



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!

- ◆ **March 9th**—Camp Committee Meeting
- ◆ **March 11th**—VBS Clinic
- ◆ **April 6th**—Camp Committee Meeting
- ◆ **April 11th**—ARVBA Executive Board Meeting
- ◆ **April 22nd**—Regional D.R. Training
- ◆ **May 6th**—EQUIP:SMC23
- ◆ **June 12 thru 16** - CHURCH CAMP!
- ◆ **July 16th thru 22nd** - ARVBA Mission Trip!



May 20, 2023

BEAST FEAST

1st Baptist, Danville

Jeff Danker, of the Out Door Channel, will be the featured speaker. Jeff started BuckVentures in 2003 with the motto "Shoot by Sight, Walk by Faith" based off of 2 Corinthians 5:7 and has been hosting hunting shows ever since. In addition to hunting for a living, Jeff speaks about his faith in church's all across the country. He is married to his wife, Traci, with 2 daughters, Jaylee and Gracie.

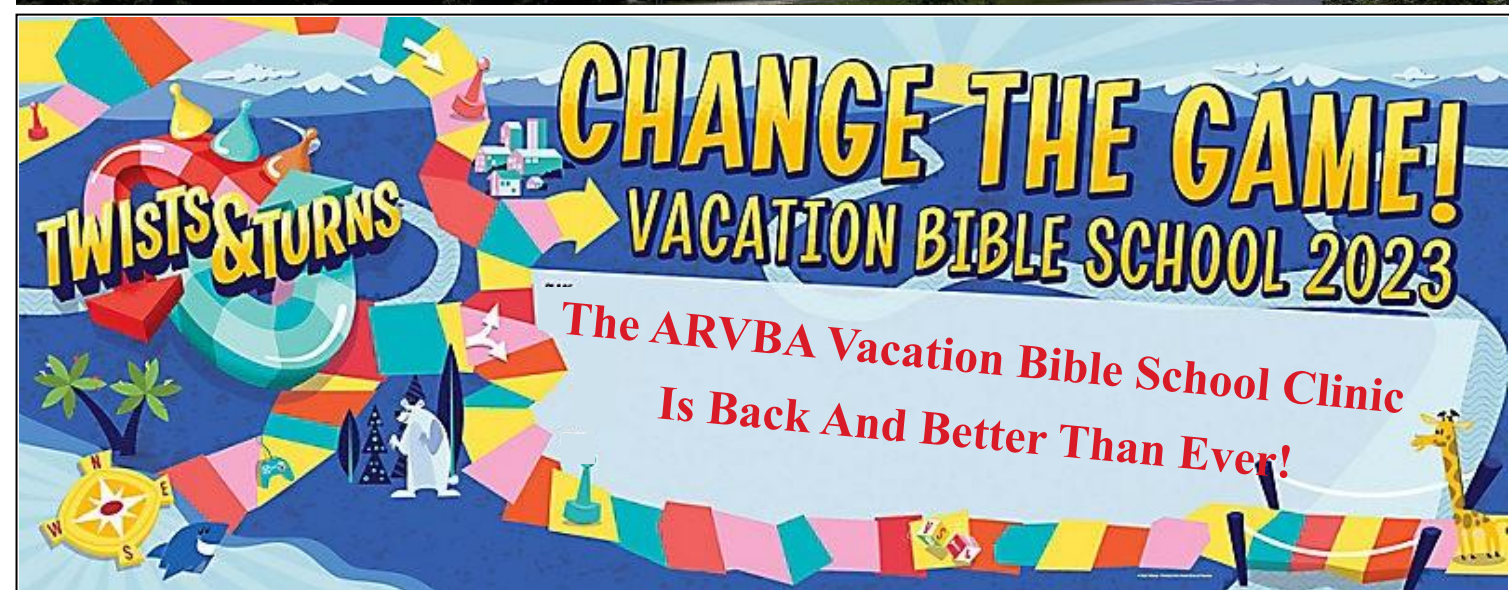
Tickets will be available soon at a cost of \$20.00. For more information, contact First Baptist Church, Danville/Wayne Crawford.

The event sells out every year so get your tickets early!



The Good News Letter

March, 2023



CHANGE THE GAME!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

The ARVBA Vacation Bible School Clinic Is Back And Better Than Ever!

“Churches Doing More Together!”



www.thearvba.com

Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association

ARVBA



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

Non-Profit Organization
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IT'S TIME TO LEVEL UP VBS!

It's hard to believe that VBS Clinic 2023 is only days away! It has been a while since the Association came together to celebrate, and prepare for, what is still the most effective evangelism tool in the Southern Baptist arsenal. 80% of anyone who is ever saved is saved before the age of 13. With that knowledge in mind, the ARVBA Team has been working diligently to bring School event ever.

This year's Associational this Saturday, March 11th Baptist Church. Breakfast and the Clinic will begin There are a number of year's VBS clinic. In Rally and curriculum attend one of several

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

VBS Clinic is scheduled for and will be held at Fair Park will be served at 8:30 a.m. promptly at 9.

enhancements coming to this addition to the usual Worship display, you will be able to breakout sessions. Some

possibilities might be "Effective VBS Follow-up - Engaging Parents of VBS Participants - Decorating For VBS - Sharing the Gospel with Children - etc.

Make sure you have this important event on your church calendar and bring all your VBS leaders!

