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FEATURE

Canines for Christ:

Ministry uses dogs to bring comfort to sick and hurting

Sarah Davis
Arkansas Baptist News

THIS MINISTRY is simple because people love dogs," said Steve Kesler.

Kesler is a chaplain and vice president for Canines for Christ ministry, an international Christian-based, non-profit, animal-assisted therapy started in 2007 by Larry Randolph and his wife, Susan, in Lutz, Fla.

"The main mission of this ministry is to bring love, comfort, joy, hope and peace to the many people that are in need of God's amazing grace and salvation," said Randolph.

"We bring the good news of the gospel using these beautiful creatures that God has given us to open the lines of communication to share this message."

Canines for Christ uses ordinary people and their dogs to share God's love with those who are hurting. The ministry has more than 900 volunteers in 35 states and five foreign countries – including one volunteer in Arkansas.

Barbara Brewer, a mem-

ber of First Baptist Church, Rogers, and her dog, Snowball, volunteer their time to Canines for Christ.

"I was searching the Web for things to go and do with Snowball," said Brewer. "We went through six years of training, and I wanted to put that to use in a good way. I contacted Canines for Christ and just took off."

Brewer takes Snowball to church, hospitals and nursing homes. Snowball enjoys walking around communities and greeting everyone, said Brewer. Snowball is also a mascot for a baseball team, and they attend all the games.

"I enjoy the smiles," said Brewer. "Even in hospitals, doctors and nurses stop to love on Snowball and say, 'I needed this.'"

"There is so much sadness in the world. Snowball brings the smiles and I bring Christ," said Brewer.

Ministry volunteers visit cancer centers, grief centers, hospitals, hospice facilities, special-needs facilities, prisons,

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Barbara Brewer and Snowball.



WINDS CAUSE DAMAGE AT CAMP – Camp Siloam experienced extensive damage to multiple buildings when straight-line winds passed through the Siloam Springs area Sunday morning, June 23. Jason Wilkie, camp executive director, said four buildings were damaged during the storm, including the Diamond Inn, maintenance shed and two pavilions. In all, dozens of trees were uprooted, said Wilkie, who commended Arkansas Baptist disaster relief teams from Clarksville, Cross Church and Siloam Springs for their quick response to clear and clean up debris by Sunday afternoon before nearly 800 campers arrived the next day for camp. *Photos by Jason Wilkie*



ABN classifieds get results!

Read them on Page 10.

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ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Mo. Planned Parenthood fights to stay open

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP) – Missouri’s Administrative Hearing Commission (AHC) granted the state’s only abortion providing Planned Parenthood location an emergency stay allowing abortions to continue Friday, June 28. The stay allows the organization to continue providing abortions, at least until a hearing regarding the renewal of Planned Parenthood’s state license is held. The AHC hearing is set for Aug. 1 in St. Louis.

If the Planned Parenthood facility closes, Missouri would become the first abortion facility-free state since the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which led to the legalization of abortion nationwide.

Young adults becoming less tolerant to LGBTs

NEW YORK (BP) – America’s younger generation is becoming less comfortable with LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) individuals, according to a June 24 report by The Harris Poll on behalf of LGBT advocacy group Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Only 45 percent of non-LGBT respondents in the younger bracket of the report said they were “very” or “somewhat” comfortable around LGBTQ people or with LGBT issues in 2018 – a sharp decline from 53 percent in 2017 and 63 percent in 2016.

“While young people are identifying as LGBT in higher rates than ever before, there has also been an uptick in non-LGBT young people pushing back against acceptance,” Sarah Kate Ellis, GLAAD president and CEO, wrote in the report.

For more ABN Digest, go to arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest

Safe Haven baby boxes to be promoted in all 75 Ark. counties

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Right to Life has undertaken a statewide billboard campaign to promote the Safe Haven law and Safe Haven baby boxes in all 75 counties in Arkansas, Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life, announced June 26 in a news release.

The first billboard went live June 14 in Harrison, at 801 Highway 62-65 North, according to Mimms.

The Safe Haven law, enacted in Arkansas in 2001, is designed to protect babies from being hurt or killed from abandonment by parents who are unwilling or unable to parent. Under this law a parent may give up an infant anonymously at a hospital emergency room or law enforcement agency, but in 2019 the law was amended to include manned fire stations as a surrender location. The amended law, Act 185, sponsored by Arkansas Sen. Cecile Bledsoe and Rep. Rebecca Petty also approved the installation of Safe Haven baby boxes at surrender locations.

With the law set to take effect on July 24, the billboard campaign’s purpose is three-fold, said Mimms: 1) to educate the general public and parents about the Safe Haven law, 2) to advise manned fire departments that they are now an official surrender location and 3) to promote the option



The first Safe Haven baby box billboard went live June 14 in Harrison at 801 Highway 62-65 North.

of Safe Haven baby boxes for parents who want or need total anonymity in the safe surrender of their baby.

The first Safe Haven box in Arkansas is set to be dedicated in September, said Mimms.

Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven baby boxes, testified before the Arkansas Senate Public Health Committee and brought a Safe Haven baby box with her to the Arkansas State Capitol for inspection as to the safety and need of total anonymity for these parents.

Kelsey, who was abandoned as an infant and adopted, has made it her life mission to protect mothers and babies.

Mimms said every state has a Safe Haven law, but provi-

sions vary from state to state. The Arkansas Safe Haven law allows a parent to bring a child 30 days old or younger to an official surrender location without facing prosecution of endangerment and abandonment of a child. The law does not prohibit prosecution for abuse or neglect of the child that occurred before the child was given up to a medical provider or law enforcement agency.

Once a baby is surrendered, the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will be contacted immediately and the child treated medically. DCFS will assume responsibility for the child and

place the child with a “forever” family.

The DCFS maintains a website, public service announcements and materials in both English and Spanish to help educate the public about the Arkansas Safe Haven law.

“Arkansas Right to Life joins the effort with our support of the law to add manned fire departments and the installation of Safe Haven baby boxes in Arkansas through our educational billboard campaign,” said Mimms.

Arkansas Right to Life is the state’s oldest and largest pro-life organization in Arkansas and the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.

CANINES

continued from page one

schools and crisis disaster response locations.

“The dogs are the instant ice breaker,” said Randolph. “They open the door so that people who are shy about talking to strangers and shy about talking about their faith will have the opportunity to share through the dog.”

“We are not pressing the gospel, but we are there as ambassadors for Christ. Many times, people will open up to the volunteers and allow us to pray, witness to them and have the opportunity to lead them

to Christ,” he said.

