

# BAPTIST TRUMPET

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**HEALTHY CHURCH SOLUTIONS**  
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**MOVING with Ministers and Staff**  
To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at [www.baptisttrumpet.com](http://www.baptisttrumpet.com).

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## Foundations of a Healthy Church

What foundation are you building your church upon to ensure it is healthy? Jesus said He would build His church and the gates of Hell would not stand against it. There are five functions (fellowship, discipleship, worship, ministry and mission) clearly seen in Acts 2:42-47, and all of them must be bathed in prayer. These functions can take many different forms in different churches and in different cultures. With the Great Commission as a direct command from our Lord and Savior, there is a need to examine core values, mission, vision and strategy.



How can a prayerful, intentional and deliberate process enable your church to be the church Christ intended her to be? These back to the basics, foundational items will help you to successfully plan toward a healthier church. It will require a lot of prayer, becoming more outwardly focused, dreaming God dreams of your preferred future and then actually living these imperatives out. A healthy church has a clear understanding of what they value, their mission, vision and strategy to be effective.

How does God want you to express Him through your church in your community? With that challenge, some begin to work diligently on a really cool mission/vision statement that is scriptural, catchy and flows off the tongue. It sounds great, but here is the reality check — having a vision statement in no way guarantees that your church will be a visionary congregation. But realize that discerning and governing your core values and developing a mission and vision statement is a great step in the right direction.

Ken Priddy said, “Most congregations claim allegiance to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission,

Myles Evans has accepted the interim pastorate of Flat Rock Baptist Church in Quitman effective Feb. 7. Central Baptist Church at Texarkana is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to CentralBaptistTxkSearch@gmail.com or 2117 E. 35<sup>th</sup> St., Texarkana, Ark. 71854.

but few truly demonstrate a sacrificial love for neighbors or a serious commitment to outreach and evangelism.”

When churches are no longer functioning as they should, they begin to fall prey to becoming insider-focused on those who are already involved. The voices of people inside the church become louder than those outside the church and outside the faith. A church not living on His mission has actually lost its reason for existing.

As you consider values, mission and vision, you must prayerfully seek a way for greater buy-in and ownership of your congregation to make sure you value what God values. Are your values actual values (your behavior backs them up) or are they aspirational values (who you desire to be)? Churches say they value making disciples because Matt. 28:18-20 says you should be making disciples. Then the question you must ask is, “Are you making any disciples?” If you are not making disciples, why are you not making disciples?

Let’s do a quick overview of these foundational elements:

- **Core values are a great starting place since they are why you do something.** They describe what you believe, but they are more than that because they determine how you behave. Values are what move you from head knowledge into action.

- **Mission is what you are supposed to be doing.** Mission is your identity, and it determines your direction because it is why your church exists. Mission is God’s mandate, and we move our church into obedience of that mandate.

- **Vision is where you are going by carrying out God’s mission.** It is seeing the possibilities of a brighter future (Eph. 3:20) but also being aware of the difficulties and challenges in the journey (Luke 14:28-30). Vision is the motivator to get you to God’s

**See FOUNDATIONS, Page 8**

## Legislative Issues Status Report

*Editor’s Note: This article and the Family Council article below contained some duplicate information and have been edited so that, together, they showcase the bills that are being highlighted by both groups. Visit [www.arfaith.org](http://www.arfaith.org) for more info.*

Recently, we sent a listing some of the bills we were monitoring and working on at some level. Following is not a complete listing of those bills, but they are some of the major ones. We have included the current status of each of these measures. If you have questions about any of these, contact us.

### Alcohol-Related Bills

- **H.B. 1148** — If this bill became law, it would virtually gut the Local Option Election laws and take much of the authority away from residents of counties in determining whether alcoholic beverages can be sold in their communities. We have strongly opposed this bill. The bill was defeated in the House Rules Committee. It is possible that the bill can receive another hearing in that committee, but we are hopeful the bill is dead. We will report on it as developments merit.

- **S.B. 32** — This bill will allow liquor stores to deliver alcoholic beverages to private residences in wet counties. We opposed this bill in the Senate; it passed there by only two votes. The bill was then approved by the House Rules Committee and is pending in the full House of Representatives. We continue to oppose it, but the prospects aren’t the best.

- **H.B. 1062** — This bill will increase the time from 5 years to 10 years that a court may use a previous DWI conviction to impose an enhanced sentence

**See AFEC, Page 5**



## Other Bills of Interest

By Jerry Cox, President • Family Council

*Editor’s Note: The original article referred to some legislation that was also mentioned in the AFEC article above, and it has been edited to showcase all of the bills highlighted by both groups. You can find the original article and more information about each of these bills by visiting [familycouncil.org](http://familycouncil.org).*

We’re wrapping up another week at the Arkansas Legislature. Here’s a quick overview of some of the bills that we are tracking at the capitol.

### Good Bills Passed

- On Feb. 4, the Arkansas Senate overwhelmingly passed **H.B. 1211** declaring religious organizations are essential during an emergency. H.B. 1211 will protect churches and religious groups without hampering the government’s ability to respond during a pandemic.

- **H.B. 1195 (Pro-Life)** is a bill by Rep. Jim Dotson (R/Bentonville) and Sen. Bob Ballinger (R/Ozark) that enacts legislation ensuring that women are offered information, assistance and resources that could help them choose an option besides abortion.

### Good Bills Filed

- **S.B. 6 (Prohibiting Abortion)** is a bill by Sen. Jason Rapert (R/Conway) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R/Perryville) prohibits abortion in Arkansas, except

**See BILLS, Page 5**

## In This Issue

A Heart Like His (pg. 8)

March for Life Update (pg. 8)

Spotlight on Missions (pg. 8)

Thoughts About Ministry in 2021 (pg. 4)

Too Old to Work with Youth? (pg. 2)




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Terry Kimbrow  
President

## Fall 2020 President's and Dean's List

It is a pleasure to release for publication the President's and Dean's Lists in recognition of student academic achievement. The following lists are for the fall of 2020:

### President's List

To qualify for the President's List, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours and have earned a grade point average of 4.000 out of a possible 4.000.

• **Traditional Students:** Holly Allen, Conway; Laine Ballard, Sherwood; Faith Birmingham, Greers Ferry; Madison Bowlan, Stuttgart; Riley Bridges, El Paso; Marcela Bueno, Brazil, South America; Keeley Bulza, Bella Vista; Bobby Burroughs, Mount Vernon; Halley Cain, Russellville; Hannah Clark, West Des Moines, Iowa; Robert Colvin, Kotzebue, Alaska; Joshua Dison, Conway; Alyssa Estrada, Humble, Texas; Emily Farmer, Vilonia; Kathleen Fly, Maumelle; Philip Fulmer, Conway; Cade Griffith, Conway; Andrew Guyton, Conway; Charlie Harden, Calvin, Okla.; Sydney Hawkins, Conway; Macey Hay, Roland; Skylar Hensley, Conway; Autumn Herring, Maumelle; Nathan Hopp, Conway; Andrew Howard, Lowell; Colby Hunnicutt, Mount Pleasant, Texas;

Baleigh Jackson, Monticello; Madelyn Jameson, Greenbrier; Rachael Jones, Conway; Lindsey Jordan, Cedarville; Kollin Kendrick, Mountain View; Cayla Lee, Las Vegas, Nev.; Austin LeJeune, San Antonio, Texas; Hannah London, Searcy; Hannah Long, Higden; Sarah Lunsford, Conway; Taylor Mahan, Vilonia; Fredrick Marsh, Rison; Alexis McClaren, Hattiesville; Sara McGee, Greenbrier; Abigail McGraw, Warren;

Okikiola Ojeniyi, Nigeria, West Africa; Christa Owen, Conway; Emily Owen, Conway; Valeria Paxon, Conway; Karlee Pense, Fayetteville; Emerald Reddin, Conway; Preston Rowland, Little Rock; Colton Ryan, Benton, La.; Gabriel Spriggs, Conway; Lena Srdanov, Serbia, Southeast Europe; Isaiah Stiger, Queen City, Texas; Kenneth Teal, Brinkley; Brooke Trout, Blytheville; Katie Vandergriff, Lufkin, Texas; Kory Westerman, Greenbrier; Colton Willey, Greenbrier; Ashanti Williams, Jonesboro; Laura Wilson, Greenbrier; and Skylar Wise, Romance.

• **PACE and Online Students:** Marieca Ashworth, Conway; Philip Ashworth, Conway; Kathy Baker, Conway; Tara Bright, Conway; Will Brock, Greenbrier; Edward Cassidy, Jacksonville; Donald Chappell, Mau-

melle; Raymond Chism, Houston; Janice Cohens, Little Rock; Carrie Collins, Clinton; Shannon Cox, Oxford; Amanda Cox, Conway; Kenneth Gunter, Conway; Nicole King, Vilonia; James Lee, Greenbrier; Alana Moore, Heber Springs; Jeffrey Moser, Houston; Michael O'Bannon, Enola; Chauncey Reed, Conway; Crystal Tucker, Little Rock; Sharon Tucker, Enola; Gregory White, Vilonia; and Janna Worthington, Conway.

