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NAMB fights for ministry center

CLARKSTON, Ga. – A lawsuit brought by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) against the City of Clarkston, Ga., potentially raises serious constitutional and religious liberty issues, according to observers.

At the center of the lawsuit filed by NAMB in the Superior Court of DeKalb County is a couple of uninhabitable farmhouses from the 1900s the domestic mission entity says is causing Clarkston to slow in issuing a demolition permit.

It's a permit that would allow NAMB to continue the expansion of the historic Clarkston International Bible Church, which includes a four-city block development of soccer fields, mixed retail and church facilities to reach the immigrants, refugees and other residents. Clarkston, a suburb located along the perimeter of I-285 circling Atlanta, is considered one of the most ethnically diverse in the country. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that more than half of its residents are foreign-born.

The lawsuit accuses the city of waffling on the approval to demolish the aging structures on land the church purchased last year from their owners. The purchase is part of NAMB's long-term plans to boost the church's ministry

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A scene from Camp Siloam's 2019 production of "Once Upon A Story." Each year the camp performs an original theatre production to live audiences of campers.

Siloam's 'Once Upon A Story' changes lives

SILOAM SPRINGS – Gracen Seabaugh wanted the part in the production with all of her heart, but she was afraid.

If she agreed to play the role of Ritva in Camp Siloam's 2019 production of "Once Upon A Story," she wondered if she would be able to deliver in the same way her sister had six years earlier.

The part was demanding, and this year it required singing! At the same age, Gracen's sister, Shelby, was the lead actress of Camp Siloam's 2013 production of "The Gracie Spoon Diner," and the play was a hit. Shelby had a larger-than-life personality; she was full of energy; everyone was her friend,

and she was always on the go. Gracen looked up to her big sister and desired to follow in her footsteps. The next spring, before returning to camp, Shelby died in her sleep at age 21.

The decision to play the lead role in Camp Siloam's production was emotional, so the Seabaugh family decided to process the decision together.

"Dad printed out three copies of the script, and we read through the script out loud together at the kitchen table," said Gracen. "We got to the last scene. Dad was reading for the Author, and we kind of stopped for a second because the dialogue mirrored a conversation we had years earlier about being

a main character in our family's story."

Six years earlier Mike Seabaugh, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Magnolia, had helped Gracen process the death of her sister by explaining that maybe Gracen was the main character of the family's story.

In the 2019 production of "Once Upon A Story," the Author (played by Tra Hill) tells Gracen's character, Ritva, that she shouldn't be worried about who is the main character of the story.

"All stories are my story," said the Author. "And you all have a part of it. So while you may not consider your role impressive or successful, it was something even more than that...it was sig-

nificant. Even if no one ever finds your name in their storybook, it is most definitely written in mine...and that's the book that truly counts."

Gracen said, "There was a neat parallel between the camp story and my life's path."

Throughout Ritva's journey, she meets characters that remind her about her sister's path and her own path – which is different from her sister's path. She hears about how her sister is doing and develops the courage to stay on her path.

For the Seabaugh family, Gracen's role in the play would be a poetic conclusion to a story only God

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ABN classifieds get results!

Read them on Page 10.

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Classifieds

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ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Ouachita 1st in Arkansas to earn medicine 'Gold'

ARKADELPHIA – Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) is the first university in Arkansas to earn a Gold Status credential from the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) for its participation and excellence in the organization's Exercise is Medicine program. It marks the third time Ouachita's program has been recognized by ACSM, following two Silver Status recognitions in 2018 and 2016.

The Exercise is Medicine program is a global initiative of ACSM that promotes wellness education as well as includes physical activity and evidence-based exercise programs in medical treatment. Ouachita's program is managed by the university's department of kinesiology and leisure studies.

Terry DeWitt, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, attended ACSM's annual meeting in Orlando earlier this summer to accept Ouachita's award. Amber Chelette, assistant professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, also attended the event.

"Being recognized as a leader in health and exercise promotion in regards to preventative medicine is critical to our success as a campus and global leaders," DeWitt said.

"I think this says a lot about what our kinesiology and leisure studies faculty have accomplished in the past five years," he added.

ACSM launched the Exercise is Medicine recognition program in 2014 to honor campuses for their participation and engagement in living a healthy lifestyle.

Universities earn Gold, Silver or Bronze Status based on their involvement and commitment to health.

In 2016, OBU was one of 15 universities nationally to earn Silver Status.

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

13 saved at Sports Crusaders camp in NLR

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – Thirteen children made professions of faith during a Sports Crusaders basketball camp held July 22-26 in the Baring Cross community of North Little Rock.

Sports Crusaders conducted the camp as a part of the UrbanPromise Arkansas ministry at the Agape Community Temple of Servants (ACTS) church. Kristin Walker serves as director of the ministry.

"UrbanPromise is a special organization that is filled with great young leaders (the street helpers), and they have an awesome camp director, and it was a pleasure to get to know them and their organization," said Brady Atwell of Maryville, Mo., Sports Crusaders team member. "They truly have the best intentions for the kids and are doing a great thing for the area."

In all, 65 children attend-

ed the camp. Atwell said the camp included numerous activities, including stretching; a "skill time" designed to teach children fundamental skills; "half-time," where children were taught how to improve as an athlete and a Christian; skills enhancement, which included learning the skill of the day, and games, where children got the opportunity to try out their newly learned skills.

Sports Crusaders, based in Holts Summit, Mo., was founded by the late Bobby Shows, former recreation minister of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock. In 25 years Sports Crusaders camps have involved more than 51,000 campers.

For more information on UrbanPromise Arkansas, visit urbanpromisearkansas.org. More information about Sports Crusaders is available at sportscrusaders.org.



Sports Crusaders leader Brady Atwell of Maryville, Mo., demonstrates shooting technique to a participant at the Sports Crusaders basketball camp held July 22-26 in the Baring Cross community of North Little Rock. Photo by Tim Yarbrough.

STORY

continued from page one

could create.

"It was as if this would be one of the last things I would do in my sister's footsteps," said Gracen. "I followed Shelby's footsteps to Ouachita Baptist University (OBU), to work at Camp Siloam my first summer and then as the lead in the play. The summer is always so sad when it's over, but it's so fulfilling, because I felt like I walked this journey with God. While the journey is over, there are still many adventures ahead."

This summer Camp Siloam chose to illustrate what it means to be "one with the Father," as Jesus describes in John 17:20-21. Scriptwriter Adam Wheat, admissions

counselor at OBU, chose to illustrate oneness with the Father using an Author who inserts himself into his story to dialogue with his main character.

"Adam did a great job with a complex concept," said Jason Wilkie, executive director of Camp Siloam. "When you think about how an author writes a story, he thinks about the character before the character is even created. He knows the backstory of the character and their future. As he writes, he knows what they are going to say, and the character knows the author's thoughts. That's a great illustration of how the Father has thought about us and how that oneness relationship might look."

Other themes from John 17 include that Jesus is sending us out into the world, that He has a path for us to follow and

that He is authoring His story through each of us.

The Heavenly Father authored a fantastic story in the life of Ralph Iweriebor (pronounced Weir-e-bore). Iweriebor was a staff member this summer at Camp Siloam. Iweriebor moved to the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home in Monticello at age 15. He became a Christian at Camp Siloam after attending camp with the Children's Home in his third year. This summer was Iweriebor's first summer on staff at Camp Siloam, and he loved it.

The Arkansas Baptist Children's Home at Monticello attended camp July 1-5, and Iweriebor was there to serve them.

"I know there were several kids from the Children's Home that were not saved," said Iweriebor. "One night

one of my guys came up to me and said, 'Hey, I'm having questions. I'm scared because everybody thinks I'm saved. I think they'll judge me.' I told him, 'They're not going to judge you. If anything, they'll be happy for you.'"

The last night of camp, Iweriebor and several of his house parents had a long conversation in front of the worship center with the boy, and the boy gave his life to Christ. Later that night, Iweriebor said two other Children's Home children came to him and said they were having questions. Iweriebor and their house parents led them to the Lord.

"I was glad I was able to be a part of their salvation and to be a part of the Children's Home ministry to kids. It was one of the best feelings in the world to be a part of something like that. I prayed all summer that I could help someone receive Christ. Later that night I broke down in tears in my bedroom because I was so happy," said Iweriebor.

At the end of the summer, Arkansas Baptists' ministry to children and youth at Camp Siloam saw 786 life-changing commitments. Among those commitments, 436 were decisions to receive Jesus; 189 were re-commitments; 105 campers expressed an interest in baptism, and 56 expressed an interest in missions or full-time ministry.



Camp Siloam campers enjoy slices of watermelon (left) and one of the camp's counselors makes a joke.

3 state pro-life laws blocked indefinitely

LITTLE ROCK – Three Arkansas abortion restrictions temporarily blocked will remain on hold indefinitely while a Little Rock federal judge considers a lawsuit challenging them.

The ban is on the enforcement of three new state laws that would have effectively closed the only clinic providing surgical abortions in Arkansas.

U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker issued a two-week restraining order July 23, minutes before legislation was set to take effect July 24 at 12:01 a.m. Baker signed a preliminary

injunction August 7 to extend the restraining order set to expire the same day.

The injunction issued by Baker blocks the state from enforcing the new Arkansas laws, including laws designed to protect unborn babies after 18 weeks of pregnancy, requiring those performing abortions to be board-certified or board-eligible in obstetrics and gynecology, and protecting babies who were diagnosed with Down syndrome in the womb. Baker is an appointee of former President Barack Obama.

Representatives from Little Rock Family Planning Services

in Little Rock, the only abortion facility in the state, said the certification requirement could put it out of business because it only has one practitioner who meets it.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas, Planned Parenthood and abortion centers have challenged the laws in court.

"I'm very disappointed to see that yet again, the will of the people of Arkansas and the Arkansas Legislature is overturned by one single federal judge," Sen. Jason Rapert, R-Conway, told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Rapert, who

sponsored the 18-week abortion ban, advocated for all three challenged pieces of legislation and sat in on the July 22 hearing in Baker's court.

"It's a sad day in America, when our laws protect little kittens and little puppies but it will not protect a little human being in a mother's womb," said Rapert. "It is my intention that some day we will see abortion abolished and no longer used as a form of birth control."

Another law in Arkansas increasing the waiting period for an abortion from 48 to 72 hours took effect July 24.

ABN Digest

Stories of interest
to Arkansas Baptists

Facebook banned pro-life ads, Zuckerberg admits

WASHINGTON – Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg admitted that his company deliberately banned pro-life ads from running on the social media site during an abortion referendum in Ireland last year.

In a presentation, Zuckerberg cited Facebook's interaction with the Irish government ahead of a 2018 referendum on the legalization of abortion in the country. He said that American pro-life groups wanted to run Facebook ads targeted toward Irish citizens. Facebook reached out to the Irish government to determine whether or not the ads should be allowed at the time. Zuckerberg stated: "Their response at the time was, 'We don't currently have a law, so you need to make whatever decision you want to make.'" Zuckerberg said, "We ended up not allowing the ads."

In a statement, Catherine Glenn Foster, president and CEO of Americans United for Life (AUL), said, "Facebook is continuing to betray its mission of being an open and neutral platform for people around the world to connect. Rather than expanding dialogue, it's narrowing it according to its own ideological dogma."