Randolph and his dog, Gracie, have gone on mission trips to Tanzania and Guatemala. They have also worked in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans; Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas; Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Fla., and Parkland school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

“We had several chaplains with their canines visit Parkland school last year to comfort and consult the students and victims. This is one of our main parts of our ministry as we have volunteers all over the country that are open to responding to crisis situations like these disasters,”



Canines for Christ Ministry dogs pictured with medical professionals.

he said.

Randolph said that people see God’s love come through the “dog’s warm nose and wagging tail” and through the volunteer’s prayer.

“The ministry is so simple and so easy, yet so beautiful and powerful,” Kesler added.

“A statement I make all day long when I take my dog, Bruce, out is, ‘God loves you unconditionally, and so do dogs.’

For more information on Canines for Christ visit, k9forchrist.org. Contact Sarah Davis at sarah@arkansasbaptist.org.

Arkansas prison seminary program questioned

Caleb Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

A PROMINENT anti-religion advocacy organization has called into question the prison seminary program set to begin classes this fall in the Varner Unit of the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC).

The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), based in Madison, Wis., sent a letter addressed to Mark Colbert of the ADC June 21, addressing the organization's "constitutional concerns" regarding the ADC's recent partnership with "the Arkansas Baptist State Convention ('ABSC') and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary ('MABTS')."

The FFRF letter quotes the Supreme Court, stating, "the prohibition against government endorsement of religion 'preclude(s) government from conveying or attempting to convey a message that religion or a particular religious belief is favored or preferred.'"

"This general prohibition applies with equal force to law enforcement and corrections," the FFRF writes.

"We remain excited about the service Mid-America will be providing, at no cost to the state, for inmates at the Varner Unit," ADC public information officer Solomon Graves told the *Arkansas Baptist News* in written comments. "Any proposal from a college

or university is evaluated on its merits; to include the stability of institution and the quality of academic program(s). Mid-America is a proven institution and the inmate seminary model has been proven to be successful in multiple states, Louisiana and Texas among the number."

William "Dubs" Byers, ADC board member, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dumas, and former superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School, was instrumental in the planning and formation of the Varner Unit seminary program.

"We are going to go ahead unless there is some type of litigation, unless some judge says no," said Byers. "But this

same program is in 23 states so it's pretty well-established.

"The key thing to remember is that this program is not just for Christians. ... It's a four-year, accredited degree. Anybody is eligible to apply ... (and) they will do with this degree whatever they want to."

"It (the degree program) is at no cost to the state, and it is at no cost to the inmates," said Byers. "The objective, of course, is to change people's lives, change their behaviors ... That's a win even for those who may not believe in God. If it changes behavior for the good in prison, it's a win for everybody."

Contact Caleb Yarbrough at caleb@arkansasbaptist.org.

Sanders resigns White House post, to return to Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sarah Huckabee Sanders, White House press secretary for the past three and a half years, is leaving her post to return to Arkansas.

President Donald Trump announced Sanders' departure via Twitter:

"After 3½ years, our wonderful Sarah Huckabee Sanders will be leaving the White

House at the end of the month and going home to the Great State of Arkansas. She is a very special person with extraordinary talents, who has done an incredible job! I hope she decides to run for Governor of Arkansas - she would be fantastic. Sarah, thank you for a job well done!"

Sanders, a native Arkansan and graduate of Ouachita Bap-

tist University, became only the third woman in U.S. history to serve as White House press secretary on July 21, 2017. She is the daughter of former two-term Arkansas governor, pastor and former presidential contender Mike Huckabee.

The *Arkansas Baptist News* profiled Huckabee in September 2017. Read online at arkansasbaptist.org/read/sanders.



Sarah Huckabee Sanders resigned as White House press secretary June 30.

SWBTS responds to lawsuit alleging rape on campus

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) - Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) is committed to protecting survivors of abuse and being a safe place for the vulnerable, Adam W. Greenway, president of the seminary, said in response to a lawsuit filed by a former student who alleges being raped by a fellow student

"While we cannot address issues in ongoing litigation, it is important that the Southwestern Seminary community know that we take these matters seriously and are committed to our campus being a safe place for the vulnerable and for survivors of abuse," Greenway said June 24. Both Southwestern Seminary and former SWBTS President Paige Patterson are named as defendants.

"As I said in my report at the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, I realize in a Genesis 3 world that there may be times when our seminary may fall short of expecta-

tions," Greenway said. "In any and every area where this has been the case, I am sorry. It is my resolve for our seminary to do better."

Greenway responded to a personal injury lawsuit that alleges "Jane Roe" was forcibly raped at gunpoint on at least three occasions from October 2014 through April 2015 by a fellow student with an extensive criminal history who also was employed as an SWBTS plumber.

Roe alleges neither Patterson nor SWBTS sought to protect her when she reported her abuse. Instead, the suit claims, Patterson in particular intimidated Roe, disparaged her and told her being raped was "a good thing" ... "because the right man would not care if she was a virgin or not." Also, the lawsuit claims, SWBTS had no system in place to prevent and address the sexual assault of students.

The lawsuit was unsealed

June 6 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Sherman.

Roe's attorney Sheila P. Haddock of San Diego, Calif., said the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct constrain all parties involved from commenting on the case. Her client hopes to avoid further traumatization and to maintain privacy by pursuing the case as "Jane Roe," Haddock said.

"What I can say is this: Jane Roe is an extremely courageous young woman who is still struggling to put the pieces of her life together," Haddock said, adding "to build a future for herself and to find her voice. This case is a step forward for her on this journey." Roe is seeking a jury trial and monetary damages currently unspecified.

Attorney Shelby Sharpe, who has represented Patterson in the past, said Patterson has been out of the country and

likely has not been served the summons. In previous statements, Patterson has denied accusations related to mishandling reports of abuse.

The SWBTS Board of Trustees fired Patterson in May 2018 "regarding the handling of an allegation of sexual abuse against a student during Dr. Paige Patterson's presidency at another institution and resulting issues connected with statements to the Board of Trustees that are inconsistent with SWBTS's biblically informed core values."

The case was originally filed March 11 under the plaintiff's official name, but was refiled May 22 after the court granted use of the pseudonym Jane Roe, according to court documents. Summonses to SWBTS and Patterson to inform them of the lawsuit are dated June 18 and allow 21 days from the date of service for replies.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Chick-fil-A set to become 3rd largest food chain

ATLANTA - Chick-fil-A, the Christian-owned company that is closed on Sundays, will soon become the third-largest restaurant chain in the United States, according to CNBC.

CNBC reported May 8 that the chain is on pace to become the third-largest restaurant in sales this year, passing Subway and trailing only McDonald's and Starbucks.

"Chick-fil-A stands out largely because it has avoided any major menu renovations, unlike competitors McDonald's and Burger King, [by] sticking to a relatively simple menu," CNBC reported.

