



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 18th-** 'One Day' Pastor's Gathering
Breakfast - Pastors/Ministers
Dinner- Pastors + Youth Leaders
- ◆ **March 12-14 - ARVBA Missions Fair Weekend!**
- ◆ **May 15 - 'One Day:Serve Local'**
- ◆ **June 14—18 - CHURCH CAMP!**
- ◆ **June 27-July 3 - K.C. Mission Trip**
- ◆ **October 2 - 'One Day' 2021**



ARVBA/KANSAS CITY Missions Trip 2021 June 27th — July 3rd

The word is out and folks are signing up!

24 ARVBA'ers have already reserved their place on the KC 2021 Missions Team and there is plenty of room for you! Online viewers can click the link below. Others can find the link on the ARVBA website. Either way, preregistering is the first step to a great summer-time adventure!

Online viewers *Click the pic*



The Good News Letter February, 2021

Special Pastors' Gathering

When: February 18th, 2021

Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

(With special youth leader session!)

Where: The Association Office

How Long: @ 1 Hour

'One Day' 2021 is fast approaching and, because of last year's postponement, we are far ahead of the game in preparations. However, our leadership still needs to meet so that we can all be brought up to speed and to remind ourselves of the potential impact this day can have in the Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association.

As we did last year, The ARVBA will host two 'Pastors' Gatherings where the ABSC Missions Team will share insight into 'One Day' 2021 and bring us up to date on preparations for the big event. Both morning & evening meetings will be identical for the pastors and feature a fine meal prepared by Ron Rambo. **PLUS**, the evening session will also include a 'breakout' session for youth ministry leaders.

Please RSVP via text, email, or phone call!



One Day:Serve Local. Prequel or Sequel?

With the similarity in names, it is easy to confuse the annual State Convention sponsored one-day mission trip with its newest spin-off. While both help our churches fulfill their Kingdom mandate, they are not the same thing.

'One Day:Serve Local' might actually be better understood as a hybrid version of *ARVBA Day* and the traditional State-wide one day mission event.

On May 15th, churches all over the state will engage in their own local missions projects. These will be designed to impact the individual church's community and introduce, or re-introduce, the church and her ministries to any who might need such.

While this is an entirely church-lead endeavor, both the Association and State Convention will have resources available for the congregations that need them. We've done it once, and done it well. Who knows what the Lord has planned for this year?!

Won't you begin to plan now for 'One Day:Serve Local'?

'One Day' Leadership Meetings

- February 18 - Pastors' Gatherings**
- March 18th - ZOOM meeting w/Leadership Team**
- June 24th - Interest Banquet/Commitment Service**
- July 15th - On Site Coordinators Meeting**
- September 2nd - Training Sessions for all Participants**
- October 2nd - 'ONE DAY!'**

"Churches Doing More Together!"



**The Arkansas River Valley
Baptist Association**
801 East 16th Street
Russellville, AR 72801

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Missionary's Heart

Mrs. Teresa and I are recovering from the now famous 'stomach bug' and that means I am writing this article from my home office. Of course THAT means Mrs. Tena has, once again, been steering the Association ship in the absence of its Associational Missionary. (Not really absent but not actually in the office either!) The good news is that my bride and I are almost completely recovered and our nostril-testing nurse is pretty convinced we have not contracted the dreaded Covid-19 virus. In fact we should know for sure by the time you receive this newsletter.

It has been good for my soul to be able to start visiting our Association churches and doing 'ministry stuff' again. In the last few weeks I have worshiped with 1st London, 1st, Dover, 1st Russellville, and Bakers Creek Baptist Church. I have also preached for the folks at Rover Baptist Church, met with the media team at 1st Hector, attended ZOOM meetings with our Camp Committee and 'One Day' 2021 Leadership Team and spoke to the Executive Board at Spring Lake Camp and Retreat Center. Sometimes I just need to be reminded how sweet it feels to be useful. Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

By now you have noticed that there is a lot of extra stuff in this month's publication. That is because I have been stuck at home with nothing to do but work on the newsletter... NOT!!!

