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The editor's email address is jloudat@bcnm.com.
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Immanuel Baptist, Estancia, Celebrates Silver
By John Loudat

“Praising God for 25 Years!” was the theme of the day when current and former members and friends of Immanuel Southern Baptist Church in Estancia gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the church’s founding.
Opening the special morning worship service on Sunday, Nov. 4, with a few minutes of remembrance and prayer was the church’s first pastor, Bobby Neeley, who encouraged members of today’s church to do what so many of the church’s earliest members did a quarter century ago—come to the front, fall on their knees and pray.
Four boxes of tissues were strategically placed on the steps to the platform to accommodate the many who did just that.

The first part of the song service surely took many back to the past as they sang “Give Me That Old Time Religion” and “When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder.”

On hand to congratulate the congregation from the Baptist Convention of New Mexico were the convention’s director of children and women’s ministries, Krista Peterson, who presented a plaque to the deacon body; and Central Baptist Association’s director of missions, John Torrison, who presented another plaque on behalf of the association’s approximately 80 “partner churches.”

“Extra special music” was brought by Dianne Hagan, the widow of the church’s second pastor, Albert Hagan, who died early last year while he was leading the congregation. Saying that she had been on a special pilgrimage with the Lord, she sang a moving song about broken and hurting people whom the Lord restores.

The service concluded with a prayer by Bernie Moraga, who was interim pastor between Hagan and current pastor Cory Dryden, and a celebration meal in the church’s original building, which now serves as fellowship hall.

In the middle of the service, charter member and retired history teacher Mildred Pritchett read a brief history written by fellow charter member Carolyn Davis for the celebration.

Those who would be the church’s charter members first met in the community’s Masonic Lodge “to discuss the possibility of forming a new Baptist church,” Davis began. The group rented the corner store, wrote a constitution and bylaws and held a constitution service on Nov. 22, 1987.

Children’s classes were held in the basement while the upstairs accommodated adult classes and served as the worship center.

“It was cramped, but we were worshiping the Lord and we were growing,” Davis wrote. “The baptistery was a metal tub which was fun to fill and keep the water warm, and even more fun to empty.”

When the church turned 5, the church determined it was time to move.

“We purchased land and then with the help of volunteers from Del Norte Baptist Church (Albuquerque) and others, we put up the first building in one week,” said the history. “June 23, 1993 we had our first regular service at the original building ... Then we spent the next several months finishing the building.”

Del Norte also helped the following spring by donating 500 books to help the church start a church library, which was dedicated six months later.

Neeley resigned in March 1997, and Hagan began his 13-year tenure that same year. Under his leadership, the church built a new worship center, which was dedicated in 2005.

Dryden, who began his ministry as pastor June 1 of this year, brought the message the morning the church celebrated its 25th anniversary.
Citing Paul’s commitment stated in Philippians 3:12-16, Dryden encouraged everyone to “treasure” the church’s past but to move forward with confidence in the one who holds its future.

The 25-year-old church is “crossing a threshold,” the pastor proclaimed, reminding members that joy would not be found in where they have been but in “who’s waiting at the end.”

Dryden challenged the congregation to emulate Joshua, whom God told repeatedly to be strong and courageous as he led Israel into “unchartered territory.”

No matter what happens in the church’s future, its new undershepherd encouraged the flock to say to the Lord, “I’m going to serve you” and to be a church that continues to be “centered on the Word of God (and) focused on people,” who, he said, are “hungry souls desperate for the gospel.”

Photo cutline: Krista Peterson of the state convention reads a congratulatory plaque she then presented to (from left) deacons David Thomas, David Larson, Stan Davis and Patrick Ness, and Pastor Cory Dryden. (Photos by Loudat/BNM)

Photo cutline: Participating in the anniversary celebration were (from left) former interim pastor Bernie Moraga, founding pastor Bobby Neeley and current pastor Cory Dryden.

Photo cutline: Bringing “extra special music” during the celebration was Dianne Hagan, whose late husband, Albert Hagan, pastored the church for 13 of its 25 years.