"Facebook is revealing that it simply doesn't understand democracy. It doesn't grasp that any free society is made stronger by the clash and friction of contrasting views. By censoring what it deems to be unworthy content – opinions held by large parts of America and the rest of the world – they are becoming the very tyrants and monopolists of information they sought to oppose," said Foster.

Unfortunately, Foster said the practice of suppressing speech is not unique to Facebook.

For more ABN Digest, go to
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CP 'one sacred effort' to advance gospel

Margaret Colson
Arkansas Baptist News

THE YEAR WAS 1845. Texas was the 28th state to be annexed into the United States. The sewing machine was invented. The *New York Herald* was the first newspaper to mention the game of baseball, according to americasbesthistory.com. And, delegates from various Baptist bodies in the South, meeting in Augusta, Ga., formed the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

In the "Preamble and Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention," the delegates' intent in creating the SBC was stated clearly: "for the purpose of organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the whole denomination in one sacred effort, for the propagation of the gospel."

How would the newly birthed SBC fund its "one sacred effort"?

The year was 1925. The Grand Ole Opry transmitted its first radio broadcast. America's first woman governor was elected in Wyoming, and a second woman governor was elected in Texas two weeks later, according to americasbesthistory.com. Americans were enjoying a booming economy, and more than 25 percent of Americans owned a car, according to thebalance.com. And, Southern Baptists, meeting in Memphis, Tenn., adopted a new plan for giving: the "Co-operative Program of Southern Baptists."

The Cooperative Program (CP) grew out of seven decades of financial struggle for Southern Baptists.

For the SBC's first 70-plus years, a societal approach to raising funds was used. In this approach, representatives from Southern Baptist entities sought financial contributions from churches with almost an "each-entity-for-itself" mentality. The results were "severe financial deficits, competition among entities, overlapping pledge campaigns, and frequent emergency appeals which greatly hampered the expanding ministry opportunities God was giving Southern Baptist(s)," according to sbc.net.

"The system was broken, and churches began to call for help," report Chad Brand and David Hankins in "One Sacred Effort: The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists."

In 1919, a five-year pledge campaign, the 75 Million Campaign, was launched to raise funds for Southern Baptists' missions advance. The campaign fell short of its goal, but raised more than \$60 million, more than the previous 74 years combined, which proved that the SBC had a heart as big as the world and that it just might make a huge impact on that world in the decades ahead," write Brand and Hankins. The idea of a partnership for missions support was born.

In its first full year, giving through CP totaled



The Memphis and Shelby County Auditorium and Market House was the site of the 1925 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting when the Cooperative Program was approved. 5,600 messengers met in the auditorium, which had a seating capacity of 11,000. The venue, which opened in 1924, featured "air-conditioning," which consisted of seven large fans with heat-escaping ceiling vents.

\$4,128,188, as reported in "The SBC and the 21st Century," edited by Jason K. Allen. The founders' dream of "one sacred effort" by Baptists for the kingdom of God now had a funding mechanism consistent with cooperative methodology and commensurate with the size of the missions challenge, Brand and Hankins write.

By definition, the CP is "Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries," according to sbc.net.

In "SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference," authors Keith Harper and Amy Whitfield, write, "The Cooperative Program begins with individuals and ends with ministries."

They explain the CP process of individuals giving to their churches; churches forwarding a portion of their financial receipts to the state convention, and state conventions forwarding a percentage of financial receipts to the SBC. Messengers in each state convention vote on their state convention's percentage to the SBC. The SBC disburses CP receipts to SBC entities, including the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board, based on a formula voted on by messengers to the SBC Annual Meeting.

Since CP's beginning in 1925, billions of dollars have been given through the Southern Baptists' unified plan of financial partnership, fueling Southern Baptists' "one sacred effort." From the early 1930s until the mid-1980s, funds received through CP steadily

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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)

Without CP support, the ABN wouldn't exist

It has been quite a journey serving as editor of your state Baptist news service ministry since 2011.

There have been ups and downs, challenges and triumphs. We've tried lots of new strategies, as well as reintroduced old, trusted tactics.

Leading a state Baptist news service – especially one that has such an endearing place in my heart as the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* (ABN) – was never a goal of mine, but when called back to Arkansas in the fall of 2010, I accepted the opportunity and never looked back.

Like the editors before me, I have poured my heart and soul into this ministry and am proud of the work that has been done.

Have I done it perfectly? No. Have I sought to lead with integrity and conviction? Yes.

Whether you are a pastor, church leader, associational missionary, state convention executive director, college president, camp director, foundation president, leader of the state children's home or the editor of the state news service – serving a group of Baptist saints is never easy.

We laugh at the phrase, "Put two Baptists in the room and you'll get three opinions," but there is a lot of truth in that joke.

I am proud of our denomination. I have known hundreds of Baptist leaders across our convention – in addition to those in Arkansas – and very few are about advancing their own interests. Nearly without exception, they are

focused on advancing the cause of Jesus Christ and His Church in their role as Southern Baptist leaders.

That being said, I have tried to be a good editor using the gifts and abilities God has given me in my more than 30 years of journalism and denominational service. If

you know me personally, I may not be the editor you want me to be, but I have attempted

to be the editor that God desires of me.

Resources at a small state Baptist news service like the ABN have always been limited. But something special happened in 1925 that saved the ABN and many ministries like it. It was, of course, the birth of the Cooperative Program.

Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists are able to pool funds to support ministries they feel are essential to furthering the cause of Jesus Christ that might not receive support otherwise.

The ABN, and other ministries like it, have received this vital and essential support all these years.

Without a doubt, the foresight and wisdom of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders to establish a coordinated giving plan for all churches have resulted in millions of lost souls around the world professing Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior since 1925, and its impact continues to resonate today.

In 2004, revivalist Henry Blackaby captured the sentiments of many when he expressed that the Cooperative

Program was much more than just a great idea, saying, "The Cooperative Program is not something men designed, but something God put together."

When a church gives a portion of its receipts through the Cooperative Program, its gospel reach expands exponentially across its community, state, nation and world. M.E. Dodd, considered the father of the Cooperative Program, wrote a tract titled "Why I Like the Baptist Cooperative Program."

Dodd listed seven "special advantages" of the unified giving plan that are still true today: 1) "It enables me to carry out my part of Christ's program of service;" 2) "The Cooperative Program enables me to have a part in all that is being done;" 3) "The Co-

operative Program enables me to have some part in the whole work of Christ each and every week of the year;" 4) "This Cooperative Program enables me to do all that needs to be done because it includes every sort of service to every sort of somebody that any sort of anybody may wish to render. (It is the only program in the world that is all-inclusive to every human need.);" 5) "This Cooperative Program enables me to carry out God's financial program for His Kingdom;" 6) "This Baptist Cooperative Program fixes the support of Christ's causes as a permanent principle in life and does not leave them to temporary emotional appeal," and 7) "The Cooperative Program does not leave the causes of Christ to

become the victims of temporary weather conditions, depressions in business or other hindered causes."

The Cooperative Program has shaped for all eternity generations of Southern Baptists who have been called into service with the charge to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ to their communities, state and country and throughout the entire world. Pastors and other leaders attending Southern Baptist seminaries are assisted in receiving a theological education through the Cooperative Program.

While secular, for-profit newspapers have always been dependent on subscriptions and advertising revenue,

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Pressing On

Tim Yarbrough

Phil. 3:14

ABN Cartoon



Volume 118, Number 16
USPS08021

Member of the Association
of State Baptist Publications
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Toll-free 800-838-2272, ext. 5161
Arkansas Baptist News (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly except the last issue of the year (25 issues) by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204.

SUBSCRIPTION rates are \$9.75 per year (Every Resident Family Plan or Group), \$17 per year (Individual). Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204; phone 501-376-4791; toll-free 800-838-2272;

email: abn@arkansasbaptist.org. Periodical Postage paid at Little Rock, AR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Send Letters to the Editor to tim@arkansasbaptist.org or to our mailing address. Letters must be typed, doublespaced 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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist News, 10 Remington Drive,

Little Rock, AR 72204.

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Is the Bible reliable? – Part 1

When it comes to the Protestant Christian faith, Protestants have a big stake in the authority and sufficiency of Scripture. If Scripture is wrong, even a little wrong, then we are wrong, because we – Protestant Evangelicals – base the foundation of our doctrinal beliefs on what the Bible says. Therefore, it is really important that the Bible be right. Over the next several articles, I want to discuss the reliability of Scripture. But to do that, I must



Deep Waters

Chad Meeks

first highlight the common conservative Evangelical positions on the Bible.

Most conservative Evangelical Christians claim the

Bible is inerrant, infallible, inspired and authoritative. But those are big words! So what do they mean?

The standard definition of biblical inerrancy is that the Bible is inerrant in its original writings. That is, when Paul, Moses, Peter and others wrote their books, the original documents did not affirm anything that was factually wrong. However, what are we to say about contemporary translations, or even the ancient Greek and Hebrew copies? That is one of the big issues we will address in this series.

The next standard position is that the Bible is infallible.

Though quite similar to inerrancy, infallibility generally means that the Bible doesn't err in things on faith and morals. The normal way that inerrancy and infallibility are distinguished is that infallibility "paints with a broader brush." In that, inerrancy focuses on even the minute details of numbers and historical places in Scripture; infallibility usually refers to only doctrines and biblical ethics.

The third listed idea is inspiration. Inspiration comes from the Greek word *theopneustos*, meaning "God-breathed." Hence, inspiration is a doctrine that means that the Scriptures are given to mankind by God. Now, this doesn't mean that God wrote the Bible in heaven and then sent it down to us. God inspired the writings of appointed men to communicate the Scriptures to us. Thus, the idea of inspiration is that God led certain men to directly write Scripture. They are written by man, but inspired and led by God.

The last idea is authority. The idea is simple: Since Scripture is from God, it is authoritative. That means, if Scripture tells us to do something, we should do it. If Scripture tells us to believe something, we should believe it. It is God's Word after all; thus, it carries some weight.

Now through this Bible reliability series, we will discuss whether these four positions on the Bible "hold water." It is also helpful to note that these positions increase in strength. For example, if one holds to inerrancy, then he or she will also hold to the other three. If one holds to infallibility, then he or she will hold to inspiration and authority, but not necessarily inerrancy. If one holds to inspiration, he or she will claim that Scripture is at least somewhat authoritative, but that person may not claim the Bible is inerrant and infallible. And one can claim the Bible is authoritative, without holding to any of the other positions. Our goal here is to show that all four positions are reasonable and important.

Chad Meeks is associate pastor of youth and discipleship at Cedar Heights Baptist Church in North Little Rock.



The Cooperative Program's biblical basis

Since our founding in 1845, Southern Baptists have been driven by the Great Commission. The timing and setting of Christ's command to take the gospel to the nations has become embedded in the very fiber of our being. This strong Great Commission DNA has impacted our actions, goals, giving and priorities for nearly 175 years.

In 1925, Southern Baptists began a more coordinated and formalized missions endeavor, named the Coop-



Executive Directions

Sonny Tucker

erative Program, to maximize the synergy of thousands of churches praying, planning and giving together. This new missions endeavor proved to be better organized, more

focused, and allowed us to get the gospel in hostile and difficult places much more effectively than could any single church.

The pattern for targeting Cooperative Program missions giving is based on Christ's departing words in Acts 1:8 to be His witnesses in Jerusalem (their city), Judea

(their region), Samaria (the adjoining region which possessed significant cultural and racial barriers) and the remote ends of the earth.

