*
- **Aug. 4:** Arkansas Baptist Foundation Board Meeting – *Arkansas Baptist Foundation Building, Little Rock*
- **Aug. 12-13:** Hispanic Pastors' Retreat – *Camp Paron*
- **Oct. 1:** Acts 1:8 One Day Mission Trip – *Ouachita Baptist Association (Mena and DeQueen area)*

For more information on events, go to [www.absc.org](http://www.absc.org), or call 800-838-2272.

### Mark your calendar

**YEC**  
Youth Evangelism  
Conference  
March 30-31, 2012  
Statehouse Convention  
Center, Little Rock

## Magic Springs to host Baptist youth day

HOT SPRINGS – Uprising, Baptist Youth Day at Magic Springs, has been scheduled for Aug. 27. The event will feature Christian bands performing throughout the day and will conclude with a performance by a headliner Christian band and a worship service.

Sean Mills, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church growth team member, encouraged churches to support Uprising.

“Make this your back-to-school event. Uprising will be a thrilling day of enjoying theme park rides and a water park all in one.”

The park opens at 10 a.m. Season passes are accepted. For more information, including cost, contact Lindsey Moon at 800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5222.

Carousel at Magic Springs



## Wellspring connects Arkansas Baptist women

HOT SPRINGS – Wellspring, a two-day inspirational missions event for Arkansas women, is set for July 29-30 at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs. The event will include small-group conferences, a WMU annual meeting session, ministry projects and times of worship, encouragement and networking.

The Wellspring theme is Unhindered! Realize ... Reflect ... Radiate. The event features Andrea Lennon, True Vine Ministries, Conway;



Wanda Lee, national Woman's Missionary Union executive director, Birmingham, Ala.; Deb Douglas,

LifeWay Christian Resources women's ministry multiplier, Nashville, Tenn.; Kay Bennett, Baptist Friendship House director, New Orleans, La.; and Jennie Taylor, worker in Southeast Asia.

Wellspring is a Cooperative Program ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions support team. For more information about Wellspring, go to [www.absc.org/women](http://www.absc.org/women) on call 800-838-2272 ext. 5137.



## One Day Mission Trip set

THE ACTS 1:8 One Day Mission Trip, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions ministries team, will be held in Ouachita Baptist Association Oct. 1.

Opportunities for ministry include prayerwalking, children's activities, senior adult ministry,

home repairs/painting, health clinics, youth sports camps, evangelism, yard work, a fishing derby, block parties and cowboy ministries.

For more information, go to [www.absc.org/communityministries](http://www.absc.org/communityministries), or contact Breck Freeman or Oleta Raines at 800-838-2272, ext. 5150, or [bfreeman@absc.org](mailto:bfreeman@absc.org).

## Regional missions education training

### Training Dates:

- Aug. 29:** First Baptist, Van Buren
- Aug. 30:** First Baptist, Mountain Home
- Sept. 12:** First Baptist, Marion
- Sept. 13:** Parkview Baptist, El Dorado



### Schedule:

- 6-6:15 p.m. Opening
- 6:15-7 p.m. Session 1
- 7-7:15 p.m. Break
- 7:15-8 p.m. Session 2

### Session 1:

- Women's Missions/Ministry
- How to Teach Student Missions
- Men's Missions/Ministry
- How to Teach Children Missions
- How to Teach Preschool Missions

### Session 2:

- Associational Women's Missions/Ministry
- Project HELP: Human Exploitation
- Royal Ambassadors
- Girls in Action/Children in Action
- Mission Friends

No pre-registration required. For more information, contact the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions support team at 800-838-2272, ext. 5138.

## ONECHURCH

*continued from page one*

been to church or have not been in a long time, Hudson said.

“Since we formally began, there have been 27 people trust Jesus as their Savior,” he added. “Up to this point, all but six of those have been over the age of 19, and I think that is because we were hyper-focused in reaching those unchurched or de-churched people.”

OneChurch distinguishes itself from the norm to reach these people in three main ways.

First, the church has adapted a different process for discipleship, which is divided into four components. The largest is the worship service, which includes the whole congregation on Sunday mornings. The second is discussion groups, or “d-groups,” of 10-20 people, who meet together after worship to talk about the message further. The third is home groups, which consist of the same people meeting in each other’s homes to pray and eat at least twice each month. The final component is life groups, where two or three members of the same sex read Scripture and meet together every week to talk about it.

Secondly, Hudson wanted to make sure that no group had its own room. The congregation meets together at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings for worship and a message. After a 10-minute break and a quick rearranging of the chairs, they break down into “d-groups” within the same room.

Hudson admits that this arrangement can be loud and confusing, but the benefit is that everyone is together and has a sense of unity.

Thirdly, oneChurch writes all of its own materials. The church currently has a goal to go through a systematic study of theology in three years. The church bought 130 chronological Bibles and began working through them in January.

The message on Sunday morning coincides with the Scripture reading each week, which coincides with the material for “d-groups.”

“It takes a lot of work to get that, but it has been invaluable,” Hudson said.

OneChurch’s ministry reaches past the walls of its one big room, though. The church has adapted the surrounding area in downtown Conway and hosts an event about once a month in Gatlin Park.

The church also has a Good Neighbor Ministry, where they deliver homemade goodies to the small businesses in its neighborhood.

The church is also preparing to go on mission trips to Brazil, Haiti and Eureka, Mo.

The people and relationships are what really set this church apart, though, according to the pastor.

Alexis Cauthen and her family started attending oneChurch about a year ago. She said they previously attended a much larger church where it was harder to get involved.

“At oneChurch we immediately felt God moving,” she said. “The people welcomed our family and drew us in.”

Cauthen cradled her sleeping baby in her arms as she praised the church for the time they spent preparing meals for her family and praying over her during the delivery.

Paul Deden, another member, has attended

oneChurch with his family since its second service.

“It’s just the best church experience,” he said.

Deden became slightly teary-eyed as he described how God had called him to quit his job of 20 years during the church’s first anniversary service.

“It’s been a big adjustment, but I know now there is something greater than work: God,” he said.

OneChurch provides a unique experience for each person who walks through its doors, according to members.

Hudson’s wife, Christy, explained it this way: “Everyone sits there, and no one knows what will happen next.”

It is “nontraditional” or “uncharacteristic” as Hudson describes it. It is not-so-typical.

Contact Jenny Redfern at [jenny@arkansasbaptist.org](mailto:jenny@arkansasbaptist.org).

PJ Hudson (below) drags a baby goat down the aisle.

The kid was a prize in the morning’s game of Deal or No Deal. Other prizes included a year’s subscription to a chicken magazine and a bottle of bubbles. Members of oneChurch (right) join for worship casually dressed in jeans and T-shirts.

