



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*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!*

- ◆ **July 9<sup>th</sup>** - Executive Board Meeting
- ◆ **July 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>** - ARVBA Mission Trip
- ◆ **August 30<sup>th</sup>** - ARVBA Ministry Retreat (Tentative)
- ◆ **September 14<sup>th</sup>** - ARVBA Day!
- ◆ **October 13<sup>th</sup>** - ARVBA Annual Meeting

# PASTOR SEARCH

Please pray for the following churches as they seek their next Pastor

*First Baptist, Hector  
First Baptist, Centerville  
First Baptist, Knoxville*

*Welcome - Bro. Gary Chadwick  
Interim Pastor, 1st Centerville*



## “Life Is A Series Of Ups & Downs”

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment”  
(2 Timothy 1:7, HCSB).*



Wow, What a week! 349 souls attended this year’s ARVBA Church Camp at Spring Lake and the Lord ‘showed up and showed out’ again. Twenty-four High School Students gave their hearts to Jesus as did Nineteen Middle-School Campers. Two souls were added from the Children’s side of Camp as well and six other major decisions were recorded.

Attendance continues to increase at our Annual Association Church Camp. This year we ‘reactivated’ Centennial dorm for the first time in many years. While 349 was not our all-time high attendance at Spring Lake, (394 in 2016!) the post-Covid trend is definitely upward.



Remember to thank the adults who ‘watched over’ the campers from your church. Many gave a week of vacation to serve as cabin supervisors. All gave time, energy, compassion, and so much more to make sure your kids had the best Camp experience possible.

ARVBA Church Camp 2025 is less than a year away! Start praying for and making preparations now!

*“Churches Doing More Together!”*



*The Arkansas River Valley  
Baptist Association  
801 Williamson Way  
Russellville, AR 72801*

*Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Russellville, AR 72801  
Permit #150*

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (lit. pastor/teachers)

Ephesians 4:11

- *What does it mean to be called to pastor?*
- *Is it different than being called into ‘the ministry’?*
- *How can I know if I am being called to pastor?*

**ARVBA Men’s Retreat  
Fall of 2024**





# Missionary's Heart

**Luke 14:<sup>23</sup>** *“And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.’”*

A matter of great perplexity is the speed at which the contemporary church has evolved (or maybe de-evolved?). Many, if not most, will acknowledge that she is not nearly as culturally relevant as she once was. And, it goes without saying that the church is not nearly as evangelistically effective as she was only a half-generation ago.

Why is that? What changes have taken place that render Christ's church less effective than she once was? How did it happen in such a brief period of time? Did those changes occur primarily in our secular culture or is the evolving 'worldview' within the church to blame?

Having been out of the 'Real Ministry' (pastoring) for some time now, provides a perspective I might not otherwise have developed. As a 'minister-at-large', I can observe churches that are growing in attendance and in community influence with a more objective assessment.

That multi-year assessment has led to a couple of obvious conclusions. First, those churches that are growing in attendance and in community influence are doing things that 'compel' the folk to come in. They are constantly evaluating and adjusting everything they do. They ask, "Why do we do what we do?" "Does how we do what we do help or hinder our ability to 'compel' them to come in? Does our 'reputation' in the community actually reflect the church we are now, and, if not, how do we change that?"

Second, the churches that are growing in attendance and in community influence have discovered effective ways to 'compel them to come in' without any theological compromise. In fact, the preaching and teaching ministries are often much more bible-centric than they are given credit for. The message is way more "Thus sayeth the Lord" than it is, "So my challenge for you this week is..." and the people like it.

Third, The worship is authentic and the preaching is primary. Churches that are growing in attendance and in community influence fit the worship style to the community they are trying to reach and don't mind making adjustments when necessary. The leadership also makes sure the music points to the message and, ultimately the subject of the message, Christ Jesus.

There are other observation to be made for sure but here are a couple more for you to chew on.