Southern Baptists should greatly rejoice in knowing that every single dollar we give to this coordinated and strategic missions endeavor impacts missions from our front door to the ends of the earth.

I am deeply thankful for Arkansas Baptists' great heart and commitment to missions. Arkansas Baptists are the greatest folks in the world!

J.D. "Sonny" Tucker is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

'Our lane' and Who God is

I almost started this article with, "As a church, we've been studying through the book of Exodus," but that's not really true. Most pastors know it's probably more accurate to say, "I've been preaching through Exodus, and my church has been forced to journey along with me."

But, anyway, that's all beside the point. I'm only to Exodus 6, but I've already run into seven occasions during which Moses tried to insist to God that he wasn't qualified to serve as the deliverer, or he had a physical issue (i.e., a speech impediment, perhaps), or Israel and/or Pharaoh just flat-out wouldn't respond to his leadership.

Maybe you're more spiritual than I am, but until I studied the book verse by verse, I was never aware that Moses was so reluctant to yield to God's plan for his life. And that's certainly a struggle many of us can relate to, I believe.



President's Perspective

Greg Sykes

But it's interesting how God reassured him that he was, indeed, God's man. Yes, God gave him a staff that performed signs and wonders ... but, most importantly and most repeatedly, God simply reminded Moses of Who He is – not who Moses was (no, dear 21st-century Christian, it's not self-help, psycho-

babble), but Who God is. God just kept repeating, "I am the Lord. Now go . . ." as if that should have been enough for Moses.

Now, intellectually, we all know it should have been because the call of God ultimately depends on Who God is, not on who we are, but that's a hard lesson to learn, not to mention we live in a culture that somehow manages to deal with this issue on both sides of the ditch.

If we aren't questioning God's call, we're equally as guilty of leaving God out of our calling or even equipping.

We begin to stray into pride, and "self-anoint" ourselves into being worthy of itinerant preaching ministries, Twitter platforms, and blogs and podcasts. It's even fashionable today to manipulate social media to increase your "platform" or "reach," whether that's really deserving or not.

Yet, if you truly listen to God's repeated lesson in Moses' life, every celebration of Who God is came with an equal affirmation of what Moses wasn't: He wasn't special; he wasn't unique; he honestly wasn't chosen because of any pedigree. But, He was God's choice, which was supposed to be quite good enough.

I know it's awfully old-fashioned and straight from the Bible, but maybe we should just stay in our lanes and remind ourselves each day of Who God is and not worry so much about who we are . . . and leave the platform-building to Him.

Greg Sykes is pastor of First Baptist Church, Russellville, and president of the ABSC.

Letters to the Editor

Great editorial!

Great editorial (Pressing On, "The triumph and tragedy of the past 50 years") in the August 1, 2019, issue! God help us!

Rick Hyde
Arkadelphia

'Disappointing' front page

I was very disappointed in the front page news story on the *Arkadelphia Dispatch* that chose to feature the problems concerning the Henderson State University (HSU) president. (Arkansas Baptist News, Aug. 1, "Ouachita grads fill news void after Arkadelphia

paper closes").

First of all, the article was supposed to be about Ouachita grads starting a weekly newspaper in Arkadelphia. Instead, the focus was on HSU president, Glen Jones. A different news article from the *Dispatch* could and should have been

See **LETTERS** page 6

ABN to publish Minn.-Wisc. Baptist newspaper

AFTER A 25-year partnership with Kentucky Baptists' *Western Recorder*, the *Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist* (MWB) has formed a new production relationship with the *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN).

As of July 2019, the ABN began managing the MWB's layout, printing and mailing.

"For 25 years we have relied on the *Kentucky Western Recorder* to handle the layout, printing and mailing of our state paper. They did this as a ministry to our convention and, through the years, a handful of other smaller conventions," said David Williams, MWB editor.

"When they made the decision to end their print operations and be exclusively online, we were left in a difficult position. I shared our predicament with other editors at the Association of State Baptist Publications meeting in February, and Tim Yarbrough offered the *Arkansas Baptist News* to take on the role of publishing our paper. Since then we have published our first edition. We're excited about this new relationship."

The ABN staff completed work on the most recent edition of the *Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist* – the Summer 2019 edition – which will be published in July.

"While it is saddening to witness the curtailment of fine state newspapers by state conventions like the *Western Recorder* in Kentucky, I am encouraged that many new-work states like Minnesota-Wisconsin still understand the need to communicate effectively with grassroots Baptists," said Tim Yarbrough, editor/executive director of the ABN. "Our team considers it a privilege to assist the *Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist* in producing a quality product to help accomplish its mission of reaching the lost with the gospel."

"We greatly appreciate the 25-year partnership we had with the *Western Recorder* and

are looking forward to a long relationship with the *Arkansas Baptist News*. Editor Tim Yarbrough and his staff have been very gracious to work with us through the transition and are producing a quality paper for us," Williams added.

Williams is serving as the 2019-20 president of the Association of State Baptist Publications (ASBP), an organization representing newspapers and other publications published in the Southern Baptist Convention. Yarbrough is immediate past president of ASBP. ABN copy editor and writer Margaret Colson serves as ASBP executive secretary.



Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Editor David Williams holds a copy of the Summer 2019 edition of the newspaper. The *Arkansas Baptist News* now serves as the publication's publisher.

PRESSING ON

continued from page 4

Baptist newspapers have been dependent on a combination of paid subscriptions, Cooperative Program funding and advertising revenue.

This model has worked well for many Baptist newspapers – even as print readership has declined and digital readership has grown – but today it faces increased challenges from rising postage and printing costs.

Additionally, there's a seismic shift underway as more people abandon printed books, magazines and newspapers, and increasingly embrace digital technology as a conveyor of information.

Today, the ABN continues to have a great reach in our state in both print and digital readership. However, digital readership – meaning those who access our newspaper through our Facebook page,

other social media and at arkansasbaptist.org – has never been greater and rivals the number of our paid print subscribers.

The challenge moving forward is declining revenue of our print subscribers, and replacing that revenue which supplements the cost of printing and mailing the newspaper.

For many years the Cooperative Program has supplemented the cost of the print version of the ABN. However, in 2016 messengers to the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted to reduce funding to the ABN beginning in 2018 – approximately \$21,000 less in 2018, \$42,000 less this year and ultimately culminating in about \$105,000 in total reduction in funding by 2022.

This means that in the year 2022 and following, the ABN's budget will be approximately \$105,000 less per year than it was in 2017. For a

small entity like the ABN, this is a significant loss in funding, but it won't mean the end of your independent Baptist newspaper, that is, unless Arkansas Baptists – readers like you – cease to support it.

What do I mean by support?

In addition to continuing to advocate an adequate level of funding of the ABN through the Cooperative

Program, churches should subscribe to either the paid version of the print or digital edition, place advertisements in our print and digital editions, as well as online, and engage with our social media posts such as on Facebook, etc. This is all a part of the recipe to keep your state Baptist news service operating.

With mainstream channels of journalism under assault

by progressives and liberals intent on remaking the fabric of our country into their image, it is important now more than ever for Southern Baptists to support truth and open communications that support our conviction that Jesus Christ is the only hope for fallen man.

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

LETTERS

continued from page 5

chosen. After all, the *Dispatch* has been in publication since November of 2018. Surely there were better news choices.

I am an Arkadelphia native who grew up in First Baptist Church. I am a HSU alumna. I do not know Glen Jones personally, but his photo and problem at (rival) HSU should never have been plastered on the front page of the *Arkansas Baptist News*. This was totally

inappropriate and should have never happened.

Not only is this an example of poor journalism, but it is a terrible witness for Arkansas Baptists.

I do hope that Mr. Jones will receive a personal apology from you, Bill Sutley, John Schirmer, and anyone else involved in printing this article in the *Arkansas Baptist News*. And, I hope a written apology is placed in the next publication of the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

Martha Walker
Arkadelphia

Little Rock business owner, Shell, dies at 88

LITTLE ROCK – Robert James "Bob" Shell, longtime business owner and member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, died Aug. 6.

Shell began working for The Baldwin Company in 1950. In July 1983, he was promoted to president of the company and changed the name to Baldwin & Shell Construction

Company.

He was actively involved in the Association of General Contractors (AGC), and he was selected as a Lifetime Director of AGC.

Shell built the Ginny and Bob Shell Alzheimer's Center at Parkway Village. He also served on the board of Alzheimers Arkansas, Cen-

tennial Bank, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and 50 for the Future. Shell also served on the Baptist Health Foundation Board for 25 years.

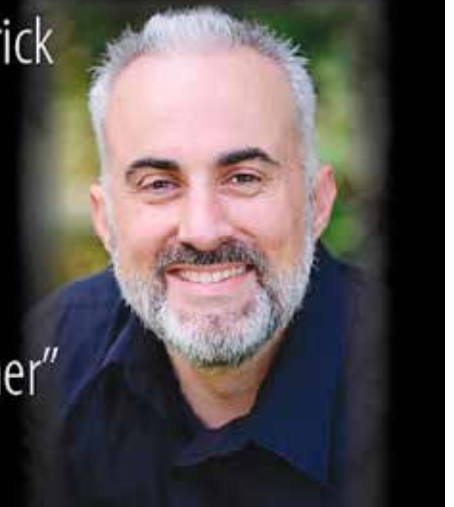
He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother.

Shell is survived by his wife, five children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Listen to a special 100th episode of the ABN Podcast featuring an interview with Stephen Kendrick, one of the creators of hit Christian films such as "Facing the Giants," "Fireproof," "War Room" and "Courageous." Kendrick shares about the movie-making business, his heart for ministry and his new film, "Overcomer," which will be in theaters Aug. 23.

ABN Podcast 100

Stephen Kendrick on Christian moviemaking and upcoming film, "Overcomer"



NAMB

continued from page one

presence with a nearly complete rebuild of its facilities.

NAMB bought the multicultural congregation's property in May 2018 in a partnership that would replace its aging buildings – one of which was being held together with massive bolts to keep the walls from separating. The church became the first of NAMB's newly rebranded ministry outlets, known as Send Relief, which serve as training centers to equip volunteers from around the nation in a variety of settings. The Clarkston center focuses on multicultural ministry and its six ethnic congregations.

The \$10.7 million Clarkston International complex, now undergoing construction on land with approved permits, will spread across four blocks and include missionary housing, education space for volunteer training, a gym, neighborhood playground and parking, which has been in short supply.

In a statement, NAMB President Kevin Ezell told the *Arkansas Baptist News*, "Southern Baptists have always been about reaching the nations. Today, many of the nations have come to us. Our ministry center in Clarkston is focused on reaching those who have come as refugees and immigrants to start new lives. Unfortunately, the city enacted

a retroactive policy to keep us from developing the land we own. After months of negotiation, we had no choice but to take this to a judge. If we don't fight this, what is to stop the same thing from happening to other churches?"

According to reporting by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (AJC), residents of the Clarkston community are concerned about the religious nature of the Southern Baptist Convention development, and that the Baptist mission center might



Ezell

seek to convert residents to Christianity.

"Some people – especially members of the Muslim community – were also worried the Baptist mission center might seek to convert residents of other faiths to Christianity," a resident told the AJC.

The NAMB project has encountered resistance in the Atlanta suburb since it began.

Earlier, Clarkston Mayor Ted Terry affirmed the work of the Clarkston International Bible Church and its long-

standing commitment to help resettle refugees and its programs to help them assimilate into American culture.