Actually, all that extra stuff is pretty important and I hope you will study it thoroughly. Please pay special attention to the Recreation Trailer Update, Camp reminder and ARVBA Kansas City Missions information. These events and/or needs are coming sooner than we think and I would covet your prayers for, and participation in, each one.

Also note the Mission Fair reminder and begin to pray about and publicize it in your church. Maybe one of the gifted KC Church planters could even preach in your church on March 14th!

I know I have given you much to digest in this publication but after having been locked down for so long, we do have a lot of catching up to do.

With that being said, I hope you and your church are excited about, and preparing for, the opportunities coming our way. While there may still be short-term restrictions on the ministries we do, those restrictions will be lifted soon and, after such a long wait, we cannot afford to be caught flat-footed when they are.

Some things to consider sooner rather than later:

Sunday School teachers of all age groups: Are you ready for the full-scale return to in-person classes?

I cannot presume to know how best to lead your post-Covid class but I can say (and many have already discovered) that you cannot do Sunday School exactly as you were before the lockdowns. Now is the time to talk with your pastor and develop the strategies that will allow your class to reclaim missing members as well as reach potential new ones.

Youth Ministry Leaders: Camps and Summer Mission Events are very much up in the air.

At this time, the Association Church Camp and annual Kansas City Mission trips are good-to-go but other organization's summer student activities are questionable. For instance, we are told that summer Camps at Siloam Spring are on for this year but Super Summer is almost certainly not going to happen.

Children's Ministry Leaders: Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it!

Have you decided which VBS curriculum you will use? Will you need the Associations props and, if so, have you reserved them for your VBS date? Have you brainstormed with your team about how this year's school might be different from previous years? (masks vs. no masks, group sizes, safety protocols, etc.)

The church is emerging from a dark period where we were constantly told, or sometimes just imagined, all the things we could not do because of what might happen. As I have said before, it is almost as though the church forgot the Holy Spirit is still available, still involved, and still omnipotent in this or any other major catastrophe. As a grand re-opening approaches, let's focus on what God can do rather what we can't!



ARVBA/KANSAS CITY MISSIONS Weekend Missions Fair!

March 12th-14th

This year our missions team is adding another multi-day experience to the Association's calendar. On March 12th – 14th, we will be hosting our first ever ARVBA Missions Fair weekend.

The event will begin on Friday Evening with a 'get-to-know-you' banquet for our pastors (and wives!) as well as the Kansas City Church Planters (and wives!). A catered meal will be provided and Bro. Matt Miller (NAMB Send City Representative) will be one of our featured speakers. The idea is to provide a venue where our ministers and KC church planters (and wives) can get to know one another while enjoying a nice meal together. The planters will share their vision for the church in KC as well as their journey onto the church planting scene.

Saturday's activities are for all church members and will begin sometime around noon. The ARVBA will provide a sandwich lunch during which Matt Miller will give a brief presentation about the Send City philosophy and answer any questions we might have. Bro. Danny will then briefly discuss the philosophy behind the annual Association Mission trip so that our folks can know what it is AND what it isn't.

Following the lunch, church members can visit the KC church planters at their various tables and/or displays for a more personal look at each ministry area and to discover ways your church might partner with a planter.

The Missions Fair Weekend will conclude with the opportunity to have one of our visiting missionaries preach at your church on Sunday morning!

We are not sure yet just how many speakers will be available on March 14th so if you think your church would be interested you should get your request in early!



Matt Miller
Send City Coordinator



Coming in 2022! (Maybe Sooner?!) New Sunday School Conference, New Partner Association New Location,

Planning is underway for our next Teach 28:20 Sunday School Conference. COVID-19 may have interfered with our 2020 plans but a new year has dawned and we have a lot of catching up to do!

The next Conference will hopefully feature a partnership with the two Associations to our east and so increase the Kingdom impact we can have. A lot of planning is left to do and we will need to evaluate the changes the pandemic has had on our culture but we promise the things learned at this conference will be scalable, practical, and do-able for any size church!

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Church Camp 2021: June 14th - June 18th
Spring Lake Camp and Retreat Center

Lonsdale, Arkansas

“Campers need time to goof off, relax, have some fun, and, if you have youth, go as crazy as possible. But if that is what they remember on the way home, we have fallen short of our goal.

