

BAPTIST TRUMPET

www.baptisttrumpet.com

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Lepine to Deliver CBC Commencement Addresses

Bob Lepine, senior vice president and chief creative officer of FamilyLife and co-host of FamilyLife Today, FamilyLife's nationally syndicated program, will deliver Central Baptist College's commencement addresses on Saturday, May 6 in the Burgess Auditorium.

The commencement for the Professional Adult College Education (PACE) graduation will be held at 10 a.m. and the commencement for traditional students will be at 2 p.m. This year's class of 159 graduates is the largest graduating class in the school's history. CBC will have 118 graduates participating in graduation, 77 in the Traditional program and 41 in the PACE program.

"I am thrilled to announce Bob Lepine as CBC's commencement speaker," said CBC President Terry Kimbrow. "He is an accomplished author, radio personality and a great role model for our graduates."

A veteran of Christian radio, Lepine has a degree in communications from the University of Tulsa. Prior to joining FamilyLife in 1992, he worked for local radio stations in Tulsa, Phoenix, Sacramento and San Antonio.

He is the author of *The Christian Husband*, and the on-air voice for "Truth for Life" with Alistair Begg. He also serves on the Executive Committee for National Religious Broadcasters.

Bob and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Little Rock, where he also serves as an elder and teaching pastor at Redeemer Community Church.



VBS Column To Begin

We will begin running the Vacation Bible School listings in the April 26 issue of the *Baptist Trumpet*, and will continue until the last VBS takes place.

To include your church's VBS, just send us the name and location of your church, VBS beginning and ending dates, time and program theme. The listing will appear each week on our website (baptisttrumpet.com) and will appear in the printed *Trumpet* as space is available.

Due to limited space, we will not be able to include kick-off and closing information, but will be glad to list a telephone number for readers to call for more information. VBS results (limited to average attendance, number of professions of faith and offerings collected — amount and for what ministry) will be gladly listed in the "Reports from the Churches" column.

MOVING with ministers and staff

Don Seat has accepted the pastorate of Macedonia Baptist Church at Jonesboro, effective April 2.

Jerry Clements has resigned as pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at Annieville, effective April 30, after over 36 years of service there.

Pete Southall is the new full-time director of high school ministries at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. He had been serving as interim director for several months, and has been a member at Antioch for almost four years. He and his wife, Priscilla, have five children: Madelyn, 15; Morgan, 12; Mia Beth, 9; Mickey, 5; and Magnolia, 3.

Matt Grantham, who recently resigned as pastor of Bradford Baptist Church in Bradford, is available for preaching appointments and pastoral service as the Lord leads. He has been in the ministry for 34 years, and he and his wife, Julie have one son, Seth, 15. Contact Bro. Grantham at (501) 344-2427 or (870) 995-2524 (cell).

County Line Baptist Church at Marvell is seeking a pastor. Contact Tommie Shackelford at (870) 338-2873.

Grace Baptist Church at Russellville is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Contact Pastor Roger Pearce at (479) 264-5423.

Faith Baptist Church at St. Charles, Mo. is seeking a youth leader. Contact Justin Arender at justinarenders@live.com.

New Cartoonist

Ryan Hoffmann has offered to share his cartoons with the *Trumpet*, and we have enthusiastically accepted his offer. The cartoons will run on an "as space is available" basis. The first one is on page 5 of this week's issue, and so is his Personality Profile.

Thank you so much for your interest in the *Trumpet* ministry, Ryan.

Note: Gary Thomas, cartoonist for Arkansas Baptist News, has shared his cartoons with the *Trumpet* for many years. He grew up in the BMA, and is the son of Dr. Jesse (Betty) Thomas. We will gladly continue to run Gary's cartoons and appreciate his love for the *Trumpet* and the BMA. According to the Bible, laughter is "good medicine," and we need all we can get!

Johnson to Replace Knott

Eric Johnson, former missionary to Mexico, will replace Phil Knott as director of International Missions, effective in May. Bro. Knott recently announced his retirement after four years in that position.

Johnson was born into a family of BMA missionaries; and he and his wife, Kelly and three children (Audrey Lee, Matty Ann and Abram Gaylan) began serving as church planters in Pachuca, Mexico in 2008. In 2011, Kelly was diagnosed with an illness that, over time, God has used to lead them back to ministry in the United States.

Since then, Bro. Johnson has continued to serve in BMA Missions through church planter training in evangelism, discipleship and Biblical studies. Bro. Knott will work with Bro. Johnson during the next year as he transitions into his new role as International Missions director.

"We give praise and glory to God, our Healer, for the work he has done during the difficult time of Kelly's illness and diagnosis, and we are very grateful for His mercy in our lives," said Bro. Johnson. "Because of the strict nature of her diet and her immune system, we had to conclude that it was not God's will for us to live in Mexico. This was not an easy decision, but an obvious one. Dr. John David Smith, Bro. Phil and BMA Missions staff were very helpful to us during this time."

"I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the Lord and our churches, and I believe God has much more in store for our future."



Annual Church Survey

BMA Information Services would like to express our appreciation to the large number of churches that have provided updated information for our upcoming *BMA Directory*. The response this year has been great and we are truly thankful. However, there are many churches we have not heard from. **There is still time for your church to be included!** If you have not yet completed a survey, we want to hear from you.

There are two easy ways to make sure your church's information is accurate:

- Complete your form online at www.bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey/
- Contact John Meriweather at john@bmaamerica.org or (501) 499-6810; or Lauren Noland at lauren@bmaamerica.org or (501) 358-4007 to receive a survey already complete with your church's most recent information. You can simply make the needed changes and return via email or physical mail.

The *BMA Directory* serves a very vital purpose, enabling our association to remain informed and connected. However, we also know much of the information in the directory is inaccurate and out-of-date.

BMA Information Services is committed to providing BMA churches with complete and accurate information, but we cannot do that without you. Just a few minutes of your time will help ensure that we have the best possible publication for all of our churches.

Senior Adult Conference

The following details about this year's Senior Adult Conference have been released by DiscipleGuide:

"The annual Senior Adult Conference is your opportunity to catch up with friends in the beauty of the Ozarks. Join seniors from around the BMA Nov. 13-15 at the Hilton Convention Hotel in Branson, Mo. Enjoy the powerful preaching of Don Chandler, inspirational music of Steve Green and encouraging ministry of the Central Baptist College Singers. Plus, Neil Dumas and David Attebery will lead everyone in singing!"

This year's conference includes tickets to Sight & Sound Theaters' special Christmas show, *Miracle of Christmas* when you register by Oct. 19. Plus, enjoy a fully catered breakfast each morning. And in your free time, walk across the street to Branson Landing for food and shopping.

For more information about the conference, or to register your group, visit discipleguide.org/senior or call (800) 333-1442.

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients
(60 years or more
in the preaching ministry)
Please check in at the registration desk
at the BMAA meeting when you arrive.
Thank you. (President Paul White)



Terry Kimbrow
President



CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE PROFILE

Central Baptist College

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Jill McCollum with Sysco Food Services of Arkansas representatives (L-R) Jeff Moss and Gil Mitchum.

Dining Services Recognized by Sysco

CBC Dining Services was recently recognized as a 2017 Sysco Distinguished Restaurant. The award recognizes the best independently operated food service establishments who have had long-standing business relationships with Sysco. CBC Director of Dining Services Jill McCollum was awarded with a recognition certificate and engraved knife. Jill said "I am so excited that Sysco Food Services of Arkansas recognizes our excellence in food service, and I look forward to many more years as a Sysco customer!"



Business Conference attendees included (L-R): (front row) Heather Solano, Beth Cantrell, Kim Stubbs and Anapendo Mrema; (second row) Katherine Ligon, Mallory Davis, Sydney Bullard and Mackenzie Crocker; (third row) Wyatt Spigener, Hopi Horvat and Tyler Turner.