No Deal. Other prizes included a year’s subscription to a chicken magazine and a bottle of bubbles. Members of oneChurch (right) join for worship casually dressed in jeans and T-shirts.



Pastor Paul Hudson (right) introduces the skit for the morning’s service. Hudson is using game shows to illustrate the series on Proverbs. The worship team (below) leads the congregation through a selection of praise songs.



# An easy guide to podcasting sermons

**Matt Ramsey**

*Arkansas Baptist State Convention*

HAVE YOU EVER wanted unbelievers outside your church to hear your Sunday morning sermon? With the help of the Internet, this is possible through podcasting. Podcasting can become a very effective tool for your ministry by giving unbelievers a chance to experience your church in a less threatening environment.

Podcasting is much more than just putting your sermon audio on your Web site. This method limits the ability to receive new content by causing the user to manually download the files, which can be frustrating. Podcasting gives the user a way of subscribing to audio content that automatically makes sure new content is downloaded whenever it becomes available.

Now that you understand what podcasting is all about, take a look at these steps to help start your podcasting experience.

## Step 1 – Make a quality MP3 digital audio file.

In order to make the best possible podcast, get with your sound technicians and go over some basic sound recording practices, such as having a strong signal and checking the audio levels. As your sound person is recording the message, have them make sure the input level on the meter is consistently hitting the 0db (decibel) mark and occasionally spiking into the red zone. If the input meter is only barely registering or never getting close to the 0db mark, you need to turn up the input level knob until it does. It's important to make sure everyone is on the same page to achieve good, quality audio for the podcast.

Most churches today record

their sermons in one of three ways: straight to a CD, straight to a computer or straight to a dedicated digital recording device of some sort. Any of these options will allow you to make the MP3 digital audio file that is required for podcasting.

If you are recording straight to a computer or digital recording device, you're well on your way to starting a podcast.

Just make sure you are recording in the MP3 audio format; otherwise, you could have problems later on in the process. If you are recording straight to CD, you will need to transfer the audio to your computer by using iTunes and select the MP3 option.

## Step 2 – Upload your audio to a host site.

In order to produce a podcast, you are required to upload your audio to

a Web site. There are some great online services that can get your podcast up and running in minutes with no technical experience needed. These podcasting services allow you to upload your audio files and then will host them for you online. They also allow you to set up the RSS feeds that allow people to subscribe to your podcast and automatically download the newest one. An RSS feed is a format for delivering regularly-changing Web content. This allows you to receive information without visiting an actual Web site, and it is used with several news and social media sites.

There are several hosting sites that you could use, but most of them require a monthly fee. Many churches can't always fit this extra cost into their budgets. With this in mind, here is a list of free hosting sites to help you get your podcast started:

- Sermon Companion – [www.sermoncompanion.com/home.aspx](http://www.sermoncompanion.com/home.aspx),

[www.sermoncloud.com](http://www.sermoncloud.com),

- Sermon Cloud – [www.sermoncloud.com](http://www.sermoncloud.com),

- Podcast Machine – [www.podcastmachine.com](http://www.podcastmachine.com),

- Podbean – [www.podbean.com](http://www.podbean.com).

## Step 3 – Get your podcast on iTunes.

So, your sermons are recorded digitally and are hosted online. What now? Most of the podcasting services will provide a few options for letting people access the audio files. Some may provide you with a podcast Web site that you can link to from your own Web site, and some may provide you with code that will allow you to embed the podcast within your own site. These options are good, but in order to get the most out of your podcasting experience, you will want to submit your podcast to the iTunes podcast directory.

iTunes provides the most popular podcast directory by far, and every podcast hosting service should provide clear instructions on how to get listed. For instructions on submitting your podcast to iTunes, visit [www.apple.com/itunes/podcasts/creatorfaq.html](http://www.apple.com/itunes/podcasts/creatorfaq.html).

This is a great option because people are familiar with iTunes and use it on a regular basis. It also shows people that you have a legitimate podcast and gives it more weight because it is on iTunes.

## Step 4 – Spread the word.

Even though you have gone through the proper steps of producing a podcast, it still doesn't mean people will know you have one. Just like any other ministry your church does, advertisement will play a big part in how popular your podcast will be.

Try promoting the podcast on the front page of your Web site or Sunday bulletin and during the announcement time at the end of the service. The more places you promote the podcast, the more potential you have to reach more unbelievers.

Podcasting is a very simple and easy way to showcase your church to people who may never set foot in it. If your goal is to have your message heard by the most people possible, then give podcasting a try today.

For more information about podcasting, please email Matt Ramsey with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive support team at [mramsey@absc.org](mailto:mramsey@absc.org).



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# Protecting children from Web predators

WASHINGTON (BP) – Parents, teachers and youth leaders can take steps to protect children and youth from becoming victims of online predators and sex traffickers, specialists say.

Experts warn that the threat of children being exploited and trafficked is widespread.

Even a decade ago, an estimated 293,000 American youth were at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation, according to a 2001 report by the University of

Pennsylvania. An estimated 100,000 U.S. children are trafficked annually.

Cris Clapp Logan of Enough Is Enough, an organization that works to protect children on the Internet, said the sex industry's growing demand has created more online predators and more sexual trafficking perpetrators. Logan suggested the following ways to keep children safe while they are on the Internet: Parents need to be educated about the potential dangers, need to lay

down clear Internet safety rules and should avoid giving their children full rein in the computer world. Children should only communicate online with people they know and trust and with whom they have face-to-face relationships.

Logan also mentioned signs that parents, teachers and youth leaders can spot if a child is contacting a predator or is being exploited. Among the signs are the following: being secretive about online usage, being obsessive about time on the

Internet, expressing anger when restricted from the Internet, downloading pornographic materials or receiving emails, phone calls or mail from unfamiliar contacts.

Trafficking victims may be detected by the following signs: being monitored by someone who is not a parent, a shift in mental health, poor physical health, long work hours, extended absences from school, a decline in grades, changes in overall appearance and struggles interacting with peers.

## STUDENTS

*continued from page one*

Internet capabilities, running on either WiFi or 3G.

"We are excited to be the first school in the area to introduce the iPad to the classroom," said Bennett. "Our kindergarten students will be able to work with an iPad on a daily basis. This will certainly not replace any curriculum, but enhance and reinforce our core curriculum for these grades. There are hundreds of apps for the iPad that are geared specifically for these age groups."

"These children can relate to technology-driven instruction because

they have grown up with it," said Bennett. "We see the iPad playing a role in offering supplemental instruction in math, reading, art and foreign languages," he said.