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NATIVE AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Native American Partnership Alive and Well
By Scott Tafoya

The New Mexico Native American Southern Baptist Partnership continues to gather and grow! Its very design is to establish a working relationship among Native American congregations that unites and enables them to develop healthy Southern Baptist churches.

The partnership, formerly known as “Quarterly Indian Fellowship,” held its most recent meetings at Dulce Baptist Church in Dulce and First Indian Baptist Church in Espanola. Whether we drove up into the mountains or down into the valleys, we experienced warm fellowship; a great potluck lunch, as always—“Gotta get my red chile fix”; needed encouragement through testimony, song and God’s Word; and opportunity to strengthen our member churches by working together and sharing the gospel with others.
The partnership is currently led by five teams focusing on administration, communications, stewardship, growth (church strengthening) and missions. Others will be added as we grow. These teams are instrumental in helping us fulfill our purpose. Our desire, as declared in our constitution and bylaws opening statement, is “to walk together in Christian love, for the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom among Native American people and those we love.” Our purpose and objectives are “to establish a working relationship among Native American congregations that unites and enables them to develop healthy Southern Baptist churches within our state and neighboring states.”

The partnership is quickly gaining momentum in some areas. The missions team is leading us to have a missions display at one of our meetings each year, because several of our member churches or church members are taking the initiative to go on or be part of mission trips and endeavors in other states or countries. The administrative team has led in adjusting our meeting schedule to encourage attendance. The growth team is leading in the preparation for the first-ever Native American Evangelism Conference, with the partnership and support of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.

Any Native American Southern Baptist church/mission or any established Native American ministry of a Southern Baptist church/mission in New Mexico or its border states may submit a letter requesting membership in the partnership. Churches simply need to submit their letter requesting membership to the administrative leadership team through me, Scott Tafoya, the team’s current leader, at 1031 Wade St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112, (505) 908-2788 or stafoyas@yahoo.com.

The partnership currently has 10 member churches and is eagerly requesting that other churches long affiliated with us when we were known as the Quarterly Indian Fellowship officially become part of our New Mexico Native American Southern Baptist Partnership.

The next Partnership meeting will be held Jan. 26, 2013 at Laguna-Acoma Baptist Mission. For more information on the partnership, contact me (see above); Scott Tafoya, Administrative Team Leader or Rowena Gibson, communications team leader, (505) 692-9413, gibsonrg@windstream.net; or Daniel Clymer, the BCNM’s Native American strategist, (575) 834-7551, (505) 269-3103 or clymerministries@yahoo.com.

Photo cutline: The New Mexico Native American Partnership was formerly known as the Quarterly Indian Fellowship. (Scott Tafoya/Indian Nations Baptist Church) —30—

YOUR TURN: The Readers’ Forum

Pastors Urged to Issue Lottie Moon Challenge
Our church is looking for ways to increase our Lottie Moon Offering this year. Southern Baptists fell short of reaching the goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions in 2011 by nearly $30 million. In light of this, we are challenging our church to give our entire morning offering on Dec. 9 to Lottie. This is a step of faith for us, but we are confident that God will provide for our needs. The need of the nations is too great for us not to take the most sacrificial steps possible to get the gospel to the world.

We must realize that just as Christ gave everything for us, He calls us to respond in worship by giving everything we are to Him. But worship is not merely “vertical.” Worship always pushes us outward in mission. It is time for Southern Baptists to demonstrate their commitment to worship by getting serious about the Great Commission. New Mexico churches should lead the way by giving sacrificially to Lottie this year!

Pastor, would you lead your church to set an “above and beyond” goal this year? Consider these ideas:

• Ask members to give any financial increase they receive in December (Christmas bonus, etc.) to Lottie Moon.
• Designate a Sunday in December to give your entire morning offering to Lottie Moon.
• Ask members to give up one luxury during the month of December (i.e. coffee, eating out) and give that money to Lottie Moon.
• Encourage members to give to Lottie Moon in place of the traditional gift exchange on Christmas morning. It is better to give than receive!

