

*"A family of Southern Baptist Churches cooperating together to reach our world for Christ"*



**Ronnie Toon**  
Association Missionary



# The Servant Heart

*Independence Baptist Association's  
Monthly Publication*

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4

*He is risen!*

## Missionary Moments



One of the marks of a Christian is to always be in a state of readiness to be surprised by God. Why not, since God (as Blackaby states in *Experiencing God*) is always at work around us. Our inability to see Him is more a factor of our not seeking Him than anything?

It can happen anywhere, anytime you put your mind

to it. Put yourself in a place of expectation and get ready for a surprise.

It happened just a few weeks ago, I stepped out of an airplane, looked down, and saw a 3-foot long white cross painted on the pavement with oil stains on it. Since that day, I have also seen it lining streets and in parking lots. Some people probably might think this is a marker indicating where planes and cars should park, but that's just its excuse to get painted on the pavement.

It's really a cross. Ask anyone to take a good look at it and they will all agree. It's a cross. A perfectly proportioned cross. Hundreds of them line the tarmacs at small airports and parking areas like freshly painted Stations of the Cross, at an airport or parking lot near you.

It's certainly a poignant image for this time of year. Especially – the day we remember, of all Friday's, the one that forever made the difference in the way God looks at us. For those who are in Christ, when God looks at you and me, instead of our sin, He sees Jesus.

So here is a cross, stained with the dirt of our lives that has been forever removed from us. You probably have one of these crosses near you.

Something tells me that those who have placed eternal value in this symbol, especially like these crosses that are on the pavement, they're a little dirty, and they are unintended. I'm sure none of them ever intended to be where they are, but here they are nonetheless, and like these crosses on the pavement, it's good to know that God got there first.

Crosses do this for us. They help us remember. Such a strange image to be chosen as a Christian's most recognizable symbol. A symbol of torture turned into a symbol of hope. A symbol of separation that becomes the bridge to relationship with the Father. A symbol of suffering that enables restoration from our brokenness.

This Easter season, pay attention, keep yourself in a state of readiness to be surprised by God. You'll find crosses everywhere – in the sky, on the ground, in the hands of a clock, in the profile of a dancer... I saw two just a few minutes ago in the panes of a window in the house across the street. Mercy, love, forgiving and forsaking, coming soon to a cross near you!

### Be Encouraged!

Ronnie Toon  
14 March 2019

#### Inside this issue:

Page 2: April and May Events and Church News

Page 3: ABSC Events

Page 4: Birthdays & Anniversaries



# Events 2019

1st Minister's Fellowship will meet at FBC, Desha located at 2655 Heber Springs Rd. The fellowship will begin at 10:30am. All minister's are invited to join in this time of prayer and fellowship each month.

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Seminary Extension Classes continue at 6:00pm at the IBA office through April 29th.

11th Executive Board meeting will be at 3 Crosses Cowboy Church, 312 School Ave., Mtn. View. The meal will begin at 6:30pm and the meeting will follow at 7:00pm.

18th ACTS 1:8 Meeting for the leadership team and ministry coordinators will be held at the IBA office from 6:30 to 8pm



19th Office Closed

25th Pastor's Wives & Women's Ministry Leaders will meet at 6:30pm at IBA office for Round Table 2.

Independence Baptist Association  
Round Table 2, Women's Ministry Leaders, and Pastors' Wives

## Mark Your Calendars!

The What  
The How  
The Why  
...planning for  
your events



Round Table  
2 for  
Women's  
Ministry  
Leaders and  
Pastor's  
Wives

RSVP to Kathy/IBA Office.  
870 793-7162

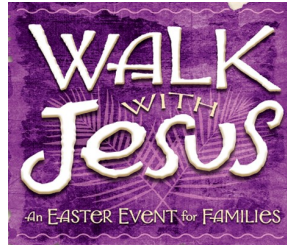
### Coming Up in May

1st Minister's Fellowship at 10:30am Location: TBD  
16th ACTS 1:8 Meeting at IBA office 6:30 to 8pm  
19th - 26th Association Week of Prayer

## Church News for March



The Compass Church will be hosting it's annual women's conference Friday, April 26th from 6:30 to 8:45pm at the church located at 4440 Harrison St., Batesville. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Bread of Life and Compass Church. Andrea Lennon will be the keynote speaker and the Compass praise band will lead praise and worship.



### Walk with Jesus - Easter Program

Families will experience the excitement surrounding Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, the Last Supper, pray in the garden of Gethsemane, discover the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, and celebrate freedom of our sins at the empty tomb.

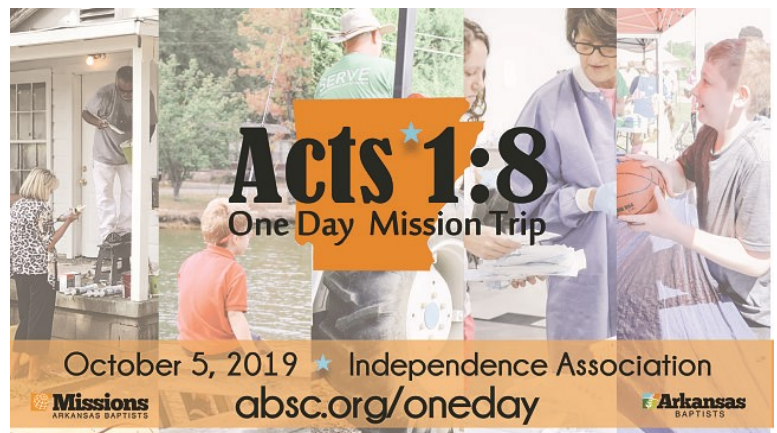
**Fellowship Baptist Church**  
1003 Batesville Blvd., Batesville

**April 20, 2019**  
1:00 to 3:00pm

The current IBA *Pastorless Churches* are Pleasant Plains, Rehobeth, and Ruddell Hill. Please be in prayer for these churches as they seek God's guidance in searching for a pastor for their congregations.