Bennett said he believes the current generation of students learn best with hands-on activities and are visual learners. "IPads offer both hands-on and visual learning opportunities," he said, noting he knows of kindergarten-age children who are already using iPads.

Bennett said the school district plans to create iPad Learning Centers with the devices. The school district will provide the iPads to the students at no additional cost beyond their current tuition schedule.

The idea for offering this technology in the classroom came from a visit to a Christian school using iPads in Memphis. "We wanted to be on the cutting edge in Little Rock, ... and we felt like kindergarten was a good place to start," said Bennett.

In addition to using iPads in elementary school classrooms, Bennett said Arkansas Baptist High School plans to begin offering concurrent college credit courses through John Brown University in Siloam Springs. He said Arkansas Baptist is the first private school in the area to offer courses for college credit, and the credits will be transferable to other colleges throughout the state.

This year, the school is offering English Comp 1 and 2, Speech, Survey of College Calculus and Statistics. He said the school plans to add more courses each year. "When a student graduates from Arkansas Baptist, our goal would be for that student to have a majority of college freshman classes completed if they choose," said Bennett.

Most importantly, Bennett said as education changes throughout the years, school administrators hope Arkansas Baptist schools will "stay ahead of the curve."

"I think this proves our commitment to be on the cutting edge for education," said Jim Lagrone, pastor of First Church, Little Rock.

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# Our Churches: West Side Baptist Church

Jenny Redfern  
Arkansas Baptist News

LITTLE ROCK – From the outside looking in, West Side Baptist Church, Little Rock, might seem like a small church.

A second glance, however, proves that God does not need numbers to move in a big way.

Pastor Gene Davis leads the congregation, which averages between eight and 20 people Sunday mornings. Davis said “many of the few we have” are either on disability or are senior citizens.

Yet, the “few” know how to make an impact.

The church supports three associate pastors. One divides his time between teaching at West Side and another church. Another leads a home church in Van Buren. Still another brings the gospel to camping sites all across Florida. The church also sup-



West Side Pastor Gene Davis (left) and James Langford, one of three associate pastors.

ports a couple from the Highways and Hedges Ministry, a motorcycle ministry that spreads the gospel through biker rallies.

More recently, the church spon-

sored “A Walk Across Arkansas” the weekend before Easter. With the help of volunteers from Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, West Side went door-to-door

delivering gospel materials to the citizens in its community.

Davis said nearly 1,000 homes were able to hear about Jesus through this ministry.

“We haven’t seen a lot of results,” Davis said, “but we sure sowed a lot of seeds.”

Davis said the church’s efforts were more focused on regularly helping people in need than on growing in numbers. He said West Side Baptist Church was committed to establishing new churches that will grow and divide, instead of building a larger facility.

“That’s kind of how it was in the New Testament, right?” he asked.

The outreach of West Side Baptist Church cannot be measured with a head count on Sunday morning.

“Only the hand of the Lord could allow a church with our attendance to reach so many people,” Davis said.

## ABN

## Archives

1901-2011

60 years ago - June 1951

**Wanted!**

**NIGHT WATCHMEN**—For the period of the Arkansas Baptist Assembly, July 3-11, night watchmen are needed. These men serve from 6 p. m. to 12 midnight, daily. For this service bed and all meals are furnished for the assembly period. The only assembly expense is the \$2 registration fee.

**SUPERVISORS FOR BOYS' DORMITORIES**—Those serving in the capacity of dormitory supervisors receive bed and meals for the entire period of the assembly—only assembly expense is the \$2 registration fee which is paid by all who attend.

Applications for these places of service should be mailed to  
**DR. EDGAR WILLIAMSON, 212 Baptist Building, Little Rock**  
TIME IS SHORT—MAIL YOURS NOW.

### Ordinations

First Baptist Church, Caraway, ordained Lloyd Wycoff and Terry Couch as deacons May 22.

### On the move

Richard Rose is serving at Coro-

nado Baptist Church, Hot Springs Village, as minister of music.

### Milestones

Millie Gill retired from the staff of Cross Church, Springdale (see story on page 13).

## Seminary graduates

FOUR STUDENTS with Arkansas Baptist ties were among 209 graduates at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, during spring commencement May 6.

Sterling D. Claypoole, of El Dorado, was awarded a Doctorate of Educational Ministry. Claypoole’s home church is Immanuel Baptist Church, El Dorado. Richard Gambill, of Warren, received a Master of Divinity in biblical theology. Gam-

bill’s home church is Immanuel Baptist Church, Warren. Chuck S. Miller, of Tilton, received a Master of Arts in Christian education with an emphasis in biblical steward leadership. Miller’s home church is Tilton Baptist Church, Tilton. O’Henry Powell Young IV, of Fort Smith, was awarded a Master of Arts in Christian education with an emphasis in childhood education. Young’s home church is East Side Baptist Church, Fort Smith.

### ABN Blind Tape Ministry

provides a free taped recording of the Arkansas Baptist News for people who are legally blind.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Becky at 800-838-2272 (in state) or in Little Rock at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156.

To advertise with the ABN, contact Nelle O’Byran at 800-838-2272, ext. 5155.

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## Glorieta holds reunion

CURRENT AND FORMER Arkansas Baptists who served as summer staff at Glorieta Conference Center are invited to attend a reunion at the center Oct. 20-23.

For more information, call 800-797-4222, contact keith.lowry@texasbaptists.org, or visit www.glorietaconferencecenter.org/event/summerstaffreunion.

## Carpenter

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# Interns to serve at ABN this summer

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST News (ABN) has announced the appointment of three summer interns to work alongside the staff this summer.

The interns will be Jenny Redfern, 20, of Danville; Caleb Yarbrough, 21, of Athens, Ga.; and Cassie Harrell Franklin, 22, of North Little Rock.

Redfern, a 2009 graduate of Danville High School, is a junior at John Brown University, Siloam Springs, where she is majoring in journalism and minoring in graphic design and marketing. Redfern is the daughter of Robert and Lauren Redfern of Danville.

Yarbrough, a 2008 graduate of



Redfern



Yarbrough



Franklin

South Forsyth High School, Cumming, Ga., is a senior at the University of Georgia, Athens, where he is pursuing a double major in journalism/advertising and history. Yarbrough is the son of Tim and Pamm Yarbrough of North Little Rock.

Franklin is a 2007 graduate of Springhill High School, Springhill, La., and a 2011 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, with a degree in mass communications and a minor in English writing. Franklin, who was married

June 11 to Aaron Franklin, is the daughter of David and Becky Harrell of Ruston, La.

"We are so excited to have three very capable interns joining us here at the newspaper this summer," said Tim Yarbrough, ABN editor. "We look forward to using their various talents and skills to not only provide them important 'hands on' religious newspaper experience, but to help us better report on the activities of Arkansas Baptists."