Chick-fil-A, which has for many years been the focus of criticism by liberals and progressives for its support of traditional values, will reach the number three spot in spite of being the target of controversy and being closed on Sundays.

Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A, decided to close on Sundays in 1946 when he opened the first restaurant in Hapeville, Ga.

"Having worked seven days a week in restaurants open 24 hours, Truett saw the importance of closing on Sundays so that he and his employees could set aside one day to rest and worship if they choose - a practice we uphold today," states the Chick-fil-A website.

"Despite being open only six out of seven days a week, we've been able to consistently generate more sales than competitors who are open every day," said Jodee Morgan, Chick-fil-A's senior director of culture and talent. "And I do think customers appreciate our policy. I know our employees do."

For more ABN Digest, go to
arkansasbaptist.org/abn-digest

Editorial & Opinion

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Do you suffer from FOMO?

A number of years ago I read "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and it's all small stuff: Simple Ways to Keep the Little Things from Taking Over Your Life" by Richard Carlson.

In the book, Carlson reveals ways we can learn to calm down in the midst of our incredibly hurried, stress-filled lives. His advice is meant to help us learn to put things in perspective by making small daily changes.

I read Carlson's book during a very hectic and stressful time in my life. I was raising two children, director of a young adult Sunday school department at church, leader of a large communications team for a Baptist state convention, and teaching public relations and advertising courses as an adjunct instructor at the University of Missouri and Columbia College.

There was a lot of big (and small) stuff going on in my life at the time, and Carlson's advice – along with a heavy dose of Scripture and prayer – helped me to put it all in

perspective.

I recently finished another book that has impacted me as much – if not more – than Carlson's book.

It's "12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You" by Tony Reinke.

In spite of its timeless (and biblical) message, Reinke's book could not have been written prior to the

introduction of the smartphone.

Reinke argues that our smartphones and social media feed our existential "fear of missing out," or FOMO for short.

He states the way social media works is that we are forced to constantly compare our lives with the lives of others, which creates anxiety and anxiousness – resulting in creating a desire to "flaunt our relevance over one another's irrelevance."

Today's nature of the 24-hour news cycle reinforces this notion, stoking our fears about the world as it provides immediate access to "all of the world's major tragedies,

sorrows, bombings, and acts of terrorism." This is a burden, it can be argued, that God never intended us to carry.

"We live in what has been described as an 'attention economy,' and the Sunday morning sermon seems weak in comparison to an Internet-surfing session," writes Reinke, adding, "And we forget about big, glorious realities like the inbreaking new creation of God."

It should come as no surprise to Christians the origin of FOMO, which Reinke writes is a primeval human fear with origin in the Garden of Eden and the fall of man.

"What more could Eve and Adam want – to escape crea-

turehood, to become their own bosses, to preserve their own independence, to define their own truth, to become all-knowing, and to delight in autonomous regality?" he writes. "In other words, FOMO was Satan's first tactic to sabotage our relationship with God, and it worked. It still does."

Reinke writes the longest-running FOMO story was told by Jesus in Luke 16:19-31 about the rich man and Lazarus, a poor man. Ultimately, the rich man, who has everything, loses everything, and the poor man, who has nothing, gains everything.

"(This) FOMO cuts through all the other FOMOs of life: the fear of eternally

missing out. God's wrath is real. And apart from Christ, there is only eternal destruction," he writes.

The truth of the story is that the poor man learned the truth that God is the eternal response to all of the FOMOs in life.

"Heaven will restore every 'missing out' thousands of times over throughout all of eternity," Reinke concludes.

What a powerful message and important call to be alert to our times, being careful not to get caught up in the fashion (or technology) of the day that can result in steering us away from God!

Tim Yarbrough is the editor/executive director of the Arkansas Baptist News.



Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough
Phil. 3:14

The purpose and mission of the Arkansas Baptist News

The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) exists to assist Kingdom work by informing, inspiring and involving Arkansas Baptists through meeting needs of people, spreading the gospel, making disciples and growing God's work in Arkansas and beyond.

The ABN strives for journalistic integrity, fairness and balance in its reporting of Baptist and evangelical news. We advocate for the cause of Jesus Christ. We report the news based on our Christian worldview. We uphold high standards of journalism and Christian ethics.



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Why did Job's wife tell him to curse God and die (Job 2:9)?

Rarely has someone said so little that has caused so much alarm. Her startling two-sentence rant, though reminiscent of the dialogue between God and the adversary (Job 2:3-4), is often understood as sarcastic and angry. Augustine and Calvin both believed her to be an "instrument of the devil." Although her speech can serve as a rebuke to Job's integrity and as a license for him to curse God, should it be taken this way?

It is true that both sarcasm and anger abound within the book of Job. Job and his friends hurled much anger and insults at each other. However, neither sarcasm nor anger seems appropriate from a woman who would have been Job's wife. Perhaps it is something more.

The scenes of Job's suffering are often understood only from Job's perspective; however, the words from Job's wife indicate that she, too, was deeply involved in his tragedy. Like Job, she had lost her livelihood, her workers, her wealth and her children. To make matters worse, she had to watch her husband waste away, with little possibility for his health to return.

Although Job received the brunt of the suffering, she also had been a recipient.

Seeing Job's boil-ridden body may have been too much for her to accept. Her words, then, may not have been said in a fit of rage, but as a remorseful outburst. After all they had endured, she recognized that all Job had left – all they had left – was his integrity. Everything else was gone. The "holding pattern" of their lives was too much for her to bear. Her words, then, sound like a plea for Job to die, so that her life could move on. "Just end this," was her response. Her words came out of emotional exhaustion.

Job, however, would not allow her outburst. He answered his wife in two ways (Job 2:10). First, he reprimanded her. Her words, while understandable, were still inexcusable. Such words made her sound like a "fool": a spiritually inept and unbelieving person (cf. Psa. 14:1). Second, Job reminded her that God was the giver of all things, both good and troublesome. Because Job knew that all their blessings came from God, he also believed that God allowed the trouble that they had received. Job's integrity may have been all Job had, but it was invaluable. He would trust God at all costs.

It is never easy to watch loved ones suffer. It is understandable that those who bear the pain of another's suffering may long for it to end, one way or another. At a weak moment, they may say things they do not mean simply because they are exhausted. God, however, calls His people to Himself, that even during their most troublesome days, God's love may still shine through.

Ken Gore is professor of biblical studies at Dallas Baptist University. Send your questions to tim@arkansasbaptist.org.



Baptists Ask

Ken Gore

The campus of Christian purpose

The history of Williams Baptist University (WBU) is an ongoing testimony to the faithful provision of our God. In learning the Williams story, I have developed a great admiration for the vision and efforts of our founder, H. E. Williams. In particular, I have come to appreciate and value a favorite Williams' designation for the school now known as Williams Baptist University. Williams regularly referred to the school he founded as "a campus of Christian purpose."

