



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:<sup>7</sup>

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

- ◆ **July 14th** - ARVBA Executive Board Meeting
- ◆ **August 30th** - Evangelism/Prayer Conference
- ◆ **Sept. 27th** - ARVBA Day of Prayer
- ◆ **October 3rd** - 'ONE DAY' 2020!
- ◆ **October 13th** - ANNUAL MEETING!

**Please Pray For Our Pastor-less Churches**

*And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*  
**Jeremiah 3:15 (KJV)**

- Ard Community Baptist Church
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Crestview Baptist Church
- 1st Baptist Church, Centerville
- 1st Baptist Church, Scranton
- 1st Baptist Church, Ola
- Bakers Creek Baptist Church



**'One Day' Is Still On Track**  
*(And The ARVBA Team Is Hard At Work Making Sure We Are Ready!)*

As you know, 'One Day' 2020 was to be one of three really big ARVBA events for the year. The annual *Church Camp* and *ARVBA/K.C. Mission Trip* were both scheduled to take place in June and we had high hopes they would serve as a catalyst for the greatest State Convention one day mission event ever. Unfortunately, COVID-19 protocols prevented us from hosting the first two of this year's evangelism ministries but we are cautiously optimistic the third will take place. With that hope firmly entrenched in the hearts and minds of ARVBA'ers everywhere, the 'One Day' Evangelism team has planned for two significant pre-One Day events.

The **first** is our first ever Association Prayer and Evangelism Conference on August 30th. There is more information on that on the next page!

The **second** is planned for September 27th and is an opportunity for each church to engage her membership in a one day powerful prayer challenge. Called 'One Day Of Prayer For The ARVBA', the goal is to have ALL of our churches dedicate the Sunday before **One Day** as a guided day of prayer for the souls of the lost in our Association. Each church will decide how this will look for her own congregation and the 'One Day' Team will have material available for those churches that choose to use it. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have (remember, we are inventing this as we go!) and will add more information to the website and subsequent NewsLetters. ***In the meantime, please get these important dates on you church calendar now!***

<sup>14</sup> *...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*  
<sup>15</sup> *"Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.*  
**2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (NASB)**

*"Churches Doing More Together!"*



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# Missionary's Heart

Like many of you, my wife and I were finally able to attend church for the first time in weeks. I was blessed to bring the Word to Crestview Baptist Church on June 7th and equally blessed to worship with our home church the following week. Getting back into church was awesome but, to be honest, I was a little put out at the amount of effort required.

First, we had to actually shower and do the teeth brushing thing. Then my bride insisted that we trade in those oh-so-comfortable PJs for 'more suitable' attire. I was forced to leave the comfort of my favorite recliner, drive miles away from my coffee pot, and attend church with a bunch of ninjas. My own preaching was undeniably extraordinary, but I did find the inability to pause or mute the other guy to be quite inconvenient.

Of course, the preceding words were written in jest (expect the part about my preaching!) but the fact is life is slowly returning to normal.

'Normal' will mean different things for different people. This is as it should be since people do not all share common cultures, health statuses, or lifestyles.

Some will need to be more careful than others going forward and we will all need to be more cognizant of the needs of our most vulnerable. (Galatians 6:9 & James 1:27)

Normal Church will almost certainly look different than in years past. Folks have gotten used to doing church away from church (or not at all) and it is going to be difficult for some congregations to reclaim wayward members. If that does happen, it will most likely happen in the churches that actively choose to become more innovative than in years past.

One of the things I enjoyed most in the pastorate was trying a new thing. Sometimes that new thing would work really well and sometimes it would fail miserably. Sometimes the concept would originate in the infinitely fertile mind of the pastor and on other occasions, the new thing began with an idea or suggestion offered by a church or staff member.

"Polk Sallet Sunday", "VBS Carnival", "Toilet Seat Races", "Annual Bass Pro Mission Trip", "Men's Camp Outs", "Church-wide Camp Outs", "Ladies Day Away", "Drive-In Movie Nights", "Theater-style Movie nights", "Bible Conferences", "Evangelistic Revivals", "The Big Thing", "Flat Rock Baptist Mission", "Home Boys Revivals" "One More Than Ever Before"... And those are just the 'New Things' I remember!

There was always a chance the new thing would not work out but, because the research was done and the passion was genuine, there was also a better than average chance it would. So the church tried many new things. And the church reached many new families. And the Kingdom impact on the community increased. And it was crazy fun!

There is 'crazy fun' waiting for some of us in the days to come. We get to figure out how to do church in 'The New Normal'.

The implication of that phrase is that things will never entirely return to the way they were. Some, (if not many)

wayward church members will never return. Others will continue to worship and serve in congregations they discovered during the shutdown.

Many, if not most, of our churches will survive the days to come but only a select few will experience the 'crazy fun' of inventing new ways to reach their communities in the New Normal. Many, if not most, will put all their energy into **raising up the tribes of Jacob and restoring the preserved ones of Israel** (i.e. chasing after wayward church members). They will do so without embracing the greater ministry God has always had for the congregation. ("***It is too small a thing...***")

Do not misunderstand... The pandemic has changed our culture forever but the work of the church is the same as it has always been. The 'crazy fun' will be in figuring how God wants us to do that!

**He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6 (NASB)**



## Association Wide 'One Day' Prayer & Evangelism Event August 30th

***"If we learned anything from our last Teach 28:20 Conference, it is the positive impact a joint Associational meeting can have on the communities surrounding our churches. When the Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association gathers at one place for one purpose, all heaven breaks loose and the gates of Hell are shaken to their very foundation."***

On August 30th, the sister churches of the ARVBA are invited to gather for an afternoon and evening of purposeful preparation for this year's 'One Day' mission event. Our plans are to provide training and information that is both simple and practical and that can be used by you and church for years to come. We hope that every church in our Association will take advantage of this first of its kind event. With preparation like this, we are sure to experience an extraordinary manifestation of God's power when 'One Day' rolls around.

### **The Day's Schedule will look something like this:**

- 3:30 – Opening
  - 3:45 - Breakout 1 (50 min)
- 4:30 - Break
  - 4:45 – Breakout 2 (50 min)
- 5:30 – Meal
- 6:30 – Prayer/Worship

***Event location will be announced as soon as plans are finalized. Check the Association Website and FaceBook pages often!***

Worship will be led one our local church ministry group(s) and our own pastors will lead in the guided prayer sessions. Dr. Sam Roberts of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will close the event with a 'One Day' devotional charge to the folks.

### **Breakout Training Sessions include: (You can attend two!)**

- Evangelism Training (Using the symbol bracelet)
- Evangelism – Conversation Starters
- Prayer Training
- Follow-up training for coordinators