Interns may be contacted at their ABN email addresses: Redfern at jenny@arkansasbaptist.org, Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org and Franklin at cassie@arkansasbaptist.org.

## WASHING

*continued from page five*

point to a day when Christ washed their feet. We only need the head-to-toe cleansing once, but we need the foot washing regularly. The busyness of our lives often prevents it.

We must discipline ourselves to get alone, putting aside the distract-

tions of life (both good and bad things). Sin will also hamper our fellowship with Christ.

The bad news is that each of us has much sin in our lives. The good news is that Christ stands ready, waiting to forgive and cleanse. That is, indeed, part of the foot washing, spiritual refreshment process. Confession and repentance will bring the Foot Washer to you. You will be able to bask in His love.

You and I were created to enjoy Him; you and I were created for Him to enjoy us. Those two truths are hard to incorporate into our daily lives.

Get alone with Him; do not rush into His presence; do not rush out of His presence. Confess your sin; ask Him to enjoy you. When was the last time you asked Him to enjoy you? He longs for that. I speak from my own failure; it is imperative that you not rush

out of His presence. Clear your mind of all distractions; ask Christ to enjoy you in whatever way that He desires.

Ask Him to teach you how to enjoy Him. It will require an investment of time, but you will not regret it. Your Creator, God Himself, wants to be your Foot Washer, refreshing you daily. What are you waiting for?

*Steve Ellison is pastor of Harvey's Chapel Baptist Church, Hot Springs.*

# Classifieds

## PASTOR

Rural Southern Baptist church is seeking a **full-time pastor** who agrees with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, loves to preach the Word and working with others as we try to minister to the community by showing the love of Christ to them and their children. Send resumes and particulars to Lonnie Waldrop at Twin Lakes Baptist Church, 3899 Hwy. 290, Hot Springs, AR 71913.

Hickory Street Baptist Church seeks a Spirit-led **bi-vocational pastor** to nurture a congregation of approximately 50 people with a vision of growth. Send resumes to 2923 Hickory St., Texarkana, AR 71854, or submit by email to rhondasullivan.88@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is June 30.

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

Cherry Street Baptist Church is currently seeking a **pastor**. CSBC is located in Clarksville, Ark., a city of 9,600 residents in Johnson County, where over 19,000 people reside. We have a loving, Christ-centered congregation and a beautiful sanctuary with a Sunday morning attendance of over 40. Our sanctuary accommodates approximately 250. We also have many classrooms to accommodate growth. The pastor's salary is \$40,000, plus a two-bedroom parsonage located next to CSBC. The University of Ozarks and downtown Clarksville are three blocks from CSBC. Staff includes a part-time secretary, nursery worker and custodian. We are praying for a God-called pastor who is willing to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in a variety of possible ministries. Send resumes to P.O. Box 378, Clarksville, AR 72830 or dstandri@suddenlink.net, or call Dennis at 479-754-8299.

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

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

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.

Calvary Baptist Church of Dardanelle, Ark., is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Sunday School attendance averages 55-60. Will also consider bi-vocational pastor. Will be receiving resumes until July 15, 2011. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 532, Dardanelle, AR 72834, Attn: Bob Loyd, or email to docbob72834@hotmail.com.

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

## OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

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

Bee Branch Baptist Church in Bee Branch, Ark., is seeking a **bi-vocational music minister**. 501-654-3024 or John Speer: mrjspeer@yahoo.com.

First Baptist Church of Siloam Springs, Ark., is looking for a **full-time children's minister** to lead an exciting and growing children's ministry. Please send resumes and inquiries to Search Committee, 2000 Dawn Hill Road, Siloam Springs, AR 72761, or email to office@fbc-siloam.com.

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.

Danville First Baptist Church, Danville, Ark., is seeking a **full-time minister of students**. Please send resume to Danville FBC, P.O. Box 877, Danville, AR 72833 or fbcdan@arkwest.com.

Seeking a **bi-vocational youth minister**. First Baptist Church, Lead Hill, located in north Arkansas is seeking God's will for our youth. For interested applicants, send your resume to P.O. Box 94, Lead Hill, AR 72644, Attn: Pastor Rodney A. Fry. For more details, call 870-436-5268, or send email to brorodneyfry@gmail.com.

Gassville Baptist Church is looking for a **full-time youth pastor**. Interested applicants can send their resumes to P.O. Box 158, Gassville, AR 72635 or email it to gvbapt@gassville.net. We are located in North Central Arkansas, close to Mountain Home, Ark.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, El Dorado, is receiving resumes for **part-time minister of students**. If interested, forward resume to Search Committee at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 3408 N. Wyatt Dr., El Dorado, AR 71730.

First Baptist Church of Fulton, Mo., is seeking the right **person to direct, coordinate, oversee and continue to develop our worship and education ministries**. Please send your resume to 1baptistfulton@sbcglobal.net, and visit our Web site at fbcfultonmo.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

**YOUTH RETREAT**, etc. - Four log homes, 2.5 acres; walking distance to Magic Springs, Hot Springs; approximately 6,000 square feet (total). Call Patsy: 501-262-1142. ERA Rushing McAdams Polychron REALTORS.

For Rent: Beautiful **gulf-front condominium** on Okaloosa Island, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Near Destin. Lots of amenities. Low rates from owner - call Lucy, 770-831-3651, or email Lucyclark9@aol.com.

**Fifteen-passenger van** needed for ministry serving homeless families with children. Would appreciate donation. Also willing to pay fair, market value. Contact Family Promise of Pulaski County, 501-372-0733, or execdir@familypromisepc.org.

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

# Dolls for children make kingdom impact

Jessica Vanderpool  
Arkansas Baptist News

PARAGOULD – Members of the Women on Mission (WOM) group at First Baptist Church, Paragould, recently sewed dolls to send to Native American children in New Mexico.

Susan Steeger, WOM member and wife of First Baptist pastor Bill Steeger, said the idea to make the dolls came from seamstress and fellow WOM member Ann Bowers, who suggested the group “do a hands-on project.” Bowers had read about the doll project in the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) Missions Mosaic magazine.

So, the women set to work. Some donated fabric. Some cut fabric. Others stitched or stuffed dolls. After about two months of work, the women had completed more than 50 dolls.



Dolls made by WOM.

“A heart for missions runs deep within our WOM at First Baptist, Paragould,” Steeger said.

She explained the desire to reach out to Native American children is reminiscent of Annie Armstrong’s passion for the same thing. She said the church has tried to focus more on Annie this year.