Whatever method you use, I encourage you to set the challenge before your people. Let’s do it for the sake of His fame extending to the ends of the earth.—Andrew Hebert, pastor, Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Hobbs

“Your Turn” gives readers an opportunity to express their views, which do not necessarily reflect those of the editor. Letters to the editor are welcome but will be printed at the editor’s discretion. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and style. They should reflect Christian dignity and courtesy, and be no more than 300 words. Name may be withheld for sufficient reason, but anonymous letters will not be printed. Please include mailing address and phone number for verification.

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Tucumcari Church Helps Teachers
By John Loudat

First Baptist Church, Tucumcari’s extraordinary gift to all 79 certified teachers and librarians in the community’s public schools caught the attention of an Amarillo television station and the local newspaper last month.
Channel 10 News in Amarillo broadcast a story on the Oct. 9 delivery of the $200 gift cards that the educators could use to buy school supplies, and the Quay County Sun ran a story a few days later.

The paper’s Oct. 16 edition reported, “Teachers have been buying supplies out of their own pockets for years to make sure they had the tools essential in teaching the children, said First Baptist Church Pastor John Hinze.”

Hinze told OCS reporter Jerrene Bradley that the Lord had laid the ministry project on his heart this summer while he was recuperating at home from knee surgery and watching a television program that mentioned that teachers “spend an average of about $500 out of their pockets for supplies each school year.” He later told the Baptist New Mexican that he became convicted that helping teachers with part of that expense could be a way the church could connect with the generous community “servants.”

After the church’s leadership approved the idea, church members designated $15,800 over the next two weeks. The $200 gift cards were purchased at the Mardel bookstore, which added up to $20 worth of discount coupons.

“Nicole Bright-Lesly said it was a very generous gift and it was very emotional and touching for the teachers when they received their money,” the paper reported, concluding the article, “Hinze said they delivered (gift cards) to the middle school Oct. 9 and most teachers had tears in their eyes.”

To view the Channel 10 story, go to http://www.newschannel10.com/ and search for “Tucumcari teachers.”

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Central Assoc. Mission Study Nov. 27 & 28 (Logo)
By Karen Pilgreen

Central Baptist Association’s WMU is offering two opportunities to experience “a delightful trip to Beijing, China,” during this year’s International Mission Study, on Nov. 27 and 28.

Del Norte Baptist Church in Albuquerque will host the study on Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Those who attend are asked to bring a sack lunch; drinks will be provided.

First Baptist Church, Rio Rancho, will host the study on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 5-7 p.m. Participants are asked to call (505) 892-1323 by noon on Monday, Nov. 26, to make reservations for the meal, which will cost $3.

The teacher has both been to Beijing and written the study “Beijing Times,” which will be available for sale along with hundreds of WorldCraft items made in China.

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White Was Educator, Pastor (Photo)
By John Loudat

Stanley L. White, who pastored five Baptist churches in and around Carlsbad bivocationally during a lengthy career as a special education teacher, died last month at the age of 90.

According to his obituary, White was 23 years old when he accepted Christ as Savior at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Carlsbad. He surrendered to God’s call to the ministry one year later and filled pulpits in the area as a supply preacher for the next several years while working at a mine and attending night school to earn his high school diploma.

At age 28, White began college, first at Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Ariz., then at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, which would award him both a teacher’s certificate and a bachelor of art degree in religion and social studies. While there he also pastored churches in and around Portales and Clovis.

Following graduation, White and his family moved to Dublin, Texas, where he pastored a Baptist church in nearby Alexander while commuting to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth for one year. He continued pastoring in Alexander after accepting a teaching position at Dublin High School, and three years later he returned to Carlsbad, where he would teach special education for 27 years until his retirement in 1986.

During his years of teaching, White earned a master’s degree in special education from ENMU and developed a special relationship with his students, many of whom accepted the Lord as their Savior. He also served 32 years on the board of the C.A.R.C. farm and pastored in nearby El Paso Gap and in Carlsbad at Cavern, Happy Valley, Garden Street and Standpipe Road Baptist churches.