### Dean's List

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or higher out of a possible 4.000.

• **Traditional Students:** Utah Aitken, Hot Springs; Raivyn Alicea, Spring Hill, Fla.; Lauren Anderson, Cibolo, Texas; Julissa Arevalo, Little Rock; Jesus Avila, Rogers; Joshua Ayres, El Dorado; Abigail Barker, Perryville; Keaton Bates, Rose Bud; Allison Bisher, Sikeston, Mo.; Emilee Brown, Marmaduke; Dylan Burnham, Bryant; Rachel Burns, Pueblo West, Colo.; Alexandra Burroughs, Hazen; Katherine Carson, Springdale; Rachel Carver, Bryant; Jonathan Cepeda, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Kyle Collins, Cat Spring, Texas; Axel Contreras, Gurdon; Kendra Cummings, Westfork;

Hayden Dearmond, Heber Springs; Ty Decker, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Nathan Dodson, Greenbrier; Alyse Ellis, Enola; Tobi Finley, Sheridan; Alizea Garza, Odessa, Texas; Tristan Gibson, Conway; Katilyn Goike, Magnolia, Texas; Taryne Gunnels, Greenbrier; Cassie Hager, Millington, Ill.; Garrett Hall, Galena, Kan.; Colter Hall, Damascus; Dillon Hall, Damascus; Erica Hawkins, Stuttgart; Maverick Hendricks, Fulton, Miss.; Abigail Herring, Maumelle; Caleb Hiegel, Damascus; William Hodges, Conway; Daniel Hopp, Conway; Steven Huff, Hamburg; Cayden Hunnicutt, Mount Pleasant, Texas;

Bryson Jones, Conway; Tiffany Knowles, Bradford; Jayla Kramer, Conway; Andrew Krisell, Greenbrier; Emmanuel Labeur, France, Western Europe; Mikayla Lawrence, Beebe; Skylar Lee, Conway; Cora Lentz, Vilonia; Whitney Lockard, Maumelle; Abigail Lowery, Conway; Melanie Mackey, Greenbrier; Allison Mantooth, Helotes, Texas; Christopher



**Sports News**  
By Erik Holth

### Women's Basketball

• **Hannibal, Mo., Feb. 2**—Playing their second game in as many nights, CBC took on the Trojans of Hannibal-LaGrange tonight in an American Midwest Conference (AMC) contest at the Mabee Sports Complex. CBC (6-2, 1-2 AMC) shot 56% from the field in the second half to secure their first AMC win of the season, 74-68 over HLGU (1-14, 0-9 AMC).

• **Conway, Feb. 4**—Playing their third game in four days, but their first home game since Jan. 16, CBC hosted the Eutectics of the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis at Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (7-2, 2-2 AMC) raced out to a 16-2 lead early, led 54-16 at halftime and

### See CBC SPORTS, Page 6

Marcotte, Corinth, Texas; Emoree Martin, Hot Springs Village; Lauren McGinley, Hensley; Macy McKissack, Vilonia; Carter Mills, North Little Rock; Channing Mitchell, Marion; Abigail Moix, Conway; Andrew Montoya, Rogers; Kelsie Moore, UK of Great Britain; Jordan Moore, UK of Great Britain; Christopher Morgan, Benton; Amber Morse, Conway;

Erin Nolan, Conway; Rafael Nunez, Temple, Texas; Landry Oliver, Wall, Texas; Isabelle Pietrangelo, Brazil, South America; Noah Pratt, Hot Springs; Shelby Redmond, Conway; Elizabeth Riley, Sherwood; Cooper Roberts, Griffithville; Ignacio Rosales, Mandeville, La.; Jeremiah Sanchez, Socorro, Texas; Allison Seats, El Paso; Jayme Selph, Benton; Alvaro Serrano, Siloam Springs; Madeline Sheridan, Sherwood; Ashley Siler, Conway; Benjamin Slate, Pearcy; Jaclyn Smith, Greenbrier; Madison Spears, Greenbrier; Tyler Spencer, Lonoke; Ben Stevens, Lake Charles, La.; Steven Stewart Jr, Greenbrier;

Hannah Varnado, Franklinton, La.; Jennifer Warrior, Conway; Jocelyn Waters, Newark, Ill.; Hailey Webb, Benton; Blake White, Carlisle; Jordan Wilkie, Rison; Braeden Wolford, Marion; Allen Woodraska, Sheridan, Ill.; and Nathan Young, Greenbrier.

• **PACE and Online Students:** Corey Austin, Conway; Michelle Barnett, Conway; Venetta Bloom, Mabelvale; Kyle Boyd, Parker, Colo.; Thelton Cobb, Jacksonville; Chance Coran, Conway; Terry Duncan Jr, Vilonia; Heather Dunning, Cabot; Sarah Eoff, Conway; Rachel Furnell, Conway; Shaina Goodman, Clarksville; Shunta Hubbard, Conway; Sharita Jenkins, Conway; Alexa Lamey, Conway; Lauren Little, Conway; Raphael McCuien, Mayflower; Tracy Miller, Cumming, Ga.; Marcia Moore, Little Rock; Felecia Neal, Conway; Stephanie Nelson, Morrilton; Lisa Padgett, Conway; Jordan Sandefur, Greenbrier; and Jennifer Whittington, Sherwood.



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## You Aren't Too Old To Work with Students

At 48, I'm an old youth pastor. There is really no denying it, and I'm okay with that. As I write this on Monday following the Bucs Super Bowl win, I am reminded that the older guy can bring a lot to the table. Tom Brady, age 43, won his seventh Super Bowl and his fifth Super Bowl MVP. You may have a variety of opinions about Brady, but it is hard to deny what he has done in the game of football. His ability and longevity have placed him in the position of GOAT (Greatest of All Time).



**Kat Carson and Elaine Simpson**

Do I want to be the greatest youth pastor of all time? No. I simply want to be faithful and not step away because I reached a certain age. Will I always be a youth pastor? Probably not. However, it has been where God has placed me for much of my ministry. Many times, I have served in the second man role as a youth pastor, worship pastor and associate pastor. I have never viewed student ministry as a stepping stone to the next best thing. I have simply served where God has called me. The journey has led me here to Calvary Baptist Church of Fayetteville as the Pastor of Family Ministry and serving as the youth pastor at age 48.

At times, I have wondered if I'm too old for this craziness, and then I think about some people in my life. Warren Dugas served as the director of the Association of Baptist Students at the University of Arkansas until his sixties. For 42 years, he invested in college students and pointed them to Christ. I think about my mother who has always loved working with students, but never took on any major role until becoming one of my adult volunteers at Temple Baptist Church in Rogers when she was in her sixties. I think about the two ladies who taught Sunday School for middle school students at Temple — Elaine Simpson and June Townzen. They loved my kids, and both of these ladies are at least a couple years north of 35.

Recently, I saw a post on the Download Youth Ministry Community Facebook group that asked how old people in the group were. I felt like a spring chicken at 48 after I saw at least 10 that answered older than me.

You get the point. You don't have to be 25-35 to work with students. You just need a passion for Jesus, His Word and students. That doesn't really know an age limit.

With these things in mind, I want to share a few things that older student ministry workers typically bring to the table. Not all of these are true in every situation, but I have seen many of these in my life and others that are a few years north of 35:

• **Older student ministry workers bring actual parenting experience to the table.** I have two children. Riley and Kat are in college now and trying to take steps toward an adult life. They aren't perfect, but my wife and I have navigated the shark-infested waters of the teen years. That experience is extremely valuable as I work with students and their parents.

• **Older student ministry workers don't get pulled into the drama.** Because they have seen many different things over the years, the older student ministry worker has the ability to let some things work themselves out. Now, if you are old or young and allow yourself to get pulled into drama, stop it. It is important to be the voice of reason and the Word in your student ministry. Getting pulled into the he said/she said game will get you nowhere.

• **Older student ministry workers have a deeper understanding of God and His Word.** I know the Word so much better today than I did even 10 years ago. That makes me love God more and teach with greater accuracy. That passion and understanding gets shared with the students in our ministries.

• **Older student ministry workers understand the value of words and relationships.** In my younger days, it was all about the fun and excitement in student ministry, which was a problem because I'm not an exciting guy. As the years have passed, I have realized that it isn't about being fun, exciting or cool. It is about offering the right word at the right time to the right student. It is still important to be fun, but there are so many things that are more important.

One final word to churches, don't write off student ministry workers that are north of 35. They bring a number of things to the table. An older student ministry worker may not be the "Greatest of All Time," but he or she may be just what your students need.



## Part 1 of 2

# Trapped in Debt? Here's How You Can Be Released from It

By Jeff Swart

*"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is the servant to the lender" (Prov. 22:7 NIV).*

Debt is a trap because it enslaves you. When you go into debt, you lose your freedom. Any time you take out a loan, you become a servant to the lender because you're now obligated to them. Unfortunately for many people, debt becomes a trap they never get out of.