"A campus of Christian purpose" is an expression that resonates deeply with me, for it suggests a school that is unique in its reason to exist. "A campus of Christian purpose" means that the institution is more than a school that offers the same type of programs of study as secular institutions with some "value-added" programs, such as discipleship, missions, evangelism and programs for ministerial training.



Williams Baptist University

Stan Norman

"A campus of Christian purpose" means that the Christian faith, in its totality, is embedded in the very DNA of the vision and mission of the university. In other words, our existence and purpose are defined and driven by the Christian faith.

Our Christian purpose includes our relationship with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC), embracing the symbiotic union that exists between the university and the denomination that owns and operates us. WBU derives its identity and mission from the Arkansas Baptist churches that birthed us and continue to support us.

A "campus of Christian purpose" means that WBU is an extension of the disciple-making ministries of ABSC churches – we are a Great Commission, Great Commandment school. "A campus of Christian purpose" means that WBU has a biblically grounded, gospel-driven

mission to be used powerfully by God to effect the life-transformation of all our students (and any others!) who embrace our purpose and mission. This Christian purpose defines our vision to produce exceptional graduates to engage local and global cultures through a Christ-centered worldview.

Williams Baptist University provides an exceptional academic education, preparing our students for successful vocations in all realms of culture and life. With more than two dozen undergraduate and graduate degree programs, we do the kinds of things that typical institutions of higher education do – we graduate students, offer degree programs/majors of study, and prepare students to get good jobs.

However, a "campus of Christian purpose" means that we are more than just a typical university. The difference for a school like ours is found in our mission to integrate the Christian faith in

See **PURPOSE** page 6

Reaching families with the gospel

As the Southern Baptist headlines tell of decreased baptisms among our churches, it is obvious we have a problem fulfilling our mission to reach the world. I am convinced the most significant issue at hand is the ineffectiveness of our churches in reaching families with the gospel, specifically fathers. Day after day we hear stories of tragedy within families where traumatic physical, emotional and various other wounds are caused by family members ... the very ones God placed in an individual's life to love, protect and provide for them!

As the campus director of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, I see the repercussions of this family trauma day after day in the children we care for in our homes. Too many children are being neglected, abused and abandoned by

families that have loved other people and other things more than their own children. Romans 1:31 speaks of a day when people will be "without natural affection." It seems we are living in those times

today, as mothers and fathers who ought to "naturally" love, protect, provide and nurture their children see them as an inconvenience and an obstacle keeping them from fulfilling their own selfish longings for substances, relationships and empty pursuits that promise much – but produce little.

To win the battle for families, I believe, will require churches to get serious about reaching the men of the family. This is not to say churches should not minister to women and children; however, the statistics and biblical principles are clear that when you reach the man in a family, the God-ordained leader,

there is a greater probability of reaching the rest of the family. When the Philippian jailer asked Paul what he must do in order to be saved, Paul said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household" (Acts 16:31, HCSB). The jailer believed, as did his family along with him.

Research conducted by Men's Ministry Catalyst reveals when a child in a home is saved, there is a 3.5 percent chance of reaching the rest of the family for Christ. When a mother is saved, the chances go up to 17 percent. But, when a father is saved, there is a 93 percent chance of reaching the entire family! Therefore, to have the greatest impact on families with the gospel requires that our aim be focused on the fathers in the home.

How is your church doing at reaching men with the gospel? Men, how are you being

See **FAMILIES** page 6

Letters to the Editor welcomed

The *Arkansas Baptist News (ABN)* welcomes Letters to the Editor regarding issues of concern to Southern Baptists in Arkansas.

Send Letters to the Editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and 300 words or less (fewer words, the



better). Letters must be signed and marked "for publication" and may be edited to fit space requirements.

SBC Birmingham: Words are not enough

Hearthbreaking. Encouraging. Inspiring. Compelling.

The 2019 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting was all this – and more.

More than 8,000 messengers, including close to 250 Arkansas Baptist messengers, gathered in Birmingham, Ala., June 11-12, for Southern Baptists' annual business meeting.

For many, the event is akin to a family reunion. For me, I loved walking into and work-



Perspectives

Margaret Colson

ing in the convention press room as well as attending a dessert fellowship for Baptist Communicators Association and a dinner for Association of State Baptist Publications. Relationships with my colleagues and friends who serve alongside me in denominational communications are nurtured through these connections at Southern Baptists' annual family reunion.

At this year's reunion, our family of Southern Baptists brought more than fried chicken to the potluck supper.

(Yes, fried chicken was on the menu at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's dinner bidding farewell to retiring seminary president Chuck Kelley and his wife, Rhonda.) In addition to the fried chicken, our family put some tough issues – issues like sexual abuse, racism and abortion – on this year's reunion table.

The reunion was *heartbreaking* as family members shared

their stories of sexual abuse in our churches. In a panel discussion on the evening preced-

ing the annual meeting, Susan Codone, senior associate dean of academic affairs at Mercer University School of Medicine, shared her personal story of being abused 35 years ago by both her pastor and youth pastor as a teenager in a Birmingham-area church. She lamented what she described as "the catch-and-release policy" in which pastors are caught in sexual abuse but are quietly removed by their churches and able to go to other congregations without disclosure of their crimes. Hers was one of

many such heartrending stories shared in recent weeks of not only sins, but also crimes committed in our ranks.

The reunion was *encouraging* as messengers passed 13 resolutions, including those advocating against abortion, sexual abuse and religious persecution. Messengers also affirmed amendments to the SBC constitution to specifically state that sexual abuse and discrimination based on ethnicity are grounds for a church to be deemed as "not in friendly cooperation" with the convention. "May this world know that the Southern Baptist Convention stands against all forms of sexual abuse," said Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee. "May this world know that ... we also stand against all ethnic discrimination in the United States and around the world."

Another encouraging aspect of the reunion was the diverse slate of officers elected to serve Southern Baptists, including a African American pastor, a Hispanic pastor, and Kathy Litton, the first woman to serve as SBC registration sec-

retary. Throughout denominational history, one woman has served as SBC first vice president (1982), and two women have served as SBC second vice president (1963, 1976). A woman has never served as SBC president, but there are no rules forbidding such, acknowledged Donna Gaines, wife of former SBC president and pastor Steve Gaines of Bellevue Baptist Church in the Memphis, Tenn., area, in a panel discussion at the meeting. In fact, a woman was nominated as SBC president in 1972. There is also no requirement that a pastor serve as SBC president. Brooks Hays, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Arkansas' 5th district, served as a layperson SBC president in 1957-58. The last time a layperson was elected to that position was in the early 1970s. Gaines stated that she prefers to see a pastor serve as SBC president.