Women's Business Leadership Conference

The CBC Business Department faculty and students attended the Women's Business Leadership Conference at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro on March 30. According to the conference website, "The Women's Business Leadership Conference is a forum for leadership and professional development created to inspire and activate women in the business community. This one-day conference feature[d] keynote addresses by women leaders, workshops designed to hone skills in key areas, and interactive discussions to engage students and professionals on important issues. This conference intended to cultivate and enrich the academic experience of students, enhance career and mentorship networks for women, and celebrate the remarkable strengths women bring to corporate America. [This event brought] together motivated students, alumni, successful corporate businesswomen, and thriving entrepreneurs from all over the country to connect, discuss and learn more about issues facing women."

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What's Really Holding You Back?

By Brandon Cox, Pastor
Grace Hills • Bentonville

What is the most limiting challenge you will ever face in your life and in your leadership? Contrary to what you might think, it isn't money, a lack of opportunity and it isn't even a lack of talent. Too many people have risen to greatness from nothing for us to go on believing that we're simply limited by those factors.

No, the most limiting challenge you will ever face in your life and leadership is your own beliefs.

What you believe about God, about yourself, about the world, about other people... those beliefs will determine how high you can rise and how much progress you can make in growing from where you are to where you need to be.

Some all too common, severely limiting beliefs we hang onto would include:

- Whatever others think or say about me must be true.
- I am chained to my past mistakes, unable to grow past them.
- I just don't have the right personality for what I really want to do.
- I don't have the talent or charisma that successful people have.
- I am what I am and I can't change much about myself.

I've thought all of those thoughts at one time or another in my life, but in the last few years, I've gotten sick and tired of being bound by them. I've decided to start rejecting them. Instead, I'm choosing to believe differently.

And by the way, before you can get very far, you'll have to admit that beliefs are chosen.

Some men choose to believe they have fallen out of love, rather than choosing to keep on loving and pursuing.

Some men choose to believe they are all that they disliked about their fathers, rather than choosing to chart a different course.

Some men choose to believe mediocrity, or even misery, is just the way life has to be lived, rather than making changes.

I've coached a counseled a lot of guys in the last couple of decades, and in almost every case, I've come to see that we are our own worst enemies.

Right now, there are men who could lead their families on a big adventure, but they don't believe they can do it.

There are men who can have thriving marriages, but they believe it's impossible to recover the spark.

And too many men, when staring at the possibility of success, wreck and sabotage their potential by believing that nobody would want to be led or influenced by them.

See HOLDING, Page 4

Let God Use Your Scars

By Sabrina Beasley McDonald

Sarah was new to church. She listened wide-eyed each Sunday, soaking up wisdom and wondering why no one had ever told her these truths before. It might have saved her from her life of abuse, from her unplanned pregnancies and from the many men she had been involved with. No one told her that life could have purpose, healing and best of all — unconditional love.

Sarah was so grateful for the radical transformation in her life that she volunteered in all the church ministries she could handle. She was so in love with Jesus. You could see the light in her eyes and the passion to serve Him. But she mainly stayed in background roles — kitchen service or set up and tear down.

There's certainly nothing wrong with kitchen work. The church could hardly exist without those who give their time working in the background. But Sarah had such a marvelous testimony that she should have been out among the hurting, telling them what God had done for her.

After hearing part of her testimony and her marvel at the grace of God, I told her I thought God was going to have a great ministry through her story. I could imagine her speaking and counseling women who have experienced similar circumstances.

"Me?" she said with disbelief. "I can't do that. I've done so many bad things. I'm not like those other women. How could I help anyone?"

I've heard this rationale from Christians many times. It's one of Satan's favorite deceptions. He makes us believe that the scars of our past are ugly and deforming. So we try our best to disguise what we regard as shameful and try to look like all the "normal" people. But no one is normal. Each person has his or her own struggle, and many are battling the same demons we are. In God's plan, the scars we see as lesions to hide are actually undeniable evidence of the depths of our depravity and the sign to a broken world that we've been healed — a life resurrected.

Christ's scars

I've often wondered what our resurrected bodies will be like. Will we be young? Thin? Will people recognize us?

There are a lot of unanswered questions that won't be resolved until we rise from the grave. But we can study what the Scripture says about Jesus' resurrected body.

Jesus ate and drank. He could appear and disappear. Sometimes He was in disguise and people didn't recognize Him. But what boggled me was when it dawned on me that Jesus' resurrected body was healed, but He still had scars.

Why did Jesus have scars? The



—Stephanie Dye, Trumpet Photography Club

Spirit could have taken them away. He could have decided to cover over the wounds with new flesh and made Jesus' body exactly as it was before, even better.

Read this exchange between Jesus and His disciple Thomas in John 20:24-27 (ESV) when Jesus appeared in His resurrected body:

"Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus (first) came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'"

"Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe...'"

What Jesus did on the cross would still be valid whether He had scars or not. But could it be that the scars were left to testify to the work of Christ?

I don't know about you, but I want to touch those precious holes where the nails pierced His skin. I want to kiss His feet and weep with tears of gratefulness over the wounds He suffered for me. Could it be that those scars are there for all the Thomases who need to see to believe?

We Have Scars

Jesus said anyone who follows

See SCARS, Page 4



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LARRY BARKER

Director of Operations North America
BMA of America Missions Department

He's Worth It

Fellowship is the key to our relationships in life. Someone has said, "To dwell up above with those that we love, oh, that will be glory. To dwell down below with those that we know, now that's another story."

Philippians 3:10 says, "My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." The key to understanding this verse is the word fellowship. It is a sense of closeness to God and the intimacy we can experience with Him. Jesus is worth the effort to know Him better!

This passage can be broken down into four parts.

• **It's personal!** "That I may know Him." We can easily fall into the trap of being more on focused what we "do" for Christ rather than "who" we are in Him. "Doing" is marking things off of our to-do list, but being in Christ transforms our lives.

• **It's powerful!** "The power of His resurrection." Many think God doesn't place more on us than we can handle — although, actually, He may. But, He never places more on us than He can handle. We are able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

• **It's painful!** "The fellowship of His suffering." Paul considered it a privilege to be able to suffer for Christ. He courageously declared from prison that to live was Christ and to die was gain. It is not always easy to follow Christ, but He is worth it.

• **It's practical!** "Being conformed to His death." Every day, you need to have a funeral for the flesh. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live." Jesus said, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, daily, take up his cross and follow me."

We must think in terms of relationship, and not just in terms of information. We can readily see the historical facts of Christ's resurrection and His suffering, but these are spiritual truths that we need to grasp

over and over again.

Christ considered us worth the suffering and dying on the cross for us. He is worth whatever "suffering" or "sacrifices" we have to make. Jesus moved the disciples along a trajectory from "come and see" to "come and die!" The reality is that the only reason we can have fellowship with Him is because He suffered for us.

Jesus' resurrection enables us to live by His power, and His suffering allows us to live in His presence. You cannot separate the two! This biblical foundation allows us to build a philosophy of ministry that clearly states the following clearly:

• **He is worth whatever He asks us to do.** — Jesus did not die on the cross of Calvary for our comfort. Worship is giving God the worth He deserves in our praise and singing. It is saying, with every fiber of our being, that He is worth it. He is worth every sacrifice, everything it might cost us and every loss that might occur. Paul said in Phil. 3:8, "Because of Him I have suffered all things and consider them filth, so that I might gain Christ." He is worth it!

• **The real goal of life is to know Christ.** — Sometimes we think the object of life is to never suffer and to do all we can to avoid pain. Certainly, no one looks forward to pain, but we must remember that the only reason we can have fellowship with Him is because He suffered for us. After Paul stresses this lesson he says, "Therefore, all who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you."