Many people believe they have an impossible financial situation. They say, "There's no way I can get out of debt!" I want to give you hope. There is a way out! If you will follow God's financial plan and these steps, you can get out of debt. This is a practical, step-by-step plan on how to do it:

### Commit to Becoming Debt Free Now

Right now — this very day — you must commit to being debt free! Not tomorrow, not next week and not next month; commit to being debt free today. Freedom always begins with a commitment.

The Psalmist wrote: *"The wicked borrow and do not repay"* (Psa. 37:21 NIV). God says it is the wicked that borrow money and do not repay it. God takes it very seriously if I don't pay my bills.

You and I both know someone whose financial condition was so bad that they filed for bankruptcy, which is legal in America, but is not morally right. There are many things in America that are legal, but wrong. It is wrong to make other people pay for your irresponsibility. A Christian who is seriously trying to live with integrity shouldn't file for bankruptcy. If you have already done so, resolve never to do it again!

It's not going to be easy to get out of debt! It's always easier to get in debt than to get out of debt. It will take the following things to do so:

- **Commitment.**
- **Courage.**
- **Discipline.**
- **Delayed gratification.** You can't have it all right now and get out of debt.
- **Perseverance.** It's not easy to get out of debt, but it can be done if you work at it over the long haul.
- **Integrity.** Any fool can get into debt. It takes character to get out of debt. Show some character and say, "Okay, God, I got myself into this. Please help me get out of debt."

The only way you're going to get out of debt is to intentionally plan to do so. Getting out of debt starts with a commitment to being debt free.



### Start Paying God and Yourself First

When you receive your next paycheck, the first 10% goes back to God and the second 10% goes to an investment account. Here are two questions:

Where did your ability to make wealth come from? It came from God. He gave you a mind, abilities, health and a job.

Who actually did all of the hard work to earn the money? You did.

Yet the last two people we pay are God and ourselves! If you want to get out of debt, pay God and yourself first.

You may say, "I can't afford to tithe, and I can't afford to save. But you can't afford not to. If you want God's blessing on your finances, you have to do it God's way. God's purpose in tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives (Deut. 14:23). Start putting God first in your finances. If you are not now giving God 10%, resolve to do the following:

Commit to giving God the first 10% of your income for the next 90 days, beginning today. When you receive your paycheck, set aside the first 10% for the Lord and your church. Schedule an automatic draft. God will bless your obedience to him in the area of finances. Your decision will not be a mistake that creates a financial crisis. Instead, I guarantee you will receive a blessing. Proverbs 21:20 (TLB) says, *"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets."*

To achieve long-term financial independence, start by paying yourself first. You must put yourself at the beginning of the line — not the end. So, when you get that check, before anyone else gets paid, the first 10% goes back to God and the second 10% goes into your savings.

The Bill Gates of the previous generation was a man named John D. Rockefeller. Someone once asked him how he amassed such wealth. He said, "It was really very simple — save 10%, give 10% and live on the rest."

This is called the 10-10-80 prin-

ple. Tithe 10% save 10% and live on 80%. Everyone needs a minimum of three months of living expenses in the bank in case of a layoff, illness or other unexpected emergency. The 10-10-80 principle is tough in the short run, but it works in the long run.

Let me give you an example of the 10-10-80 principle. Let's say you're 25 years old and you make \$30,000 a year. Let's further say that for the next 20 years all you made was \$30,000 a year. If you stick to the 10-10-80 plan, by age 45 you will have given \$60,000 to the Lord's work (10% of \$30,000 is \$3,000 given to God each year multiplied by 20 years).

At the same time, you would have paid yourself \$60,000, plus you would have earned interest (investing \$3,000 annually). If the interest rate averaged 10% over the 20 years, you would have saved \$60,000 and earned \$139,007.50 in interest. So, in 20 years you would have given \$60,000 to the Lord's work and saved \$189,007.50! That's \$189,007.50 you don't have right now but you would have if you'd start following the 10-10-80 principle.

The 10-10-80 principle works, but it takes personal discipline and the philosophy that "I'm not going to buy today. I'm reducing my expenditures now so I can tithe and save." The payoff will be great!

### List All You Own and All You Owe

After you've made the commitment to becoming debt free and started paying God and yourself first, create an inventory of all you own and all you owe to determine where your money is coming from and where your money is going. Solomon advised: *"Riches can disappear fast... so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks and herds"* (Prov. 27:23-24).

Ignorance of your financial condition is a sure recipe for financial disaster. To know where your money is coming from and where it's going, keep good financial records. Solomon also said: "It's stupid to decide before knowing the facts" (Prov. 18:13).

You cannot make good financial decisions if you don't know what you own and what you owe, so do an inventory of what you own — real estate, houses, investments (stocks, bonds, IRAs, 401ks, etc.), savings accounts, trusts and vehicles (cars, trucks, boats, RVs, motorcycles, four-wheelers, etc.). Determine the value of each, add them together and that is the total value of your assets.

Next, write down the name of every individual or company you owe, the amount of the monthly payment and the total indebtedness to each creditor.

Then subtract the smaller number from the larger one, and this is your net worth. For a few of you, this could be a negative number. That will shock you back into financial reality.

*\*The outline for this sermon was adapted from a sermon entitled, "Breaking Out of the Debt Trap" by Rick Warren. Copyright © 2021 by Jeff Swart @ http://jeffswart.com.*



## A Missions Start Needs A Missions Heart

Last November, at the annual session of the BMA of Arkansas, I shared a brief testimony regarding the tremendous blessings I received from helping to get a mission church started. I want to elaborate.

Karen and I were blessed to be part of an Interstate Missions effort in Blackwood, NJ in 1969 and 1970. Silas McMurray was the missions pastor. That work began in the McMurray's two-car garage. Today the First Baptist Church of Blackwood is a thriving church whose pastor is David McMurray, son of Silas and Joyce McMurray.

In the mid-1970s, while serving as pastor of Sky Lake Baptist Church in Memphis, I saw the need for a BMA church in the northwest part of the city. In conversations with then BMA of Arkansas Missions Director Stanley Beard, plans began to unfold. Sky Lake extended the arm, and the Cedarwood Baptist Mission began. Dr. Ron Mitchell (my brother-in-law) was the church planting state missionary. Sky Lake sent out several families to serve in Cedarwood including a young Safeway store manager and his wife.

In 1998, the combined effort of the BMA of Central Arkansas and BMA of Arkansas Missions called me to be the church planting missionary in West Little Rock. Temple Baptist Church (now South City) extended the arm for the new work. Karen and I moved from Prescott, and a church we dearly loved, to Little Rock, and, with a small nucleus of six others including our son, Cory Mitchell, Chenal Valley Baptist Church was started. Today, she is a strong church under the pastoral leadership of Allen Morton.

Now here's where I pray the Holy Spirit urges and enables of our association to get involved with church planting in a personal way.

The intent of CVBC was to always be missions-hearted and to one day start another mission. A few years ago, that kind of heart enabled a new mission to start. BMA of Arkansas missions wanted to help get a Hispanic mission in West Little Rock. Now, let me tell you from experience, property and rent are expensive in that part of the city!

However, God put it in the heart of Pastor Morton and the congregation to get personally involved. The church voted to make our complete facility available to the new mission. Today, the blessings have been abundant for both congregations. Regular CVBC services are held Sunday mornings and the mission service are held immediately after lunch each Sunday afternoon.

State Missionary Ruben Isturiz and his family pour out their hearts to the cause of Christ. Ebenezer Baptist Mission is reaching the lost, and the congregation is growing.

From time-to-time, joint services are held and the occasions are exciting, worshipful and blessings-filled. Sharing our facilities with these fine brothers and sisters in Christ have little effect on our utilities and upkeep. Ebenezer members take excellent care of the building and God gets the glory!

Let me encourage pastors and congregations to survey the needs of our communities, looking at the needs of the people in your area. I have a two-word definition for ministry — meeting needs. I believe in the ministry of missions worldwide and at home. I urge the churches to communicate with BMA of Arkansas Missions Director Paul White to make him aware of the desire for a mission work to begin in your facilities. You won't regret such a decision!

I was just thinking that missions can certainly make a life changing effect on people:

- At Blackwood NJ, the pastor's son was a teenager when the church was a young mission. Now David McMurray has served First Baptist Church as pastor for 46 years.
- At Cedarwood in Memphis, that young store manager and his wife got involved. Today, Terry Kimbrow is president of Central Baptist College. He and his wife, Tricia, have served the churches of our association well.
- At Chenal Valley, the pastor's son actually helped build the facility on Rahling Road. Today Cory Mitchell is pastor of Archview Baptist Church in Little Rock, a congregation that became part of the BMA of Arkansas in November.
- At Ebenezer, Pastor Isturiz's son is greatly involved in the work. I have a feeling that God is going to greatly use him as well. Yes, the work of missions is life changing!

