



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!

- ◆ **September 10-17** - Dixie Jackson Week of Prayer and Missions Offering
- ◆ **September 26th** - ARVBA Executive Board Meeting
- ◆ **October 8th** - ARVBA ANNUAL MEETING!
 - ◆ *First Baptist Church, Pottsville*

PASTOR SEARCH

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

First Baptist, Hector

First Baptist, Centerville

First Baptist, Ola

Flat Rock Baptist



The Good News Letter

June/July, 2023



The ARVBA presents **"The Delta"** Annual Mission Trip 2023

Your ARVBA Mission Team Rocked It!

Thirty of your Association's finest braved the heat, the storms, and the 'skeeters' to share hope where hope is needed most. Both established churches and new church plants benefitted from the passionate service ARVBA Mission Team 2023 brought to the Arkansas Delta.

One Vacation Bible School. Five Carnivals. Two Construction projects.

One profession of faith, multiple gospel presentations and literally hundreds of lives changed for the better.

Well done, ARVBA. Well done!



"Churches Doing More Together!"



The Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association
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Missionary's Heart

WOW! It's been way too long since the last edition of the GoodNews Letter went out and I apologize for that. It often seems like ARVBA stuff happens faster than I can process and there's lot to catch up on.

By now, most of you have heard about the extraordinary movement of God at Camp. 334 campers from 19 different churches made the trip to Spring Lake Baptist Camp and Retreat Center this year. Four Churches from outside our Association joined us this year and their participation helped make this one of the best Camps ever.

As most of you know, we try to keep our Annual Church Camp more evangelism focused rather than discipleship driven. Our premise is that it is not really possible to teach a student to live for Jesus in a week, but you can spend that week introducing a student to Jesus, after which you send him/her back to the church whose job it is to teach them to live for Jesus.

We asked our churches to 'Chase the Unchurched' even more purposefully this year and the ARVBA churches more than rose to the challenge. As a result, there were 70 souls at Camp who had never been to a Church Camp before.

Mrs. Anna, 'Frying Pan' (Fairpark Youth Praise Band), And Bro. Garrison led those 70 and the rest of the campers to sing of salvation in each service and Bro. Bryant, Bro. Will, and Bro. Zach preached the Gospel of Salvation with passion and conviction every time they stood to speak. In addition, our dedicated bible study teachers taught the Gospel of Salvation in classes big and small each day. In other words, Camp focused on evangelism and our Heavenly Father focused on Camp!

Seventy Four souls were saved at Camp during that week. Twenty-three believers recommitted their lives to the Lord who saved them. Three others made decisions that are sure to impact their lives for..., well, for the rest of their lives.

Way to go ARVBA churches! Your determination to 'Chase the Unchurched' this year is a testimony to what our Lord will do with just a little effort on our part! But that was only the beginning of what He intended to do through the ministries of the ARVBA!

After a month to recuperate from Camp, the ARVBA headed out again. 31 'missionaries' from 8 Association churches made the week-long journey to the Arkansas Delta. During the State Convention Vision Tour, we had heard of the spiritual darkness that hangs over the area and of how difficult it is to do ministry there. We knew God had something planned for this trip and we thought He might even do something big. We had no idea that He was going to show up and show out like He did.

21 kids attended the first day of VBS at Shell Lake Baptist Church. This was the first time they had held a Vacation Bible School in over 10 years. Pastor Dave McKinney said some of the church members were wondering if there were even enough children in the area to warrant having a VBS.

"They don't have to wonder any longer!" he said.

McKinney said the whole project has rejuvenated Shell Lake Baptist Church's congregation.

"I think the success of this has reenergized our folks and given a fresh vision of what God can do even with a small church. There is a reason for us to still be here and there are people that no other church is going to reach except ours. There are children, families and people we need to reach and that is what we need to do. We need to be faithful with what God has given us and use it in the mission field that God has placed us in."

More than 200 people gathered at our first carnival on Monday evening in Marion and over 300 were in attendance at Tuesday's event in Forrest City. Another 200+ Carnival went down in Cherry Valley on Wednesday and we finished the week with nice crowds in both Wynne and Shell Lake. We ran out of hot dogs, ice, water and prizes several times throughout the week and battled both heat AND storms but the Gospel was shared and folks were saved.

