





ANNOUNCEMENT

The Camp Ministry Team will recommend that David and Wesley Stanley be hired to fill the Beech Springs Camp Director position upon the retirement of Donny Hargett at the end of this calendar year. Wesley has directed our LBA Kids Camp for the last few years. She also serves as Children's Minister at Grace BC, Camden. David and Wesley were married April 2021,

and are expecting their first child in September. David and Wesley are both graduates from Williams Baptist University at Walnut Ridge. This recommendation will be presented to the Executive Board at its September 19th meeting which will be held at East Main BC, El Dorado.



FROM THE DESK OF BRO. WADE

Our mission trip team has returned from a fruitful trip to Colorado Springs, CO, where we worked with First Southern Baptist Church pastored by Joshua Hargett. The team consisted of 35 folks associated with Cullendale FBC, Calvary Trail Cowboy Church, Grace BC, Three Creeks BC, along with churches outside our association. We distributed about 1,000 bags of goodies and an invite to attend services at FSBC, did evangelism work in area parks, fed lunch to the staff at a crisis pregnancy center, and took part in a Prayer and Preaching event each evening in which four of our preachers spoke. A group also helped install sound buffers in the sanctuary and another helped the pastor dispose of some old audio equipment. We believe the week was successful. Please pray for Josh, his family, and their church family as they seek to revitalize their congregation. Thank you for your prayers and your financial support that helps us do this work in South Arkansas and beyond!



I realize that many of you are concerned about issues related to the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, CA. I am concerned as well. I am pleased the messengers took a strong stand against sexual abuse and sexual predators within our churches. I am pleased that a small church pastor, Bart Barber, was elected convention president.

With that said, I was disappointed that no action was taken on the seating of messengers from Saddleback Church and punting the issue of ordaining women for another year. The Bible never mentions that "laying on of hands"-we call that ordination-was applied to women engaging in ministry. Women played a prominent role in the first century church—Priscilla, Phoebe, Euodia, Eunice, Lydia—but men are always seen in the lead roles. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states clearly that men are to fill the role of Senior Pastor. It may be time to amend that article to state that ordination also be reserved for men only.

I do not want to be misunderstood. I appreciate those women who serve on church staff in our association and beyond. Some of the most faithful servants and leaders in our churches and in LBA roles are women. I support them, but I cannot support ordaining them since the New Testament never allows for it to occur.

I know there are those who want to sever ties with the national SBC over these and other issues. I ask them to consider the following:

- 1. Let's pray that the SBC will get this straightened out before and during next year's meeting. It took conservatives many years to adjust the course during the "Conservative Resurgence." It may take a little time on these issues too.
- 2. If your church wants to distance itself from the SBC by diverting Cooperative Program funds, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will help you designate where you want those dollars to go.
- 3. Even if you decide to leave the SBC and/or the ABSC, your church can still be a part of LBA. We are an autonomous body. We partner with the ABSC and SBC when we can, but we make our own decisions about the use of funds and the ministries we initiate and support.

I realize these statements will cause a lot of discussion, both pro and con. Feel free to reach out to me.

I've been helping Knowles BC for the last several weeks in transitioning after the death of Bro. Tommy Nash. I'm about to wrap up there. Next, I'll be working with Harmony BC in their transition after the resignation of Bro. David Mitchell who has a new ministry taking place in a local county detention center. I'm always available to assist any of our churches, pastors, and staff. Just give me a call or shoot me an email.

Your brother,

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 25

SouthArk Campus Ministries Outreach at 11:30 AM on the campus of SouthArk

September 19

Executive Board Meeting at East Main BC in El Dorado 5:30 PM Meal with Meeting to Follow

October 24-26

ABSC Pastor's Conference & Annual Meeting at FBC Hot Springs

November 1

Annual Meeting at Beech Springs Camp

Like towels on the porch rail of a camp cabin, each towel represents a precious child that Christ died to redeem. When I took this picture, it reminded me that it was summer time and most likely these towels were for the swimming pool. We use the recreation and "fun" activities to draw campers, but it is all provided for the purpose of winning the lost and ministering the Word of our Lord. The multi-colored towels are like camouflage and conceal our efforts to use "fun" to create an environment where the gospel is easier to get across. Campers have "fun" and play hard and are more likely to sit and listen to the gospel message.



Each towel on the rail is different too. They help me remember that every camper is unique and special.



This summer we heard campers express their needs at home and at school. Some of our campers were dealing with difficult situations and just needed a caring counselor that would love them and listen. Just as every towel on the rail is distinctly marked so every camper has distinct spiritual potential to become the man or woman of God they were designed to be, and we get to labor together with the Lord to nurture that potential at Beech Springs. I love vacation bible school and backyard bible clubs, but nothing compares to summer camp and the opportunity it affords us to invest in the next generation of Kingdom builders.

We have at least 17 documented salvation decisions as a result of this year's summer camps. I am biased, but I personally know of no better venue for sharing the gospel and seeing God work than good ole fashion summer camp. Can I encourage you to consider investing in what still works? We need a new cabin or two! The swimming pool is as old as I am (retirement age). The cabin shown in the picture is an old army barracks building with asbestos siding. The siding

needs to be covered in log siding so as to match our newer facilities and hide the old stuff. We need a covered recreation building for use when it's raining or really hot. There are a lot of improvements that would enhance our ability to share the gospel at Beech Springs. Would you be willing to help? Don't throw in the towel!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out LBA's brand new website...



www.libertybaptistassociation.org



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 6:00 PM AT IMMANUEL BAPTIST OF EL DORADO

Bro. Chris Warr will share about visitors at his church who received a shoebox gift. Project leaders or anyone interested in learning more about Operation Christmas Child is invited to attend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL BENITA THOMASON (870) 866-1531

CHURCH STAFF OPENINGS

Camp Director

Central BC	Music Pastor
Cornerstone Fellowship	Part-time Youth Pastor
Cullendale	Worship Leader
Ebenezer BC	Part-time Youth Pastor
FBC Camden	Senior Pastor & Minister of Music & Youth
FBC Hampton	Full-Time Youth Pastor & Interim Youth Pastor
Harmony	Bi-Vocational Pastor
Knowles	Bi-Vocational Pastor
Maple Avenue BC	Senior Pastor
Norphlet FBC	Part-Time Youth Pastor
Temple (El Dorado)	Bi-Vocational Pastor
Three Creeks BC	Children's Pastor
Village	Bi-Vocational Pastor
White Oak Lake BC	Interim Pastor

To better serve our community we need...

- Men's Clothing
- 24 cu. ft. freezer
- Devotional literature to distribute with bags of food

Can you help?



Ruby Snider Ministry Center

Food & Clothing Pantry and Thrift Store **133 Haynes Ave NW**

OPFN WFFKI Y:

Tuesday 9 am-2 pm

FVFNING HOURS:

Tuesday 6 pm-8 pm

clothing and food donations accepted when open

MINISTRY CENTERS SNAPSHOT

Ruby Snider Ministry Center Food Pantry

Total Households Served: 127 New Households Served: 62 Total Individuals Served: 267 New Individuals Served: 130

Liberty Ministry Center Food Pantry

Total Households Served: 159 New Households Served: 69 Total Individuals Served: 386 New Individuals Served: 186

IUNE 2022

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