Karen and I have been so blessed by being part of missions endeavors throughout our married life. We can testify that those blessings come when it is evident that missions start needs a mission heart.





## Thoughts About Ministry in 2021

2020 left an indelible mark on churches around the world. It tested the faith community at large. Some ministries struggled to stay connected with their people. Others negotiated the uncharted waters well.

So what about 2021? Will things get better? On Jan. 14, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance sponsored a webinar to address the “next” normal going forward. Utilizing research from Barna Group, the webinar leader and guests shared some sobering statistics concerning current attendance trends in various churches.

**Church attendance patterns dramatically shifted in 2020.** During the period of April 28-May 11, among practicing Christians, 35% said they were still and only attending their pre-COVID church; 14% had switched churches; 32% had stopped attending church; and 18% viewed multiple church services online throughout the month. The most startling statistic was that 32% of church attenders stopped attending church altogether during the pandemic.

Drilling deeper into the research concerning those that stopped attending church completely, Barna reported that 26% were Babyboomers, 35% were Gen X and 50% were Millennials. Barna also reported that as churches resumed in-person worship and offered online worship, attendance increased only modestly.

**When will things get back to normal?** Barna’s research suggested that the idea of returning to a pre-pandemic normal without any adjustments might be short-sighted. When asked about church attendance in the future, 71% of Babyboomers preferred physical gatherings and 47% of GenXers preferred physical gatherings only. Millennials and GenZ overwhelmingly wanted both in-person worship and online worship options.

After listening to the hour long webinar, three take-aways emerged for me:

- **Nothing takes the place of in-person worship.** Christians need to gather, in-person, with other Christians for public worship. That’s not just “preacher talk,” it’s Biblical truth. I miss having my entire congregation together in one larger worship service instead of two smaller ones. I miss the folks that have chosen to worship online due to an abundance of caution for health reasons.

- **Embrace digital based ministry, it’s here to stay.** The first online worship service at Celebration was extremely awkward for me. Preaching to a camera (iphone) was difficult. I had no feedback, and I could not determine if the audience was grasping the sermon or not. However, digital ministry is here to stay. The question remains, are we going to embrace it or resist it? Are we going to invest in it or ignore it?

- **Digital ministry doesn’t need to be a high-end production to be effective.** One of the guests in the webinar made that point well. At the same time, some planning and forethought are essential. Some decent equipment may need to be purchased, but digital ministry doesn’t require a slick production.

Here’s the reasoning: some of the more popular channels on a prominent online, video platform include very low budget videos. Many use a cell phone and an inexpensive microphone. Buy the best equipment you can afford, but don’t let modest resources stop you from trying to reach people online. Don’t be sloppy, but do something!

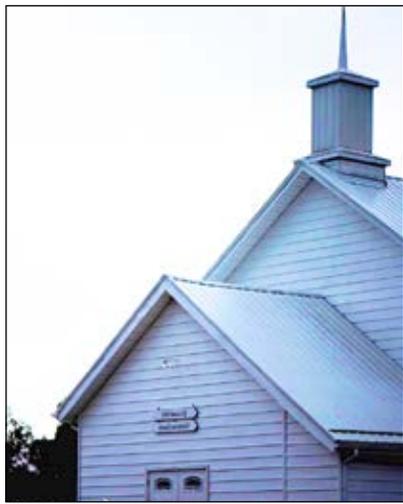
If you would like to view the webinar, go to [cutt.ly/next-normal](http://cutt.ly/next-normal).



**World Missions Day, Feb. 21,** 10:45 a.m.; Fil Kakilala, speaker; Kingsland, Kingsland.

**World Missions Day, Feb. 28,** 11:00 a.m. Sean Pasley, speaker; 5:00 p.m., panel discussion; 6:00 p.m., John Michael Poulin, speaker; Immanuel, Greenbrier.

**World Missions Day, Feb. 28,**



—Photo by Don Burke, Trumpet Photography Club



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

### Abortion, Religious Liberty Considered in COVID Relief Bill

On Feb. 5, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives both approved a budget resolution that paves the way for enactment of President Biden’s proposed \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. The measure’s passage in the Senate — decided 51-50 by the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Kamala Harris in a chamber equally divided between Democrats and Republicans — followed what is known as a “vote-a-rama” on 40 proposed amendments or motions. Among the amendments considered were proposals regarding abortion and religious freedom.

The Democratic-controlled House voted 219-209 later the same day for the resolution, setting the stage for its committees to begin writing the actual relief and stimulus legislation.

During the overnight “vote-a-rama,” the Senate rejected an amendment by Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) that requires a baby that survives an abortion or attempted abortion to receive the same degree of care offered any other child born alive at the same point in gestation. The roll call was 52-48 for Sasse’s amendment, but it required 60 votes. Sasse’s amendment was based on his Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which he first introduced in 2015. Democratic Sens. Robert Casey of Pennsylvania and Joe Manchin of West Virginia joined all the Republicans in voting for the amendment.

Senators, however, approved an amendment by Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) designed to provide the same level of treatment for churches and other religious bodies as secular entities regarding restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The vote was 51-49 in a roll call requiring only a majority for passage.

In other votes, senators: defeated in a 50-50 roll call an amendment by Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) to ban the infringement of the free exercise of religion and approved (97-3) an amendment by Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) to maintain Jerusalem as the location of the United States’ Embassy in Israel. In addition, senators passed by voice vote an amendment from Sen. Jodi Ernst (R-Iowa) to prohibit an increase in the minimum wage during the pandemic. Biden has proposed an increase to \$15 an hour. The amendments are not binding. ([baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

### Biden Urges a Turn to Faith at National Prayer Breakfast

At the 69<sup>th</sup> National Prayer Breakfast, President Joe Biden called for those watching online to lean on their

**en’s Event, Aug. 6-7, 7 p.m. Fri., 12:30 p.m. Sat.;** Antioch, Conway. **Ark. Ladies Retreat, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

faith and see others not as Democrats or Republicans but “fellow Americans, fellow human beings.”

“For me, in the darkest moments, faith provides hope and solace... clarity and purpose as well. It shows the way forward as one nation in a common purpose to respect one another, to care for one another, to leave no one behind,” he said.

For the first time in its history, the event, which has been attended by every sitting president since Eisenhower established it in 1953, was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ([baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com))

### Federal Court Rules Courthouse Can Keep Nativity on Display

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Feb. 2 that an Indiana county courthouse can display a nativity scene without violating the Constitution. The three judge panel ruled 2-1 that Indiana resident Rebecca Woodring did have standing to challenge the Jackson County Courthouse display during the Christmas season, but ultimately ruled the display itself was not unconstitutional.

“We conclude that the County’s nativity scene is constitutional because it fits within a long national tradition of using the nativity scene in broader holiday displays to celebrate the origins of Christmas — a public holiday,” Judge Amy St. Eve, a Trump appointee,

wrote for the majority.

The suit was filed in December 2018 by the Indiana ACLU on behalf of Woodring. The suit argued the courthouse was endorsing a religion because the nativity scene depicts symbols of Christianity. “The addition of Santa and the carolers does not in any way minimize the religiosity of the display as they are not integrated in any way into the display and are far removed from the crèche and would not be viewed as part of the display,” the lawsuit argued.

The decision reversed a decision from April by U.S. District Judge Tanya Pratt, an Obama appointee, who ruled in favor of Woodring that the nativity scene did endorse Christianity and lacked a secular purpose.

St. Eve found the lower court used the wrong precedent to decide the case. St. Eve wrote the 2019 case of *American Legion v. American Humanist Association* is the prevailing guidance for such cases and must be used. The 2019 case found a World War I monument in the shape of a cross could remain up because it had taken on a secular significance. Tuesday’s decision found the nativity scene included secular symbols and therefore had also taken on a greater meaning. ([lifeneews.org](http://lifeneews.org))

### Kentucky Lawmakers Override Governor

Kentucky lawmakers overrode Gov. Andy Beshear’s veto of a pro-life bill on Feb. 2, giving the attorney general power to hold abortion facilities accountable to the law. According to The Lane Report, the legislation passed 73-20 in the state House and 32-5 in the state Senate — one of six bills

**See NOTES, Page 8**

## Baptist Trumpet

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# Daniel Springs Camp Update

By Jason Prewitt, Director

Exciting things are happening at Daniel Springs Camp as we anticipate a busy spring and summer. We are so excited about summer 2021 and the amazing opportunities God has in store for all of us to be a part of sharing the amazing message of salvation.

February is busy as we continue to accept applications and interview for our summer staff positions. This is one of the biggest blessings each year — seeing high school juniors, seniors and college students come from different walks of life to explore the possibility of investing in summer ministry at Daniel Springs. Over the last five years, it has been an amazing journey to see how God brought some great young adults to invest in each other, campers and adult sponsors, then to watch their personal relationship with the Lord be strengthened. This summer adventure starts out as a group of individuals and, as the summer progresses, we have seen lifelong friendships form.