“And the dolls were just sort of an outcome of all of this, you know, all this activity about Annie,” Steeger said, adding that they hope to make more dolls this summer to send somewhere.

Although six or seven women did the major work, the rest of the group, which totals about 15 women, also contributed with smaller tasks. She explained the group members are older and many have health problems.

“So this is, I think, commendable that they would do this – you know, take it on at their age and be excited about it,” she said.

Although some are limited by their physical ailments, she said the women “have a really sweet spirit about sharing whatever they can do, even (if) it’s the financial thing to buy stuffing for the dolls because it takes a lot of stuffing material.”

Jerry Smalling, one of the WOM leaders, explained about the women, “They love the Lord and they love missions.”

She added, “They can’t do anything as physical as they used to, but they’re there to support everything 100 percent.”

She said making the dolls is one way women can serve and make a kingdom impact.

Smalling does not see age as a limitation to keep one from serving.

“Well the thing about it is senior adults need other senior adults in the sense that they don’t need to feel like they can’t do anything. You know, as long as you’ve got a telephone in your house, there’s no reason why you cannot contact other people and lift their day.”

Despite her own physical ailments, Smalling lives out this keep-serving principle in her own life.



From left: Vera Mitchell, Mary Morgan, Bonnie Maxwell and Caroline Bogan show off dolls made for Native American children.

“I’m not going to quit,” said Smalling. “I can’t quit yet. You know, God’s left me here this long. I’m still supposed to be valuable for some reason. I haven’t figured it out yet, but I just keep going. And I just love to work. I always have.”

Steeger shared words from Smalling that have stayed with her.

“She just said, ‘I feel like I need to do what is my reasonable service.’ That’s how she says it,” Steeger said, adding that Smalling is “dynamic and on-fire about everything.”

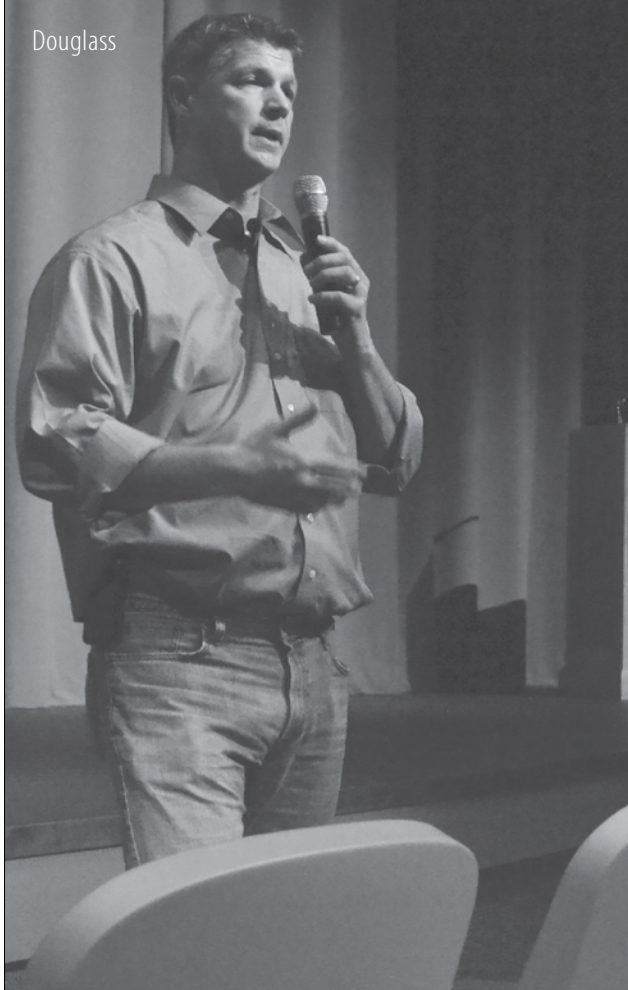
“Well that’s what keeps you happy is to stay busy,” Smalling said. “Isn’t the devil’s workshop the other side of it?”

Yes, you say?

That’s what she thought, too.

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

Douglass



## ‘Heaven’s Rain’ pours on Pangburn

Jessica Vanderpool  
Arkansas Baptist News

PANGBURN – First Baptist Church, Pangburn, in conjunction with Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, near Heber Springs, and two other churches, recently hosted a showing of the movie “Heaven’s Rain,” the true story of pain and forgiveness as experienced by Brooks Douglass, the son of Southern Baptist missionaries Richard and Marilyn Douglass.

Called “a tribute” to his parents, the movie depicts the Douglass family’s life as missionaries to Brazil, followed by their return to the United States where two men attacked the family, killing both parents and wounding Douglass and his sister.

In the aftermath of the attack, Douglass and his sister struggle to pick up their lives, and Douglass eventually finds himself face-to-face with one of his attackers and the decision to forgive him.

The May 21 screening, which was held at the Pangburn Performing Arts Center, marked the movie’s first screening in Arkansas. A second screening was held at First Baptist June 12. Douglass attended the May 21 screening and held a question and answer session following

the movie. He shared his testimony at First Baptist May 22.

“Well, the whole purpose of showing it was the message on forgiveness,” said Alan Cook, First Baptist pastor.

“And you know we have a tendency in today’s time to hold a lot of grudges against people and a lot of things, and just the message of forgiving – that’s what really caught our attention, and (we) just thought this is something our community needs.”

Cook continued, “People just needed to understand that we’re trying to live this life with one another, and we need to help one another and mainly we need to forgive each other.”

Cook said the screening was a success.

“We reached some people that otherwise we couldn’t have reached in our churches, and I think it was a big success in a lot of ways for our community.”

He encouraged those who haven’t seen “Heaven’s Rain” to watch it, especially if they are able to go to a viewing where Douglass will be present.

“For a soft-spoken man, he has a big testimony that can reach a lot of people,” Cook said.

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

# Former Arkansas Baptist employee retires again

**Lisa Watson**

*Arkansas Baptist News*

SPRINGDALE – Millie Gill is giving retirement another shot.

When Gill retired from the staff of the *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* in December 2002 after more than 27 years of service, she continued working in Christian ministry, first on the staff of First Baptist Church, Little Rock, and then at Cross Church, Springdale (then First Baptist Church, Springdale).

The 76-year-old officially retired from the staff of Cross Church May 31 for health reasons. The church honored her during a recent senior adult dinner and church-wide reception.

At Cross Church, Gill worked primarily with Charlie Foster, who serves as minister of senior adults and pastoral care.

Her responsibilities included ministering to senior adults who are homebound, in nursing homes and in the hospital. In addition, she made personal phone calls to more than 260 widows in Cross Church several times a year.

Gill also made decorations for senior adult luncheons, breakfasts and funerals at Cross Church.