The reunion was *inspiring* as North Carolina pastor J.D. Greear, elected to a second term as SBC president, gave three defining values he believes should shape the future

of the SBC: prioritize the gospel above all, be willing to do whatever it takes to reach all people and commit to sending every member. Also inspiring was the commissioning of 26 new international missionaries who are willing to give their all so that others may know Christ and the report that the annual Crossover evangelism outreach effort yielded a reported 364 professions of faith in Jesus. Heaven is rejoicing.

The reunion was *compelling* as, near the meeting's conclusion, Greear reminded attendees, "Bold resolutions and sweeping statements are not sufficient," speaking specifically to the issue of sex abuse in Southern Baptist churches. Yet, his admonition is broader than one issue.

Words are not enough. Words are never enough. Now that this year's family reunion is in the rearview mirror, may we, as Southern Baptists, look toward a future of actively being His Light in a dark, but watching, world (Matt. 5:16).

Margaret Colson is writer/copy editor for the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

Letter to the Editor

Critical race theory and intersectionality

After reading the article on the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) resolutions in the June 20 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, I looked up the resolution on critical race theory and intersectionality.

I appreciate the SBC's stance up to a point. I do not like the premises (the Whereas clauses 2, 3 and 7).

Clause 2 says the critical race theory and intersectionality are a set of analytical tools, and Clause 3 says they have been appropriated by individuals with worldviews contrary to the Christian faith. They are contrary to the Christian faith, but they did not "appropriate" them; they manufactured them and are being taught in secular schools as truth.

Both terms started in the late 1980s. If you want to know where the term "white privilege" comes from, then look into

critical race theory.

Intersectionality is tossed about by the media and used widely by the worldly feminist movement. The average person probably does not know what it means.

Intersectionality was a word manufactured by Kimberly Williams Crenshaw in 1989. It is not in my dictionary, so I had to rely on a post on the Internet. It points out that, "Critics have pointed out that intersectionality relies entirely on non-objective concepts such as 'systems of power' which themselves lack a material reality and therefore empirical basis for study, making it an ideological set of ideas, and not a proper sociological concept."

The SBC should steer clear of using these terms and using these worldly theories as analytical tools. They are anti-Christian.

Christians can influence the world to a certain extent but we have no control on the secular world. We should not validate their ideas. They are

wonderful at manufacturing "words," but that gives them the privilege of defining them, and of course they can make them evolve. We can speak up and let our biblical views be known. If you do, be ready to give account of what you believe.

Virginia "Ginny" Varn
Gassville

Submit letters to the editor to
tim@arkansasbaptist.org

FAMILIES PURPOSE

continued from page 5

intentional in reaching out to other men? Are there marriages and families in crisis around you that you could point to Christ? May God give us clarity to see the key to building, strengthening and restoring Arkansas families is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Kelly Jones is campus director of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello.

continued from page 5

all academic studies, athletic endeavors and student development initiatives. We desire to prepare our students to be difference makers, to be men and women who glorify the Lord with their lives and serve His purposes with the good of the gospel. This is the reason why WBU exists.

Stan Norman is president of Williams Baptist University.

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Reaching children through sports, outdoor ministry, subject of podcast

HOW CAN ARKANSAS' children and youth be reached with the gospel? In *Arkansas Baptist News Podcast 98*, host Bill Bumpas interviews two individuals with innovative outreach approaches.

Sports Crusaders, founded in 1994 by the late Bobby Shows, former minister of recreation at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, seeks "to share the gospel on the platform of sports," said Tricia Alberts, executive director of Sports Crusaders.

The ministry hires college students to help lead sports camps with a gospel focus in America and throughout the world. This summer, Sports Crusaders will minister in Arkansas and other states and will also send eight teams to Ukraine, where the ministry works specifically with new

churches reaching into their communities with the gospel.

We "meet them (children and youth) where they're at. Let's have some common ground, and let it be sports," she said.

In building relationships and sharing the gospel, Sports Crusaders leaders focus on these sports: volleyball, soccer, baseball, basketball, cheerleading and soft-

ball. "It's being intentional with everything we do - with the words that we say and the way we treat kids and to know that they can look up to that college student. We want to give them good Christian

models to look up to and to engage with," she said.

Beginning this summer, Sports Crusaders will work with churches and associations that are hosting summer camps to provide hands-on leadership to the camps' recreation programs.

"We are now going to be offering a recreation team that will go help associational camps and church camps to have organized recreation rather than just crowd control. We're super excited about that," said Alberts.

Arkansas outdoors

Another innovative approach to reach children and youth with the gospel is to introduce them to the Arkansas outdoors.

Pat Fitts, director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), recalls his boyhood days when "godly men of the church were pouring themselves into us" as he was introduced to hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. "We certainly are blessed here in the state of Arkansas. We have a lot of (natural) resources. ... It's all right there for us to enjoy."

When he became director of AGFC, Fitts said, "One of the things I wanted our agency to invest in is engaging with people. ... Partnering with our churches is a great opportunity for us." The agency has close to 600 employees stationed throughout Arkansas. At a church-sponsored wild-game supper, Fitts said, "There's an

opportunity for our wildlife officer or other employee stationed there to do anything, from be your guest speaker, to maybe speak five minutes to the current events in fishing and wildlife in the state of Arkansas, or just to be on hand to answer questions."

Additionally, these individuals are available to provide information about a church possibly hosting a hunter education safety class in its facility or considering the use of a state-owned facility for a special event, he said.

"We have an amazing staff that have some amazing stories that I think the congregations would love to hear," Fitts said.

To listen to the podcast in its entirety visit arkansasbaptist.org/podcast.



Arkansas worship pastor publishes children's book

JONESBORO - Jeffery Stotts, lead worship pastor at Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro, has published "King Everything," a children's book that teaches the biblical values of love and humility.

"Jeff is always our guest speaker at the annual Overcomers banquet," said Pat Qualls, founder of the Overcomers choir. "He made up a story called 'King Everything' to teach the Overcomers the biblical principles found in 1 Corinthians 13."

A ministry of Central Baptist, the Overcomers choir is a group of special-needs adults, their caregivers and volunteers that travel around to share their gift of music.

"When he announced at this year's banquet the book had been published, we were thrilled," said Qualls. "I think his book so simply tells the meaning of this chapter in an earthly way that anyone can

understand."

Each member in the choir received a signed copy of the book.



"I chose to speak on the topic of loving others because that is what the special-needs choir does best. The story of 'King Everything' was the result," said Stotts.