• **Real joy comes through us saying yes to the cross.** — There is a cost to joy. Jesus proved this principle in that He endured the cross for the joy set before Him. Saying yes to the cross means doing what you are supposed to do, when you are supposed to do it, whether you feel like it or not. Paul knew what it was like to experience persecution. Check out II Cor. 4:7-10 where he declares that

UPCOMING EVENTS

Good Friday Services, April 14, 5-7 p.m.; Nine Stations of the Cross; First, McNeil.

Sunrise Easter Service, April 16, 6:30 a.m.; breakfast to follow; Landmark, Hermitage.

Sunrise Easter Service, April 16, 6:30 a.m.; Woolly Hollow State Park; 11 a.m. morning worship at Immanuel, Greenbrier.

Sunrise Easter Service, April 16, 6:45 a.m.; breakfast to follow, Easter egg hunt; 11 a.m. morning worship; Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw.

Mark Trammel Quartet in Concert, April 20, 7 p.m.; Westside, Jacksonville.

Gold City in Concert, April 21, 7 p.m.; First, Magnolia.

Teen Challenge, April 23, 11 a.m.; Westside, Jacksonville.

Truth Infusion, April 29, 6 p.m.; Southside, Hope.

Heartland Concert, May 6, 5 p.m. meal; 6 p.m. singing; Faustina, Hampton.

Singing featuring Robbie Hannah, July 31, 1:30 p.m.; Lakeside, Newport.

through his suffering the power of Christ was then evident.

• **You can trust Him with and in times of suffering.** — Christ is with us in and during the trials and tribulations of this life. He asks so little of us and gave His life so that we might have eternal life. Even in suffering, you can trust Him — especially in times of suffering. Someone has said, "In happy moments, praise God. In difficult moments, seek God. In quiet moments, worship God. In painful moments, trust God. In every moment, thank God."

• **Is what I am living for worth Christ dying for?** — In his first book (2:21), Peter says, "For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you." Jesus has a mission for His church and that involves more than nice buildings, great programs and ice cream socials. Is your church passionately pursuing the lost so they might know Christ also? How can we sit around, seemingly unconcerned, while multitudes die without Christ and face eternal punishment in Hell?

The real transformation in our lives comes from knowing Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings and a willingness to do whatever He asks. Actually, I like what Luke McCown recently said: "Jesus doesn't need Christians who are willing to go. He needs them to go." Talk is cheap, but the time has come for churches to rise up and be who He intended us to be.

God's plan of making disciples as described in His Word will work if we will work His plan. There is no plan B! He is worth it!

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Law Changes Regarding Guns in Churches

Two bills, House Bill 1249 (HB1249) and Senate Bill 724 (SB724), were approved by both chambers of the legislature and were signed into law by the governor. On March 22, HB1249 became Act 562; and on April 4, SB724 became Act 859. Upon their effective dates, these two laws will make several revisions to Arkansas' laws regarding standards and restrictions on the carrying of concealed firearms.

The new laws deal with standards with regard to the carrying of firearms by conceal-carry permit holders in a number of venues, such as at colleges and universities, in bars, in publicly owned buildings and facilities, courtrooms, public schools (K-12), in churches and other places.

This article is limited to explaining how the changes in state law affect churches.

Prior to the revisions made by Acts 562 and 859, the law prohibited a concealed-carry permit holder from carrying a firearm into a church or on church grounds. But the law also provided that a church could grant a blanket approval for concealed-carry permit holders to carry firearms in church or designate specific individuals or members of a security team or detail to carry handguns, provided those individuals possessed current concealed-carry permits.

The new laws have not changed those two provisions. However, under the new laws, a conceal-carry permit holder who has an enhanced conceal-carry permit after receiving up to eight hours of additional training under a course to be developed and approved by the Arkansas State Police (ASP) will not be prohibited from carrying a firearm at church, unless the church has provided notice that it does not allow firearms on its premises.

There are two ways the church can provide notice of the prohibition of the carrying of firearms by holders of the enhanced, upgraded permit issued pursuant to the additional training established by the ASP. First, the church can place at each church entrance a written notice that "carrying a handgun is prohibited." The second kind of notice is achieved when written or verbal information is provided to a licensee who is carrying a concealed handgun at the church that carrying a handgun is prohibited.

It is important to note two things:

As previously stated, holders of the standard concealed-carry permit are not allowed to carry a handgun in church unless the church has approved the carrying of a concealed firearm under either a blanket permission for all permit holders or by designating specific individuals or members of a security or safety team to carry handguns, provided those individuals or team members hold current concealed-carry permits.

Second, it will be lawful for the holder of the enhanced conceal-carry permit to be armed with a concealed firearm at a church whether the church has or has not granted specific or general approval, but only if the church has not posted signs at each church entrance advising firearms are not allowed there or has not given direct written or verbal warning to the armed enhanced permit holder stating firearms are not allowed at the church.

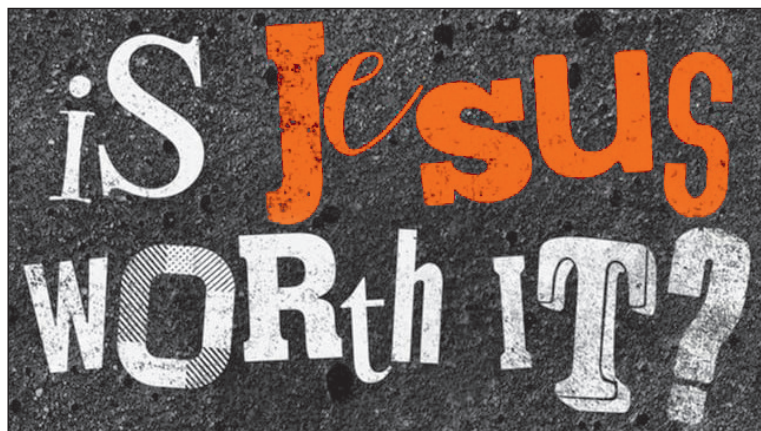
If you have questions or concerns about this matter or need further clarification, don't hesitate to contact me by email or by phone (501) 837-1688.


Very soon, we will be releasing a summary of this legislative session. As always, we won some, we lost some, and some were rained out (to use a sports analogy). To everyone who helped us with prayer and financial support, and by getting involved and participating in this messy business of government and law making, let me express my gratitude. Thanks, and God bless.

To everyone, thanks for allowing us to serve you. And to those who support us with your prayers and financial gifts, we are appreciative that you have chosen to partner with us. Our gratitude for you runs deep.

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Editor's Notebook

By Mrs. Diane Spriggs



A Great Example

Last Sunday, Pat and I visited with the wonderful people at Cross Roads Baptist Church in Warren, where our friend, Sidney McGraw, serves as pastor. As usual, we arrived early because I always allow extra time to get to the church when I have a speaking appointment. Like my brother-in-law, Joe McCall, says: “Early is on time, on time is late and late is inexcusable!”

But we weren’t the first ones to arrive at Cross Roads that morning. Aline Haygood, who is their “oldest active member” (she might shoot me if I told you exactly how old) was already there, sweeping off the sidewalks and porch. Mrs. Aline took great care to make sure it was done right, too; because when she finished, the wind had already blown more debris onto her freshly swept sidewalk, so she went back and swept it again!

Then she put her broom aside, went into the church and began playing the piano to make sure they “got started on time.” It is quite obvious that Mrs. Aline loves her church, where she has been a member since 1945.

What a wonderful example she is to us “younger” people. (Work with me here, folks; at least she made me **feel** younger!) I told Mrs. Aline that morning that I wanted to “be just like her when I grow up,” and I meant it!