“I ministered to some wonderful people,” she said, noting she was “blessed” by her ministry at the church, working along-

side Foster.

“All of it has been a reward. God has blessed me tremendously.”

Of Gill, Foster said, “I really think that only heaven can tell the people she ministered to while serving alongside me at Cross Church in pastoral care.”

When Gill first began working at the ABN (then called *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*) in December 1975, she served not only as staff writer, but also worked part-time for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annuity office. She came to the ABN with 10 years of experience working for a newspaper in Blytheville, her hometown.

A few years later, former ABN Editor Everett Sneed asked Gill to take over the ABN photo lab.

“I said I would do it if he let me go to school,” said Gill. In addition, she became a proficient photographer, attending the Baptist photojournalism conferences, teaching Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College students photography dark room skills and working with noted International Mission Board and North American Mission Board photographers.

In time, Gill was promoted to executive assistant to the editor, a role she continued to serve in until her retirement. This role added the responsibilities of office manage-



Millie Gill today.

ment to her previous job of traveling the state to write and take photos in Arkansas Baptist churches.

She said working with Arkansas Baptists throughout her ministry at the ABN was “an honor.”

She said highlights of her ministry there included “getting to travel and meet people all over the state of Arkansas and helping inform other Arkansas Baptists about what was happening in churches across the state.”

Gill said she witnessed several technological advances in printing while working in the newspaper business. When she first began working at a newspaper, Gill said they used “hot lead,” a type of heated metal typesetting, to print the newspaper. Then, when she came to work for the ABN, staff members cut and “pasted up” the paper for offset printing. Later, the newspaper began using in-house typesetting for printing, prior to its current method of

using computers to lay out pages.

Gill credits the Lord with providing each of the jobs she has had in ministry. She said, when her husband died in 1974, she committed her life to the Lord, praying for an opportunity to serve Him in ministry. Nine months later, she began working at the ABN.

Gill now lives with her sister and brother-in-law, Loretta and Jim Tidwell, in Rogers. Gill, who has suffered from chronic pain for a number of years, is thankful for the opportunities she has had to serve in ministry.

However, she is enjoying retirement. “I think it’s wonderful,” she said. “It’s the first time since I was 14 years old that I haven’t had a job to go to.”

“It’s a real pleasure for me,” she said. “I will get to do a lot of reading and sewing and some baking.”

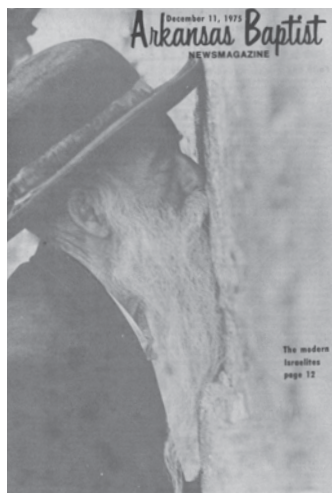
She plans to travel with the Tidwells.

She believes her health problems will be easier to manage, noting her doctor had pressed her to “cut back” on work for a number of years. “I can really tell a difference,” she said, adding she had witnessed a decrease in her stress and, consequently, in her pain level.

She also gives credit to Arkansas Baptists who helped “assist me in rearing my daughter from a 10-year-old to becoming a very talented and thoughtful adult.”

Her daughter, Lou Ann Gartrell, lives with her husband, Steve, in Joshua, Texas. Gill has one grandson, Stephen.

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



Cover of ABN when Gill began working there in 1975.

## Church dedication

Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, dedicated a new \$4.9 million facility June 5. The worship center, which seats more than 600 people, features a hybrid pipe organ, which contains both pipes and digital sounds. The brass pipes, which adorn the front of the worship center, were purchased from Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, when it relocated in 2003.

Other features include a choir rehearsal room, separate bride and groom dressing rooms, a handicap lift and multiple restrooms.



Ed Simpson, Calvary Baptist pastor, speaks at the church's dedication service.

From the front lines

## Chaplain has 'divine appointments'

Bill Berry

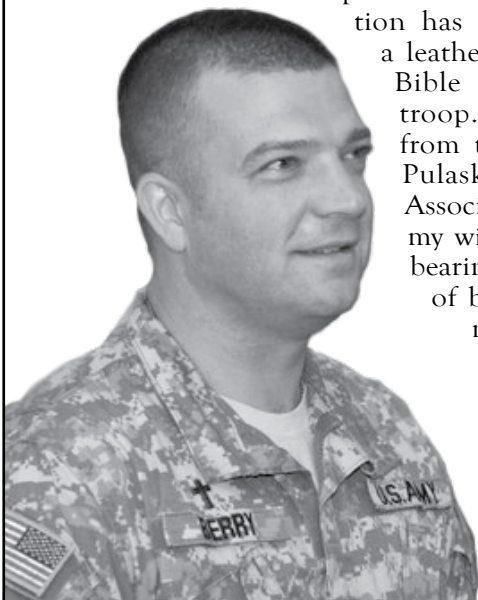
Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bill Berry is husband to Jennilee, dad to Noah, Austin, Eli and Silas, the Chaplain for the 77th Theater Aviation Brigade, NAMB missionary to the military and member of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock. He is currently serving in Afghanistan.

The deployment process has been a blur. However, in this blur of early mornings and late nights, extreme busyness and extreme boredom, there have been divine appointments and lessons learned.

There has been great support from the local churches that picked up our troops and took them back to Arkansas on pass, notably East Union Missionary Baptist Church, Little Rock; Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Cabot; and Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Support from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has purchased a leather soldier's Bible for every troop. Support from the North Pulaski Baptist Association and my wife, who is bearing the load of being both mom and dad to



Berry

our four young sons, keeps coming. However, can I depend on churches and individuals to be my rock during this time? The answer is no. My wife, my church and my convention cannot be my rock. That weight is too much to put on anything or anyone, and that includes me.

In ministry we are surrounded, oftentimes, by the familiar and the comfortable. With this comfort, I have the tendency to rely on my own strength and the strength of others without even realizing it. Now, God has put me in a place where the only Rock I can turn to is Him.

I realize at times in ministry I have tried to be a fixer of people on my own. A verse here, a sermon series there or the recommendation of a book can sometimes "do the trick" to remedy life's needs. However, soldiers demand more than a sugar-coated answer to the issues of life, and they are brutally honest about it. While this is sometimes a shock that leaves me trying to attach my lower jaw to the top, it is a reminder that I am powerless without Christ, and so are they.

