

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



Ronnie Toon
Association Missionary

Missionary Moments

The Servant Heart

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"Thank you." Two of the most valuable words ever spoken. So simple, yet so profound. I recently met with a pastor who from a heart of authentic sincerity, said, **"Thank You!"** While I remember the reason for his thanks, it was the mere fact that he was thanking me and that my effort in this relationship mattered.

What does **"Thank you"** say that makes such a difference? It says many things. It says:

I notice you. You are a contributor to my life.

You have enriched me; you have made me a better person. You are a valuable asset to the kingdom of God. You touched me. You are important. Saying **"Thank you"** means all of this and more.

It also brings us out of isolation. It connects us to something bigger than ourselves. It is humbling, because it turns the focus away from us and onto someone else.

"Thank you" makes you vulnerable to all sorts of other human emotions. It opens you up. It says you can't do it on your own. It connects you with others.

It's humbling, because it says you have needs — you have holes in your life and your character that need to be filled. You are not self-sufficient. **"Thank you. You gave me something I did not have before."**

"Thank you" puts you below or equal to, but certainly never higher than someone else. This is in keeping with those who are carriers of the message of Grace. Grace is never Grace turned downward. You never hand down grace. That's because grace, to be fully understood, comes to us when we are down. **There is no one below you when you receive the grace of God**, and since we receive the grace of God daily, there should never ever be anyone below us. There is no other place for grace to go except out and up.

Hopefully, you will have a Thanksgiving to remember, and find that God's grace is enough to cover all our sin and dysfunction. **"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8)**. That doesn't mean it buries our sins or acts as if they aren't there. All of us are sinners. We know that. We all let each other down. We all hurt each other. In our flesh, we are as devious as a raccoon. We smell like skunks and look like possums (have you ever seen anything uglier than a possum?). Grace allows us to overlook those things. We know God has covered our sin. It's the only way we can be truly thankful for each other. **"Thank you"** is a way of life.

"Oh God, in my sin, I am as ugly as a possum, as smelly as a skunk, as devious as a raccoon. How can you possibly love me? Yet you do. 'Thank you!'. Make me less like these and more like you." **BE ENCOURAGED!**

Ronnie Toon
28 October 2019

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Association Events

November 2019

3rd Daylight Savings Time Ends
Remember to Fall Back an hour



4th Minister's Fellowship will begin at 10:30am at Emmanuel Baptist, 1915 Batesville Blvd.

7th Women's Ministry Roundtable #4 at the IBA office beginning at 6pm

28th & 29th The association office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



December 2019

3rd Minister's & Wives Christmas Fellowship at 6:30pm at FBC, Batesville - Invitations will be mailed in early November

5th Pastor's Wives Fellowship will be at 6pm at the Highland House on the Lyon College campus

9th Winter Bible Study & Minister's Fellowship begins at 10am at the IBA office and will conclude at 2pm

23rd - 31st The IBA office will be closed for Christmas & New Years

Women's Ministry & Pastor's Wives Events

Round Table 4 - IBA Women's Ministry Leaders - Pastors' Wives

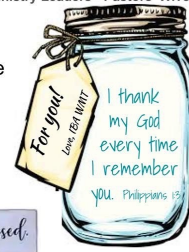
What: Dinner and Make and Take

When: November 7
6:00 PM

Where: IBA Office

Cost: \$15.00

grateful. thankful. blessed.



You may pay for your dinner in advance at the IBA office or at the door the night of the event

The Highland House is located on the Lyon College Campus



Dear Church Families and Friends,

I want to express my love and gratitude for each and every one of you that I have had the privilege to know and serve the Lord alongside of these past 17+ years. We have been on this journey together and I can't tell you how blessed my life has been through the many friendships I have made while serving at Independence Baptist Association. You have each impacted my life in more ways than I can share in this space. Everyone of you have a special place in my heart. The treasured memories of shared experiences with you will be with me forever. I am looking forward to making more memories while serving with you even in retirement.

Thank you so much for the cards, words of encouragement and the overwhelming gift of love you gave me at the annual meeting in October. You and the Lord have once again blessed me beyond measure.

Love in Christ,
Kathy Wilkerson

Proverbs 3:5-6

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

The current IBA Pastorless Churches are Newark, 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.

ABSC and Other Events



Do you have students exploring a call to ministry?

Consider bringing them to one of our free regional dinners for mentoring, networking, and resources.

6PM-8PM

November 12th
First Baptist Hot Springs



VBS Sneak Peek Preview
November 14, 2019
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
(lunch provided)



Preschool/Children Network Event
November 14, 2019
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM (lunch provided)

Location | The Summit Church | Little Rock
6600 Crystal Hill Rd.
North Little Rock, AR 72118

This event is FREE, but you must register by completing the online form at www.absc.org by November 14, 2019. If you have questions, please contact ABSC at 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5193.



Week of Prayer for International Missions
& the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Batesville Community Thanksgiving Service is scheduled for Sunday, November 24th at 6pm. It will be at the Batesville Community Center gym. Bro. John Wright of First Church of the Nazarene will preach and the music will be by the Lyon Gospel Choir.

January 2020

Women's Ministry Roundtables

January 16th - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

ECON 2020

January 27
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm



To contact ABSC for more information about event details or questions, you may call their office at 1-800-838-2272 or go to their website at www.absc.org





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BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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*Nikki Penn's Office is located at
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Birthdays

1st Cory Majors, West

1st Janet Womack, Retired PW

9th Deedee Sharp, Retired PW

10th Beth Hames, 3 Crosses Cowboy

11th DL Spurlin, Parkview

13th Farrell Miller, Rosie

16th Trish Robbins, Calvary, Timbo

17th Jason Ingram, FBC, Mountain View

22nd Janie Hall, UACCB BCM

23rd Dawn Reed, FBC, Batesville

25th Terry Buie

25th Nikki Childers, Cord

28th Helen Karber, Faith

Anniversaries

5th Josh & Carrie Swinea, Desha

Give thanks

TO HIM AND PRAISE

HIS NAME.

PSALM 100:4