A Great Church

“I’m truly speaking to the choir,” I told the congregation later that morning. You see, Cross Roads already does everything a BMA of Arkansas church can do to help the *Trumpet* ministry — they love us, pray for us, send their members the *Trumpet* through the Church Plan, give an offering each month and they took up a Special Emphasis offering that morning! Like I told them, “If every church did all that, we’d be in tall cotton!” Thank you so much, Cross Roads Baptist Church — may your tribe increase!

A Great Night!

Last Friday night, our children — daughter-in-law, Jennifer Mollette Spriggs (the master-mind of it all!); son, Bobby Spriggs; daughter, Trina Spriggs Medlock and son-in-law Keith Medlock; along with our grandchildren, Baleigh, Hunter and Savana — hosted a surprise 50th wedding anniversary party for us with some of our favorite people in the world in attendance.

I can’t believe they really did surprise us! And they, and all the friends and family who were there, also succeeded in making us feel totally loved. Thank you all so very, very much — we love you right back!

See NOTEBOOK, Page 8



SCARS (Continued From Page 2)

Him must follow Him in death. We must pick up our own cross and sacrifice our own spiritual lives. We don’t have physical holes in our hands and feet, but sin and rebellion against God leave painful gashes in our hearts and souls. Some people are more mangled than others by a vicious past. But through Christ, the most severe injuries are mended, and with that renewal comes a story — a testimony of what God has done.

Think of the value that eyewitnesses hold in a court room. They have the influence to determine a person’s judicial fate. In the same way, the personal first-hand account of how Christ healed your life is a word of great persuasion.

Never underestimate the power of your testimony. It was the evidence that Thomas believed. Even though Jesus was standing before him, even though the others told him about seeing Jesus, it was the scars that convinced Thomas that the man who stood before him truly was Jesus and not an imposter.

Revelation 12:11 says, *“And (the believers) have conquered him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”* Satan knows that the stories behind our scars will destroy him. That’s why he deceives and shames us into hiding them.

Jesus displayed His scars with confidence, not disgrace. *“...Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side...”* (John 20:27) He knew what those scars represented — healing, salvation, peace between God and man, His glory.

We’re All Still Struggling

“But I’m not fixed yet,” you might say. “My scars are still healing. I struggle every day.” That’s true. You aren’t perfect yet. None of us are. You still have a lot of spiritual growing to do. You might even have more scars yet to receive. That’s part of our task on this earth, so we can reach more people for Christ. Hebrews 12:11 says, *“For the moment all discipline (from God) seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have*

See SCARS, Page 6

get to choose whether the actions of others will define you or not.

It’s definitely time to evaluate your beliefs in life. Are you hopeful, or helpless? Will you lie down in fear, or lead out in faith?

Success might be a moving target, but personal growth is a journey that can be enjoyed every day. And personal growth always lies just beyond the next hill.

Can you take it? Of course you can. You were born for it.

(brandonacox@gmail.com)



Trumpet Notes

By Diane Spriggs

Gorsuch, a “Counterweight” To Activist Court

“Neil Gorsuch now occupies a vacant seat on the U.S. Supreme Court after a pair of swearing-in ceremonies in the nation’s capital,” said Billy Davis and Steve Jordahl in an April 10 OneNewsNow.com report.

With a largely party-line vote, the Senate confirmed President Donald Trump’s first appointment to the highest court in the land. U.S. Sen. Rand Paul cast the 51st and deciding vote. Vice President Mike Pence presided as the Senate vote was tallied.

Pro-life activist Marjorie Dannenfelser now predicts a “new chapter” is coming in the legal fight over abortion after the controversial 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

The record of the high court for the last half-century is rulings in which the justices created law instead of interpreted the laws, said Travis Weber of the Family Research Council. “And Judge Gorsuch should serve as a counterweight to that activist thinking,” Weber predicted.

Most experts expect President Trump will have two to four more appointments to the Court, and that’s likely to cement a conservative majority on the court for years to come.

Genderless Designation

“An Oregon judge has issued a ruling that is contrary to biological science,” said Charlie Butts in an-

other OneNewsNow.com report.

An Oregon County Court has granted a Portland resident’s request to be designated “genderless.” The 27-year-old video game designer has been granted the right to change his name to “Patch,” only one name, and to be designated as “agender,” meaning no gender.

Alliance Defending Freedom senior counsel Gary McCaleb says the ruling reflects “a further confusion of the law with a very misguided concept of gender identity.”

“The government and civil society have legitimate reasons to recognize people as male or female,” said the attorney, “and it’s been very obvious in our litigation over privacy in public schools where professed transgender students are seeking access and, as a result, intermingling the sexes... America is a nation of laws. It’s not a nation governed by personal perception. So the ruling by the judge is a troubling development.” (onenewsnow.com)

Daughter Receives Implant; Mother is Outraged

“An Oklahoma mother is angry after her daughter’s school organized a trip to a local health clinic in which her daughter was given a three-year birth control implant without her approval,” according to a Christian Post report by Samuel Smith.

As reported by Fox 23, Tulsa

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HOLDING

(Continued From Page 2)

When you believe you’re powerless, there isn’t much hope that things will improve.

Granted, you can’t invent money, opportunities resources out of thin air, like magic. So in *that* sense, you might be powerless.

But there is one power you do have that nobody can truly take away from you — you have the power to choose your beliefs.

You don’t always get to choose your circumstances, but men have lived in suffering, slavery, captivity and debilitating physical illnesses who have chosen to believe certain things about themselves and their world that have enabled them to endure and to develop a kind of resilience the rest of the world only envies.

You rarely get to choose the course that others around you take. You can’t keep people from abandoning you or making hurtful choices. But you do



Life Choices Announces New Location

Life Choices, the pregnancy resource center serving primarily Faulkner and Van Buren counties and neighboring areas, announced that they will be moving their offices to 1330 South Donaghey in Conway later this year. The eventual 3,400 square foot facility will house all of Life Choices daily operations and administrative offices.

Plans are to completely remodel the existing 2,000 sq. ft. structure and add approximately 1,400 sq. ft., plus parking and landscaping. These plans have been approved by the City of Conway and construction will begin later this month. Ray Nabholz of NBMC is leading this effort as project manager.

"For 37 years, Life Choices has served the families of Central Arkansas faithfully, but this is the first time she will own her own space. The Board of Directors and I are thrilled at this monumental step in Life Choices' history. Over \$120,000 has already been raised for this project, with over \$50,000 more pledged.

We praise God for orchestrating every detail of this exciting expansion," said Maria Speer, executive director.

The estimated all in project cost is \$600,000. Speer stated efforts are being made to solicit donated items and services to help lower this cost; and continued fundraising efforts are being pursued to raise the needed remaining funds.

As a faith-based non-profit, Life Choices serves the community by providing free services including pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, pregnancy options information and parenting education as reflected by the organization's mission statement, "Life Choices is a community based ministry of Jesus Christ, committed to serving women in word and deed, empowering them to make life affirming choices for themselves and their families." Life Choices served over 440 women in 2016, plus their children and families.

For more information on this building project, please call their office at (501) 329-5944.



Bob Mayfield, Ark. Minister, Dies

Robert W. "Bob" Mayfield, 83 of Hope, passed away April 7. He was a disabled veteran, serving in the Air Force during the Korean War. He surrendered to preach in 1970, retiring in 1992 due to health.

He is a member of the Baptist Ministers Association of America and the BMA of Arkansas, and was a member of Unity Baptist Church in Hope.

Survivors include his wife, Peggy Peacock Mayfield of Hope, a son; Terry Allen (Carol) Mayfield of Jonesboro, two daughters; Deborah Elaine Alice of Hope and Robyn Ann (Mike) Harmon of Jonesboro; a sister, Nadine Sanders of Verona, Mo.; six grandchildren, four great grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held April 10 at Brazzel/Oakcrest Funeral Home, with Glen Tropp and Ed Phillips officiating. Interment was at Union Cemetery at Bodcaw.