Pre-register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cC6cT211ZjP34oGUnmLXrcFLfwVD_OD5YRBW4aWy5S8/viewform



Missionary's Heart

SUFFERING - noun

suf·fer·ing 'sə-f(ə-)rɪŋ g

“the state or experience of one that suffers”

There is much to admire about those who have mastered the art of ‘obvious stating’. It would have taken me years to craft a definition as clear and grammatically correct as the one from the Merriam Webster dictionary. Note how the editors were able to avoid the use of confusing words like ‘pain; ‘hurt’, ‘agony’, or ‘distress’.

“the state or experience of one that suffers” I, who bethinks myself a Wordsmith, am in awe!

I had a lot of time to think about the word lately. On February 21st, the bride of my youth and I traveled to Ft. Smith with the intention of being onsite when our baby girl gave birth to her first born. Things progressed nicely for the first 30 minutes or so. We had nice visits with Allie and Ryan and were quite impressed with how well the Labor and Delivery staff looked after our kids.

We weren't there long when it became obvious that I was about to enter *“the state or experience of one that suffers”*. My bride escorted me to the ER (three floors down) and comforted her husband as best she could while full-blown pancreatitis began to run its course.

Meanwhile, three floors up, our daughter had progressed to the ‘She’s beginning to push’ stage. As soon as I received the first pain management meds, I asked my bride to head upstairs because our Baby Girl would need her mamma more than I did at that moment. So, three floors up, my daughter was experiencing the pain of childbirth while I endured *“the state or experience of one that suffers”*.

I see a great validation of the words penned by the apostle in Romans 8:16-18. It is not too big a stretch to think of my daughter’s child birth experience as an illustration of Paul’s words. Like all mothers, my

daughter endured the pain associated with giving birth AND, as with almost all mothers, she would tell you the momentary suffering of that experience is *not worthy to be compared with* the joy she felt when that perfect baby was first ‘revealed’ to her.

In much the same way, Romans 8:16-18 helps me keep *‘the state or experience of one who suffers’* in perspective.

First of all, Pancreatitis is painful. Everyone knows that. But, if caught early enough, the pain can be managed.

Second of all, few pancreatic cancer patients live long enough to experience recurring flare-ups. I think on that often.

Romans 8:¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*
¹⁷ *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*
¹⁸ *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

Third, no matter how deep the present *“state or experience of one who suffers”*, it does not even come close to the glory that is soon to be revealed to me!

Much like the pain of childbirth fades away when the new mother first holds her baby, even the memory of my own ‘momentary afflictions’

will be no more. I will one day walk the golden streets! I will rejoice at the sound of the angels singing! I will watch the multitude bow in adoration (and will do some bowing myself!)

The River of Life will be real to me and the fruit from the Tree of Life will reveal what true sweetness really is! I will fellowship with the apostles and hold hands with loved ones who have gone before me as we surround the throne and sing praises to The Most High!

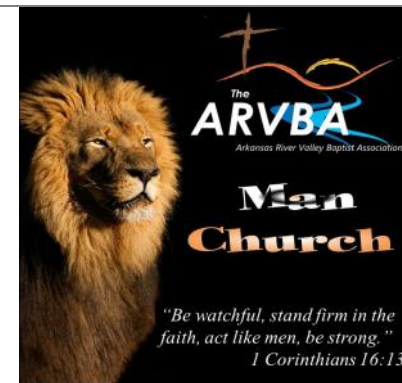
And somewhere, amid all those happy goings-on, I will see my Jesus as He is. I will weep with uncontainable joy and bow my head for that will be the only acceptable thing to do.

I sometimes think on these things when languishing in a *“state or experience of one who suffers”* and even find myself longing for the glory that is to be revealed. There really is no comparison.

Bro. Deary



One Is Not The Other Yet Both Embrace The Same Goal!



On March 3, 2023 Rick Burgess and Andy Blanks brought The Man Church Discipleship Strategy to the Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association. Fourteen souls were added to the kingdom that night and eleven brothers humbly renewed their commitment to the Lordship of Christ. In addition, fourteen others committed to a forty week discipleship journey where they will learn the principles of Christian Manhood.

In the coming weeks, The ARVBA will launch the newest Men’s Ministry Event (Ironically, also called Man Church). Tentative plans are to bring the men of our churches together on a Saturday evening to enjoy a man-style feast followed by a God-centered, men-motivating worship and preaching service. A Fall Men’s Retreat is not out of the question as well.

Exciting, life-changing events are coming to the ARVBA in 2023!



Another Three Association Event! May 6th, 1st Baptist Morrilton

EQUIP:SMC23 is a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and is designed specifically with smaller membership church (SMC) leaders in mind. Whether full-time, Bi-vocational, or volunteer, SMC ministry has many unique and challenging demands. This conference aims to further equip and encourage those serving in **Smaller Membership Church** ministry.

SMC pastor's wives will also benefit from this conference as they meet with, and learn from their peers from across the region.

Encourage your pastor to take advantage of this much-needed and encouraging conference.

2023 Disaster Relief
Regional Training
Sat Apr 22nd
8:30am - 3:00pm



First Baptist Church, 200 S Denver Ave, Russellville

Cost:

- \$30 for New Volunteers
- \$20 for Volunteers needing updated IDs
- Free for Volunteers wishing to be cross-trained

For more information, contact Steve Overton



Flat Rock Baptist Church
First Baptist, Centerville
First Baptist, Hector
First Baptist, Ola