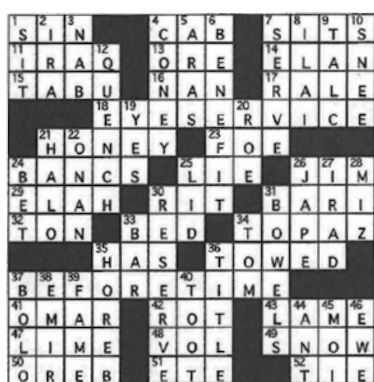
Published by Covenant Books, "King Everything" tells the story of a know-it-all king

who can do everything but love. It is a wise moral inspired by 1 Corinthians 13. The book teaches children about humility, generosity and Christ-like love.

"My hope and prayer is that 'King Everything' will portray to children the importance of showing selfless love and humility to everyone, and that without love, we are nothing," said Stotts.

"King Everything" can be purchased online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

See crossword, page 9



You don't have to see the ABN to hear its stories!

Do you know a friend or family member who is legally blind?
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Dean, Christian author and speaker, dies at 65

MARION, Ky. – Author and speaker Jennifer Kennedy Dean, 65, of Marion, Ky., died June 12.

Dean, who has spoken in numerous Arkansas churches over the years, was the executive director of The Praying Life Foundation and an author and speaker. She was the author of numerous New Hope books, studies and magazine articles about prayer and spiritual growth. Her book, “Heart’s Cry,” is a recommended resource of the

National Day of Prayer. New Hope Publishers is a publishing subsidiary of the Woman’s Missionary Union.

Dean’s last scheduled known appearance in Arkansas was at First Baptist Church, El Dorado, in April.

The following was posted on Dean’s personal Facebook page announcing her death: “We are heartbroken to share the news that our mom died



Dean

Wednesday evening of a sudden heart attack. She died not long after FaceTiming one of her grandkids: She sang itsy-bitsy spider (several times) and promised to let her 20-month-old granddaughter brush her hair this weekend when she was in town to see her eight grandkids. We are so sad to think that such a source of joy for our kids is gone.”

Andrea Mullins, retired publisher of New Hope Publishers, said about Dean, “As Jennifer’s publisher and friend, I was challenged both theologically and spiritually as we worked together to challenge believers to a deeper prayer life. She not only cared about her readers, but she invested in other authors and had a desire to see Christian authors excel in whatever way

God was leading. Her voice will be heard through her timeless books, but as a person and friend she will be missed deeply.”

Dean is survived by four sons, two sisters and eight grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne, in 2005.

A celebration service was held June 29 at Marion Baptist Church in Marion, Ky.

High court allows WWI memorial cross to stand

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled June 20 that the World War I memorial cross located on public prop-



erty in Bladensburg, Md., is not unconstitutional and can remain standing.

In a 7-2 decision, SCOTUS rejected the lower court’s claim in *The American Legion v. American Humanist Association* that the presence of the memorial is an unconstitutional government endorsement of religion.

“Bladensburg’s Peace Cross honors veterans who gave everything to serve their country, and the Supreme Court’s decision means that the memorial will continue to honor their memory,” stated David Cortman, Alliance Defending Freedom’s (ADF) senior counsel and vice president of U.S. Litigation.



MISS ARKANSAS – Three Ouachita Baptist University women were among top five finalists in the 2019 Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant, which was held at the Robinson Center in Little Rock June 11-15. Of the 44 contestants from around the state, nine were from Ouachita, and four placed in the top 10 overall. Among the top five finalists were Julie Williams (center), Miss Ouachita Baptist University, second runner-up; Tiffany Lee (left) of Benton, Miss Ouachita River, third runner-up, and Gracie Stover (right) of Little Rock, Miss Greater Hot Springs, fourth runner-up.



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2 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

KING DAVID: THE BROKEN KING



R A C E T E N I

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T R A H E , O D G O

S P M A L 1 5 : 0 1

Unscramble the words to discover the desire of King David's heart.

Edomas

Across

- 1. "That as ___ hath reigned unto death" (Romans 5:21)
- 4. "a ___ of dove's dung" (2 Kings 6:25)
- 7. Poses
- 11. Formerly Mesopotamia
- 13. Swedish coin
- 14. Verve
- 15. Forbidden
- 16. Feminine name
- 17. Abnormal breathing sound
- 18. "Not with ___, as menpleasers" (Ephesians 6:6)
- 21. "It shall be in thy mouth sweet as ___" (Revelation 10:9)
- 23. Opponent
- 24. Houses of finance in LeHavre
- 25. To extend
- 26. Athlete Thorpe
- 29. Valley of ___ (in Judea)
- 30. Becoming slower, in music (abbr.)
- 31. Italian seaport on the Adriatic
- 32. Around 2000 pounds

- 33. "When I remember thee upon my ___" (Psalm 63:6)
- 34. "The ___ of Ethiopia shall not equal it" (Job 28:19)
- 35. Owns
- 36. Pulled behind
- 37. "Now I had not been ___ sad in his presence" (Nehemiah 2:1)
- 41. A son of Eliphaz (Genesis 36)
- 42. Spoil
- 43. ___ duck
- 47. "burned the bones of the king of Edom into ___" (Amos 2:1)
- 48. Not paid (abbr.)
- 49. "garment was white as ___" (Daniel 7:9)
- 50. Prince of the Midianites (Judges 7)
- 51. Summer on the Seine
- 52. Ascot is one

Down

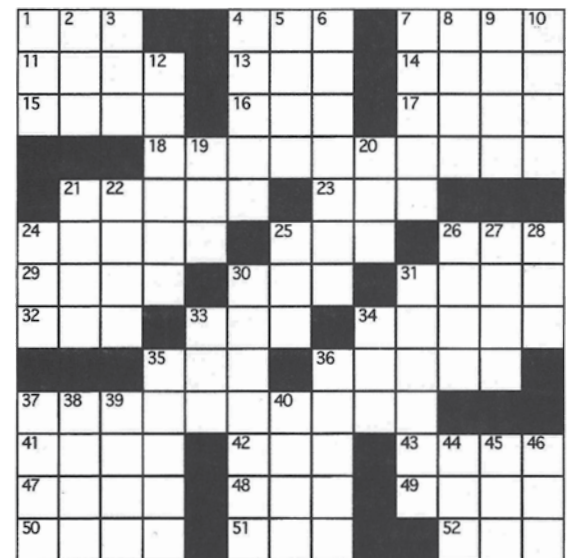
- 1. "___ still, my daughter" (Ruth 3:18)
- 2. "And ___ also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David" (2 Samuel 20:26)
- 3. Catch
- 4. ___ Island
- 5. Belonging to a son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7)
- 6. "they are faithful...partakers of the ___" (1 Timothy 6:2)
- 7. "Henceforth we should not ___ sin" (Romans 6:6)
- 8. ___ the Ahoite (1 Chronicles 11:29)
- 9. Powder
- 10. Large knife
- 12. "that thou ___ not the light of Israel" (2 Samuel 21:17)
- 19. "our message to you is not '___'" (2 Corinthians 1:18)
- 20. Fish eggs
- 21. Angel adjunct
- 22. Brother of Er (Genesis 38)
- 24. Hunch
- 25. Cover
- 26. To joke
- 27. Grandson of Cain, son of Enoch

