



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!

- ◆ **October 31st** - Halloween!
- ◆ **November 12th** - The Book Of Ephesians Bible Study Training
- ◆ **December 6th** - Annual Pastor's Christmas Party
- ◆ **December 22-January 2nd** - Christmas/New Year holiday (Office Closed)

**Coming in 2023!**  
**"It's Going to be a Big Deal!"**



**Another Two-Association Event!**  
**An Overview of Ephesians presented by**  
**Dr. Mike Taylor**  
**Saturday November, 12th at**  
**Second Baptist Church, Clarksville**

Once again, The Arkansas River Valley and Clear Creek Baptist Associations are teaming up to provide another great equipping opportunity. Pastors, staff and bible study leaders in every size ARVBA church will enjoy first-class instruction and first-rate fellowship with other church leaders from across two Associations!

Dr. Mike Taylor of Sachse Texas will present an in-depth, but not overly complicated, overview of Paul's epistle to the Ephesian church. AND. It just so happens that this conference is taking place just in time for Lifeway's January Bible Study 2023!

Dr. Taylor pastored Southern Baptist churches for 30 years and has lead bible conferences and teaching events for more than 17. While his intent is to provide a clear overview of the epistle, he is also prepared to focus on subjects in the letter that hold the most interest to conference participants.

The conference begins with a free breakfast at 7:30 and the teaching sessions begin at 8:15 and finish at noon. There is no cost for this event but we will need to register by clicking here: [An Overview of Paul's Epistle To The Ephesians \(google.com\)](#) or from the Assoc. webpage: [www.thearvba.com](http://www.thearvba.com).



“Churches Doing More Together!”



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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Permit #150



# Missionary's Heart

*"You forgot about the heart stent!" she said...*

My lovely bride could not help pointing out a significant omission I made while thanking the folks for their many and continued prayers for my health.

"I want to thank you guys for your prayers during my recent hospital stays," I said. "We did not publicize everything, but most of you know that I was hospitalized for tick fever in July and twice for pancreatitis in September. Thank you very much for lifting me up during those visits".

Then came that voice, ringing out like one crying in the wilderness,.. "You forgot about the heart stent!". And of course, I had actually forgotten about the newly - placed coronary enhancement device.

Needless to say, the last two months have been less than typical for your Associational Missions Strategist, but that is not to say the ministries of this great Association were in any way hindered by the occasional hospital stay. The work continued, the Annual Meeting went on without a hitch, and we are putting the final touches on the upcoming two-Association Bible Study conference featuring an in-depth look at Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. This will be a fitting conclusion to ARVBA ministries of 2022 and I hope you will all take advantage of the opportunity to grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

I also hope you are as excited about the coming new year as I am. The leadership team for 2023 is already busy planning for next year's adventures. Church Camp Team members are presently talking among themselves and will be meeting together very soon. The VBS Clinic will almost certainly look different this year as we try to design an event that will equip and encourage your VBS volunteers regardless of the curriculum you decide to use. The Annual Mission Trip to Kansas City may, or may not, actually go to KC next year but we are counting on our churches to let us know how you believe the Lord is leading.

I am very much looking forward to the upcoming year and the opportunities we will have as an Association to strengthen the ties we share as Christian congregations as well as help one another become more effective in reaching our communities with the Word of Hope.

I will be meeting with ministry team leaders to develop an overall vision of what Associational Missions will look like in 2023. We know we want to focus more on a dedicated Men's Ministry. A ministry retreat is one definite possibility as well as a quarterly Men's Worship Event.

I will be meeting with the Associational Disaster Relief and WMU Directors as well to discuss ways we can encourage more participation in Associational DR ministry and local church WMU activities.

We are already talking about youth and children's events as well as Sr. Adult activities and discussing ways to make sure these focus on strengthening the local church. An Associational Hymn Sing has been suggested and a Worship Leader Workshop is not out of the question.

As I wrote in my last newsletter article, these things are only possible because of the generosity of our ARVBA churches. Your financial support and ministry ideas are what makes the ARVBA the best Association of churches in the state!

*I thought it ironic, based on the opening paragraphs, that I found myself completing this article from another hospital room. Pancreatitis has, once again, reared its ugly head and necessitated another trip to the ER. The medical team are doing a good job managing the pain and I hope to be released in a day or two. Please know that I covet your prayers for healing and am convinced such intercession is already working on my behalf.*



**ANNUAL MEETING**  
OCTOBER 25-26

## *The Arkansas Baptist State Convention is meeting in Hot Springs This Year!*

The annual State Convention is more than just a time to gather and focus on business. It's a time to hear what God has laid on the hearts of pastors across the state, worship together as one body, and nourish friendships we've created over the years. We've been called and should be compelled to further the Kingdom of God – and that's what we plan on doing this year and beyond.

The Arkansas River Valley Baptist Association is always well-represented at the State Convention but we always can do better. Make sure your church has elected messengers to the Annual Meeting and then encourage them to attend all the scheduled events!

[Click here for a detailed schedule of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.](#) Or go to [www.absc.org](http://www.absc.org) and follow the links.



**October 31st is booked solid but there are several other open dates available for your church to reserve an ARVBA Rec Trailer!**

Includes 2 inflatables; two generators (you provide the gas); popcorn, sno-cone, and cotton candy machines with enough product for 100+ attendees; carnival games and sound system provided at no extra cost upon request.

### *Inflatables are paired as follows:*

- 24' two-lane slide and Smaller Kids' Bounce House
  - 30' obstacle course & large Bounce House
- Knocker balls (8 or 10) available for additional fee



## ***The ARVBA Pastor's Christmas Party will be held at Brown's Catfish this year!***

The last minute move to Brown's Catfish last year was so well received that we decided to let the pastors choose how this year's party should go. Brown's received the overwhelming number of votes (the other option was Pasta Grill) and a new tradition may have just begun.

The party will begin at 6:30 and is free to the pastors and wives due to the generosity of our ARVBA churches.



**PASTORS' CONFERENCE**  
OCTOBER 24

It is our great hope that our pastors will join us at this year's Pastors' Conference as we hear from dynamic speakers, engage in impactful worship and leave feeling refueled and compelled to continue the good work that God has tasked us with.

### **Featured speakers:**

- John McCallum -**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Hot Springs
- Kim Bridges -**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Marmaduke
- Roderick Rogers -**  
Pastor, Surrender Church, Fordyce
- Ronnie Deal -**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Greenwood