Plans and details are being worked on for the March Missions Month. March is set aside for individuals and groups to come and work on projects at the camp. No matter if it is just you, your family, a small group or a large group, we would love for you to come and spend time with us at the camp and help us continue to make Daniel Springs Camp a place where people meet and grow in their relationship with each other and the Lord. These projects vary from construction to demolition, minor and major repairs, cleaning, sorting, painting, power washing and many other projects. If you want to come by yourself or bring a group of any size, we would love to see you.

I know many want more details about what our summer schedule is going to look like. We are currently working out the details of the health and safety guidelines we have to follow, and we will hopefully have this information ready to begin sharing with you near the middle of February.

If you have any questions about March Mission Month, have a student that would like more information about being a summer staffer, or have questions regarding the summer schedule, feel free to contact us at (903) 685-2433 or info@danielspringscamp.com.



## BILLS

### (Continued From Page 1)

in cases when the mother's life is in jeopardy. Family Council is working closely with Sen. Rapert to pass this bill that could save the lives of thousands of children and give the courts an opportunity to overturn decades of bad, pro-abortion rulings.

• **H.B. 1402 (Abortion-Inducing Drugs)** is a bill by Rep. Sonia Barker (R/Smackover) and Sen. Blake Johnson (R/Corning) that updates Arkansas' restrictions on abortion-inducing drugs like RU-486. It outlines requirements that abortionists must follow in administering abortion-inducing drugs and prohibits abortion drugs from being delivered by mail in Arkansas. It also updates current law to ensure doctors who perform chemical abortions are credentialed to handle abortion complications and can transfer the woman to a hospital if she experiences complications.

• **H.B. 1324 (Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant Women)** is a bill by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R/Paragould) that gives pregnant women priority in accessing substance abuse treatment programs that accept Medicaid.

• **H.C.R. 1007 (Abortion)** is a resolution by Rep. Jim Wooten (R/Beebe) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R/Conway) recognizes Jan. 22 — the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade abortion decision — as

"The Day of Tears" in Arkansas. The resolution acknowledges the 61 million unborn babies killed in abortion in America over the past five decades and encourages Arkansans to lower their flags to half-staff on Jan. 22 to mourn the innocent children who have lost their lives. The resolution passed the House and been sent to the Senate.

• **S.B. 85 (Abortion)** is a bill by Sen. Cecile Bledsoe (R/Rogers) and Rep. Joe Cloud (R/Russellville) that requires an abortionist to show an ultrasound image of the unborn baby to the pregnant woman before an abortion. Currently, Arkansas law says an abortionist must offer to let the woman see the ultrasound image. Research indicates that some women are less likely to have an abortion once they see an ultrasound image of their unborn child. That means pro-life bills like S.B. 85 can help further decrease the number of abortions in Arkansas. Arkansas Right to Life is the chief proponent of this bill.

• **H.B. 1116 (Simon's Law)** is a bill by Rep. Jim Dotson (R/Bentonville) and Sen. Bart Hester (R/Cave Springs) named in honor of an infant in Missouri who died after doctors put a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order on his chart without his parents' knowledge or permission. If passed, it would help protect children in Arkansas from being denied life support or having a DNR placed on their medical charts without parental consent. The bill has passed the House Public Health

Committee and been sent to the entire Arkansas House.

• **H.B. 1408 (Abortion)** is a bill by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R/Springdale) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R/Branch) that helps prevent abortion providers and their affiliates in Arkansas from receiving Medicaid reimbursements from the state.

• **H.B. 1061 (No Patient Left Alone)** is a bill by Rep. Julie Mayberry (R/Hensley) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R/Russellville) protects patients from being left alone and denied visitors in hospitals, nursing homes and similar facilities. No one should be barred from being in the hospital with their dying child, spouse or parent. This bill helps address that in Arkansas.

• **H.B. 1160 (Used Car Tax)** is a bill by Rep. John Payton (R/Wilburn) and Sen. Jason Rapert (R/Conway) that would eliminate the tax on used cars sold for less than \$7,500; the bill contains a provision that would take effect in 2023 eliminating the tax on used cars sold for less than \$10,000. Family Council has worked for years to eliminate the used car tax because it hurts single moms and middle class families who often can barely afford to buy a used vehicle, much less pay sales tax on one.

• **H.B. 1353 (Marijuana Advertisements)** is a bill by Rep. Delia Haak (R/Gentry) and Sen. Cecile Bledsoe (R/Rogers) closes a loophole in Arkansas' laws regarding medical marijuana advertisements and clarifies the law to say that marijuana dispensaries and cultivators cannot use a cross of any color or other symbols commonly associated with the practice of medicine in their advertisements.

• **H.B. 1430 ("Tim Tebow" Law)** is a bill by Rep. Mark Lowery (R/Maumelle) that makes technical adjustments to Arkansas' "Tim Tebow" law that allows home schoolers to participate in interscholastic activities at public and private schools. H.B. 1430 makes it easier for home schoolers to play sports or other activities outside their resident school district.

• **H.B. 1429 (Home School)** is a bill by Rep. Mark Lowery (R/Maumelle) and Sen. Ben Gilmore (R/Crossett) makes it easier for a student to withdraw from a public school to home school. The bill eliminates the 14-day waiting period currently in Arkansas law for families wishing to transfer out of a public school. It also makes technical corrections to the home school law.

### Bad Bills Filed

• **S.B. 3 & H.B. 1020 (Enacting Hate Crimes Legislation)** are virtually identical bills by Sen. Jim Hendren (R/Gravette) and Rep. Fred Love (D/Little Rock) that enact hate crimes legislation by enhancing penalties for crimes committed against certain protected classes of people listed in the bill. Family Council has opposed hate crimes legislation for more than 20 years, and we oppose this bill as well.

• **H.B. 1228, H.B. 1066, H.B. 1148, H.B. 1341, S.B. 32 and S.B.**

## AFEC

### (Continued From Page 1)

for a repeat offender. We support this bill. Thus far, no action has been taken on this bill. It is pending in the House Judiciary Committee, awaiting a hearing.

• **H.B. 1066** — This bill will allow microbreweries to deliver beer, even in dry counties. We opposed this bill. It was "rolled into" SB32, which is awaiting a vote in the House.

• **H.B. 1228** — This bill will allow entertainment districts in dry counties that have private clubs. We have staunchly opposed this bill from its inception. Despite our vigorous attempts to stop it, it squeaked out of the House Rules Committee and then narrowly passed the full House. It was assigned to the Senate's City, County and Local Affairs Committee, where it will be heard soon. We are cautiously optimistic that we can beat the bill there. With your help, I believe we can beat it.

• **S.B. 76** — This bill will allow excursion (tourist) trains to serve alcohol during their trips. This bill has been approved by the legislature and has been sent to the governor.

• **H.B. 1341** — We opposed this bill, which would have removed the ban on selling or serving alcohol on Christmas Day. It was defeated in the House Rules Committee, and it is unlikely that we will see it again this session.

### Other Bills We Are Watching

• **H.B. 1100** — This bill will expand the category of those who must report child abuse and neglect. We support this bill, which was approved by the House and is awaiting a vote in the Senate. We believe it will pass there.

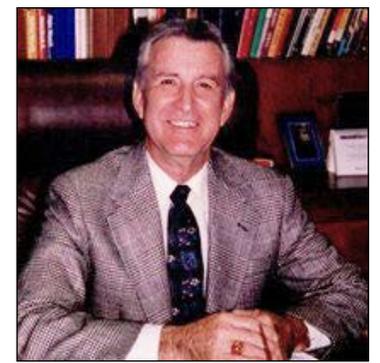
• **H.B. 1020 and S.B. 3** — These bills are identical proposed hate crimes laws. We have opposed hate crimes bills in past legislative sessions. It is expected that these bills will undergo significant changes and be controversial and polarizing, so we will monitor them. No legislative action has been taken on either of them yet.

• **S.B. 289** — This bill will protect the rights of medical workers to decline to provide services or care that would violate their consciences. We support this bill. It is awaiting its first action in the Senate's Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

76 all deal with alcohol and you can find more information in the AFEC article on page 1.

### Other Noteworthy Bills

• **H.B. 1069 (Contraceptives)** is a bill by Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R/Clarksville) and Sen. Breanne Davis (R/Russellville) that lets pharmacists dispense oral contraceptives to women without a prescription from a doctor. Family Council previously opposed this bill. However, Rep. Pilkington has filed amendments to the bill that address objections Family Council raised against H.B. 1069. At this time, Family Council is neutral on this bill.



## BMA Pastor Dies

Dr. Leland Callaway, 90 of Magnolia passed away Feb. 4. Dr. Callaway surrendered to the ministry in the summer of 1950 and was ordained in 1951 by Temple Baptist Church at Little Rock. He served as pastor of several churches in Texas and Arkansas, including First Baptist Church at Buckner and 36 years as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Magnolia.

He received an AA degree from Jacksonville Baptist College, BBA from Stephen F. Austin University, MBA from East Texas State University and his Ed.D. from Texas Tech University.