"People say the Southern Baptist Convention is bigots, racists, anti-gay. I understand that feeling," Terry told the AJC in 2018, adding that NAMB's Send Relief effort was "the more charitable, open-minded wing of the Baptist tent."

According to the lawsuit, NAMB filed the demolition permits on April 26 for the "generic houses that are vacant and uninhabitable."

And that is when opposition reportedly arose.

"Four days later, on April 30, 2019," the lawsuit continues, "the Clarkston City Council adopted a resolution imposing a moratorium that prohibited any demolition applications from being accepted or processed."

The lawsuit contends that the applications should be processed because they were accepted before the moratorium and that the city is required to issue the demolition permits.

Another challenge emerged

when the opposing group fought to have the area designated as a historic district, and then retroactively grandfathered those farmhouses into the district before the permits could be approved.

Ezell said the move hinders the congregation from enlarging its ministry and providing more resources to the refugees and immigrants.

"NAMB has the right to own property, but a decision to retroactively designate an area as a historic district could be used to prevent any church in the nation from expanding its ministry," Ezell told Baptist Press. "We are challenging this decision not just for Clarkston International, but for churches everywhere who could face their ministries being curtailed."

NAMB's Send Relief president David Melber said the new and improved ministry at Clarkston International would focus on the entire community, not just immigrants. But with nearly half of the city's 13,000 residents reportedly being refugees or immigrants, they would remain an important part of the outreach.

Melber cited the annual back-to-school block party on Aug. 3 where 2,100 backpacks were distributed, as well as services offered such as a free medical clinic and education about community programs such as job training and government services.

In addition, 25,000 school supplies were distributed, 1,500 Bibles were available for the asking, 91 health screenings were provided, and 540 pairs of shoes and 70 prescription pairs of reading glasses were distributed. Nearly 3,500 adults and children attended the popular event.

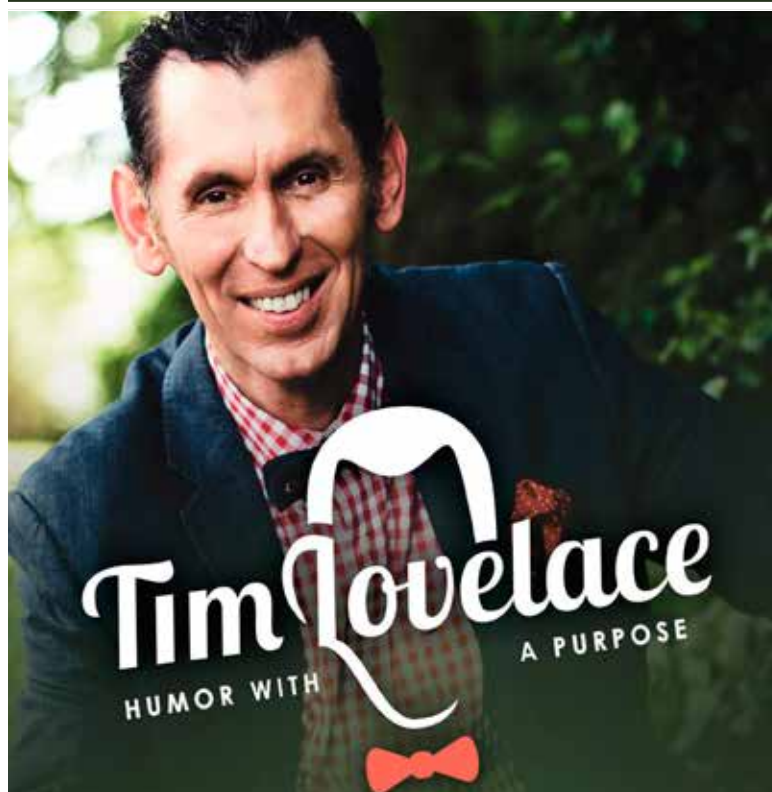
Ezell, who was at the Saturday event, affirmed Send Relief's mission to serve everyone in need.

"Our Send Relief goal is to meet needs and change lives, in that order," Ezell said. "We believe that a relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important part of what we do."

"But there is no obligation whatsoever to proselytize or force anyone to hear a gospel presentation before they receive ministry," he said. "It's all free, no strings attached, provided through gifts to the Cooperative Program."

Compiled with reporting by Baptist Press and the *Arkansas Baptist News*.

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2019 Golden Age Conference

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Schedule:

9:45-10:15 a.m. Final registration
10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Session 1
12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch Break
1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Session 2

Cost for the Conference is \$15.00 per person, which includes lunch.

Deadline to pre-register is Monday, September 16th.

Please call the GCBA office at (870) 236-3213 to pre-register.

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To advertise in the Church Services Directory, contact the ABN at
501-376-4791, ext. 5161, or email ads@arkansasbaptist.org

CP

continued from page 3

increased, according to Brand and Hankins.

"Faithful support of the Cooperative Program was a nearly universal practice. Such widespread, aggressive support of the Cooperative Program made it the premier missions looks crooked funding methodology among denominations," they write. Although CP dollars continued to increase for the next 20 years, the average percentage of undesignated receipts sent by the churches through the CP from 1984-2004 declined from 10.6 percent to 6.99 percent, Brand and Hankins write. Southern Baptist leaders took note and have collaborated in their efforts not only to inform church members about the theological and historical foundations of the CP, but also to inspire church members with personal stories of people reached because of CP gifts. In recent years many state conventions, including the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC),

have voted to increase the percentage of financial gifts sent through the CP.

What do Southern Baptists have to show for their collaborative giving to CP for the past nearly 95 years? The SBC has fully funded thousands of international missionaries and has planted thousands of new churches throughout North America. Six Southern Baptist theological seminaries have been established, and hundreds of state ministries, such as colleges and universities, children's homes, camps, state Baptist news services, and more have been funded.

"The pattern for targeting

Cooperative Program missions giving," explained J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, ABSC executive director, "is based on Christ's departing words in Acts 1:8 to be His witnesses in Jerusalem (their city), Judea (their region), Samaria (the adjoining region which possessed significant cultural and racial barriers), and the remote ends of the earth (See Executive Directions, page 5)."

"Southern Baptists should greatly rejoice in knowing that every single dollar we give to this coordinated and strategic missions endeavor impacts

missions from our front door to the ends of the earth."

Arkansas Baptists have long been committed to the CP. In 2018, Arkansas Baptists gave \$20.7 million through the CP. The ABSC is currently in the second year of a five-year budget formula approved by messengers in 2016, which increases the amount of CP dollars sent out of state to SBC causes from 43.77 percent to 45.82 percent by 2022.

In 2004, when the CP was nearing its 80th year, church leader Henry Blackaby reflected, "The Cooperative Pro-

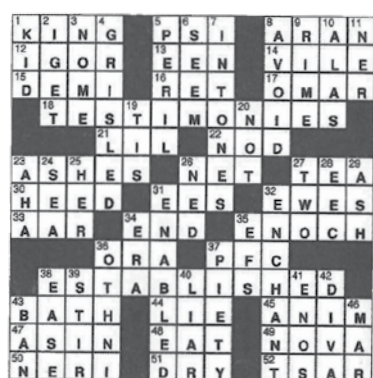
gram is not something man designed, but something God designed."

Now, in its mid-90s, will the CP continue to be the lifeblood of Southern Baptists' advance of the gospel in future decades?

"The prayer of SBC leaders is that the Cooperative Program methodology that has been so useful in the 'one sacred effort' of Southern Baptists since 1925 will sustain the work for decades to come," state Brand and Hankins.

Contact Margaret Colson at margaret@arkansasbaptist.org.

See the ABN crossword, page 9



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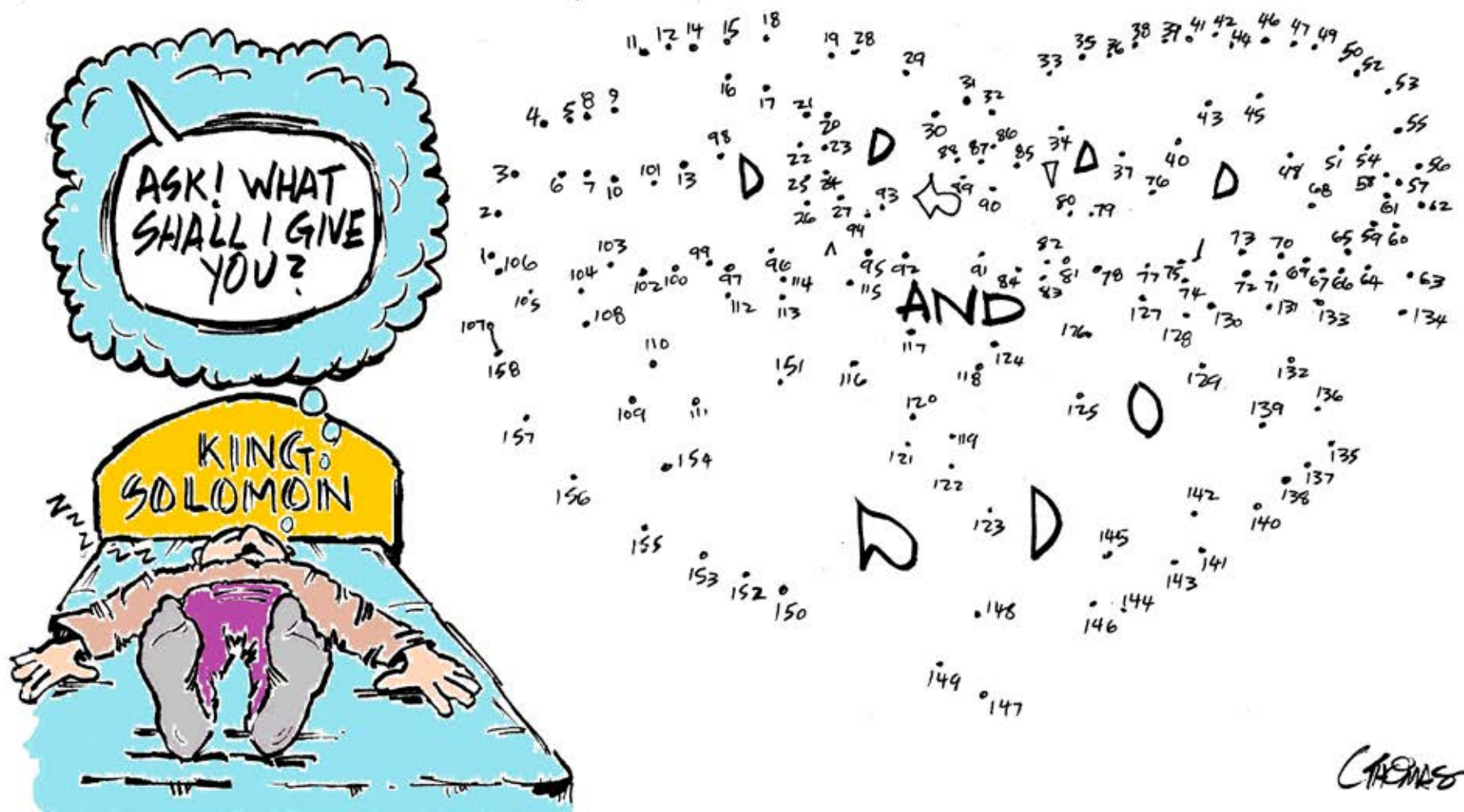
FOR PASTORS AND ALL MINISTERS