Easter — We Need It Really Bad

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Easter is almost here and we need it bad. People throughout the world celebrate Easter differently just like people celebrate Christmas differently. When I was a little boy I remember Easter egg hunts at my Grandma and Grandpa Hinkle's place. They had lots of yard and egg hiding places and a lot of grandchildren to look for them. I was lucky if I found one or two eggs with all the competition. People still hunt for Easter eggs and look forward to an Easter basket. There are a couple of chocolate factories in our town and it's a home run week for them filling up Easter baskets.

Most Christians around the world will celebrate Easter in church. Easter is the prime-time Sunday of the year for the church. If a church cannot get a crowd on Easter, then there will not be any crowds the rest of the year. Easter is the Sunday when most

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E-mail Address: ryanhoffmannntoons@gmail.com

Instagram: @hoffmannntoons

Church/location: Springhill Baptist Church at Greenbrier

Are you involved with other ministries at your church? I am a small-group leader with Springhill Student Ministries.

Parents' Names: Brian and Laura Hoffmann

Where did you grow up? My dad is retired military, so I've spent time in Missouri, Wisconsin, Guam and Arkansas.

How long have you been drawing cartoons? Since I was 10 years old.

How did you get started? I don't ever remember not drawing!

What is your favorite Christian song? "Be Thou My Vision."

What was your favorite subject in school? Art!

What is the best advice you ever received? The Hokey-Pokey really IS what it's all about.

Who would be the guests at your "fantasy dinner"? Norman Rockwell, Charles Schulz, Rush Limbaugh, Lucille Ball, George Lucas, Bill Watterson

What is your favorite book (other than the Bible)? Anne of Green Gables

What are your hobbies? disc-golf, bowling

Where would you like to go on your dream vacation? Israel

What is your "pet peeve"? When people complain about the weather.

Which Bible character do identify with most (because): Barnabas, because I want to be an encourager.

What is something most people don't know about you? I was homeschooled, and I was an avid skate-



Little River, Manila, April 12-16, 7 p.m.; fellowship meal, Fri. 6 p.m.; Jeff Knowlton, pastor and evangelist.

Landmark, England, April 23-26, 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. (Sun.); 7 p.m. (Mon.-Wed.); Jimmy Moss, evan.; David Inzer, pastor.

Faustina, Hampton, April 24-28, 7 p.m.; Nick Flowers, evan.; Gene Boyette, pastor.

Eastside, Monticello, May 1-3, 7 p.m.; Wally Ferguson, evan.; David McDougald, pastor.

Southside, Hope, May 21-24; 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Sun.); 7 p.m. (Mon.-Wed.); Jim Moss, evan.; Ernie Sorrells, pastor.

Fellowship, Walnut Ridge, May 28-31, 10:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. (Sun.); 7 p.m. (Mon.-Wed.); Herbert Wilson, evan.; John Durham, pastor.

Union Baptist, Rosston, May 29-31, 7 p.m.; Adam Rogers, evan.; Joe Brown, pastor.

Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw, July 17-21, 7 p.m.; Nick Flowers, evan.; Lane Garner, pastor.

County Line, Marvell, Aug. 6-9, 5:30 p.m. (Sun.); 7 p.m. (Mon.-Wed.); Brad Hardesty, evan.

boarder.

What do you want your future children to remember? That I loved the Lord above all else, and that I wanted to honor Him with my life.

Who would you give anything to have met? my great-grandmother, Glates Loftin

What have you always wanted to do but haven't yet? have a syndicated comic strip

How would you like for your epitaph to read? He made people smile.

Favorite quote: Do you love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of. (Benjamin Franklin)



Bethel, Forrest City, added three by baptism. Marty Cantwell, pastor.

The Bridge, Mt. Home, witnessed one profession of faith and gained one by letter. Hershel Conley, pastor.

Church at Willow Beach, North Little Rock, witnessed two professions of faith and welcomed two by baptism. Roy Tilley, pastor; Vela Hodkin, reporter.

First, Bald Knob, gained one by baptism. Bill Watson, pastor; Marlene Barnes, reporter.

First, St. Charles, added one by baptism. Todd Smith; Onita Wilson, reporter.

Grace, Russellville, welcomed one new member. Roger D. Pearce, pastor.

Herman, Bono, gained one by letter and two by baptism. Randy Stimmach, pastor; Janet Watkins, reporter.

Immanuel, Sheridan, received four by letter, two by baptism and two by statement. Gary Copeland, pastor; Lorena Plunkett, reporter.

Kingsland, Kingsland, added three by baptism and one by letter. Rick Bolin, pastor; Max Garlington, reporter.

Landmark, England, welcomed two new members since last report. David Inzer, pastor.

Landmark, Hermitage, gained one by letter. Don Smith, pastor.

Macedonia, Jonesboro, witnessed one profession of faith and added one by letter. Don Seat, pastor; Deloris Cole, reporter.

Pleasant Grove, Annieville, welcomed 10 by baptism since last report. Jerry Clements, pastor.

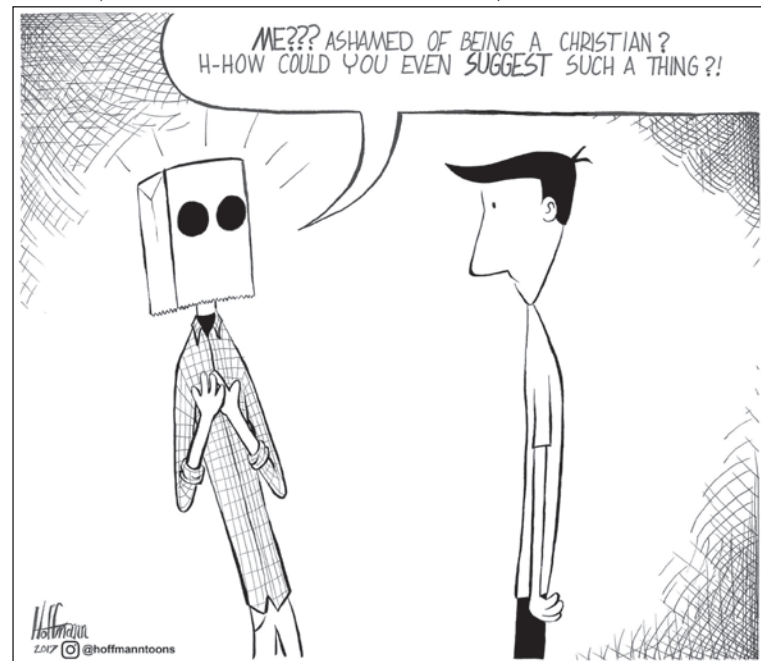
Springhill, Greenbrier, gained two by baptism and four by letter. Ed Stephenson, pastor.

Spring Lake, Texarkana, received two by letter. Randy Shepherd, pastor; Kristie Lambert, reporter.

Southside, Hope, added one by statement. Ernie Sorrells, pastor; Patty Burke, reporter.

First, Mantachie, Miss., welcomed one by letter. Dr. John M. Adams, pastor.

First, Springhill, La., gained one by letter. Ronald Morgan, pastor.



Spotlight On

Missions

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Michel & Ruth Poirier • Canada & Haiti

We witnessed four new births at Onaville and are running in the 40s on Sunday. It is easy to preach for the people there because they have a sweet spirit. The people love each other and help each other in times of difficulty, but they are not without their difficulties.

We were involved in helping with a wedding on March 25. (In Haiti, if a couple doesn't have money, the preacher takes care of the setting up, the preparation, the expenses, the banquet, etc.) It was supposed to begin at 4 p.m., but didn't start until 5:45 because the wedding party was running late. The wedding ceremony finished at about 8:30. We stood in the back outside for all this time because there were not enough benches for the visitors. Praise the Lord, the couple was baptized on April 1 along with six others!