28. Feminine form of address (southern dial.)

- 30. "Will he ___ his anger forever?" (Jeremiah 3:5)
- 31. Inner parts
- 33. "Shut the doors and ___ them" (Nehemiah 7:3)
- 34. Male cat
- 35. Mount where children of Israel removed their ornaments (Exodus 33)
- 36. "And Pilate wrote a ___, and put it on the cross" (John 19:19)
- 37. Machete
- 38. Arab ruler
- 39. "they spread abroad his ___" (Matthew 9:31)
- 40. Horn honk
- 44. "Go to the ___, thou slug-gard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 45. Pronoun (Fr.)
- 46. "What mean these seven ___ lambs which thou hast set by themselves?" (Genesis 21:29)

Crossword by Barbour Publishing, Inc.

ABN Crossword puzzle



Crossword answer, page 7



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Editor's Note: The Arkansas Baptist News would love to share your church news with the state. Send your information to sarah@arkansasbaptist.org or call 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5153. Please submit information three weeks prior to the event.

Obituaries

Charles Richard Edwards, 91, died May 6. A World War II veteran, Edwards was an ordained minister and pastored several churches in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, two brothers, three sisters and a great-grandson.

Edwards is survived by 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

A service was held May 8 at Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church in Richard, La., followed by burial at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Cemetery.

Theodore "Ted" Richardson, 94, of Fort Smith, died June 12.

A World War II veteran, Richardson pastored several churches in Lonoke, North Little Rock and Fort Smith.

He was preceded in death by a son, a sister and his parents.

Richardson is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A service was held June 17 at Ocker-Putman Funeral Home Chapel in Fort Smith.

C.H. "Altee" Maulden, 97, of North Little Rock,

died June 13.

A World War II veteran, Maulden was an active leader in Southern Baptist churches in Louisiana, North Carolina and Arkansas for 50 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife.

Maulden is survived by his two daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A service was held at Forest Park Cemetery in Shreveport, La., June 17.

Ormand Jason Sanders, 89, of Kelso, died June 14.

Sanders served as a deacon and song leader at Richland Baptist Church, Tillar, and Kelso Baptist churches.

He was preceded in death by his parents and younger brother.

Sanders is survived by his wife, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and an older sister.

A service was held June 16 at Griffin-Culpepper Funeral Service in McGehee, followed

by burial at McArthur Cemetery.

Don R. Hankins, 97, of Dover, died June 18.

A World War II veteran, Hankins was a full-time pastor at numerous churches in Arkansas. He also served as a teacher, bus driver and cafeteria assistant for public schools.

He was preceded in death by his wife, four brothers and a sister.

Hankins is survived by three sons, a brother, a sister, eight grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

A service was held June

22 at First Baptist Church, Dover, followed by burial in McFadden Cemetery in Dover.

On the move

Bill Newton is serving as generations pastor at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs.

Brent Roberts is serving as executive director of Spring Lake Baptist Camp in Lonsdale. Roberts previously served as children's minister at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs.

Baptist life

Tennessee Baptist Church, Texarkana, has merged with Highland Hills Baptist Church, Texarkana, to create **Foundation Baptist Church**. The new church is using Highland Hills' facility, and T.J. Tubbs, the pas-

tor of Tennessee Baptist at the time of the merger, is the pastor of the new church.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) will host a block party training seminar 8-11 a.m., Saturday, July 13, at Second Baptist Church, Conway. To register, email kimberlyd@mysecond.family.

Milestones

Bob Endel, music minister of First Baptist Church in Hamburg, and his wife, Lequieta, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday, June 22.

REVIVAL! Bro. Ernie Perkins



Perkins

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Classifieds

PASTOR

Calvary Baptist Church in Dardanelle, AR, is seeking a **pastor**. Mail resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, PO Box 532, Dardanelle, AR 72834, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, or e-mail robert1960love@gmail.com, or call 479-477-0137. Deadline is Aug. 31, 2019.

Archview Baptist Church is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Mail resume to 12610 Arch St., Little Rock, AR 72206.

FBC, Lake St. Louis, Missouri, is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. Senior pastor ex-

perience is required. Please submit resume to pssc@fbcls.org.

First Baptist Church of Gillham is seeking a **pastor**. Please send resume to First Baptist Church of Gillham, PO Box 150, Gillham, AR 71841.

Fellowship Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to Fellowship Baptist Church, 124 Fellowship Cir., Converse, LA 71419 or email: fbcp19@gmail.com.

Faith Baptist Church, Quitman, is seeking a **bi-vocational pastor**. Send resumes to Michael Rickel, PO Box 163, Quitman, AR 72131.

Witt's Chapel Baptist Church, Maynard, AR, is seeking a **bi-vocational or full-time pastor**. Send resumes and references to: David Byers, 1340 Legate Road, Maynard, AR 72444.

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

Central Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, is accepting resumes for the position of **full-time student minister**. The deadline to submit a resume is August 8. Please email your resume to cbstudentresume@gmail.com.

FBC of Grove, Oklahoma, is accepting resumes for **full-time youth/children's min-**

ister. Send resumes to grovefbc@gmail.com.

FBC, Ozark, MO, is accepting resumes for a **full-time student pastor**. For more details, visit fbcozark.org/student-pastor-opening. Please send resumes to fbcostudentpastor@gmail.com through July 15, 2019.

Trinity Baptist Church, Benton, AR, is seeking a **part-time worship leader**. Send resume to trinitybenton@gmail.com or mail to 702 Church St., Benton, AR 72015.

FBC, Horatio, is seeking a **part-time youth and children's minister**. Send resumes to FBC, PO Box 296, Horatio, AR 71842.

First Baptist Church, Perryville, is seeking

a **bi-vocational music director**. Send resumes to pvfb.church@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

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JULY 7, 2019

It is apparent in this letter that the false teachers and their followers were spiritually sick and had created a toxic environment. John MacArthur made this assessment: “The pathology of false teachers is clear. They deny the truth, and their teaching does not produce godly living. They are arrogant and ignorant of spiritual truth. They spend their time in foolish speculations that lead only to chaos and division. Having forsaken the truth, they face eternal destruction.” Their motivation was clear. They “imagine that godliness is a way to material gain” (1 Tim. 6:5). MacArthur concluded, “They serve money, not God.”