Gospel Games

"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

2 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

CONNECT THE DOTS TO DISCOVER KING SOLOMON'S REQUEST



Across

- 1. "In those days there was no ____ in Israel" (Judges 17:6)
- 5. Greek letter
- 8. A child of Dishan (Genesis 36)
- 12. Composer Stravinsky
- 13. Evening (poet.)
- 14. "see, O Lord, for I am become ____" (Lamentations 1:11)
- 15. ____-tasse
- 16. Prepare flax
- 17. Son of Eliphaz (Genesis 36)
- 18. "mercy and truth unto such as keep his ____" (Psalm 25:10)
- 21. Dinky in Dogpatch
- 22. Where Cain dwelt (Genesis 4)
- 23. "Your remembrances are like unto ____" (Job 13:12)
- 26. "they hunt every man his brother with a ____" (Micah 7:2)
- 27. Beverage
- 30. Pay attention
- 31. Certain engineers (abbr.)
- 32. "thy ____ and thy she goats have not cast their young" (Genesis 31:38)
- 33. Swiss river

- 34. "these things must first come... but the ____ is not by and by" (Luke 21:9)
- 35. "____ was translated that he should not see death" (Hebrews 11:5)
- 36. Mouths
- 37. Mil. rank
- 38. "And David perceived that the Lord had ____ him king over Israel" (2 Samuel 5:12)
- 43. City in SW England
- 44. "which god that cannot ____ promised" (Titus 1:2)
- 45. City in southern Judah (Joshua 15)
- 47. "It's ____ ____ to tell a lie"
- 48. Sup
- 49. Intense star
- 50. Father of Salathiel (Luke 3)
- 51. "my flesh longeth for thee in a ____ and thirsty land" (Psalm 63:1)
- 52. Ivan was one

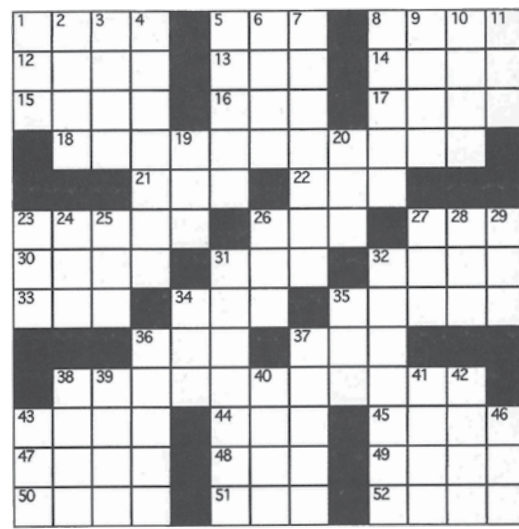
Down

- 1. "One ____ of the goats for a sin offering" (Numbers 7:34)

- 2. "Through thy precepts ____ understanding" (Psalm 119:104)
- 3. City in W. Alaska
- 4. "the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and ____" (Genesis 31:10)
- 5. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall... ____" (Romans 8:35)
- 6. Appear
- 7. Chants
- 8. "unlearned questions ____" (2 Timothy 2:23)
- 9. Hoarfrost
- 10. Exclamation of regret
- 11. The father of Abner (1 Samuel 14)
- 19. Famous Dickens line: "____ a far, far better thing I do"
- 20. Slangy negative
- 23. "they opened their mouth against me and said ____" (Psalm 35:21)
- 24. Red or Dead is one
- 25. Pronoun
- 26. Masculine name
- 27. Number of Naomi's daughters-in-law

- 28. European financial concern (abbr.)
- 29. "he planteth an ____ and the rain doth nourish it" (Isaiah 44:14)
- 31. "I thank Christ Jesus the Lord who hath ____ me" (1 Timothy 1:12)
- 32. Delight
- 34. Historical period
- 35. From (prefix, pl.)
- 36. First son of Shemaiah (1 Chronicles 26)
- 37. "learn first to show ____ at home" (1 Timothy 5:4)
- 38. "And among these nations thou shalt find no ____" (Deuteronomy 28:65)
- 39. Awake
- 40. "for he is a ____ and the father of it" (John 8:44)
- 41. Son of Seth (Genesis 5)
- 42. Opera star
- 43. Outlaw
- 46. Spoil

AB Crossword puzzle



Crossword answer, page 8

Crossword by Barbour Publishing, Inc.

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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

Willis Trueman Moore, 90, of Sherwood, died July 22.



Moore was a missionary in Pakistan for the International Mission Board. He also pastored Jenny Lind Baptist Church, Greenwood, and East Side Baptist Church, Fort Smith. Moore was the founder of the Fort Smith Boys Shelter. After he retired, Moore was the interim pastor for seven churches.

Moore is the brother of Don Moore, pastor and former executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and a brother.

Moore is survived by his wife, a brother, two sisters, a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held July 27 at East Side Baptist Church in Fort Smith.

Edward Monroe Turner, 86, of North Little Rock, died July 23.



Turner was a charter member of Amboy

Baptist Church, North Little Rock.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings.

Turner is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A funeral was held July 27 at Roller-Owens Funeral Home, North Little Rock, followed by burial at Edgewood Memorial Park.

Walter Lee Crosson, Sr., 82, of Sherwood, died July 24.



A Navy veteran, Crosson pastored churches for 50 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister and two brothers.

Crosson is survived by his wife, five children, 15 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held July 30 at Harmony Baptist Church in Sherwood.

Mary Katherine Wright,

87, of Benton, died July 27.

Wright was a member of First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia where she served as the hostess and food service coordinator.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, two brothers and a sister.

Wright is survived by four children, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Aug. 5 at Smith-Benton Funeral Home.

Church life

First Baptist Church, Malvern, will host a blood drive at 1-4 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 29. Participants will receive a free T-shirt and a pass to the Little Rock Zoo.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Black River, will host Bucks, Ducks and Faith at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14. After Grace will lead worship, and Will Lunch, host of Hardwoods South and PSE archery professional, will talk about hunting

and his walk with God. For more information, visit mtvernonbaptist.ticketspice.com.

Baptist life

Clear Creek Baptist Association will host a women's event starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, at First Baptist Church, Ozark. The guest speaker will be Kelli Lawrence of First Baptist Church, Grapevine, Texas, and Voices of Praise from FBC, Ozark, will lead worship. Brunch will be provided.

Forrest City Baptist Church will host disaster relief training at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 14.

Milestones

Union Avenue Baptist Church, Wynne, will host a Golden Jubilee Celebration honoring **Gary Henson**, the pastor, for his 50 years in pastoral ministry. The celebration will begin at 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 24.

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On the move

Rodney Reeves is serving as pastor at First Baptist Church, Jonesboro.

Brian Womack is now serving as pastor at First Baptist Church, Marvell.

You may be the One!

The Baptist Home for Children, Monticello, is seeking volunteers!

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES & FAMILY MINISTRIES

arkansasbaptist.org

Classifieds

PASTOR

Portland Baptist Church, Portland, Arkansas, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Letter/resume to ronmiller47@gmail.com or Ron Miller, 251 Keller Bend Rd., Wilmet, AR 71676.

Seeking **bi-vocational pastor** resumes for rural churches in north central Arkansas. Submit to rbba@centurytel.net or Rocky Bayou Baptist Association, P.O. Box 59, Franklin, AR 72536.

Rector First Baptist Church seeks **full-time senior pastor**. Send resume to rectorfirst@gmail.com or PO Box 197, Rector, AR 72461.

FBC, Pangburn, is seeking a **pastor**. Please email resumes to Pangburnfbcpastorsearch@gmail.com or mail to First Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Team, PO Box 250, Pangburn, AR, 72121.

Seeking **bi-vocational pastor** for a

small, rural Southern Baptist church in Union, Arkansas. Please send resume or information to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, c/o Janet Yancey, PO Box 258, Oxford, AR 72565 or email to janet.yancey@melbourneschools.org.

FBC, Camden, is seeking **full-time senior pastor**. Send resume to FBCCamdenPSC@gmail.com.

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

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

OTHER STAFF POSITIONS

First Baptist Church in Calico Rock is seeking a **full-time youth/children's minister**.

Send resume to fbccr@fbccr.org.

The Woods Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, is searching for a **student minister** who will help us reach students with the gospel. If you are interested in this position, please send a cover letter and resume to finsectwbc@gmail.com.

FBC, Flippin, is seeking a **full-time student minister**. Send resumes to fbclippin@hotmail.com. For more information: www.fbc-flippin.com.

First Baptist Church, Haysville, Kansas, is seeking a **full-time student pastor**. Send resumes to firstbaptisthaysville@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Big Spring, Texas, is seeking a **full-time student minister**. Resumes will be accepted through September 8, 2019. A full job description may be viewed at www.fbcbigspring.org. Please submit resumes to fbcstudentminister@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Lowell, AR, seeking

full-time youth pastor: experienced, relational, called to youth ministry with a passionate heart for students. Send resume to RondHenderson@fbclypsc@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church Newport, AR, is seeking God's will about a **full-time worship leader**. Duties include coordinating and planning the worship services with the pastor and leading musical worship in the services. Some technology skills are also necessary. We are open to shaping the position to best match the skill set of the person God calls here. FBC, Newport, has a solid leadership body and a unified church family. Interested candidates email your resume to pray4raingwd@gmail.com.

Leadership Team Opening: First Baptist Church, Wagoner, is accepting resumes for **F/T children's minister**. Please send resume to mark@fbcwagoner.com or mail to First Baptist Church Search Team, 401 NE 2nd Street,

Wagoner, OK 74467.

Trinity Baptist Church, Benton, AR is seeking a **part-time worship minister** to lead our 30-voice Celebration Choir and worship services. Also, to guide the overall music ministry of the church. Send resume to trinitybenton@gmail.com or contact the church at 501-778-9146.

MISCELLANEOUS

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AUGUST 18, 2019

Believers are to live lives of spiritual integrity that bring honor to Jesus. Pastor and author Andy Stanley said, "Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching." Paul was charging Timothy to be a person of integrity as an example to others (Titus 2:7).

The Greek word for "example" is *tupos*. *Tupos* is literally a mark or imprint left by the stroke of a pen or hammer. It came to mean "a pattern." In Paul's day it was used figuratively as a pattern or mold that was a reliable precedent or example for others to follow. The Greek word for "integrity" means "to be pure" and/or "to be without corruption." Timothy was to set a pure example for others to follow. As an example, he must also teach others with sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). This was directly contrary to the behavior and teaching of the false teachers.

Paul addressed five groups as defined by age, gender and social status. Each person's life must be adorned with the teachings of the Lord in such a way that their behavior does not lead to the slander of

God's message (Titus 2:5, 10).

Older men must be self-controlled, reverent, sensible, sound in faith, loving, and patient (Titus 2:2). The older women must be reverent, truthful, have self-control, teachers, and encouragers of younger women (Titus 2:3-4). Younger women must love their husbands and their children, have self-control, be pure, be good homemakers, and be submissive to their husbands (Titus 2:4-5). Young

men must be sensible, a good example, sound in doctrine and speech (Titus 2:6-8). Servants must be submissive, pleasing, polite,

principled, sincere and praiseworthy (Titus 2:9-10).

Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, "The Church is being shaped by secular culture more than by sacred Scripture." Paul reminds us that we are "to deny godlessness and worldly lusts" (Titus 2:12). We are "to live sensible, righteous, and godly" lives while we wait for Christ to return (Titus 2:12-13). Spiritual integrity begins with living God's Word.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Living with integrity

TITUS 2:1-15 (HCSB)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Remember God's faithfulness

2 CHRONICLES 16:1-13 (HCSB)

about it.

Hanani the prophet was sent by the Lord God to tell Asa that since he did not trust in the Lord, the army of Aram had escaped. Hanani reminded Asa that when he trusted the Lord, the Lord gave him the armies of the Cushites and Libyans. Hanani told Asa, "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His" (2 Chron. 16:9). God is looking for individuals who will have faith and trust in Him. Asa demonstrated his faithlessness by his actions.

The next part of the story should have been confession and repentance, but it was not. Asa became angry. He placed Hanani in prison and oppressed his own people. Asa developed a progressive foot disease and still did not consult God, but he sought physicians. Two years later he was dead.

Remembering God's faithfulness in the past will give us the courage and strength to trust Him now and in the future.

AUGUST 25, 2019

Paul said in Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are saved by grace through faith and not by works. With that settled, he said in verse 10, "For we are His creation created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). The Greek word for "walk" means "to live." As believers, we live to do good works as acts of worship.

This is what Paul was teaching Titus and the churches. Paul charged Titus to remind the believers in Crete to be ready for

every good work and be devoted in doing them (Titus 3:1, 8, 14). Paul reminded Titus and the church that God did not save them by works of righteousness but through regeneration (Titus 3:5). We are not saved by works but saved to do works.

Believers need to be ready to do every good work (Titus 3:1). Paul gave principles to be employed to "live to do." They must be obedient, be ready, not slanderous, not fighting, be kind, and be gentle

to everyone (Titus 3:2). This is in stark contrast to how they once were before being saved. Before their conversion, they were "foolish, disobedient, deceived, captives of various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another" (Titus 3:3).

Charles Spurgeon, in a sermon on good works, said, "Do not let me talk about these things this morning while you listen to me without feeling. I want you to be turning over the pages of your old life and joining with Paul and the rest of us in

our sad confession of former pleasure of evil." Introspection can be revealing. When we turn these pages over in our minds, we can see opportunities missed to do good works for God. These missed opportunities are missed opportunities to serve and worship our Heavenly Father.

Although good works do not save, they have transformational potential to make us more like Christ and to draw others to Christ.

James Hudson Taylor was a missionary in China for more than 50 years. His efforts resulted in more than 18,000 conversions. Some consider him a great man who left an amazing legacy of missions and evangelism. Taylor said, "All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on God being with them."

Second Chronicles 17:3 says, "Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat." Jehoshaphat, son of Asa, was one of the godliest kings to occupy the throne of Judah. When he first came to the throne, his reign included the building of fortified cities, promoting devotion to God and building up his military.

Jehoshaphat prepared for any military aggression by implementing military strategy and spiritual strategy. He fortified the city of Judah and the cities of Ephraim to protect Judah from any aggression from Israel. Jehoshaphat also made spiritually strategic moves. First, he obeyed the Lord (2 Chron. 17:3-6). His obedience included walking in the ways of David, seeking God, keeping God's

commands, and not practicing idolatry like Israel. Second, he removed idols of false worship from the land (2 Chron. 17:6). Third, he sent teachers out with the law of the Lord to teach the people (2 Chron. 17:7-9).

Jehoshaphat's strategy paid off. The Lord established the kingdom (2 Chron. 17:5). He received tribute, riches and honor in abundance (2 Chron. 17:6). All the kingdoms around Judah feared him so they did not wage war against him (2 Chron. 17:10). The Philistines brought tributes of gold and silver, and the

Arabs brought flocks, rams and goats (2 Chron. 17:11). Jehoshaphat obtained massive wealth and created a formidable military (2 Chron. 17:12-13). His early reign left quite a legacy.

We talk much in our church about making an impact now and leaving a lasting legacy. Our actions can have a negative or positive impact. We need to remember people are watching us. Our walk with Christ will either have a negative impact or a positive impact. What legacy will you leave?

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Living to do

TITUS 3:1-11 (HCSB)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Leave a legacy

2 CHRONICLES 17:1-13 (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.



"Telling the story of Arkansas Baptists since 1901"

Dear Arkansas Baptist,

The *Arkansas Baptist News* (ABN) is delighted to offer this special Cooperative Program issue (which includes a special 8-page section) free to all Arkansas Baptist churches – in cooperation with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

To our faithful subscribers, we want to say, "Thank you!" To our non-subscribing churches, we prayerfully ask you to consider signing up for a Group Plan or Every Resident Family Plan.

The ABN is grateful for your church's gifts given through the Cooperative Program, which provides vital support for our ministry. (The other portion of our budget comes from the support of subscribers and advertisers.) To ensure the continuance of a unique voice for Arkansas Baptists for generations to come, we need your support!

The ABN is changing with changing times – in addition to our improved print edition, the ABN offers a digital edition and extensive website at arkansasbaptist.org featuring additional Arkansas Baptist-centric news, information and bonus features. Find us on Facebook and Twitter as ArkBaptNews.

These are exciting days as we work together to fulfill Christ's charge to take the gospel across Arkansas and to all the earth!

Become a subscriber today so you don't miss another issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News*. For more information about how your church can read about how God is using Arkansas Baptists to expand His kingdom, call 501-376-4791, ext. 5153, or 800-838-2272, ext. 5153, or visit arkansasbaptist.org/subscribe.

Serving Together,

Tim Yarbrough
Editor/Executive Director

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Arkansas BAPTISTS

HOW YOUR GIVING TO **MISSIONS** IS MAGNIFIED AND MULTIPLIED THROUGH THE **COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

IT BEGINS WITH YOU!

Out of gratitude and obedience to God for what He has done for you, you commit to give back to Him, through your church, a portion of what He provides. This is commonly called a tithe and represents 10 percent of your income.

YOUR CHURCH TAKES THE NEXT STEP.

Your church prayerfully decides how much of its undesignated gifts will be committed to reaching people in your state and around the world through the Cooperative Program. Your church then forwards this amount to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ABSC DISTRIBUTES FUNDS TO MISSIONS.

Messengers from Arkansas Baptist churches like yours decide how Cooperative Program gifts will be used. A portion stays right here in Arkansas to support local and state missions and ministries.

SBC FUNDS NATIONAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS.

The Cooperative Program gifts are used by SBC entities to send and support national and international missionaries and church planters, equip pastors and train the next generation of ministry leaders, and help protect faith and family values.

YOU



YOUR CHURCH



ARKANSAS BAPTISTS



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



NAMB + IMB

The secret to cooperative missions

Mission work is the thing that binds us together as Arkansas Baptists. Because of that, we are associated with missionaries all over our world, including some in extremely sensitive and high-risk locations. Carrying out mission work in these sensitive areas is an incredible challenge, but it is also incredibly important. Because of the Cooperative Program, each and every Arkansas Baptist sitting in the pew on Sunday is directly connected to these global missions — and in more ways than you might think.

One of the most sensitive locations on the planet is Southeast Asia, a part of the world where there are



Andrew Sweatman
ABSC Staff Writer

643 unreached people groups. These people groups combined contain 467 million people. Because of the tight security needed in this area, very few details can be shared about the work there. But rest assured that work is being done, and it's being done at a high, high level. This work takes money, and it is only possible because of financial contributions from a variety of sources, including every church in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC). Here's how that journey works:

- 1) You tithe to your church,
- 2) your church contributes financially to the ABSC,
- 3) a large portion of all ABSC funds goes to the national Southern Baptist Convention (SBC),
- 4) and the SBC contributes directly and power-

fully to global missions.

Thus, each Arkansas Baptist is directly responsible for global mission work, all with the convenience of the tithe you already contribute to your local church. This is how cooperative missions works, financially. Sometimes the needs are deeper, though, and Arkansas Baptists can come alongside missionaries to meet these deeper needs too. The workers in Southeast Asia have a lot of needs on the field, and not all of these needs can be met with finances.

For example, each year missionaries in that part of the world gather for training, professional development, encouragement, and rest. Many of these missionaries are in secluded parts of the world,

See **MISSIONS** page 3

Answering the Call: Hannah's Story

ONE OF THE incredible ministries that you support through the Cooperative Program as Arkansas Baptists is called Nehemiah Teams. The vision statement of Nehemiah Teams is "to lead students to finish the Great Commission in this generation." Hannah Sneed, a student at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, learned this firsthand last summer.



Sarah Vaughn
ABSC Staff Writer

more than the lifestyle I was living and the choices I was making," Sneed said. "I contacted someone later that night and said, 'I think I heard the Lord and I want to be saved; I need to be saved.'"

"He redeemed me from so much sin that I just had to tell others about what the Lord did on my behalf - that's what really encouraged me to do Nehemiah Teams."

Stepping up and stepping out

Grey Falanga, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Jonesboro, was instrumental in Hannah learning and getting connected with Nehemiah Teams, she says. Falanga was a part of the very first Nehemiah Team in 2004. "He always talks about it and how it was a pivotal point in his relationship with the Lord," Hannah said, which is what inspired her to finally go.

Nehemiah Teams is an eight-week summer missions program for students ages 17-29 that involves a cross-cultural mission assignment to unreached, and hard to reach, groups of people. With Nehemiah Teams, which is a partnership between International Mission Board and local entities like the Arkansas

Baptist State Convention, different placements mean different activities. You could be teaching English somewhere, participating and helping run

sports camps, working with music, or a number of activities. Nehemiah Teams serves 31 countries.

Sneed served in Nairobi,

Kenya for eight weeks. She was a camp counselor for four weeks and then worked in

See **ANSWERING** page 6

Out-of-state missions giving on the grow

ARKANSAS Baptists have embodied the Southern Baptist passion for sending out missionaries to spread the gospel since the beginning of the missions movement - known as the Cooperative Program (CP) - in 1925. Arkansas Baptists have heard the cries of a lost world and given committedly through our churches, and this commitment to missions continues to deepen.

Arkansas Baptists have always sent a large portion of CP giving out of our state to support Southern Baptist missionaries in North America

and around the world. For years, our family of Arkansas Baptist churches have together given one of the highest levels of "out-of-state" missions giving as a percentage of Southern Baptist CP gifts. We have been increasing our giving since 2008, and this year (2019) we have budgeted to give 47.80 percent of all CP gifts received to out-of-state missions.

During the 2016 annual meeting, Arkansas Baptist messengers voted to approve the new formula that will gradually increase our out-of-state



Greg Addison
ABSC Associate
Executive Director

See **OUT-OF-STATE** page 3

Attn: Pastor/Ministry Leader:

Equip your church to be 'salt and light'

"always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;" - 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

The following are some of the conferences offered by the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council. Many of the topics covered by the conferences can be presented in a sermon format. There are no fees imposed on attendees or on the churches or groups hosting the conferences. If you may be interested in hosting a conference call (501) 837-1688 or email llp@ArFaith.org.

• **CHURCH SECURITY: KNOW THE CURRENT LAW DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF GUNS-IN-CHURCHES** and discover common sense recommendations regarding the best practices designed to simultaneously keep your congregation safe and present a winsome appearance of the church to the world.

• **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: NOW YOU SEE IT - NOW YOU DON'T!** Learn how you can help preserve religious liberties for churches, staff, and Christian ministries and businesses. Practical guidelines to put the right policies and standards in place to protect

against the ever-increasing attacks on religious freedom and practice.