White married Ellen Verdie Sanders in 1941, and she preceded him in death in 1993. Survivors include his wife of nearly 19 years, the former Ouida L. Lawson; a daughter, Carolyn White Fowler of Las Cruces; a son, S. Ronnie White of Phoenix, Ariz.; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a stepson, Tommy Lawson and his wife Betty of Carlsbad; a stepdaughter, Leta Wilson and her husband Leland of Fort Worth; seven step grandchildren, 19 step great-grandchildren and 11 step great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to C.A.R.C., Inc., 902 West Cherry Lane, Carlsbad, NM 88220, or Landsun Homes Caring Hands, 2002 Westridge Road, Carlsbad, NM 88220.

By John Loudat

Richard Land to Speak at 2013 Legislative Breakfast Jan. 25 (Photo)

Churchmen to Sing at Capitol
By John Loudat
Southern Baptist ethics leader Richard Land and the New Mexico Singing Churchmen have been enlisted to share with state legislators and officials and leaders of New Mexico Baptist churches in January during the Baptist Convention of New Mexico’s 12th annual Legislative Breakfast.

All state legislators and officials are being invited to join leaders of New Mexico Baptist churches at the breakfast, which will be held at the Hilton Hotel on Friday morning, Jan. 25, from 7-8:15.

The church leaders also are urged to attend a meal and a training session at 6 p.m. on Thursday evening at First Baptist Church in Santa Fe, which is located at 1605 Old Pecos Trail.

Land and Churchmen

Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission for the past 25 years, has led a transformation of the ethics entity and been an outspoken advocate for biblical positions on issues such as the sanctity of human life, religious freedom, marriage and race relations. He has announced he will retire from the post next October.

Named one of the nation’s 25 most influential evangelicals by Time Magazine in 2005, Land was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the U.S. Commission of International Religious Freedom in 2001, and he served on the bipartisan panel for five terms, until 2012.

The Churchmen, a group made up of men who serve on staffs of churches affiliated with the BCNM, recently recorded a new album, which will be given as gifts to state legislators and officials in conjunction with the annual Baptist event.

Land will speak to church leaders during the training on Thursday evening and to legislators and officials at the breakfast. The Churchmen will sing at both the training and the breakfast, and present a concert in the Capitol rotunda on Friday from 12-1 p.m.

Mission Trip to the Capitol

Each Baptist church in the state is being encouraged to send its pastor and/or a key layperson to the breakfast, which the BCNM’s Christian Life Committee, sponsor of the annual event, calls a “Mission Trip to the Capitol.”

The breakfast has been held each year since 2002, usually at the end of the second week of the legislature’s annual session. The purpose of the meal and program is to remind state leaders that Baptists across the state appreciate them, are supporting them in prayer and care about moral issues facing the state.

New Mexico’s governor, Susana Martinez, and lieutenant governor, John Sanchez, also are invited to attend, as are other elected members of the state executive branch and judicial leaders in Santa Fe.

Several of the previous breakfasts have included remarks from either the governor or lieutenant governor.

The buffet will be set up by 6:45, so people can begin serving themselves as soon as they arrive.
After the breakfast, the church leaders will be encouraged to go to the Capitol to visit the offices of their legislators and to observe morning sessions of the Senate and House.

The CLC will be sending every director of missions and pastor in the state a letter soon. In the letter, the leaders will be encouraged to contact their legislators and let the committee know by Jan. 18 if they and/or a key layperson and their legislators will be able to attend the breakfast.

Everyone who plans on attending the Thursday evening or Friday morning events is being asked to call the BCNM information services team (the Baptist New Mexican) in Albuquerque at 924-2311, or 1-800-898-8544 ext. 311.

The BCNM will send those who make reservations one or two free tickets per church to the breakfast. Additional tickets may be purchased by sending $20 per ticket to BCNM Information Services Team, P.O. Box 94485, Albuquerque, NM 87199-4485 by Jan. 20. After that date, tickets will be $25.