### Have any church news??

Please submit it to the Association office no later than the 15th of the month to make the next month's Independence Baptist Association Servant Heart Newsletter. You can submit an article, a weekly bulletin or the event details by emailing it to Kathy at: [independence613@gmail.com](mailto:independence613@gmail.com)



October 5, 2019 ★ Independence Association

Missions  
ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

[absc.org/oneday](http://absc.org/oneday)

Arkansas  
BAPTISTS

If you are interested in being a *Site Leader* for one of the following ministries for Acts 1:8 contact Kathy at the IBA office. Prayer walking, Children's Activities, Senior Adult, Home Repairs, Sports Camps, Evangelism, Yard Work, Block Party, Medical/Dental Clinic or Children's Fishing Derby.

# ABSC Events April 2019



VBS

C  
L  
I  
N  
I  
C  
S

FBC Lowell  
Tuesday, April 2

Nettleton Baptist Church  
Jonesboro  
Monday, April 8

Indian Springs Baptist Church  
Bryant  
Tuesday, April 9  
5 PM-8:30 PM

## BLOCK PARTY TRAINING

- February 9th - Cullendale FBC, Camden
- February 16th - FBC Trumann
- February 23rd - FBC Walnut Ridge
- March 2nd - FBC Paragould
- March 16th - North Pulaski Baptist Association office
- April 6th - FBC Marion
- April 27th - FBC Rogers, Olive St.

Block Party Trailer Festival  
March 9 FBC Beebe

For more information, visit  
[absc.org/blockparty](http://absc.org/blockparty)



## Bible Storying



When: Saturday, April 6, 2019  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (please arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 to check in)

Where: Arkansas Baptist State Convention  
Cost: \$25.00 per person (registration and lunch fee)

Limited to the first 30 participants who register!!!!  
Please bring: Bible, notebook, pen



## 2019 Disaster Relief Regional Trainings

March 9  
Nettleton Baptist  
7001 E Johnson Ave  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

April 13  
Rogers First Baptist  
3364 W Pleasant Grove Rd  
Rogers, AR 72758

September 14  
Forrest City First Baptist  
507 N Rosser St  
Forrest City, AR 72335

October 12  
Immanuel Baptist  
501 N Shackelford Rd  
Little Rock, AR 72211

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
New volunteers: \$30  
Updating volunteers who need a new DR ID: \$20  
Crosstraining with current ID: Free  
Register at [abscdisasterrelief.org](http://abscdisasterrelief.org)  
501-376-4791, ext. 5137

just 1  
bring 1

Help, Healing, and Hope



## CHURCH SECURITY

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 | 9:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
PARK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH | NORTH LITTLE ROCK

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 | 9:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH | JONESBORO

Location:  
Central Baptist Church  
3707 Harrisburg Rd  
Jonesboro, AR 72404



INDEPENDENCE  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2112  
Batesville, AR 72503

***Association Staff***

Missionary - Ronnie Toon

Administrative Assistant - Kathy Wilkerson

Camp Manager - Terry Buie

Chaplain - Richard Nuckolls

Counselor - Nikki Penn, LPC-S, LMFT-S, DCC

Contact us at:

Phone: 870-793-7162

Fax: 870-612-5173

Emails:

Ronnie: ronaldtoon@gmail.com

IBA/Kathy:

independence613@gmail.com

Website:

[www.independencebaptistassociation.org](http://www.independencebaptistassociation.org)

*Nikki Penn's Office is located at  
1275 E. College Street  
Office phone: 870-793-0071*



**Birthdays**

5th Jeannie Wilkins, Eastside

14th Patsey Dailey, Mt. Zion

22nd Bob Dailey, Mt. Zion

28th Aaron Leggett, Emmanuel

29th Jennifer Beyer, Salado

30th Glenda Taylor, FBC,  
Batesville

***Anniversaries***

***16th Terry & Cherie Buie, IBA Staff***

# WHAT'S **next?** CONFERENCE

A conference for high school & college students who are making pivotal decisions in their lives

**SATURDAY APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>**

10am-3pm

check-in begins at 9:15

**THE CIVIC CENTER**  
116 CIVIC CENTER RD.  
SALEM, AR

**FREE**  
(INCLUDES LUNCH)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**BILL NEWTON**  
FBC HOT SPRINGS

**CONFERENCE TOPICS:**  
Our World from a Christian View Point  
The Ministry of Work  
Understanding God's Direction for your Life  
Moving from high school to adult life

SPONSORED BY:  
**College + Young Leaders**  
ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

& THE ROCKY BAYOU BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

REGISTER:  
[brendaboy@mail.com](mailto:brendaboy@mail.com)  
or 870-926-9935