• **DEFENDING THE FAITH: CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS FOR A SKEPTICAL WORLD** Be prepared to meet the mandate recorded in 1 Peter 3:15: "... always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." Learn the functions of Christian apologetics and defend the faith.

• **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE: DOES IT MEAN WHAT THEY SAY IT MEANS?** What is the origin of the phrase "separation of church and state"? What was its original intent? How has it been misconstrued and applied in a way that threatens our heritage and religious liberty? Know the truth.

• **RESPOND PERSUASIVELY TO THE OBJECTIONS TO CHRISTIANITY POSED BY AGNOSTICS, ATHEISTS, AND OTHER NONBELIEVERS** Learn how to be prepared to answer the objections presented to make our faith appear foolish, illogical, and utterly meaningless.



Larry Page

• Licensed Attorney
• Executive Director of the
Arkansas Faith & Ethics Council

Page is often available to come to a church, association, ministerial alliance, regional gathering or other venue to share information, answer questions and to provide guidance *at no charge to your church!*

Contact information for Larry Page:

501-837-1688 (office) • llp@ArFaith.org

If you have questions or need to request any of AFEC's services, want to inquire about an informational meeting, or would like to receive AFEC's email updates and alerts, call (501) 837-1688 or email llp@ArFaith.org



MISSIONS

continued from page one

rarely having face-to-face contact with anyone who speaks their native language. Most have online access to communicate with leadership back

in the United States, but in many cases this communication is limited both in frequency and in the topics they can openly discuss for fear of being watched online.

The annual meeting of the missionaries is the one chance they may have each year to take

time away from the field and recharge their batteries, reconnect with their peers and leadership, and renew their commitment to the challenging work. The annual meeting is absolutely vital. Because mission work is often a family affair, there are large numbers of

children in tow with the missionaries attending this meeting. This means that childcare is a real and sizable need each and every year. And because of the sensitive nature of the work being done, they can't hire just anyone to do it.

For the last several years, Arkansas Baptists have provided for all of the childcare needed by sending high-quality and fully vetted volunteers to the other side of the world to take this large concern off of the table for these missionaries. This is a huge service for workers on the field and the value of it can hardly be put into words — but do you see how it goes beyond financial support? These volunteers sacrifice their time and comfort to make a difficult journey across the world, all in direct and faithful service of global missions. Their sacrifice can inspire and challenge us all to become more involved. What can you sacrifice to support missions?

This type of direct involvement with missions also leads to and enables new opportunities. Because of the willingness of Arkansas Baptists to go, we have developed a women's retreat, which will be focused around issues women face in different parts of the world. If service at the primary annual meeting had not been so successful over the last few years, the women's conference would not be possible. Service begets service and leads into further opportunities. Arkansas Baptists like you made this possible.

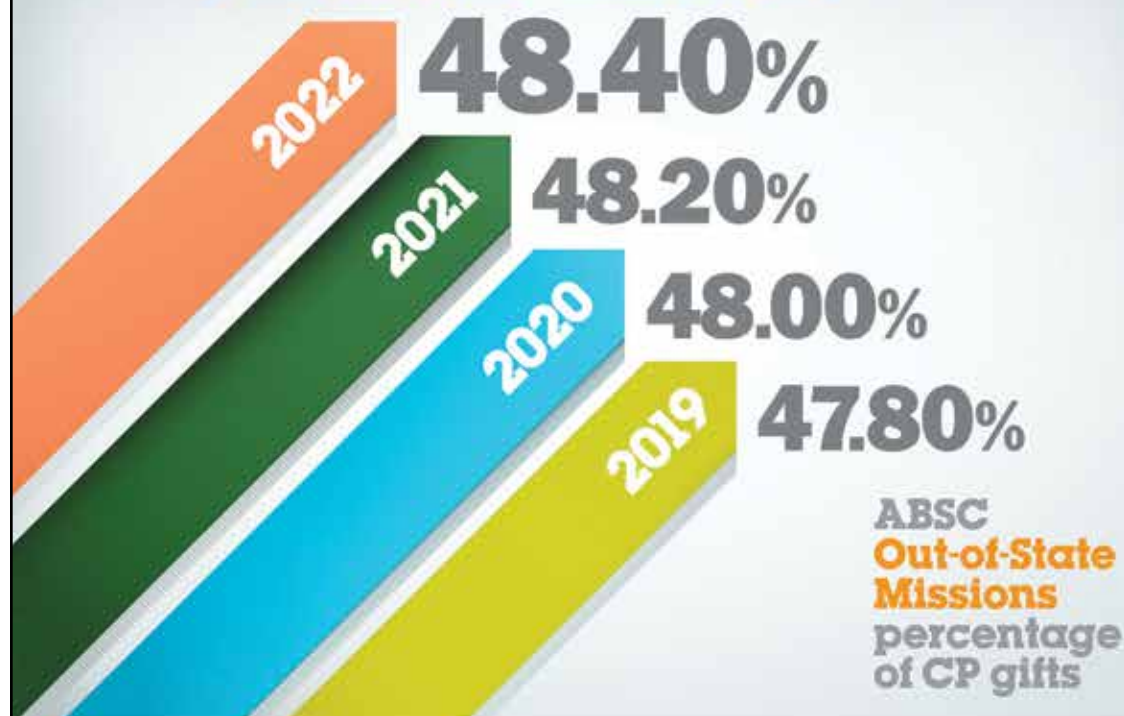
When Arkansans are directly involved in missions, it

inspires other Arkansans to do more. Another example of this is tied to one of our partner universities in the state. Because of connections between missionaries and Arkansas Baptists, an Arkansas restaurant owned by a native of Southeast Asia was connected to an Arkansas university professor (this article is vague on details for the sake of security). This relationship grew and eventually led to a connection between the professor and an Arkansas church that is largely made up of people from his home area. Now, the plan is for the professor and the church to collaborate on a mission trip that several Arkansas college students will be able to attend. This opportunity would not have come up if Arkansans were not active in global missions. We are stronger than the sum of our parts and the service we do often builds to something greater.

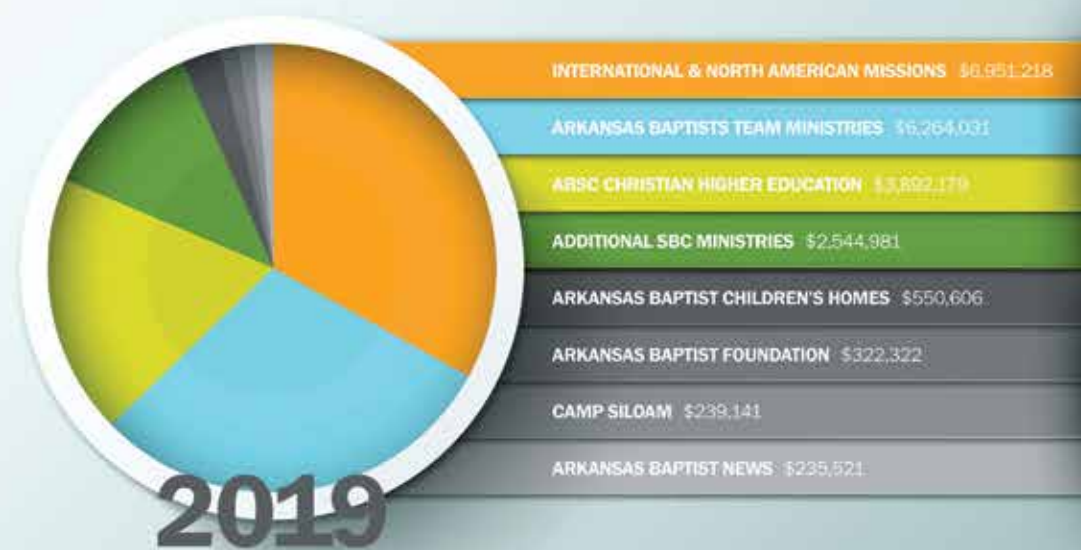
The Cooperative Program is the bridge that links us to global missions and that empowers cooperative missions to grow exponentially and here's the secret: It's much bigger than just money. Yes, when we pool our resources, our impact goes much further, but the beauty of true cooperation is that it goes much further than dollars and cents. We serve a God who loves us, as people, and that's why we serve Him, not simply as sponsors or subscribers, but as people. That means we support missions with our time, our prayers, and our very lives. The calling is that big, and the work is that important. It's worth sacrificing for.

When you give to your church and your church participates in cooperative missions, you reach people across Arkansas, the nation, and the world.

ABSC Out-of-State Missions on the grow!



HOW YOUR INVESTMENT IN MISSIONS IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



Arkansas
BAPTISTS

ABSC.ORG

OUT-OF-STATE

continued from page 2

CP giving percentage to 48.4 percent by 2022. We are now into the second year of this plan, which started in 2018, and giving is going strong. The privilege to send more missionaries and do more missions is possible because of you, Arkansas Baptists, and your commitment to send even more of your God-given resources out-of-state!

We focus our out-of-state missions giving in three areas: 1) giving to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) budget through planned bud-

get giving; 2) promoting and administering CP missions to increase giving and participation by Arkansas Baptists; and 3) working to connect Arkansas Baptists with SBC missions strategies.

Please stay connected with our cooperative efforts through our website absc.org/out-of-state-missions for more details about how your missions giving, through your Arkansas Baptist church, directly fuels sharing the gospel around the nation and world. Or if you haven't already, commit with us to give and go to share the gospel through Cooperative Program missions!

absc.org/out-of-state-missions

Arkansans make impact around the block

WHEN A GROUP of Arkansas Baptists showed up in a Detroit neighborhood the morning after a shooting, several of the area residents told the mission team, “Listen, we need God, we need God,” and four guys were led to Christ – all thanks to the Cooperative Program.

Chanson Newborn, pastor of Fellowship Community Church in Forrest City, said when his group arrived at Heart & Soul Community Church in Detroit last summer, they realized it was a rough neighborhood, and he knew they were stepping into a difficult, challenging situation. “There were abandoned cars and houses with grass growing high in the yards. It looked like a desolate place to be.”

That was quite a start for these missions trip newbies from the Arkansas Delta who had traveled to Michigan to help local church planters host block parties. But they quickly learned that God can use volunteers who feel inexperienced to impact an unfamiliar community for the gospel. Chanson’s group was surprised by how openly those in the neighborhood responded to the team’s presence as

they moved through the complex handing out fliers. “At first,” Chanson said, “it was a little strange, watching people come out of their apartments, crying, asking us to pray for them. It was at that point we knew that God was already at work in that community.” In fact, some of the first people the team encountered were the four men who were saved. “And that’s a God moment,” Chanson said. “Only God can do that!”

Detroit trip impacts Arkansas Baptists

Sixteen people from Fellowship Community Church in Forrest City, including Fredrick and Anita Irby and their son Fredrick, Jr., traveled to Detroit. The experience was especially meaningful for the Irbys because in addition to this being their first missions trip, the couple celebrated their wedding anniversary that same week, and their son responded to Pastor Cornelius’ invitation during the block party. “On our very first day there ... my son got up and said that he wanted to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior,” Fredrick recalled. “It was a very great moment for

the family and for the ones that went on the trip with us.” His wife Anita agreed the trip was amazing: “From the first time meeting members from the other two churches that went along with us, there was an instant connection. We had a long drive, but it was wonderful because we had conversation going, getting the chance to meet and learn about our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.”