In 1973, he authored *Spirits, Demons and the Bible*. He served as professor of Marketing and Management at Southern Arkansas University for many years.

Survivors include: his wife of 61 years, Val Callaway; three children, Kelli (Mike) Harwell, Khalin Callaway and Kyle (Vicki) Callaway, all of Magnolia; two brothers, Clell Callaway of Little Rock and Willis Callaway of Conway; 9 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Feb. 7 at the Magnolia Memorial Park Cemetery with Richard Parker officiating and under the direction of Lewis Funeral Home, Inc. in Magnolia (lewisfuneralhome.biz). In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Trinity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1213, Magnolia, Ark. 71754.

Again, these are not all the bills that we have some interest in and monitoring and dealing with at some level. There are others, but these are the primary ones.

Please contact us if you have questions or need more information. Thanks for your participation in good government. It works best when we get involved, have our voices heard and our preferences known.



**Mary Barkley**, 83 of Jonesboro, passed away Feb. 5. She was a member of Cathedral Baptist Church.

**Peggy Brown McCool**, 77 of Damascus, passed away Feb. 5. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

**Wanda Jo Staton**, 82 of Mabelvale, passed away Jan. 28. She was a member of Village Creek Baptist Church.

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## Protect Your Ministry From Frozen Pipes

As frigid arctic temperatures sweep across a large swath of the United States, take steps to protect your ministry from the damage burst pipes can bring. A standard burst pipe can cause more than \$5,000 in property damage, according to the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety. If part of a commercial fire sprinkler system freezes, brace yourself for even more damage.

Here are some last-minute steps you can take to protect your church, school and other ministry buildings from a big, cold mess:

- **Prop open doors.** Open cabinet doors beneath sinks and prop building doors open to maintain heat in cooler parts of a building.

- **Run faucets.** Let all faucets drip during extreme cold weather to prevent freezing of the water inside the pipe, and if freezing does occur, to relieve pressure buildup in the pipes between the ice blockage and the faucet.

- **Keep an eye on your thermostat.** Make sure your heat is running, and never set your thermostat below 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

- **Install a monitoring system.** Install wireless monitors, such as Notion smart sensors, that provide notifications if the building's temperature dips below a pre-determined number. The smart sensors can be placed near water sources to monitor for leaks.

- **Inspect basements and attics.** Many frozen pipes happen in basements, crawl spaces and attics, where insulation may be poor. Consider fitting exposed pipes with foam sleeves and squirting insulating foam into any gaps or cracks letting in cold air.

- **Seal cracks and penetrations.** Seal all wall cracks and penetrations, including fire protection lines, electrical conduit and other utility service lines. Seal all windows, doors and other openings on exterior walls with caulk

or insulation to prevent cold air from penetrating the wall cavity.

- **Insulate and seal attic penetrations.** Insulate and seal attic penetrations, such as partition walls, vents, plumbing stacks and electric and mechanical chases.

- **Insulate recessed light fixtures.** Insulate recessed light fixtures in the ceiling to reduce heat entering the attic. If the space above a suspended ceiling is conditioned, there is no need for added insulation or sealing.

- **Monitor sprinkler systems.** Monitor sprinkler systems using a central station to provide early detection of a pipe failure. Make sure to heat sprinkler control rooms.

- **Install an automatic excess flow switch.** Install an automatic excess flow switch on the main incoming water line to monitor and provide early detection of a broken pipe or valve.

- **Provide backup power.** Provide a reliable backup power source, such as a standby generator, to ensure continuous power and heat to the building. A reliable energy source can help you maintain heat in the building, even if a big freeze takes down power lines.

For more information about protecting your property from winter weather, visit the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety website at [disastersafety.org/winter-weather](http://disastersafety.org/winter-weather).

**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**Mt. Vernon District Brotherhood, Mar. 8, 6:30 p.m., Central, Hughes.**

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## CBC SPORTS

(Continued From Page 2)  
 cruised to an 82-57 win over UHSP (9-7, 5-6 AMC).

### Men's Basketball

- **St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 3**—Looking to start the second half of the AMC schedule on a high note, CBC played the Hornets of Harris-Stowe State at the Emerson Performance Center in the first rematch of last year's AMC Tournament Championship game. CBC (13-4, 8-1 AMC) trailed for only 2:35 in the entire game and shot over 50% from the field to avenge last year's defeat by a score of 103-88 over HSSU (1-7, 0-5 AMC).

### Baseball

- **Dallas, Texas, Feb. 5**—Opening their season, CBC played in the Dallas Christian College Tournament against Dallas Christian College and Mid-America Christian University (MACU). CBC (1-1) split the two games, shutting out Dallas Christian (2-2-1) 8-0 in the opener before dropping game two 9-7 to MACU (1-0).

- **Dallas, Texas, Feb. 6**—Looking to finish the Dallas Christian College tournament on a high note, CBC was back on Crusader Field for games against MACU and Dallas Christian. CBC (2-2) split again, falling 6-0 to MACU in game one before winning game two 11-8 over Dallas Christian on a walk-off home run.

### Softball

- **Alexandria, La., Feb. 5**—Opening their season, #16 CBC took on the Generals of LSU-Alexandria (LSU-A) and the #12 Crusaders of William Carey at the LSU-Alexandria tournament. #16 CBC (2-0) got outstanding offense in game one, run ruling LSU-A (1-1) 11-1 in six innings while the pitching stood out in a 3-1 win over #12 WCU (0-2).

### Indoor Track

- **Wichita, Kan., Feb. 6**—Looking to try to improve their times in both the 60-meter hurdles and the 400-meter dash, CBC athletes Ally Swaim and Dylan Burnham competed today at the Bethel Thresher Invitational, hosted at Wichita State. Both runners would finish in the top-five in the events in which they competed.

**Reports from the Churches**

**Broadway Ave., Bay** gained one by letter; Rick Jenson, pastor; Tracey McMasters reporter.

**First, Waldo** added two by letter; David Watkins, pastor; Vanda Terrell, reporter.

**Immanuel, Greenbrier** welcomed two by letter; Tony Crocker, pastor; Christina Galloway, reporter.



**American Red Cross**



## Red Cross Offers Safety Tips for Cold Temperatures

Dangerous cold temperatures and life-threatening wind chills are expected soon. Temperatures will be below zero in many locations with wind chills below zero in some areas. The American Red Cross recommends the following steps you should take to stay safe.

### What You Should Do

- **Assemble an emergency preparedness kit.** Visit [cutt.ly/redcrossprepare](http://cutt.ly/redcrossprepare) for more details on how to do so.

- **Protect pipes from freezing.** (See *Safety First* article on page 5) For more information about protecting your pipes visit [cutt.ly/redcrosspipes](http://cutt.ly/redcrosspipes).

- **Stay indoors and wear warm clothes.** Layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing will keep you warmer than a bulky sweater. If you feel too warm, remove layers to avoid sweating; if you feel chilled, add layers.

- **Check on relatives, neighbors, and friends,** particularly if they are elderly or if they live alone.

### Stay Safe Outside

If you must go outside, protect yourself from winter storm hazards:

- **Wear layered clothing, mittens or gloves and a hat.** Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Mittens or gloves and a hat will prevent the loss of body heat.

- **Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from severely cold air.** Avoid taking deep breaths; minimize talking.

- **Watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.** Know the signs of hypothermia — confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. If someone has these symptoms, they should get immediate medical attention. Watch for symptoms of frostbite including numbness, flushed gray, white, blue or yellow skin discoloration, numbness or waxy feeling skin.

- **Keep dry.** Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses much of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly away from the body.

### Pet Safety

Winter weather can also be difficult for our pets. The American Red Cross has steps people can follow to help ensure their pet's safety when chilly weather hits their area.

If possible, bring your pets inside during cold winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas and make sure they have access to non-frozen drinking water. If the animals are outside, make sure their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice or other obstacles.

You can also download the Red Cross Pet First Aid app to put veterinary advice for everyday pet emergencies in the palm of your hand. With videos, interactive quizzes and simple step-by-step advice it's never been easier to know Pet First Aid.

The following tips on winter pet safety are provided by The Humane Society of the United States:

- If pets cannot come indoors, make sure they are protected by a dry, draft-free enclosure large enough to allow them to sit and lie down, but small enough to hold in the pet's body heat. Raise the floor a few inches off the ground and cover it with cedar shavings or straw. Turn the enclosure away from the wind and cover the doorway with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

- Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate a pet's paws. Wipe their paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth.

- Antifreeze is a deadly poison. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze out of reach.

Download Red Cross Apps for instant access to weather alerts for your area and where loved ones live. Expert medical guidance and a hospital locator are included in the First Aid App in case travelers encounter any mishaps. Both apps are available to download for free in app stores or at [redcross.org/apps](http://redcross.org/apps).

For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.