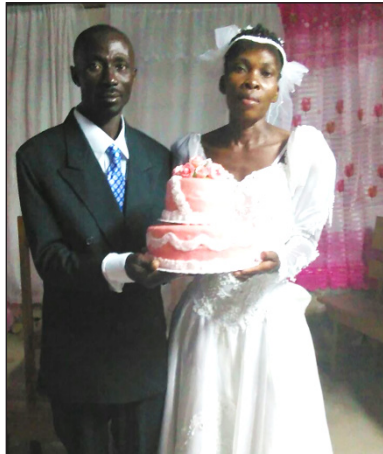
One of the ladies who was baptized had been saved in May 2016, and we purchased a house (wood shelter) for her. Even though she is very poor, she never misses an opportunity to give her tithe. When something is given to her, she always gives to God first. What a testimony!

Let me tell you about my friend, Tius.

Tius' brother died, and family members were traveling in separate cars on the way back from the funeral and the car carrying his brother, sister-in-law and nephew was involved in an accident. They were all taken to the hospital. Since Tius is the only one in the family who works, he had to pay for his first brother's funeral and then had to pay the hospital bills for the three family members who were injured. Tius doesn't have much money, but he provides for his family. He is generous and is involved in the church of Ségur.

On March 27, as Tius was coming out of the bank, three men approached him and told to him hand over his money. He did, but one of the thieves still shouted, "Shoot him!" It was only by the grace of God that they ran away instead of shooting, and Tius was spared!

Your prayers are important to us. We are working together to reach people for the Lord and are also interceding for our brothers and sisters who are going through difficult times. We are so thankful that God is in control and that we have many who pray for us personally. (ostervald@axion.ca)



Senell and Roseline

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

mother Miracle Foster was dismayed to learn that workers at the nonprofit health clinic Youth Services of Tulsa injected a three-year hormonal birth control implant underneath the skin of her child's upper arm during a trip that was organized by the Langston Hughes Academy for Arts & Technology.

The incident happened after Foster's daughter attended a sex education lecture at her school. After the lecture, Foster's daughter and other students expressed interest in learning more and the school arranged for Youth Services of Tulsa to pick them up and transport them to their clinic.

Although the school's principal, Rodney Clark, called and received Foster's permission for her daughter to go to the clinic, Foster says she thinks Clark and the school should have given her more information about the trip and explained that receiving an implant would have been a possible outcome of the trip... Foster explained that she thought she was simply allowing her daughter to go on a sexual education field trip only to get information. (christianpost.com)

Muslims Outpacing Christians

"Muslims are so outpacing Christians in births that the two population groups will be nearly equal by 2060, with Christians holding only a slight majority, according to newly released Pew Research data," said Diana Chandler in a Baptist Press report.

An increase in Muslim births compounded by an aging Christian population will put the Muslim share of the global population at 31% by 2060, just under the 32% for Christians, Pew said in its April 5 report.

Muslim births are nearly double the overall growth rate of the global population, characterizing Islam as

you. After you've experienced grief, shame, sorrow, or traveled through the valley of the shadow of death, find those who are on the journey behind you and show them how God got you through. Show them your scars.

—Sabrina Beasley McDonald is a senior writer and web editor for FamilyLife. Over the years she has written of her engagement, wedding and marriage to David Beasley, her experiences as a mother, her adjustment to widowhood in 2010 when David was tragically killed in a car accident, and her marriage in 2013 to Robbie McDonald.

She has written dozens of articles for FamilyLife. Her articles have also appeared in numerous publications, including Worldwide Challenge magazine; Christian Women Todayonline magazine; and Australian Christian Woman. (reprinted by permission FamilyLife.com)

the youngest major religious group with the highest fertility. Atheists, agnostics and adults who don't specify a religion, together classified as "nones" by Pew, lag far behind both Muslims and Christians in reproduction. (bpnews.net; pewforum.org)

Target CEO

"Regrets" Policy

"A very damaging article just out from the Wall Street Journal clearly shows that Target CEO Brian Cornell regrets his company's policy announcement welcoming men to use women's restrooms and dressing rooms," according to a report by American Family Association.

In the article, Mr. Cornell expressed frustration about how the bathroom policy was publicized without his permission or knowledge, and told colleagues he wouldn't have approved the decision to flaunt it with a public statement that is still on Target's website today. "Target didn't adequately assess the risk, and the ensuing backlash (AFA boycott) was self-inflicted," he told staff.

"Inside the company, executives predicted the backlash would die down. It didn't, and foot traffic inside stores declined significantly in the months following AFA's boycott announcement," said Tim Wildmon, president of the American Family Association. "Since the boycott started, Target's stock has lost 35% of its value, and shuttered plans for major expansion projects." (afa.net/target)

40 Days for Life Results

According to a LifeNews.com report by Shawn Carney (director for the 40 Days for Life pro-life prayer campaign against abortion), at the conclusion of another "miracle-packed" 40 Days for Life campaign, at least 437 babies were spared from abortion. An abortion worker also had a change of heart and left the business, bringing the total to 144 abortion employees who have experienced conversions and quit their jobs during 40 Days for Life campaigns.

"We've recently been told that an abortion center in Toms River, N.J. has in fact shut down," said Carney. "The facility announced it was 'temporarily' suspending operations some time back — but all signs point to a permanent closure. It no longer had enough clients to remain open."

There are now 84 abortion centers where 40 Days for Life vigils have been held that have gone out of business. (lifenews.com)

We Are Free

By Mike McEuen, Pastor
New Beginnings • Ferris, Texas

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7).

Once we were the slaves of sin, but through the death of Jesus on the cross we are set free to become the servants of God.

Paul asked a very good question in Rom. 6:2: *"How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* He then gave the answer in Rom. 6:22: *"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."*

Jesus Christ loved you and me so much that He took our place and died for us on the cross. But not only did Jesus die for us, when we trust Him as our personal Savior, we die with Him!

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

As God's child, we are identified with Jesus in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension. When Jesus died, we died with Him; and we were buried with Him. When Jesus arose, we arose with Him, leaving the old life in the grave and walking out *"in newness of life"* (Rom. 6:4). When Jesus ascended, we ascended with Him to sit with Him on the throne of glory. When Jesus comes again, we will appear with Him in glory.

From start to finish, we are identified with Jesus in every victory that He has won and in every blessing that He has gained. That is where our real freedom because of the cross of Jesus comes in.

Since we died with Jesus, we must now reckon ourselves dead to the old life and alive in the new life. *"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Rom. 6:11).

Reckoning is acting on the basis of what God says is true about me in Jesus. It is claiming for myself all that God says Jesus has done for me, and acting accordingly. Jesus has raised us from the dead and buried the old life forever.

Because of the cross of Jesus Christ we have freedom. We are free!

SCARS

(Continued From Page 4)

been trained by it."

In the meantime, use what God has brought you through to encourage others. II Corinthians 1:4 reminds us that God *"comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* God doesn't need you to be perfect. He just needs you to be willing to tell your spiritual story to anyone who is willing to listen.

An Easter Challenge

This Easter, I would like to challenge you to think about your own scars, think of the ways you can use your testimony to share your own journey from death into life. There are others who are going through

similar circumstances. They need your encouragement and words of hope. But that means you must be willing to speak about the circumstances you've tried to hide in the past.

Have you been through a difficult marriage and come out stronger on the other side? Then lead a Sunday School class for young married couples. Did you have an abortion in the past and find forgiveness through Christ? Don't be afraid to give a testimonial during a women's ministry event. There are more women in the church who have had abortions than you know. Have you been involved in an affair and repented and found forgiveness? Write an article and send it to a Christian magazine or website.