From the most mundane to the most horrific situations, God is God, and I am not God. It is completely freeing to come to realize that, in my own wisdom and strength, I am unable to do anything. However, God is able to heal and redeem in every situation. His gospel is the only answer for life. Case in point: A soldier is born again. His hurting marriage now starts the redemption process from hundreds of miles away. No books on marriage, no couple's counseling, no videos



Berry with his wife Jennilee and children Noah, Austin, Eli and Silas.

or conferences. The healing begins because the problem was not his separation from his spouse. It was not his lack of quality time with the children, etc. And his problem was not mine to fix, but God's. The problem was he was separated from Christ. With that relationship redeemed, the tools of ministry can now be used. Now the Rock is firmly in Its place.

"Let the words of my mouth and meditations of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalms 19:14).

## Garland 'Gano' Harris 'Father of the Year' tribute essay

OUR EARTHLY FATHER, Garland "Gano" Harris, made it very easy for his four children to believe in a loving heavenly Father. Throughout his life, our now 97-year-old dad has been faithful to God, to his family and to his church. He has shown us



Harris

how to find joy in our daily life. He writes hilarious birthday poems for each child, grandchild and great-grandchild. He sings constantly, combining old songs with new ones he makes up. When you arrive at his home, instead of complaining about aches and pains, he says, "Hey, get in this house! Have a sit-down, and let's talk things over!" He's so upbeat and fun that everyone in the community loves to visit with him. He lives alone, is a good cook and never misses an Alma home football or basketball game. He drives himself to church every Sunday. Even

though he can no longer hear most of what is spoken in church, he says, "The Bible says not to forsake assembling together, so I'll be there."

Dad was born in Dyer and, other than during his World War II service and for a brief time following the war, has lived in Alma all his

life and has always been a member of First Baptist, where he is now the oldest member. Recently, some youth from the church came to help him with some yard work. He thanked them kindly for their offer but encouraged them to find some "old people" to help as he enjoys

doing his own yard work!

Thank you, Dad, for all you've done for us and for being such an inspiration in our lives.

Charlene Fite, Ruth Welsh and Anita Cook, all of First Baptist, Alma; and Gano Harris Jr., Austin, Texas.

## ABN youth video contest extended to Aug. 15

LITTLE ROCK - The deadline of the first-ever *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) "Youth Group Video Contest" has been extended until midnight Aug. 15.

"Feedback we received indicated the original deadline of June 1 was not the best timing for youth groups," said ABN Editor Tim Yarbrough. "By moving the deadline to Aug. 15, it will allow youth groups to submit videos of their summer camp and mission trip activities."

Videos submitted should be no more than 3 minutes in length and should be about a ministry of

the church in which youth were involved (mission trip, summer camp, evangelism outreach, etc.).

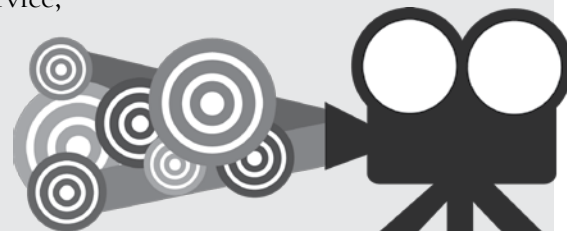
Students should do the majority of the work on the video, such as the acquisition of video footage and editing. Videos submitted for the contest should be posted online via YouTube, Vimeo, GodTube or a similar video sharing service, with a link sent to the ABN for consideration.

Winners will be notified by email, and their videos will be highlighted in an ABN digital edition and on-

line at [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).

Contest entries will be judged by ABN and Arkansas Baptist State Convention staff.

Prizes include a digital video camera for first place and iTunes gift cards for second and third places. For more information and contest rules, go to [www.arkansasbaptist.org](http://www.arkansasbaptist.org).



## Rise above the tide

Life comes at you fast," is a quote made famous in the commercials of a large insurance company. It reminds us that the challenges of this life often come in waves and catch us off guard. Problems tend to multiply and pile up, quickly leaving us battered and wounded. It is easy to lose perspective and become discouraged.

I remember a time in my early 20s when I became discouraged. Over a period of six years, my wife

lost her mother, she miscarried our first baby and we lost four grandparents. We were both in school, working full-time in ministry and away from home.

Money was tight, and work was difficult. We questioned God's call to ministry and wondered if God had removed His blessing from us.

In Jeremiah 15, we see a dis-

couraged prophet crying out to God. God had given him the difficult job of calling out the nation

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE JUNE 26, 2011

*Doug Fulton*  
minister to single adults  
Geyer Springs FBC, Little Rock

Scripture passage:  
Jeremiah 15:10-11, 15-21

People give for different reasons – out of guilt, for tax write-offs or because it seems like the right thing to do. In our culture, giving has even become a fashionable pursuit.

For Christians, giving should have a deeper significance than "doing the right thing." Charitable contributions are somewhat trendy; however, they do not imply the absence of selfishness. Oftentimes, these handouts do not come at the expense of our own comforts. The spirit of our giving can be a telling factor in the demonstration of our faith in a secular society.

Giving can show a change of

heart. Luke 19 shows a radical demonstration of giving in the story of Zacchaeus. A tax collector, who once cheated people out of their earnings, not only gives up half of what he has, but pays back four times the amount he had cheated following a life-changing encounter with Jesus (Luke 19:8).

We see a similar spirit of generosity displayed in 2 Corinthians 8:2-3. The Christians here were commended for giving sacrificially, even out of their poverty. This way of giving seems counterintuitive. Our world would tell us that we should give but not at our own expense. This type of giving is a demonstra-

## Never say it's hopeless

Is a revival needed in our nation? The obvious answer is a definite, "Yes!" However, when we talk about revival, we tend to point fingers at the decline of Christianity, problems with our government or the absence of morality. While those things are true, revival in our nation will begin only when there is a revival among the people of God.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE JULY 3, 2011

*David McCord*  
pastor  
First Baptist Church, Mena

Scripture passage:  
Jeremiah 16:11-12, 14-15, 18:1-4, 18

The people of Judah also stood in need of revival. Idolatry, immorality, empty sacrifice and ritual became the pattern of Judah's society. Jeremiah's message called for repentance and warned that if they did not return, exile would be inescapable. How did the people respond to Jeremiah? Apparently not well. Jeremiah 18:18 says, "Come let us devise plans against Jeremiah."

July Fourth is a celebration of freedom, a corporate remembrance of the liberties we enjoy as a nation. The fireworks will be exciting, the cookouts will be scrumptious and many churches will have special services commemorating our nation's birthday.

But for followers of Christ, we celebrate a freedom far more precious than what we enjoy as Americans. It is a freedom not secured by earthly governments, but guaranteed and paid for by the Son of God. And while we may come together to celebrate our spiritual freedom, it is a freedom that must be received by each individual. Nobody can claim it for you. It is personal.

