

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



Ronnie Toon
Association Missionary

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43.19

Missionary Moments

If you made a truly honest movie of the Bible, much of the Old Testament would have to be at least R-rated, and even that's with certain scenes toned down. Behind the heroic stories of faith many of us grew up with in Sunday School are secondary stories of murder, adultery, incest, drunkenness, deceit, lust, jealousy, general mayhem and overall debauchery. And these are just the good guys we're talking about - the heroes, so to speak. Wait until you hear about the other guys!

Behind the scenes, you find out that Solomon was a bigamist, Samson was a womanizer, Jacob was a deceiver, Gideon was an idolater, David was an adulterer and murderer, and Jonah was running away from God even after he got to Nineveh. It's important to note also that these bad behaviors were not just stories of how bad these people were before God got a hold of them; they were this way after - even during - being used of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes. It almost seems that, God's will *depended* on their sinful activity. Jacob would never have gotten the blessing and become the Father Israel, had he not schemed, lied and tricked his way into receiving it from his father, Isaac. Go figure. The road Samson took that ended in taking out thousands of the enemy including all its rulers, ran through a forbidden relationship with a Canaanite woman he didn't even bother marrying. Repeatedly this kind of thing happens.

And these are our models?

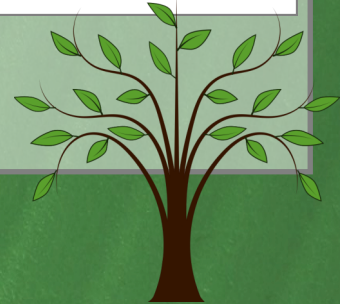
Bono, of the music group, U2, once said, *"That the scriptures are brim full of hustlers, murderers, cowards, adulterers and mercenaries used to shock me. Now it is a source of great comfort."*

The Servant Heart

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And just what would that comfort be? It would be the fact that God's Hall of Fame is crowded with people guilty of crimes I would have never even thought of committing, and the obvious comfort in that is the knowledge that if God loves and uses these kinds of people, there's certainly hope for you and me. God not only uses us despite our weakness, failure and sin; He uses us *because* of these things. They are a part of the story.

You ultimately have to ask the question: *"Why did God choose people like this? Why didn't He pick good, upstanding individuals who would exemplify His righteous standards in the way they went about living their lives?"* And sooner or later the answer comes back, *"because these are the only people He has to work with."* In other words, those guys who look like they are upstanding and righteous are not. They are just a bunch of Pharisees who look good on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones.

Pharisees are all about good behavior. True Christianity is all about faith and bad behavior all mixed together, with God's will coming out in the end. It's terribly messy, but then again, it's what the grace of God is all about. God is basically saying, *"Give me a bunch of messed up people whose hearts are turned towards me, and I will change the world with them."* So, what are we waiting for?

Be Encouraged!

Ronnie Toon
25 February 2019

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and Church News**

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2019



Church News for March

Calvary Baptists (Batesville) Classic Crew will be making a trip to Wye Mountain for a jonquil tour and lunch on Thursday, March 21st.

4th Minister's Fellowship will meet at the association office. The fellowship will begin at 10:30am. All minister's are invited to join in this time of prayer and fellowship each month.

4th, 11th & 25th Seminary Extension classes continue.

10th Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Forward

14th ACTS 1:8 Leadership Meeting at the IBA office from 6:30 to 8pm.

20th  Spring

25th The annual Senior Adult Fellowship will be at Foothills Baptist Church in Mountain View. The address is 19935 Hwy. 5 and will begin at 11:30am.

March 28-April 4 The mission team that was "GOing" to Hope Rising Children's Home in Haiti has CANCELLED their trip. Please be in prayer for the Haitian peoples during their current unrest.

Caring Hands Hospice is looking for volunteers. This is a great opportunity for missions outreach for the members of our association churches as they serve the local and surrounding communities. They will provide training. Interested volunteers can call 870.698.0505 for more information.

The current IBA ***Pastorless Churches*** are Newark Southern, 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

Coming Up in April

- 1st Minister's Fellowship at 10:30am Location: TBD
- 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Seminary Extension Classes
- 11th Executive Board at 3 Crosses Cowboy, Mtn. View
- 18th ACTS 1:8 Meeting at IBA office 6:30 to 8pm
- 25th Pastor's Wives & Women's Ministry Leaders Paint Night 6:30pm at IBA office



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8



ABSC Events

March 2019 and beyond

MARCH

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



For the details of all ABSC events go to
www.absc.org or call 800.838.2272



Inspire 2019 *March 9*

Powerful worship, speakers, and practical breakout sessions to inspire you to live a radiant life for Jesus Christ. To register visit absc.org/inspire Cost is \$30

Location: FBC, Russellville

Speaker: Marian Jordan Ellis

Worship Leader: Robert and Brooke Ramsey



ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS
MARCH 3-10, 2019

SENDING HOPE



2019 Disaster Relief Regional Trainings

<p>March 9 Nettleton Baptist 7001 E Johnson Ave Jonesboro, AR 72401</p> <p>April 13 Rogers First Baptist 3364 W Pleasant Grove Rd Rogers, AR 72758</p> <p>September 14 Forrest City First Baptist 507 N Rosser St Forrest City, AR 72335</p> <p>October 12 Immanuel Baptist 501 N Shackelford Rd Little Rock, AR 72211</p>	<p>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 501-376-4791, ext. 5137</p>
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Help, Healing, and Hope




Save the Date!

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Statewide Block Party Trailer Festival
March 9, 2019 Beebe First Baptist Church
absc.org/blockpartyfestival
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Disaster Relief Regional Training
March 9, 2019 Nettleton Baptist Church
absc.org/disasterrelief
- 

Bible Storying Workshop
April 6, 2019 ABSC Building
absc.org/biblestorying



INDEPENDENCE
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Association Staff

Missionary - Ronnie Toon

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

Birthdays

6th Elizabeth Lozano, Hispanic Ministry

11th Barrett Beyer, Salado

12th Mickey Jones, Compass

27th Neela Nuckolls, Fellowship

28th Jay Wilkins, Eastside Southern

Anniversaries

26th Carlos & Elizabeth Lozano, Hispanic Ministry



*He has made
everything beautiful
in its time.*

ecclesiastes 3:11