- Declining community population doesn't have as much impact as one would think.
  - churches that are growing in attendance and in community influence compel folks from nearby locations to fill the house. (A church alive really is worth the drive!)
- Targeting one specific age group for outreach or ministry focus (i.e. - children, youth) rarely results in sustained kingdom growth.
  - It takes an unrelenting determination to reach all age groups with as many compelling events/activities/emphasis as is humanly possible.

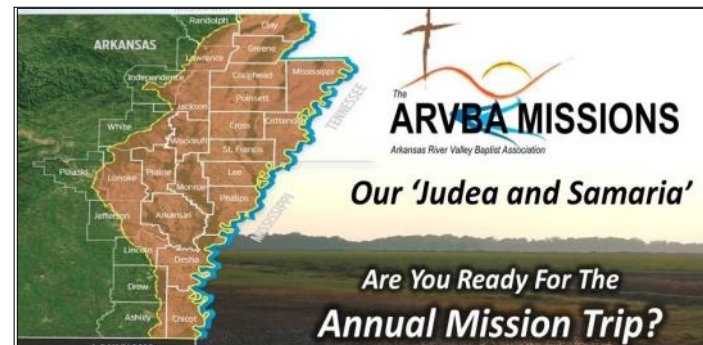
Remember, the admonishment is to COMPEL them to come in. In other words, create (with the Holy Spirit's guidance) an environment so inviting, joyous, ministering, and uplifting that the folks can't resist the invitation to 'check us out'!

Camp was awesome again this year and you can read more about it further along in the NewsLetter. I want to thank our Camp Directors for their labor of love and look forward to serving with them again next year.

The Annual ARVBA Mission Trip is 2 1/2 weeks away and things are beginning to get real. Please pray for your team to be used mightily again this year and that what we do will impact the churches we minister with/too for years to come. Excitement is already high in the area and the Holy Spirit is already moving!

Our head cook and bottle washer, Bro. Ron Rambo passed away two weeks ago and we will miss him a lot on this mission trip!

*Bro. Danny*



**July 14th - 19th**  
**. El Dorado**  
**. Magnolia**  
**. Carthage**  
**. Waldo**

**The Team is returning to the Delta this year and you and your church are invited!**

Five Carnivals - Two Construction Projects - One Vacation Bible School - As yet undiscovered possibilities!

Several mission projects have already been scheduled and we are only limited by the number of volunteers we take with us. So far, the team is locked in for the following projects: (sites may change but probably not)

### CARNIVALS

**Monday** - Faith Outreach Church, El Dorado,

**Tuesday** - Central Baptist Church Magnolia

**Wednesday** - Full Faith Community Baptist Magnolia

**Thursday** - Faith Outreach Church, Waldo

**Friday** - Helm Church, Carthage

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Faith Outreach Church, Waldo

### CONSTRUCTION/CLEANUP PROJECTS

•Faith Outreach Activity Center, Waldo

•Inside - demo and light remodel

•Outside - Major grounds cleanup and refuse removal

•Helm Church

•Roof Repair (Tentative), grounds cleanup

### BASE OF OPERATION

Central Baptist Church, Magnolia

As you can see, the Kingdom-building potential for this week is extraordinary and the ARVBA would love for our Association churches to join the fun in any way you can. Carnival workers are always in demand and Vacation Bible School help would be awesome. Light construction workers/cleanup teams will find plenty of ways to help as well. The 'particulars' of the projects are still developing, and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

### FAQ

**Q.** - I can't commit to the whole week. Is it okay to drive down for a day or two?

**A.** Absolutely! Contact us and we will work out a way for you to pitch in.

**Q.** - My church isn't able to send anyone this year. Are there other ways we can be involved in the Mission Trip?

**A.** There sure are!

1) The most important need is prayer! Have a dedicated prayer time for the Team, the area, and for the specific churches we will be visiting

2) Carnival Prizes and non-melting candy are always needed. Oriental Trading, Dollar Tree, etc. are great places to shop for giveaways.

3) Financial giving is a big help. We are always finding things we need after we get there!

Lives will be forever changed as we share the Gospel in deed and in word! [Sign up today!](#)

**Acts 1:<sup>8</sup>** *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*