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**PAUL WHITE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Part 1 of 3: You Must Be Sure Of Your Salvation

It is impossible to believe on the Lord without first hearing the Word of the Lord. Some say, “just call on the name of the Lord, and you will be saved.” Surely it is wrong to teach that the lost man can be saved without hearing the Word of God, the gospel, the power of God unto salvation. To say a man can be saved without repentance and faith is to contradict God’s plain plan of redemption laid down throughout His Word.

To complete God’s plan of salvation, as recorded in Rom. 10:13, is only a matter of including two questions asked in verses 14 and 15, and the answers given in verse 17. Note verse 13: “for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Note then the questions in verses 14 and 15: “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” One who proclaims? The answer is in verse 17: “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”

If the unbeliever could be saved from judgment by calling upon the name of the Lord only, how then shall we deal correctly with John 3:18? “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Please consider the question, “how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?” Too often, men chisel away the Word to make it conform to their own conceptions and personal fancy.

The Christ of creation — He who came to seek and to save that which was lost — promises timeless life to him who entrusts his life to Him. “He that (first) heareth my word, and (second), believeth on Him that sent me, (third), hast eternal life, and (fourth), shall not come into condemnation; (fifth), but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

The very moment one shifts his faith and confidence in his own strength and good works to faith in the power of God at that moment he will come into possession of eternal life. It may be, while you tremble in the wake of adversities in life, that does not invalidate the saving power of the precious blood of the Son of God. Your anchor remains sure and steadfast. “Which hope we have an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil” (Heb. 6:19). The rock remains firm and secure. Look away from self and look unto Jesus the rock of ages.

Sinful man has not changed, but neither has the Savior. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8). His light still shines in dark places, His voice still rings out over the troubled waters and His power to save remains the same for those who would hear his voice and believe. “Wherefore he (Christ) is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25). The lost man, dead to trespasses and sins, will never pass from death unto life until he has heard the Word of God, repented and believed.

Man is disposed to compose a system of his own to merit salvation, but man must be born again of the incorruptible, by the Word. “Being born again, not of the corruptible seed, but of the incorruptible by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass and all the glory of man is as the flower of the grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof fadeth away; but the word of God, endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (1 Peter 1:23-25). Repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is God’s unchanging plan to save the lost sinner.

Without exception, men who would spend eternity with God in God’s Kingdom must repent of their sins. The very fact of sin makes repentance a necessity. The forerunner of Jesus — John the Baptist, the voice of one crying in the wilderness who cleared the way for Jesus and made His path straight — preached repentance from the very beginning of his ministry in Judea, refusing baptism to the unrepentant. His cry was “repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2).

The Pharisees and the Sadducees were deniers of the saving power of God administered through the power of the Holy Spirit, but trusted in self-righteousness. John knew these were unregenerate. He also knew that baptism was God’s official seal of regeneration and, no doubt, as we today, wondered why they insisted on receiving the act of baptism, a ritual that proved confession and repentance.

## From Our Missionaries

**Arkansas Hispanic Missions:** Michael Hight writes, “This weekend was a great blessing. We had a Preaching Lab in Central Arkansas and had over 50 people present. I am always encouraged by the support our Hispanic leaders give to the opportunities we provide in growing their ministry skills. All of our Hispanic works were represented and the group even included some English learners. Dustin Wisely, Jason Goodwin and Clif Johnson did a great job of presenting their topics and everyone learned important aspects of preparing a text for teaching or preaching. Hopefully, in the future we will be able to focus even more on these aspects of ministry. I want to thank South City for hosting the event and everyone that worked to make it a great success.

**Connection Point, Brookland:** Chad White writes, “We had a good week at Connection Point. God blessed us with a solid day on Sunday. Despite the cold weather, we had a good attendance this week.

“Our people are eager to learn and grow. God is making disciples who are having an impact on others in their lives.

“We have some fun things coming up this week. On Saturday, our men are having the Men’s Breakfast. On Sunday, we are having our very first Valentine’s Banquet. We are looking forward to enjoying some great food, fellowship and, hopefully, a lot of fun!

**The Mustard Seed, Cain:** Jim Tollison writes, “Sunday services were a little more encouraging. We welcomed some first-time visitors and attendance was back up as well. Offerings are still holding, too.

“We enjoyed having one of our families back from being quarantined. Thank the Lord! Unfortunately, we had another family impacted by the virus this week and still have several that are quarantined.

“The good news for the mission is that no infection is linked to our services. Pray that we can continue to meet regularly. I still believe the greatest blessings are still ahead for the mission.

“Keep on praying for and supporting this much needed ministry here in Crawford County. May God continue to bless the work of the BMA of Arkansas.”

**Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock:** Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “The service to the community continued as 390 food bags with sandwiches, fruits and snacks were distributed on

Tuesday and Friday. Also on Tuesday, we distributed 146 boxes with products like potatoes, onions, oranges, yogurt, sour cream, cheese, milk and meat. This is a blessing for the community and the church.

“On Wednesday, Sayra shared the gospel with Aracely, and she received Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Aracely is one of the ladies that will be part of the disciple meetings on Thursdays. God is answering our prayers! Keep praying please!

“During our Sunday service, we concluded our study of 1 Timothy, talking about ‘What a man of God must do: Flee from the false teachings and love of money, follow the Christian virtues, fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of the eternal life, and keep the commandments of God’ (1 Tim. 6:11-16). This sermon was a challenge. After participating in the Workshop about Expository preaching, but not only me, 13 people from the mission participated, 4 of them online. Can you imagine — perhaps 13 people were evaluating my sermon! That is not funny, but I can imagine you smiling right now!

“It is interesting to see the hand of God intervening in His work — people receive Christ, we receive free food to share with the community, we receive visitors that locate us through Google and the attendance this Sunday was the highest since the pandemic began — 60 people!

“We cannot stop giving glory to our Lord and thanking Him for blessing His work and you for interceding for us.”

**Life Journey, Fort Smith: Darrin Smith writes,** “We had a better turnout for worship this past Sunday. It was good to see some who haven’t attended in several months come out. If everyone could come out at the same time, we would have a crowd!

“A big group of us enjoyed fellowship at a local restaurant. They spread us out in an enclosed patio, and it was good to be able to laugh together and enjoy one another’s company outside the church. We will be doing this more. We have definitely missed this type of event as a mission.

“Keep us in your prayers, and thank you for all you do for us.”

**Grace, Green Forest:** Carter Pearce writes, “February 11 is my spiritual birthday! On Feb. 11, 1991, Jurl Mitchell was preaching revival services for our mission congregation in Tacoma, Wash.. It was on Monday night of revival services that I realized I was a sinner who needed to be saved. Laying in my bed that night, I accepted Jesus as my Savior.

“I was 11 years old then, and a lot has changed in the past 30 years. All 3 of my children are older now than I was 30 years ago, and all of them have accepted Christ as their Savior. God has allowed me to serve as pastor of 3 churches and now as a missionary for the BMA of Arkansas and camp pastor for the BMA of Tennessee and Kentucky church camp. I have been privileged to preach in 10 states, 8 countries, 3 continents and countless churches.

“I spent almost 10 years as a chaplain with the Army National Guard and over 4 years as a chaplain with Tyson Foods. God has truly blessed my family and me with abundant ministry opportunities. Through all that I have seen and done in ministry around the world, there is one thing that is greater than any other — seeing a person come to the same realization that I had 30 years ago this week! There is nothing greater than being able to minister to someone as they realize their need for a Savior and being able to lead them to make a lifelong commitment to follow Christ.

“Ministry is difficult, but God is still saving souls. People still need to hear the message. The Holy Spirit is still at work in my life and the lives of countless others. I urge you not to be discouraged, but to press on toward the high calling of God. May we rejoice together that Jesus died for us and for those around us. May we continue to be dedicated to sharing the gospel!”

**Ebenezer, West Little Rock:** Ruben Isturiz writes, “Last Sunday two brothers from our mother church at Chenal Valley Baptist Church approached me saying they read our report in the *Baptist Trumpet* and prayed for us. It is not the first time someone approached me with such words, and they are always encouraging in the ministry, knowing that someone is praying for us.

“Wonderful is our God who allows us to pray and intercede for missions. I give you a testimony of the answered prayers: In past reports, we had asked readers of the *Baptist Trumpet* to pray for the Vidal family. Last Wednesday, we started a Berean Group (cell) in their home just for his family — there are five of them, Ivon Vidal with her husband, her parents and her brother. They heard the gospel, and all five made a decision for Christ. Glory to God!

“I left that home with such joy, and I was reminded of all of you who support us in prayer. I thank God for each one of you who prays for us, some of us know some of you and there are many whom we do not know, but I know you pray for us, your missionaries. Continue to pray for the Vidal family to grow in the Word of God and we can baptize them soon. Every Wednesday night, we have study of the Word of God with them. To God be the glory!”