Camp attendees, old and young, should leave camp having been given the opportunity to really meet with their Creator and ready to do His work in their communities.” copied



No one could predict the impact Covid-19 would have on church services in 2020 much less the impact the pandemic would have on our ability to host ‘extra’ events like Church Camps and Vacation Bible School. But even more surprising is that no one foresaw (or even suspected) the impact that forbidding such things would have on our children and youth. Young people need interaction with other young people and that statement has now been shown to be indisputable.

With that not-so-new revelation in mind, we can say this year’s event is more important than ever! Our kids need to know that 2020’s shutdowns were just an interruption and that the Lord has great things planned for ARVBA Church Camp 2021! Friends will be reunited, new friends will be discovered, and eternities will be positively impacted.

At \$145.00 (includes the cost of t-shirt) the cost to send your child to Camp is among the lowest anywhere. The reason we are able to provide so much for so little is that each year a multitude of passionate volunteers accompany the kids to Camp and expertly fill every position. On our website you will find tons of information plus links to all the forms needed to register for Camp. Just download the material, fill it out and return it to YOUR CHURCH by the date listed. (please note and follow any instructions contained in the forms) If you cannot download the material, give us a call and we will mail a set to your church. More information will be provided as it becomes available so check the website often!

Remember, our Camp is actually three camps in the same location and on the same date! The Children (grades 2-4), Middle-Schoolers (grades 5-7) and Youth (grades 8-12) each have separate Worship and Bible study facilities. Lunch and dinner are staggered with the children arriving at the cafeteria first. Swimming, waterslide, and Paddle Boat times are divided by age and swimming and waterslide times are divided by gender as well.



All The Camp Team Is Back For 2021 →
(Except for Johnny Upchurch)

← **New Snack Shack!**



Cafeteria Remodel



In 2019 We asked The Question,
How Cool Would This Be?!



In 2021, the Need Is Even Greater!



In a normal (i.e. pre-COVID) year our Association Recreation Trailers are active on an almost weekly basis (sometimes even twice a week!). This ministry allows our member congregations to engage their communities, minister to children and families, and celebrate special occasions with one another.

Sadly, our two units have seen better days. They are loaded and unloaded countless times throughout the year and hauled over every terrain you could imagine. We use them to transport equipment (and a boatload of chicken!) to Camp each year. AND, in the last three years, those battle-scarred wagons have been dragged all over the Kansas City area as the ARVBA Missions Team provides carnivals for every kind of new church plant you can think of.

The point is, they are starting to show their age and, to coin an old cowboy phrase, are really beginning to look like they’ve been “road hard and put up wet!” Age, maintenance costs, and travel safety are some of the things we need to think about when considering the ongoing usefulness of our trailers. As was discussed in November of 2019, the consensus of the many who have benefitted from their use is that the time has come to acquire new (or newer) ones. The picture above is an example of the type of unit we would need. Color and logos might change but you get the overall idea.

Our thoughts are to acquire two tandem axle 7’X14’

trailers with trailer brakes. A V’ nose would be great as that allows for a little more storage but traditional design units would work as well. We hope to recoup some of the cost through the sale of our existing units but that will have to take place after we get the new ones up and running. Larger, tandem axle trailers will make it easier and safer to travel down the highway, load and unload the inflatables, and store all the other equipment, needed to host a really good outdoor event.

COVID is winding down, communities are opening up, and we have more ARVBA folks trained in safe block party operation than ever before. That means more parties, more events, and more community outreach opportunities for all of our churches in 2021.

Perhaps you know of someone who is just itching to sell a nice trailer or two for an astoundingly cheap price? Or maybe you or your church would like to donate to this wonderful ministry. Some have already done so and we are eternally grateful. But we still have a ways to go.

Please pray about this great need because, although the great pandemic kept us locked down during last year’s peak Recreation Trailer season, a new day is dawning and Block Party time will be here before you know it!

Check out the website Recreation Ministry page to see everything that is available on our trailers!

Bro. Danny