



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!

- ◆ **December 7th**
 - ◆ *Pastor's Christmas Party*
- ◆ **December 13th**
 - ◆ *ARVBA Missions Team Meeting 6 o'clock*
- ◆ **December 24th—January 1st**
 - ◆ *ARVBA Office Closed for the holidays*



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
FROM
THE HERREN FAMILY
TO YOURS



GoodNews Letter
November/December 2018

The Year In Review



MARCH:

The annual VBS Clinic was a hit once again! Around 90 ARVBA'ers gathered at Fair Park Baptist Church to look over and order the material, see the decorations and get exciting ideas about Vacation Bible School 2018

Our first ever Church Safety Training Seminar was a big hit with a lot of folks from many of our churches in attendance. Bro. Blake Herren and others did a masterful job in leading the churches of the ARVBA to become more intentional in making those churches safer for those in attendance.



JUNE

339 campers made it to Spring Lake Baptist Assembly this year. Forty-nine souls were added to the Kingdom that week! Thirty-two of those came from the Youth Camp and eight were recorded in both the Middle-School and Children's Camps. In addition to that, one adult cabin supervisor prayed to receive Christ's salvation!



JULY

20+ ARVBA'ers made the journey to Kansas City this year where we provided 5 block-party events in 6 days. (Rain-out on day two). Five Association churches were represented this year and we are expecting even more in 2019. The dates are June 23-29. Start making plans today!



SEPTEMBER

The Women's Ministry Team met at 1st, Havana to share experiences, learn about ministry opportunities in the River Valley, and support the mission of Crisis Pregnancy Center. WMU is one of the longest-running missions organization in the SBC.

More than 120 members from most of our ARVBA congregations came together for a two-day training/worship event that began in one city and finished in another. Our Sunday School/Small-group teachers met at 1st Dover to receive some of the best practical training anywhere and we were very blessed by the combined ARVBA Worship/Preaching Service held at 1st, Russellville. The next training event is scheduled for January 18th, 2020 and will feature Allan Taylor as our guest speaker. Mark your calendars now!



“Churches Doing More Together!”



The Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association
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Russellville, AR 72801

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Missionary's Heart

The Circle of Life...

In the animated film, "The Lion King", the opening scene revolves around the reveal of the animal kingdom's heir to the throne. Simba is triumphantly lifted up for all the animals to see. At that time, every creature's knee can be seen to bow and every animal tongue heard to confess the arrival of the new Crown Prince.

Of course this season brings to mind the birth of our own Savior King, His revelation to the shepherds, and what it meant for Him to be 'lifted up'. Unlike Simba, our King was 'lifted up' to lay down His life. He did that so that He might save His subjects from themselves. He was born for that purpose.

John 3:14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

It is not, I think, improper to contemplate the Christ-child's death while, at the same time, celebrating His birth. In fact, I think it is imperative that we do so.

One cannot, after all, separate the birth from the crucifixion anymore than one could separate the crucifixion from the resurrection. To quote an intellectual statement from seminary days, "it is all one big salvific event". Put another way, we could say that the birth initiated the journey to the cross, the cross opened the door to the tomb, the tomb set the stage for the resurrection, and the resurrection paved the way for the ascension... Christ's return to His Father's side.

Sort of like a spiritual "Circle Of Life"... Well almost.

I must confess that I chose the title for this article before any thought of Simba had entered my mind (much less the extraordinary, insightful, theologically astute words that followed!) Instead I was thinking that the beginning of this year's holiday season is for my family a return to the beginning of last year's.

We were just beginning to come to terms with my bride's unhappy diagnosis and what it meant to enter the Season of Joy with the big "C" hanging over our heads. That girl of mine was the epitome of Christian courage and strength and her faith helped us all experience the true meaning of Christmas as only the Green Family can. We did not tell the kids of my own suspected illness because we did not want to burden them any further.

As you know, there were some setbacks in the months following last Christmas but the Lord has been very busy getting us back on track. My cancer has been successfully removed and I am slowly learning the do's and don'ts of my new normal. My lovely bride is receiving reports that are *'exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we could ask or think'* and I am convinced our God is working a miracle in her body. Our children are all doing well, their spouses are awesome, and that grandchild has set a whole new standard for humanity!

And then there is that 'Circle of Life' thing...

As I said earlier, the beginning of this year's holiday season is for my family, in some ways, a return to the beginning of last year's. We learned last week that my father is facing a cancer diagnosis of his own. CT scans revealed a spot on his lung that has grown significantly since early this year. It should have been flagged back then but it wasn't. A biopsy on Thursday will tell us what we need to know and then we will head into the Christmas season with faith, and hope, and joy... as only the Green Family can!

Thank you all for lifting us up this year! Thank you for your words of love and encouragement. Thank you for allowing me to preach in your churches from time to time and for allowing my family to minister with yours in our Association.

With all our hearts, the Green Family wishes you all the merriest of Christmases!



Seminary Extension Returns To The River Valley!

January 15, 2019

Attention!!!

Pastors, Teachers, & Church Members!

Seminary Extension is once again available in the ARVBA area. Crow Mountain Baptist Church will be our licensed Extension Center and the official ministry name will be *"Built on the Rock Seminary Extension"*.

All classes will be held in the Gaines White Fellowship Hall with the first class starting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15th, 2019. This first course, a study of the book of Mark, will conclude on March 12th.

The cost is \$165.00 per person and includes all books and materials. **PLUS!.. a \$40.00 ARVBA scholarship is available for the first 10 participants to register!**

If you are interested please call 479-967-6352 or 479-747-3976 for information. Bro. Howard Kisor will be the instructor for this course. Hope you can join us!

The Year To Come!

We don't know all that the Lord has planned for the ARVBA in 2019 but we can be pretty sure He wants us to be active 'doers of the Word'. With that in mind, your ministry teams are prayerfully working towards offering/engaging in some of the following events:

- **Deacons Retreat:**
 - We want this one to be a time to rest, relax, and recharge. Although we love our pastor, we know it important for his 'right-hand men' to have their own time with the Lord and with each other.
- **Disaster Relief Team Missions:**
 - Once or twice a month (when not deployed), Bro. Howard Moose would like to have the D.R. Team available to our churches for any fitting ministry projects. Tree/limb removal, yard clearing, etc
- **Block Party Training:**
 - Yes, there are many things we tend to get wrong when we throw a block party! Our hope is to schedule a Saturday event at the ARVBA office where we will meet for breakfast and classroom time followed by a full blown Carnival on the grounds with everything we have!

Topics will include:

 - Safe food handling and prep
 - Inflatables protocols (safety guidelines; are permits needed; proper inflation and deflation;
 - What/if State regulations apply and when
 - Etc.
- **More...**



ARVBA Day Is On The Calendar (And It's Coming Sooner Than You Think!)

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, we were forced to cancel the third annual ARVBA Day mission event. Those circumstances have been resolved and, with a new Regional Missions Coordinator in place, we are pleased to announce the date and area for ARVBA Day 2019!

On April 6th, Bro. Johnathan Whitlock and team will lead our 'Region 5' member churches to engage in practical one-day missions projects in their respective areas. Baker's Creek, Darby Lane, Dover 1st, Fair Park, Mercy Tree, Russellville 1st, and Russellville 2nd will be the lead churches in this labor of love and the remainder of your Association's sister churches can't wait to 'do missions' with you on this special Saturday.

What a great pre-Easter Outreach event for the congregations in 'Region 5'!