The word “godliness” in verse 5 does not mean true holy and righteous living. Paul used it here to describe a profession. This was not true Christian ministry; it was a religious business. Paul wanted Timothy and the church to know that “godliness with contentment is a great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6). Warren Wiersbe said, “True contentment comes from godliness in the heart, not wealth in the hand.”

I preach at a mission where most of the volunteers and those they serve have very little. They are content with what they have and gladly serve to meet people’s basic needs (1 Tim. 6:8). Worldly wealth does not last (1 Tim. 6:7). The desire to be rich leads to sin and destruction (1 Tim. 6:7, 9-10). Paul said, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim. 6:10).

Paul wanted Timothy and the church to have godly and lasting investments. He must separate himself from the toxic influence of the false teachers (1 Tim. 6:11). He must “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness” (1 Tim. 6:11). He must fight for the faith and have a good confession (1 Tim. 6:12-13). Timothy was charged to be “without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Tim. 6:14).

We must “take hold of life that is real” (1 Tim. 6:19). The “real life” is eternal life. We should invest money in the souls of people. We should lay up treasures in heaven that last forever.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE**Lasting investments**

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10 (HCSB)

There existed a long history of animosity between the Jews and Samaritans. The Samaritans were the descendants of those who had not been deported or killed in the fall of the northern kingdom in 722 B.C. (2 Kings 17). The survivors had intermarried with the heathen colonists brought in from Babylonia by the Assyrians. The Jews saw them as traitors to their Jewish heritage. The Samaritans built their own temple on Mount Gerizim around 400 B.C.

When Jesus asked for a drink of water, this animosity was on full display (John 4:6). She asked, “How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman” (John 4:9). Jews did not associate with Samaritans (John 4:9). Jesus beautifully used Jacob’s well to illustrate a very important spiritual lesson. The water from Jacob’s well could only satisfy physical thirst. If a person drinks from the living water Jesus offers, that person will never thirst again. The Samaritan woman continued to think in material terms. She desired this living water so

she wouldn’t be thirsty and have to come to the well.

He told her to go, get her husband, and come back to Him. She admitted that she had no husband. Jesus revealed she had had five husbands and she was not married to the man she had at that time (John 4:17-18). She perceived He was a prophet. She moved the conversation to a religious plane by speaking about the different locations Jews and Samaritans worship. But Jesus let her know that true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23). She knew the Messiah would explain everything when He came (John 4:25). Jesus told her, “I am He, the One speaking to you” (John 4:26).

The woman left her jar, went to town and told the men about her experience. She placed her faith in Christ and immediately wanted to share what she discovered with others. Many Samaritans came to faith because of her testimony (John 4:39).

Our life-changing encounters with Jesus should be shared with others.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE**Faith worth sharing**

JOHN 4:10-18, 28-30 (HCSB)

JULY 14, 2019

In my work, I am often bedside when individuals share their last words with their loved ones before they die. Often these words are words of advice, tender words of love, words of concern for survivors and even words of regret. People’s last words are mostly serious and calculated. This is what we see in 2 Timothy. Paul was facing execution, and he wrote a very personal, calculated, intense, loving, encouraging and bold letter to Timothy.

Paul reviewed his heritage of faith (2 Tim. 1:3). He said that he had served “with a clear conscience as my forefathers did” (2 Tim. 1:3). Paul did not give in to public opinion, secular philosophies, or worldly ambitions. Paul served the Lord faithfully and in full confidence.

Paul reminded Timothy of his heritage and then commanded him to “keep ablaze the gift of God that is in you” (2 Tim. 1:6). Timothy was to use his giftedness in full confidence. Timothy was young and had a tendency toward timidity. Paul advised Timothy to

not let anyone despise him because of his young age (1 Tim. 4:12). Timothy was not to have “a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment” (2 Tim. 1:7).

A spirit of fear would lead to being ashamed of the gospel. David Platt said, “It is often said that we are one generation away from losing the gospel. If the gospel is assumed in one generation, it will be neglected, ignored and/or abandoned in the next. We must keep guarding, suffering for, continuing in and proclaiming the gospel.” This is what Paul was trying to convey to Timothy.

Throughout church history, the gospel and the gospel messenger have been attacked. Yet it still stands today. God is the ultimate guardian of the gospel, but He has called faithful servants to proclaim the gospel in the world. We have to ask ourselves, “Who is standing ready to carry the gospel to the next generation?” It will be those who are not ashamed of it and are willing to suffer for it.

While I was a premed student at Southeast Missouri State University, I pursued religious studies from extension classes offered by William Jewell College on our campus. Thomas Messer taught these classes and was the director of the Baptist Student Union. I took his class “The Life of Paul.” There were about 15 of us in class. Messer gave us a choice of writing papers or taking tests. I was the only student who chose to do research and write.

Messer took me under his wing and taught me how to research my topic, organize my thoughts, and put my analysis in print form. Since I didn’t have a theological background, he also taught me the different theological perspectives and how to draw my own conclusions about them from the biblical text. There was something in me that he felt he needed to nurture. He was my mentor, and I had a deep respect for him. His influence motivated me to leave premed and enter theological studies. More importantly, his one-on-one discipling of me

led me to do one-on-one discipling in most of the churches I pastored.

The Apostle Paul was in a dark prison and was expecting to be executed. The thing that was most heavy on his heart was the furtherance of the gospel. Paul wanted Timothy to be a mentor who would make other mentors. It could be described as “disciples who makes disciples.” Paul commanded Timothy to take what he had learned from him and “commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

Timothy had the foundation needed to be a mentor and to teach others how to be mentors. He was taught at an early age the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15). He had learned from Paul and was to emulate his teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love and endurance (2 Tim. 3:10). He would also have endure persecutions and sufferings for the sake of the gospel.

Others have helped us grow in Christ. We should help others grow in Christ.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE**Confidence**

2 TIMOTHY 1:3-14 (HCSB)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE**How to equip and encourage others**

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2; 3:10-17 (HCSB)

Featured commentary writer



Gerald Nash

Gerald Nash is a registered respiratory therapist and EEG technician at Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center in Russellville. Nash is involved in medical research and is a preaching pastor at Soul Food Cafe Mission. He is involved in missions and also leads a small group and the decision room ministry at Second Baptist Church, Conway. Nash has attended several universities and seminaries, including Williams Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He holds multiple educational degrees, including a bachelor of arts in Christian ministries, a master of arts and doctor of ministry in pastoral studies and a master of arts in theological studies. Nash volunteers on the Cairo Geniza Project deciphering and transcribing ancient Greek and Arabic documents. He loves to read, bass fish, and spend time with his family. He and his wife, Mary Ann, love to travel, explore ancient ruins and go on wild animal safaris.

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