The Cooperative Program can facilitate other Arkansas Baptist churches to participate in life-changing missions like this. ABSC Church Planting Strategist Chad Grigsby said, “Cooperative missions is the best way to encourage more churches to get their people on mission. This strategy engages established churches to partner with new churches to serve on the mission field.”

Tracy Archibald, block party coordinator for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, explains it this way: “When you give to your church and your church gives through the Cooperative Program, we part-

ner with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, along with Delta churches, to go join the



effort in spreading the gospel in Detroit. Arkansas Baptists have done a lot of work in the Delta area with church planters, and now they are moving from their comfort zone and stretching out to do missions. It’s encouraging and rewarding that they can see God moving outside of their areas and want to extend God’s love to Detroit.”

This was the Irby family’s first time to go on a missions trip, and Fredrick Irby agreed, “It was very exciting to impact the Detroit community and spread the gospel.”

Anita said that although this trip was a lot of work, sharing meaningful moments with the others on the team was

wonderful. “All of us got together in a group, and we held hands and prayed. ... Some people came over and were wondering what we were doing. As we were going out, people were opening doors and wanting prayer, ... and you don’t see that too much.” She says that if they’d asked her to go to Florida or Colorado, she would have gone, but the opportunity was to go to Michigan. “If they ask again, wherever, I would definitely love to go and share another experience like that.”

The Ark. Baptist connection to Send City Detroit

What’s the Arkansas connection to Detroit, Michigan? Metro Detroit is identified as one of North American Mission Board’s 35 Send Cities, and only one Southern Baptist church exists for every 38,000 people there. The area is grossly unevangelized. “It takes more people and more churches on mission to reach areas like Detroit with the gospel,” said Grigsby. In 2017 several Arkansas pastors responded to the need to partner with

Arkansas Baptists donated to **Detroit** church planters a

Block Party trailer

This tool helps church planters...



Connect with communities in advance of church launches



Raise awareness of new church plants



Promote VBS and other evangelistic ministries

Through the Cooperative Program, Arkansas Baptists are supporting dozens of church plants in the **SBC Send City** of Detroit.



some of the Send City church plants in Detroit. Because Detroit shares several similarities with our Delta region — like socioeconomic issues and decreasing population — the partnership seemed like an effective fit. “We were asked to connect with a group of planters in Detroit through the Send Network because they were experiencing some of the same things that we were experiencing here in Arkansas, particularly in the Delta,” Newborn said. “After touring us around the city, the Detroit group began to share their burden for the lost in their city and what God was doing through them in Detroit.”

Arkansas Baptists working through the Cooperative Program helped facilitate those connections by purchasing and delivering a block party trailer, then sending this Delta team to train the Michigan church planters on how to establish block party minis-

try. Archibald and the block party team spent five weeks building out this trailer. “Our Delta churches [partnered] with church planters there in Detroit to host block parties,... canvass the area and invite people to the block parties, joining their effort to spread the gospel in Detroit.” The trailer was left with the Michigan church planters for future ministry use.

Block party ministry

Block parties are an effective tool for evangelism because they’re non-threatening events. “Once you set the block party trailer up and start the music and the bounce houses, people get to come on their own. It’s all free, nothing is charged, and we feed them hot dogs and cotton candy, but most of all we get to share the gospel with them,” Archibald said. “It’s non-threatening because we just invite them — they don’t have to come.”



Attendees at a recent block party. Photo by Daryuna Hull

Newborn feels block parties are very impactful because they create opportunities to share the gospel. “With face painting, bouncy houses, kids playing basketball, and free snow cones — those types of tools

allow you to have gospel conversations,” he said. “A block party trailer is an excellent way for these church planters to help build their churches and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Fredrick Irby explained the Arkansas team started block party training as soon as they arrived in Detroit to ensure that everyone was equipped. “In the Delta in Arkansas we do a lot of block parties — that’s one of the things I was excited about because we were familiar with them and wanted to help the church planters learn how to utilize some of those tools and resources,” he said. “We went out into that community and handed out fliers to let the people know about the block party and the different activities we were having. It was so exciting to see God moving; His presence was there when we were going door to door and people were asking for prayer.”

Newborn’s group knocked on the door of an elderly couple that lives close to the church and just told them, “Hey, we’re having a block party next door — would you like to come?” The couple said, “Block party? What’s a block party?” The team answered that it was a way for the church to connect with the people of the community. “They came to the block party, which was really neat to see,” he said. People responded in unexpected ways, like coming out of their apartments asking for prayer. Immediately Newborn “knew that God was already at work in this complex. It felt as if we were supposed to be there as part of this mission effort.” The Arkansas group worked

with three church planters in Detroit: Brother Cornelius, Brother Antonio, and Brother Cory. Newborn said he could relate to their situation because “It’s the same context that I’m dealing with in the Delta. It was good to be able to come alongside another brother and to serve beside them and help with kingdom work in another place outside of the Delta.”

Cooperative Program ministry partnerships

Fellowship Community Church in Forrest City is an Arkansas church plant that’s only four years old. “Being a young church, we were always looking for opportunities where people can come alongside us and give to us. This trip was a joyous experience for us because it was a great chance for us to give back. Instead of us having our hands out, we were having our hands out to help, to serve and to give,” Newborn said. “It’s not cheap; it’s not free to go. You have to take off work, travel, all of that, but it meant a lot to me as a pastor to see my church sacrifice, to serve, to give of their time and be part of this mission in Detroit. To me, it showed their love for God.”

Not only was this mission partnership between Arkansas and Send Detroit, but churches across Arkansas joined together for this mission effort. In addition to Fellowship Community Church, members from Otter Creek Community Church and First Baptist Church, Stuttgart, participated in this trip. From those churches, 26 people traveled to



Chanson Newborn, pastor of Fellowship Community Church in Forrest City, leads prayer. Photo by Daryuna Hull



5k Run/Walk
Sept. 7, 2019

Jonesboro, Ark.
Craighead Forest Park

Register online at ICare5k.com

DETROIT

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Detroit in an effort to impact lostness.

When Arkansas Baptists give and serve together through Cooperative Program ministry, we are able to reach our state and beyond with the gospel. “When you give to your church and your church gives to the Cooperative Program, you are enabling new churches to go on mission. Even though these trips are short-term, the work is ongoing. Because we are partnering with cooperative mission efforts, lostness

is impacted and the mission continues long after the short-term team has left the field,” Grigsby said.

Through the Cooperative Program, church plants with limited resources are able to serve other church plants across the country. Ninety percent of the Arkansas Baptists who traveled to Detroit were on their first missions trip. This Cooperative Program partnership experience showed the people of Fellowship Community Church “what we can do to be more of an impact in our own community, to help us grow more spiritually, and to see what the

needs of the people are here,” Fredrick Irby said. “It opened our eyes to see that Forrest City is in the same predicament, and what we learned in Detroit, we can bring back here and apply it to our own community.” He said it was exciting to meet new people from the other churches that joined them and enjoyed coming together as Christians to minister to other people.

Connecting churches together to do ministry is the primary purpose of the Cooperative Program, which creates the strategy and provides the resources that churches can use to evangelize the lost.



A woman gets her face painted during a block party. Photo by Daryuna Hull

Newborn said, “It meant a great deal to me that several churches were coming together in unity and love to accomplish the Great Commission and spread the gospel, not only in our context, but

in other parts of the country – in Detroit. We shared the love of Jesus together as partners.”

For more cooperative missions stories, videos and resources at absc.org/cpsshare.

ANSWERING

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village ministry the last four weeks. As a camp counselor, she worked with kids from different religions and backgrounds.

“It’s not just for a few days; you are being a missionary, on the field for 52 days and learning what it means,” Sneed said.

“The camp was an international camp so I worked with kids who were from Germany, as well as Kenya and Ethiopia.” In the village ministry, they served the community the best way possible, and she learned what it really meant to serve someone.

“There was this boy, and he was from this Islamic slum and he had been going to this Christian school, which it was a miracle that the parents even let him go since it was a Christian school. There was this other boy, his friend, who had been having dreams about Jesus,” Sneed said.

This boy had already been facing persecution because he’d converted to Christianity. His family had disowned him and thrown him out. He was only seven years old. He was living on the streets, homeless. He was sexually assaulted, which Sneed said was a side effect to living on the streets.

“He was encouraging his friend [though], who was having dreams about Jesus; he said, ‘You just need to follow

Him. Sometimes we have to bear our cross just like Jesus bore His.’ And he was seven and just the fact that he was encouraging his friend, even though he knew he was going to be persecuted,” Sneed said. “Sometimes we don’t even share when we know we won’t be [persecuted]. That’s something that always sticks out in my mind.”

Coming back to the states after serving all summer wasn’t easy. Sneed talked about how missions isn’t a calling, but a command for believers. She feels personally responsible for mobilizing students to go and serve.

“The people were such a blessing to me, even though I was sent to be a blessing to them,” Sneed said. “The Lord just freed me from my strongholds, deepened my faith, and my Bible knowledge increased. There are just so many benefits to serving with the Nehemiah Teams.”

What are Nehemiah Teams?

In 1993, Jess and Wendy Jennings began serving as cross-cultural workers with the IMB in Southeast Asia. For 15 years, they planted churches in rural, poor areas. In 2004, they founded Nehemiah Teams as a way to incorporate more young people into their work. Since then, 3,200 students have trained and gone out on short-term mission trips to 30+ countries around the world.

Nehemiah Teams come

from the story of Nehemiah, who in 52 days led his people to rebuild Jerusalem. If you look throughout history in the Bible, many mission stories involve young people being called by God and following that calling to obey the Lord and win people over for the kingdom.

Another key statement that Nehemiah Teams draws inspiration from comes from President Roosevelt’s inaugural speech in 1936, “There is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations, much is given. Of other generations, much is expected. This generation has a rendezvous with destiny.” Nehemiah Teams believes that this generation “has a rendezvous with destiny.”

A bigger picture

Sneed described another experience she had while in Kenya that stood out to her

and really cemented the idea of why she was there doing what she was doing.

“We were in a village in Northern Kenya working with village schools. I stayed with a local pastor there and his family. His nephew had never seen someone with my skin color before, and he didn’t know how to interact with me. It was a great example of how God created us in His own image. He doesn’t see us differently no matter our skin color.”

Everyone deserves to hear the gospel. From those in our own backyards and neighborhoods to those across the globe in little villages in Kenya. Jesus came to save everyone, and it’s our job to share that mission.

Sending others out

If there’s one thing that Sneed would tell other students on the fence about serving it’s this, “Just do it.

“There is no greater reward

than storing up eternal treasures. As college students, we are given the gift of our summers, of our time, and we need to take advantage of that.”

Sneed continues to live out what she learned and witnessed in Kenya in her everyday life.

“It would’ve been wrong of me to do that [serve] all summer and then come back and just disregard it,” Sneed said.

While she doesn’t know if she’ll do another Nehemiah Team, Sneed does say she wants to do more long-term missions elsewhere. “I’m really interested in doing [another missions program like] Journeyman or Teach Beyond since I’m going to school to be a teacher.” Without Nehemiah Teams, though, Sneed says, she would’ve never imagined serving in long-term missions and for that she’s very grateful and thankful.

Thank you for supporting your ministry to children and youth at Camp Siloam

2019 Impact

786 life changing commitments

436 salvations

56 called to missions or ministry

189 rededications

105 expressed an interest in baptism







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