

Missionary's



Heart

Where do I Begin?

In our last newsletter I shared a brief insight into what sharing time with my bride in the chemo room had taught me. Those in that room are much stronger and more patient than most. They are more appreciative of life's simple pleasures than the average person. They tend to cling more to the little things in life, simply because they may not have time to invest in the big stuff. They are a unique category of people made so by their shared diagnosis. They are cancer patients. And now, so am I...

By now most know that I am dealing with a form of pancreatic cancer. As bad as that sounds, it is nowhere near as bad as it could be. As one of the doctors explained it, "There are really five types of cancer. At this time, yours is not the worse kind."

Rather than being 'in' the pancreas, my tumor is sort of 'on' the pancreas or at least has not metastasized 'into' the pancreas or surrounding areas. The good news is that these endocrine tumors can often be removed with no other treatments needed. The bad news is that my cancer is located in what the surgeon describes as the worse possible place.

The surgery will be extensive with small parts of the stomach, intestine and pancreas needing to be removed. Recovery will take a week in the hospital (I suspect less for a man of my caliber!) and a brief stint at home. THEN... It's off to the races!!!

Our annual Vacation Bible School Clinic is just around the corner and prop building is well under way. Don't miss the many benefits of this hands-on experience (not to mention the free shipping if you order VBS materials through the ARVBA office!).

Church Camp 2018 is going to be better than ever and the Camp Committee has already begun to meet. Every year we discover new ways to make Camp more interesting, more fun, and more real. Teachers are being recruited as I write this article and speakers are being contacted as well. New ideas are beginning to

come together and I can't wait to see how the Lord plans to outdo Himself at Camp this year.

I have included a lot of 'Coming Soon' information throughout this issue of the GoodNews Letter so check it closely. Remember to calendar the events that interest you and/or your church and check the website often for updates.

Thank you very much for your cards, notes, emails, and calls. Thank you especially for your continued prayer support.



Check out the newest addition to the ARVBA Learning Center!

This training series will help local churches build, expand, and maintain a healthy Sunday School ministry. Train workers in the skills required to grow a viable Sunday School and bring vibrancy to your church. Featuring 20- to 33-minute video training sessions from outstanding national leaders, *Sunday School Matters* covers topics ranging from leadership, vision, and teaching, to evangelism, care, and the structuring of this vital component of a healthy church.

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Leadership Matters | 7. Ministry Matters |
| 2. Vision Matters | 8. Organization Matters |
| 3. Souls Matter | 9. Assimilation Matters |
| 4. Teaching Matters | 10. Growth Matters |
| 5. Transformation Matters | 11. Groups Matter |
| 6. Curriculum Matters | 12. Now Matters |

All of the studies and training materials in the Learning Center are free for our churches to use and most are included in your StreamAll Plus program as well.

Why not start something new today?!



Leave Room On Your Calendar For These 2018 Events!

Some dates are already set
Some are yet to be decided

ALL will benefit your church in her mission to share the Good News of Christ's salvation from our Jerusalem to the ends of the earth

More info on these and other events can be found at www.thearyba.com



ARVBA/Kansas City Partnership Mission Trip 2018 July 15—21

This will be our second Association-led mission trip to KC and we learned a lot the first time around! For instance, it's a lot more fun and a lot more successful when you have a lot more people.

This year we hope to at least double the number of ARVBA'ers making the journey and that means that every member of every ARVBA church is encouraged to take part. AND, at only \$50.00 per missionary, this may be the least expensive honest-to-goodness mission trip you will ever serve on!

Sign up as a church group, a family, a couple or as an individual. You will not be sorry you did.

Tentative plans are to leave Russellville (or Atkins) Sunday, July 15 and return Sunday, July 22nd (with the slight possibility of returning on Saturday) As stated, the cost is \$50.00 to help defray missions cost. You will also want to bring enough 'spending money' for two meals on the road and any snacks or other items you may wish to purchase.



More information will be available soon but until then, **Mark your calendars and sign up early!**



Sunday School/Small Group Training

Bro. Sandy Taylor is our Church Education Team Leader for 2018 and he is already planning a 'Big Event' for late Summer or early Fall. We are hoping to bring a one-day, hands-on, practical and pertinent Saturday training seminar (with lunch provided of course!) and follow that with an Association sponsored Sunday Evening Celebration service complete with special guest speaker.

Even the best intentioned Christians can get so caught up in "making disciples" that we forget the second imperative in Christ's Great Commission, "...and **TEACH THEM** all that I have commanded you"

Date and location coming to the ARVBA website or your church's mail soon!

Annual
Associational One-day Mission Event
September 8, 2018



Be sure to set aside this special Saturday as the churches of the ARVBA come together to impact lostness in a specific region of our Association. Bro. Johnathan Whitlock is this year's Regional Missions Coordinator and is already busy working on discovering our newest target area and lining out the logistics of one-day multi-city mission coordination.

Remember, this is real missions work in our own area and is designed in such a way that all ages can participate. So start putting your church or family team together today and sign up early for

ARVBA Day 2018!!!



He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; Acts 1:7

But it is perfectly okay to know what's coming up in the Association!

- ◆ **February 8th**
 - ◆ *Camp Committee Meeting*
- ◆ **February 15th**
 - ◆ *Bro. Danny Surgery*
- ◆ **March 5th**
 - ◆ *VBS CLINIC!*
- ◆ **March 8th**
 - ◆ *Camp Committee Meeting*
- ◆ **March 10th**
 - ◆ *Church Safety Seminar*

Church Camp 2018!

Date: June 11th –15th

Location: Spring Lake Baptist Assembly

Cost: \$120.00

Already one of the best camps in the state, ARVBA Church Camp 2018 is going to be better than ever!

- The staff at Spring Lake has been busy with remodels and grounds improvement all winter long and you will be pleased with the results.
- The Association Camp Committee has been meeting for some time now and already has many ideas to improve on the awesome three-camps-in-one experience we had last year.
- Teachers, speakers, worship teams, and volunteers are being recruited and knocker balls are a sure-fire bet for camp again this year.

Updated Registration and information forms are available on the ARVBA website or from the Association office



Churches Doing More Together

GoodNews Letter

February, 2018



The ARVBA presents VBS Clinic 2018!

Date: Monday, March 5th

Location: Fair Park Baptist Church

Time: 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Light dinner will be served

Learn some songs!

See the props!

Taste some snacks!

Check out some lessons!

As always, you can get hands-on with the VBS materials and extras plus your VBS Director can place his/her order while at the clinic (this will save you a ton on shipping!)

Register online at www.thearvba.com and plan to bring your whole team!



Church Security Training Seminar

March 10th, 2018 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Bakers Creek Baptist Church

A marital disagreement turns violent prior to a pastoral counseling session. A distraught intruder walks into the church office, making demands. A man carrying a semi-automatic weapon enters the sanctuary during a Sunday morning service.

Do you still think it can't happen to your church? What if it does? Are you ready?

Hosted by the Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association, this seminar will cover safety protocols from the parking lot to the pulpit, and from the playground to the classroom. Bro. Blake Herren will lead a team from state, county and local law enforcement agencies in helping us prepare our churches for an eventuality we pray will never happen but for which we must absolutely be prepared.

Lunch will be provided by the Association.

Time to promote this event is limited so help us get this information to your church leadership/security teams ASAP. A sign up sheet will be available on the website or you can call the ARVBA office to register. (We need to know how much food & materials we need)

“Churches Doing More Together!”



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