Major progress was made on getting a new roof for New Beginnings Faith Church in Wynne and Worship space was expanded in Main Street Church in Trumann.

More to come when all reports are in.



334 Campers!

19 Churches!

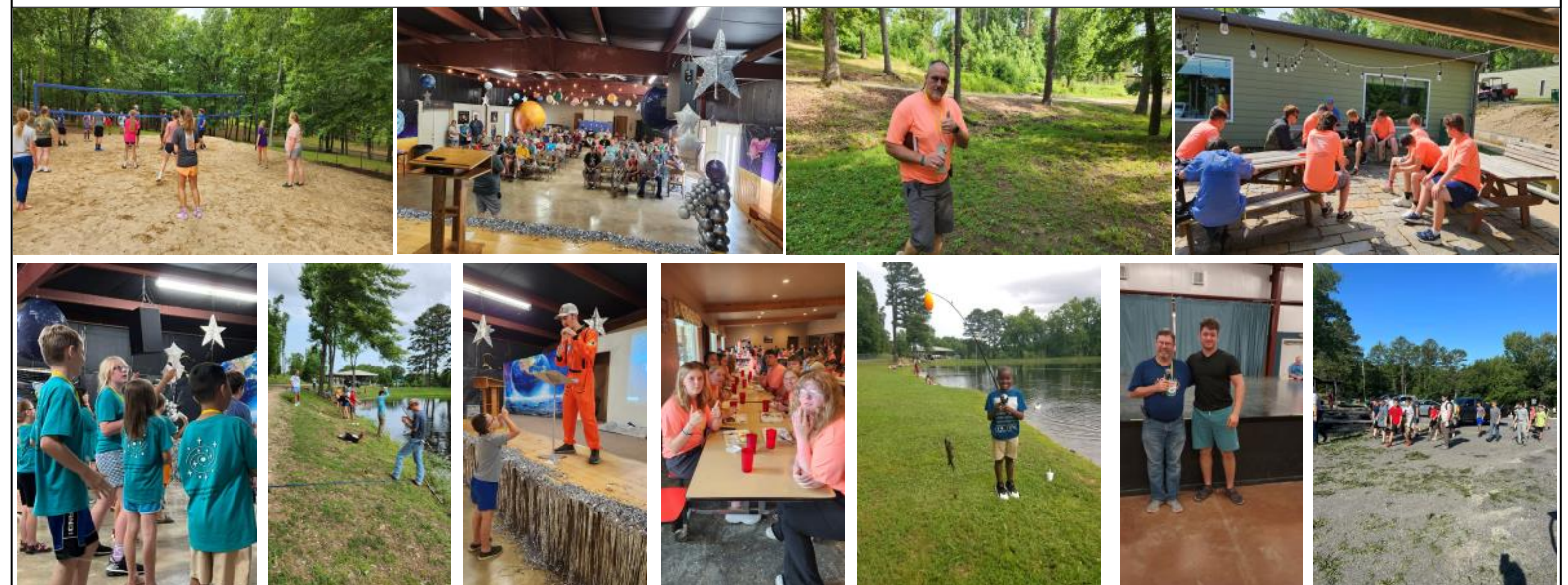
74 Professions of Faith!

Church Camp was awesome again this year with 19 churches bringing 329 participants to enjoy a week at Spring Lake Baptist Camp and Retreat Center. Of those 329 campers, 58 were preschool to 4th grade, 87 were Middle School Campers, and 87 were grades 8-12. 100 Staffers kept everything running smoothly and everyone safe.

This year's focused attempt to bring more unchurched students to Camp resulted in more campers born again

than at any time in ARVBA history! Many other lives were positively impacted as more than 20 students recommitted their lives to Christ's leadership and at least one expressing a possible call to ministry/missions service.

Bro. Danny is working on this year's ARVBA Church Camp Video but until he get's it together, check out a few pictures from Camp 2023 below.



Middle School Camp Worship

Children's Camp Worship

Youth Camp Worship