If Jesus can take a cross — a symbol of the cursed and the damned — and turn it into a symbol of eternal life, then He can do the same for



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STATE MISSIONS

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 Jim Tollison, Mustard Seed, Alma/Mountainburg (870) 370-3938
 Jorge Vasquez, El Faro, Little Rock; (501) 350-6878
 Chad White, Connection Point; Brookland; (870) 243-4683
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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On Mission With God

Last Sunday, it was my privilege to be with Mike Silvey and the good people of Fairview Baptist Church in Blytheville. It was a wonderful time of worship as their choir brought two beautiful specials. Being there brought back a flood of memories, having built their building at the ripe old age of 28. I am now 65 — you can do the math!

As always, it was great to see some of those who helped that are still serving there. I thank God for this church and all of the Lord's churches who continue to labor for the Master.

Special Emphasis

Our Special Emphasis time is scheduled for June and July. I still have several dates open and would love to share the work of your State Missions with your church family. This year, I am considering having a missionary come with me. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings.

Silas Connection Partner

Last Tuesday, during our spring Advisory Committee meeting, it was decided that Roberto Gutierrez will become our newest Silas Connection Partner. He will be working with Juan Carlos Posadas and the Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), in North Little Rock.

Easter Greetings

John 3:16 begins, *"For God so loved the world..."* Mark tells us Jesus died for sinners and He is risen. We have love, hope and joy! Wishing you all joyous Easter blessings from the missionaries, Donna and me.

From Our Missionaries

Arkansas Hispanic Missions: Michael Hight writes, "I know that I am not alone in my appreciation for the Easter weekend. My dad use to say that Easter was his favorite holiday, and I concur — especially with a week like I had.

"Saturday, I preached the funeral of a lady that played a key role in my teenage years. She was the mother of a good friend, and the emotions were abnormally high with her passing because it was unexpected. As the audience stared at her coffin, I was comforted by the fact that this was not the end. The Resurrection of Christ gives us hope, and while the separation in this life hurts, it doesn't tell all the story. There is much more to come!

"I was also blessed by a conversation that I had with someone whose wedding I had performed over 15 years ago. When I was doing premarital counseling, he told me he didn't believe much in God. I tried to share the Gospel, but could only plant the seed. At the funeral home this past week, we began to talk and I asked him if he remembered that conversation. Before I could finish my question, he lit up and said emphatically 'I found Him!' He is now a believer and attending a BMA Church in South Arkansas.

"It reminded me of the power of planting seeds. He told me that he had thought often of our conversation and that he accepted Christ a couple years ago. What I thought were wasted words 15 years ago turned out not to be wasted at all!"

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, "God blessed us with a good week at Connection Point. Sunday was a solid day. We spent the morning focusing on the cross of Jesus.

"We have finalized plans for our Egg Hunt outreach event coming up this weekend. It is going to be a lot of fun, and we are praying for God to allow us to reach some new families this weekend.

"This past week, I had the privilege of meeting with the Missionary Advisory Committee in Little Rock. I am grateful for these men and the encouragement they are to our ministry here. I always come away from the meeting with some fresh ideas and a renewed passion for our work in Brookland.

"Please keep us in your prayers as we strive to have a greater impact throughout our community."

The Mustard Seed, Alma/Mountainburg: Jim Tollison writes, "The Lord was at work at the mission Sunday. We had some first-time visitors, as well as returning

visitors. Some of our visitors even brought visitors! Praise the Lord.

"Wendell Turner, a fine Christian man, who has been a regular attendee for the last few months, preached for us Sunday morning. He had not preached for over two years, but he did a great job. We are hoping he and his wife will join us soon.

"We also have a man who has been attending for some time who has agreed to do the concrete work on our building. We will start on it very soon. He has done concrete work for years, and we are so blessed that he wants to help the mission.

"We are anticipating a great Sunday next week for Easter. Our folks are very excited about this special day of music. They are all busy inviting others.

"One of our ladies expressed an interest in working with our preteen and teen youth. This is another blessing from God. I love it when the members want to get involved.

"Please, continue to pray for your missionaries across the state. We certainly need your prayers here in Crawford County. I hope you have a great Easter. Our message is clear — He is risen!"

El Faro, Little Rock: Jorge Vasquez writes, "Gracias to God who gave us another good week at El Faro Mission. Thank God, many of the children who were sick are improving, thanks to your prayers.

"God has blessed us greatly during the week with discipleship and the Bible Institute.

"This weekend, we were worshipping and thanking God for all the benefits we have received. We were also recalling Jesus' death for a lost and without hope humanity. This Sunday, we had 90 present, and some visitors returned for their second and third time. We trust God continues building their lives in Christ.

"We are praying that we will have an opportunity this week to share the wonderful experience of salvation with our friends and family as we get ready to celebrate the resurrection of Christ this coming Sunday. God bless you."

Grace Pointe, Mayflower: William (B.J.) Wright writes, "We had a great week as we began to celebrate the days leading up to Easter. This Sunday, we talked about Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry of Christ. The kids also learned the significance of this

EASTER (Continued From Page 5)

churches have to bring out the folding chairs and park on the side of the road, the grass or down the way.

By and large, more Christians will dress up a bit more for church on Easter. Some people will have a new dress or suit or kids will have a new Easter outfit to wear. Even if they don't always dress up for church, some will make an effort to dress just a bit better than usual because it's Easter. Please do remember though that if it's a good church, they are glad you are there regardless of how you can afford to dress!

I served a number of congregations over the years and I loved Easter but was always really glad when it was over. The average minister has about 20 -25 minutes to hit a home run and round the bases before the average attendee totally zones out or starts eyeing the exit door. The message is much the same year after year — the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Christmas is about the birth of Jesus for the church, Easter focuses on Christ's resurrection from the grave. In reality, it shouldn't take an ingenious sermon to stir church people about a Man who the Bible says overcame the grave and appeared to a number of people. Yet, every year it seems that clergy find a way to bore people with how they present the greatest story ever told by how they tell the story.

Christian people around the planet stake their lives and eternal destinies on the message of Easter — the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The New Testament, time and time again, reiterates this part of the Bible story, "He is risen!"

A dead Jesus takes all the air out of Christianity. If Jesus never arose from the grave, Christianity is just another organization meeting together every week and doing some nice things along the way. The church with a dead Jesus would still

event. They came out at the end of service with their palm branch crafts and waved them and shouted Hosanna. It was definitely fun to see.

"This week, we are preparing for our Easter outreach event and for our Easter services. We will be stuffing eggs with candy on Thursday in preparation for our Easter egg hunt and outreach on Saturday morning at the high school football field. It should be pretty exciting! Last year we had around 1,100 people show up. Please be in prayer for this event, as well as our Easter services. Thanks friends. Have a great week."

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "The disciple meetings and Bible studies at homes are always a challenge for the church. It is not easy for faithful people to keep having it for a significant period of time. Please

be a religious not for profit 501(c)(3), but it would be a very dead religion.

There is so much sadness already in the world today. The world is hurting all over. From another horrible school shooting just this week at San Bernardino to a multiple number of murdered Christians reportedly bombed by the Islamic State in Egypt. There is horror in Syria and growing tensions between Russia, Iran, North Korea and the United States.

Fifty million plus Americans struggle every day in poverty. The hospitals and nursing homes are filled with people battling for their health and a little more life.

The world is filled with worry. We worry about tomorrow. We worry how will we exist, and we worry about our families and loved ones. We fret over a lot of stuff, and often it is stuff we can't change or never fix. We carry too much baggage with us and often we cannot remember what is in the baggage. One of the richest people in the United States is in the storage unit business. Everywhere I travel today, I see more and more storage units popping up because we prize our junk so much. We store it up and someone else will often have to throw it away when we die.