**Faith Chapel, Flippin:** Johnny Shew writes, “I usually thank you all for your prayers at the end of my report, but I truly thank you now because we have been prayed for a lot this week! Karen’s mother fell and broke her hip last week, five months after breaking the other one. She has dementia, so Karen spent four days at the hospital with her. While they were working on her mother’s discharge back to the therapy and living center, we had to call an ambulance for her father, who they admitted later that day. So she spent the next three days at the hospital. He passed away Sunday night. And my brother, who is in a group home in Conway, has been sick for a week with COVID-19.

**See REPORTS, Page 8**

**Spotlight On**  
**Missions**  
Send offerings to BMA Missions  
P.O. Box 878 • Conway, AR 72033-0878  
501.455.4977 • www.bmamissions.org

## Stan & Donna Scroggins • The Philippines

January has been busy. We had a great snow fall and at least our grandkids enjoyed it. We are continuing to teach our classes via Zoom, and they are going well—Donna is even teaching Physical Education via Zoom! Due to the snowy weather, we stayed close to home this month and visited four churches in the Jacksonville, Texas area. Since our return to the Philippines is delayed, please consider inviting us to your church so we can tell you more about



Donna's "remote" PE class



Chapel promoting the Jerry Kidd World Mission Offering

**Make a difference today** — Filipino students from all over the Philippines arrive on our campus to "make a difference" in God's missionary work to tell the nations. You can "make a difference" by helping with tuition scholarships — \$2,000 a year provides tuition and room and board. They need your help. When you donate, a student in need will be assigned directly to you to encourage and get to know.

**Darlene Carey Christian Academy** — Although Monsoon Season has curtailed progress on the building, you can help us build a room in memory or in honor of a loved one. Each room costs \$10,000 to build.

Contact us at: stanmusical@icloud.com, on Facebook Messenger, Texting & Calls in the U.S. (573) 489-9549, Facetime or carrier pigeon. Keep up with us by visiting thescroggins.com.

## REPORTS (Continued From Page 7)

"I don't want you to think I am complaining. I truly do thank you all for your prayers because, while Satan is providing the distractions, we are staying focused on Jesus and trusting in Him. Your prayers help make that possible.

"Sunday morning, we had a first-time visitor who has just lost her husband, and we showed her the love that Jesus showed and listened to her powerful testimony. She came back Sunday night, and we loved on her and listened some more, and she said that next week she is bringing her daughter.

"Praise God for sending those He wants us to minister to; and we thank Him for you, your support and your prayers!"

**Not Alone, Springdale:** Clinton Morris writes, "It has been a hard two weeks because of COVID-19. I caught the virus Jan. 26 and had to quarantine. I also really did not feel up to trying to do anything for the first five days or so.

"My wife was able to meet another neighbor, and we are talking about hanging out when the weather gets a bit warmer.

"I have been praying that God would bring the right folks for the core group of the church, and He has added another couple and they are excited to

## NOTES (Continued From Page 4)

that lawmakers voted to override the governor's vetoes on this week.

Sponsored by state Rep. Joseph Fichter (R-Fort Thomas), House Bill 2 will allow state Attorney General Daniel Cameron to seek civil and criminal penalties against abortion facilities if they do not comply with state laws. Currently, that power rests with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, which is led by the governor's appointees. It also prevents abortion facilities from describing an elective abortion as an "emergent or urgent medical procedure during the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19."

In a statement online, Cameron, a pro-life Republican, praised lawmakers for overriding the governor's veto and "allowing our office to ensure that abortion clinics follow the law." Earlier, he also said Fichter's bill will give his office "clear legal authority" to act "when an abortion provider breaks the law." (lifeneews.org)

become a part of the church plant.

"Continue praying for us. We have people who are sitting on the edge of coming to a Bible Study. We also have another family who is considering being part of the team."

## A Heart Like His

By Kerry Stitch

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right, persevering, and steadfast spirit within me" (Psa. 51:10 AMP).*

As the calendar turns to February, hearts tend to be the shape of the month. Every conceivable vendor can aid you in purchasing the perfect way to respond—through chocolates, flowers, stuffed animals or special meals from your heart to someone you treasure. This can be tricky for the rookie or pro in delivering the right presentation. It's also (I've heard it labeled...) "Single Awareness Month," which can be a bit uncomfortable at best.

I have to be honest, I'm a bit nervous to see what the traditional "conversation heart" candy may be promoting in this topsy turvy world of 2021. One can only hope that it won't be R-rated.

What if we simplified and guaranteed success by aligning with a heart like His? Would you be in? A heart like His would (salvation a given) involve our speech—not just on the Hallmark cards we purchase and sign, but in the responses or reactions we choose on a daily basis. It would most certainly include service since awareness and action were clearly modeled by Christ.

An attitude of gratitude could keep our hearts in rhythm and doesn't require a stethoscope to validate. A heart like His definitely requires perseverance. When God equips us for this journey called life there will be a few detours, gravel roads and perhaps some feelings of being lost. That's part of the adventure we would do well to embrace.

Disciple-making means going! Encouragement is not overrated. If we would only remember the pain and suffering around us each day, we might respond more with our hearts and less with our opinions. Look at the folks Jesus routinely encountered—the dying, the diseased, the rejected, the sketchy—not your top choices for a backyard cookout.

Remember, even the best of February remembrances will fade, wilt and digest, but His heart is eternal. Ask God to show you His heart. Spend time with Him and choose to prayerfully model His examples, not just when commercialism promotes sales of dutiful purchases. Our epic love adventure with Christ is a lifelong, holy confident experience one that requires us to seek a heart-healthy lifestyle of His regimen, His way and His timing.

This February could be our best yet, even in a historic pandemic with chaos swirling around us, and it won't matter what Punsutawney Phil announces. Let's choose to stay close to His heart-beat with the assurance that getting to the heart of the matter means giving it to the Maker to restore and heal. A heart set in motion by Christ is a heart on mission—one that sees the importance of and acts in accordance with our blessed Redeemer.

(shared with permission from Antioch, Conway daily devotionals)



## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual March for Life

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual March for Life will be held on Sunday, March 14 in Little Rock at 2 p.m. The observance is a peaceful and prayerful event that attracts thousands of Arkansans from across the state, including churches and families, to remember the estimated 60+ million unborn children who have been killed by legal abortion.

This event, sponsored by Arkansas Right to Life (artl.org), will remember the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States on Jan. 22, 1973.

Staging begins at 1:30 p.m. between Battery and Wolfe Streets on West Capitol Avenue behind the Arkansas State Capitol. At 2 p.m., President Andy Mayberry will lead the marchers, along with elected officials, invited dignitaries and other special guests to the steps of the State Capitol for a brief program.

Parking is available at open lots from Marshal to Summit Streets or in front of the Capitol. No parking is allowed behind the Capitol or along West Capitol.

Masks are required for everyone aged 10 or older and six (6) feet must be maintained between individual or household groups. Please provide your own hand sanitizer. Do not attend if you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or loss of taste or smell. Do not attend if you have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Be advised to consider not attending if you are 65 years or older or have underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.

Arkansas Right to Life, the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization, is an affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, the leading voice of the voiceless dedicated to protecting all human beings threatened by abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

For more information or to volunteer call (501) 663-4237 or email artl@artl.org. Visit us on Facebook (Arkansas Right to Life, Rose Mimms, Arkansans Against Planned Parenthood, Abortion Pill Reversal, Arkansas Votes Pro-Life) or follow us on Twitter @ AR\_rtl.

## FOUNDATIONS (Continued From Page 1)

preferred future.

• **Strategy is how you are going to get there.** It is as much choosing what you should not be doing as it is what you should be doing. Many things we call vision are actually the strategies we have developed to live on mission. Strategy is your road map to following His commands and direction.

These foundations empower you to develop a clearly articulated "vision proper" because you have prayerfully determined where God is taking you and how He wants you to get there. A necessary ingredient for these foundational elements is a clear definition of success. What does "success" look like for your church? Success is being faithful to who God has called you to be. Success is doing what God has called you to do as well as you can. It is the investment of your church into the ministry opportunities that He opens up for your congregation.

This process (core values, mission, vision and strategy) will allow you to set your focus on discovering and implementing what God wants you to accomplish. God measures success by how faithfully you follow Him, not what you accomplish. Biblical success focuses on the internal, not the external; the eternal not the temporal; and divine

standards, not human standards. Biblical success comes out of humility and is not concerned with notoriety, praise or recognition. True biblical success is doing everything for God's glory.

God measures success by how faithfully you follow Him, not by your outward accomplishments. Our job is to remain faithful to His calling and direction, while His job is to accomplish results. You must trust God for the fruit while you focus on being obedient, faithful, diligent, persistent and committed. You are called to serve Him faithfully with excellence by doing the best you can with what He has provided. The good news is that we have video training for all of these foundations with tools and worksheets. If we can help, please let us know!



**Bradford Baptist Church** in Bradford is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be sent to the Pulpit Committee at P.O. Box 16, Bradford, Ark. 72020 or bbcbroadford@gmail.com. For more information, call (501) 344-2414.

**Meadowside Baptist Church** in Pittsburg, Kan. is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact Greg Hardister at (620) 704-6860.