It can be logically assumed that with personal freedom comes personal rights. In 2 Peter 2, the apostle described false teachers who advocated a warped form of freedom. In his description, he noted that they despised authority, had an opinion about everything, even when they were ignorant of the subject, and did whatever felt good at the time. When Peter said, in verse 18, that they spoke "bombastic, empty words" (HCSB), he basically said they were full of hot air. As the old saying goes, their mouths wrote checks their character couldn't cash. Their twisted caricature of freedom had actually enslaved them.

Does that sound like our world

of Judah for its unfaithfulness. Jeremiah loved his people and was faithful in proclaiming God's call for the nation to repent. God's judgment would come if the people did not turn from their sin and renew their relationship with Him.

The people continued in sin, and their anger burned against Jeremiah. Jeremiah became an outcast among his own people. He was hated, slandered and even isolated from his own family. As we read his words to God, it is easy to understand his disappointment and pain.

It is never easy to faithfully serve God. We live in a fallen world where hardship and difficulty abound.

People are in desperate need of the salvation found only through a relationship with Jesus.

As we seek to live for Him, we will face opposition and obstacles along the way.

The good news is that God cares for us. He knows our hearts and hears our cries when we are discouraged. He promises His presence, power and provision in our times of need.

"The Lord said: I will certainly set you free and care for you. I will certainly intercede for you in a time of trouble, in your time of distress, with the enemy" (Jer. 15:11, HCSB).

## Charity versus sacrifice

tion of a deeper faith in God's ability to provide in the most unlikely situations.

Our generosity sets us apart. It is a physical manifestation of the love we have been shown by God and in turn are able to show to others (1 John 3:16-17). The definition for holiness is often rooted in the idea of being set apart.

The things that distinguish us from the world demonstrate the characteristics of God that we possess as

Christians. Our sacrifice in sincere "action and deed" (1 John 3:18) is not necessarily the typical response.

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE JUNE 26, 2011

*Melissa Riley*  
youth minister  
Baring Cross Baptist, Sherwood

Scripture passage:  
Luke 19:1-10; 2 Corinthians 8:2-4;  
1 John 3:16-18

The motives behind our generosity may be questioned. People may wonder if we are trying to appease some sensation of guilt in our own lives. Despite questions raised regarding our motives, our sacrificial gifts provide us with the opportunity to bless others and open doors for the gospel to be shared.

Jeremiah's message of exile was not God's final word to His people. God also promised restoration. Is there hope for revival today? Most certainly – because God still desires to restore His people. Jeremiah provides two necessary components of restoration.

Restoration is based on the promise of God (Jer. 16:14-15). God's promise of restoration falls on the heels of a list of reasons why Judah was facing judgment (Jer. 16:11-12). God said in verse 13, "I will hurl you out of this land." Then, hope penetrated judgment. God promised that just as He delivered Israel

from Egypt, He would deliver them from exile. God's promise was, "For I will restore them to their own land." God is absolutely faithful to His promises. He will restore you when you return to Him.

Restoration requires being remade by God (Jer. 18:1-6). Jeremiah's illustration of the potter and the clay is widely known. Something in the clay the potter was using to make a vessel was not right. Jeremiah watched the potter push the clay back down into a lump and said, "he remade it" (18:4). We need restoration. We need revival. Are we willing to be remade by God?

## Personal rights

today? People in our modern culture seem intent on getting what they think they are entitled to by society, by others and even by God. But before being too harsh on the secular world, understand that Peter was writing to church folks. Even believers can be entrapped by a false understanding of freedom.

In Philippians 3, Paul also warned of those who advocated a false gospel. In contrast, he reminded readers that they were seeking a

different goal with a different destination and that true freedom comes only by submitting to the Lordship of Christ.

### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE JULY 3, 2011

*Lynn Riley*  
Evangelism and Church  
Growth Team, ASBC

Scripture passages:  
Philippians 3:17-21; 2 Peter 2:4-19

E.V. Hill once observed that most church fights begin with three words: "Well, I think." His response to that was, "I really don't care what you think. What does God's Word say?" While we may not be as bold as Hill, each believer should understand that any privileges he has depends on the freedom found only in Christ.



## NEWS DIGEST

### Lottie Moon offering: \$145.6 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) - Doubts about the strength of America's economic recovery and rumors of a double-dip recession did not stop Southern Baptists from giving \$145,662,925 million in 2010 to tell the world about Jesus Christ.

That is what was given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions last year. The annual offering is a key vehicle for supporting nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries serving around the world through the International Mission Board (IMB), providing housing, salaries, medical care and children's education. The cost averages \$46,700 annually per individual missionary.

IMB President Tom Elliff and Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Executive Director/Treasurer Wanda Lee both expressed deep gratitude for Southern Baptists' investment in international missions and faithfulness to fulfill the Great Commission.

### China arrests 20 church members

BEIJING (BP) - As members of Shouwang Church continue to stand against Beijing police and the Chinese government, members of other churches are showing solidarity with the illegal congregation - to the point of getting arrested.

At least 20 Christians were arrested June 5 during Shouwang's ninth straight week of defying the government by attempting to worship outdoors in a Beijing public square.

Eighteen of the Christians were Shouwang members, and two were members of other churches although one of the members of the other churches apparently was arrested by mistake as he walked past the site.

### Jim Hamilton resigns as Dakota exec.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (BP) - Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention, has resigned effective June 17.



Hamilton said he will give full attention to a national network he has launched to strengthen and start churches and to pastoring Journey Church, which he planted 18 months ago in Sioux Falls, S.D.

### MTV pulls pro-life ad

WASHINGTON (BP) - MTV - the music television channel - has pulled a pro-life commercial because of MTV's partnership with abortion giant Planned Parenthood, according to the non-profit behind the advertisement.

Heroic Media - a faith-based organization that seeks to reduce abortion by means of ads on television, billboards and the Internet - said the sometimes controversial cable network barred the pro-life commercial after running it for a year. The non-profit based in Austin, Texas, uses advertising to link women to pro-life pregnancy help centers.

### Cooperative Program below 2010 pace

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) - Year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries received by the SBC Executive Committee are 1.92 percent below the same time frame last year, according to a news release from the SBC Executive Committee. The total includes receipts from state conventions and fellowships, churches and individuals for distribution according to the 2010-2011 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

### Subscriber services

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

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

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

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

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

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the address label to the left.

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

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



**Church planting**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention pursues church planting.

PAGE 1

**Father of the Year**  
Garland "Gano" Harris, First Baptist, Alma, is *ABN* Father of the Year.

PAGE 1



**OneChurch,  
Conway, reaches  
unchurched for  
Christ**

PAGE 1