Easter is about hope. Easter is about peace. Easter is about a new life and a second chance. Easter is about bringing focus and meaning to this life and this world.

The Bible, in John 20, reports that Mary Magdalene saw Jesus on the first day of the week after His resurrection outside the entrance to the garden tomb. She ran to the disciples reporting, "I have seen the Lord!" Later that evening Jesus appeared to His disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." He then showed them His hands and His side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord, and the second time, Jesus said, "Peace be with you." Later the disciples would report to one of the doubting disciples by the

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pray for people willing to make a commitment with God.

"Sunday afternoon, we studied the conversion of Saul in Acts 9:1-25. The turnaround in his life was very impressive. Basically, he found himself doing wrong and immediately decided to make the changes. I wish I could have the same attitude when I find myself doing wrong. It is easy to say, but hard to do.

"Last Monday, Daniel, who attends our mission, had an accident while driving to Memphis at 4 a.m. in the rain. His car slid off the freeway, but he didn't hit any other car, and it came back on the road. The car was damaged, but God protected him in a miraculous way. I talked with him about the event, and he thinks God is calling him; he has been too far away. Please pray that this event will serve as an attention call for him. Pray for Daniel to become a faithful son of God."

EASTER

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name of Thomas, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas didn't believe it, but later would see Jesus with his own eyes and touch the nail prints in His hands exclaiming, "My Lord and my God!"

The early followers of Jesus were filled with such peace and internal strength that their lives would never be the same again.

They were so convicted internally about Jesus that they would literally suffer and, in many cases, die for

their faith.

America, and really our world, truly needs a song to sing, a bell to ring and a hero to follow. Great people stand and fall, and we all come and go. The message of Easter and a living Jesus continues to give hope, peace and strength to people around the world. This year not much has changed as once again, we need it really bad.

—Glenn Mollette is a syndicated columnist and author of 11 books. He is read in all 50 states. (glennmollette.com; GMollette@aol.com; facebook.com/glennmollette)

CBC

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**Mustangs in the Making
Trip to the Zoo**

On Saturday, March 18, a group of Legacy children and their parents enjoyed a day at the Little Rock Zoo. The day was filled with animals, sunshine and train rides. Alumni

Coordinator Meagan Lowry said, "This was our second year to bring a group to the zoo, and we plan to continue to do so every year. The kids had a great time, and the weather was perfect!"

If you are interested in learning more about the Mustangs in the Making Legacy Program visit cbc.edu/mustangsinthemaking.



(L-R) Meagan and Lennox Lowry; Donny, Adrea and Grant Jones; Kane, Kimbrow; Jada, Jennifer and Nick Harrell; Brooklyn, Sarah, Tanner, Addie and Charlie Martin; and Michelle, Dylan, Peyton, Zachary and Zeb Balentine.

English Teacher Needed



Columbia Christian School is accepting resumes for an English teacher for grades 8 thru 12. Applicants must be state certified in high school English. Resumes may be mailed to Ted Waller, Columbia Christian School, 250 Warnock Springs Road, Magnolia, AR 71753 or e-mailed to tedwaller@ccscrusaders.com. For more information, call 870-234-2831 or visit our web site at www.ccscrusaders.com.

Columbia Christian School is an equal opportunity employer. All employment decisions will be made without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status. However, within its legal capacity as a nonprofit religious educational institution with a curriculum directed toward the propagation of evangelical, born-again Christianity, Columbia Christian School reserves the right to carefully and fully explore the religious values, faith, and convictions (including personal conduct) of all applicants and employees in order to employ those individuals who support, advance, and live in a manner consistent with Columbia Christian School's Statement of Faith and Code of Conduct.

HOMEcomings

Eastside, Conway, April 30, 10:30 a.m. worship service; Dr. Joel Slayton, speaker; 12 p.m. lunch; 1:30 p.m. recognition, memories and praise time; Thom South, pastor.

150th Anniversary and Homecoming, Union, Rosston, May 28, 10:30 a.m.; Ed Phillips, speaker; community singing in the afternoon; Joe Brown, pastor.

Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw, July 23, 10:30 a.m.; Pastor Lane Garner, devotional; Justin Clark, speaker; lunch at the church, followed by singing in the afternoon.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Greenbrier District WMA, April 13, 10 a.m.-noon; Jimmy Decker, speaker; Project: Philip-pines Baptist Institute; Bethlehem, Greenbrier.

Judson Association Mission Rally, April 23, 6 p.m.; Michael Hight, speaker; Kingsland, King-land.

Greenbrier District Men's Fel-lowship Breakfast, May 6, 7:30 a.m.; Kaley Hill, Quitman.



Opportunities
for
Service

Hillcrest Baptist Church at Texarkana is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Contact Greg Kelley at (903) 559-2180 or gkelley.txk@gmail.com.

Meadowside Baptist Church in Pittsburg, Kan. is seeking a pas-tor. For more information, contact Greg Hardister at (620) 704-6860 or gregh@pittks.org.

Union Grove Baptist Church at Blevins is seeking a pastor. Contact Sid Zimmer at (870) 703-2773 (cell) or 887-2254 (home).



Jerry Joe Boatman, 71 of Bradford, died April 7. He was a member of Bradford Baptist Church.

Carmen Betty Francine Sherrod, 78 of Turner, died April 4. She was a member of Trenton Baptist Church of Marvell.

Doyle Stanley Palmer, 87 of Sher-idan, died Jan. 30. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

**BMAA Meeting
May 1-3
Arlington, Texas**
Information, including the
associational letter, is on our
website at baptisttrumpet.com.

NOTEBOOK

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Great Offerings

It looks like I'd learn after all these years, but I still get nervous at this point in our Special Emphasis, wondering if we'll meet our goal. But God... there are those two words again... has always met our needs and He always will. My heart knows that, it's just my head that's giving me trouble!

Thank you all so very much for every penny that is given to this ministry. And a special "shout out" to my girlfriends in the Liberty, Stamps WMA for the wonderful donation in honor of our 50th anniversary! Pat and I sure do ap-preciate you.

God bless you all!

Previous Balance	\$11,716
John T. House, Benton	500
Rick & Connie Binz, Benton	100
North Hills, Sherwood	180
Liberty, Stamps	500
Anonymous	500
Charlene Baker, Murfreesboro	25
Cornerstone WMA, Arkadelphia	25
Rowes Chapel, Humnoke	305
Charles & Joyce Sullivan	300
New Hope WMA, Hope	100
First, Newark	400
Emmaus, New Edinburg	1000
Concord, Concord	100
Kathy Tapley, Greenbrier	20
RC & Dian Henson, Benton	200
Lakeside, Newport	200
*Springhill, Greenbrier	450
Banner Rogers, Hampton	45
Mt. Vernon, Waldo	350
Anonymous	300
Anonymous	200
Antioch East, Magnolia	1000
New Hope, Wynne	500
Sulphur Springs, Quitman	250
*Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier	525
Mountain View, Clinton	1000
Tony & Shirley Raines, Springhill, La.	25
Oak Park, Little Rock (Linda Caldwell and Paula Smith)	150
*Springhill, Greenbrier	100
First, Magnolia	400
Oakland Heights, White Hall	500
James Glass, Texarkana	20
*Marvin Delk, Bald Knob	500
Unity, Hope Pairs & Spares Sunday School	500
Anonymous	100
Liberty WMA, Stamps (in honor of Spriggs' anniversary)	100
Grace, Russellville	300
Bodcaw, Rosston	250
Oak Grove, Jonesboro	100
Total (as of April 11)	\$23,836
*Have given previously	



Without
your
help,
our
hands
are
tied!

Special Emphasis March & April

Goal: \$35,000

Baptist Trumpet

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