

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



Ronnie Toon
Association Missionary

NEW YEAR
Happy

Missionary Moments

Perspective is important. Most of us can relate to age differences. If you ask a three-year-old how old he is, what does he say? *"Three but going on four."* If you ask a thirteen-year-old how old he is, he says thirteen going on fourteen. Or a two-year-old would respond, *"I'm going on the potty."* But it changes. A fifty-six-year-old doesn't say *"I'm fifty-six going on fifty-seven."* It's *"I just turned fifty-six."* Our perspective changes.

A fifteen-year-old going on sixteen whose dad would not let her date until she was sixteen. When the Incredible Hulk of the class asked her out she begged her dad to let her go, but he said not until she was sixteen. She was really ticked and asked her dad, *"Do you believe in the Second Coming of Christ?"* When he responded that he did, she told him that she was praying that Christ would come before her sixteenth birthday so he would have to spend the rest of eternity with a daughter who never had a date.

How do we view life? A pilot told the passengers that he could not land because of low visibility. When asked what that meant, he said that when he got under the clouds the airport was not there. Has there been a defining moment in your life in which you understood or saw things a little more clearly?

NFL-great Bob Kuechenberg's dad helped him with his decision about college. A magazine described their conversation. *"My father and uncle were human cannonballs in carnivals. My father told me to go to college or be a cannonball. Then one day my uncle came out of the cannon, missed the net, and hit the Ferris wheel. That day I decided to go to college."* That was a defining moment. He saw things clearly.

The Bible uses the word *"enlightenment"* from which we get the word *"photo."* God *"lightens"* up something that we have never seen before. Rational thinking will tell you that there is a God, but it will not tell what God is like or who God is. Only enlightenment will do that.

Something we all can relate to is food. Taste buds can be described anatomically, and food can be reduced to a chemical equation. A scientist could give me a scientific equation of hot Krispy Kreme donuts, but, I want to experience this

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chemical equation. No equation can do justice to fried sugar — you have to experience it.

There was a psychological experiment in which doctors placed twelve- to fourteen-month-old babies on one side of the room and their mothers on the other side. The doctors placed a long piece of glass on a checkered tablecloth. Halfway along the sheet of glass the tablecloth stopped. Even though the glass continued on, it created the illusion of the edge of a table dropping off. Then they watched the babies as they crawled toward their mothers who were holding a toy. Some of the babies stopped at the edge of the tablecloth and others continued toward their moms. What they discovered was that the babies whose moms had a puzzled or perplexed look stopped at the perceived cliff, and the babies whose moms were smiling to encourage them continued on. The moms' facial expressions said, *"Come on, you can do it."*

That's how life is. Many people see God as a distant deity who is puzzled and perplexed and wondering what to do next. They may know Him rationally, but they don't understand who He is, and they stop in the midst of difficulties and cry. However, the ones who have experienced God see His smiling face and continue crawling beyond the cliffs of life.

The bottom line is that God does not become powerful in your life until He becomes personal. That is what Christmas is about. If someone donated a million dollars to your church, that would be good news. If someone gives you a million dollars, that is great joy. It becomes powerful when it becomes personal.

As we face a new year, instead of talking about or learning more about Christ, why don't you experience Him? I believe this will bring great joy and become one of those defining moments when you begin to see things differently.

BE ENCOURAGED!

Ronnie Toon
12 December 2018

Inside this issue:

Page 2: January/February Events and Church News

Page 3: ABSC Events

Page 4: Birthdays & Anniversaries



January Events



1st Office will be closed for New Year's Day.

7th Minister's Fellowship will be at Rosie Baptist Church at 10:30am. All minister's are invited to join in this time of prayer and fellowship each month.

17th Women's Ministry Roundtable will begin at 6:30pm and conclude at 8:00pm. It will take place at the association office. Register now online at www.absc.org



20th Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

25th Pastor's Wives Marriage and Ministry Conference
Part 1
6:00pm to 9:00pm

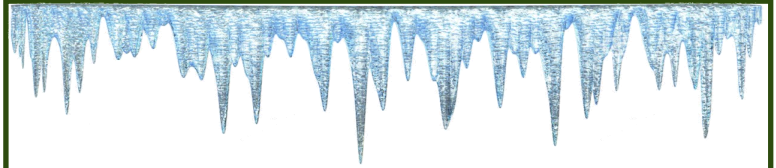
Coming Up in February

4th Minister's Fellowship at 10:30am. Location TBD

7th Executive Board Meeting at Desha
The meal will begin at 6:30pm
Meeting to follow at 7:00pm

21st Pastor's Wives Marriage and Ministry Conference
Part 2
6:00pm to 9:00pm

Church News for January



Students of FBC, Mountain View will be going on a winter retreat to the Shepherd of the Ozarks January 11-13.

Calvary, Batesville will be having a chili cook-off and fellowship on January 20th.



Batesville FBC Women's Winter Retreat is scheduled for February 1-2 in their West Annex.

Sulphur Rock Baptist Church is currently searching for a bi-vocational pastor. To submit a resume, please send to:
Peggy Weaver c/o Sulphur Rock Baptist Church
P.O. Box 67
Sulphur Rock, AR 72579 or pweaver98@yahoo.com

The current IBA **Pastorless Churches** are Foothills Cowboy, Newark Southern, Rehobeth and Sulphur Rock. 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

ABSC Events

January 2019 and beyond



**PRAIZ
FEST 19**
JAN 25-26
|| FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BENTON ||



2019 Mission
Connection -
Winter Event

January 27 6pm -
January 29 12pm
at the Evangelism
Conference-Register
at www.absc.org



**PRAYER
WORKSHOP**

JANUARY 28, 2019
9:30-11:30 A.M.
PRECEDES THE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE



GUEST SPEAKER:
STEPHEN KENDRICK

ECON

2019 STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON
EVANGELISM + CHURCH HEALTH

JANUARY 28 + 29, 2019
GEYER SPRINGS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

MORE INFORMATION +
REGISTRATION:
ABSC.ORG/ECONFERENCE

Save the Date!

- Statewide Block Party Trailer Festival**
March 9, 2019 Beebe First Baptist Church
absc.org/blockpartyfestival
- Disaster Relief Regional Training**
March 9, 2019 Nettleton Baptist Church
absc.org/disasterrelief
- Bible Storying Workshop**
April 6, 2019 ABSC Building
absc.org/biblestorying

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
501-376-4791, ext. 5137

**just
bring1**

Help, Healing, and Hope



Missions
ARKANSAS BAPTISTS



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

**Happy
New Year!**



INDEPENDENCE
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

Birthdays

3rd Angela Leggett, Emmanuel

4th Connie Spurlin, Parkview

11th Gene Tulberg, Trustee

20th Jeff Childers, Cord

27th Sherry Majors, West



Anniversaries

1st Chad & Julie Graves, Compass

3rd Scotty & Helen Karber, Faith

4th Mike & Kathy Fowler, Floral

8th Paul & Sarah Moody, White River

HAPPY
New Year