Lodging

While the BCNM will pay for one or two breakfasts per church, churches are being asked to pay for travel and lodging expenses for their church leaders.

Free lodging will be available at nearby LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in the cabin of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Hobbs, according to Dale Shook, the church’s associate pastor/administrator/education minister.

The cabin can accommodate both individuals and couples, and those who plan to stay there will need to bring their own bedding and towels, says Shook.

For more information or to make reservations to stay at the cabin, call the church at (505) 397-7447.

The BCNM has asked the Hilton to set aside a limited number of rooms for a special discounted rate on Thursday night, Jan. 24. Those wishing to make reservations at the special rate should call the Hilton at (505) 988-2811 by Jan. 4 and tell the reservation clerk they are with the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.

All rooms not reserved by that date will go back into the hotel’s available pool. If people are able to book after that date, they may still do so at the special rate if there are still rooms available in the negotiated block.

Photo cutline: The New Mexico Singing Churchmen, shown here at the Baptist Convention of New Mexico’s Centennial Celebration last month, will present a concert in the Capitol rotunda from 12-1 p.m. Jan. 25 after singing a few numbers at both the Legislative Training the night before and the Legislative Breakfast that morning.

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NEW MEXICO ROUNDUP

AVAILABLE & WANTED
Wayland Baptist University-Albuquerque is looking for terminally degreed instructors in the following academic disciplines: business, accounting, management and religion/philosophy. Contact WBU-Abq. for additional information at (505) 323-9283 or visit its website at http://www.wbu.edu/colleges-in-albuquerque/.  

X Factor Christian Fellowship in Albuquerque, a very contemporary church, is looking for a worship leader to grow with us. Compensation is possible for the right person. Email Pastor Luke McKinnon for more information at luke@realrelevant.com.

MISSIONARIES WITH N.M. TIES

Robert and Vickie Butler, Southern Baptist representatives in Southeast Asia, will be on Stateside assignment Sept. 1-Dec. 31. They may be contacted at rjb928432@asianetrising.com.

Kelly and Jeanne Manire, missionaries to European Peoples, will be on Stateside assignment Dec. 11, 2012-March 13, 2013. They may be contacted at jmanire@gmail.com.

Carol Smith, a missionary to European Peoples, will be on Stateside assignment Nov. 1, 2012-Feb. 28, 2013. She may be emailed at carolcamille@yahoo.com.

Las Cruces First’s Living Christmas Tree Dec. 8-11

The 17th annual presentations of First Baptist Church, Las Cruces’ Living Christmas Tree Concert have been scheduled for Dec. 8-11.

The annual concert has become an annual holiday tradition for many Mesilla Valley residents. Last year, more than 3,000 attended the unique and festive blend of timeless Christmas traditions with the tools of technology. Under the direction of Music Minister Mike Edwards, the concert is a dramatic announcement of the Christmas celebration. James Harrison serves as the technical coordinator.

Adorned with the traditional evergreen and draped with red and gold lamè, the steel structure reaches 24 feet to the ceiling of the worship center and serves as a platform for the 70-voice choir, which is accompanied by a 35-piece orchestra.
They are joined by the church’s children, youth and senior adult choirs, and a drama cast.

The 90-minute presentation is an expression of the season’s music, which is animated with dramatic visual effects, including 65,000 computer-controlled lights. Technical and musical preparation began in August.

Performances will begin Dec. 8 at 1:30 and 7 p.m.; and Dec. 9, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.

Tickets, which are $5, are available at First Baptist, 106 S. Miranda; Johnson’s True Value Hardware 1002 W. Picacho Ave.; Picture Frame Outlet, 382 S. Walnut; and Tanned Calf, 326 S. Tornillo Street.

Free child care will be provided for children birth through 3 years old.

Photo cutline: Rehearsal by the church’s sanctuary choir began in September.

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Hoffmantown Presentation Dec. 7-9 (Photo)

Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque will present THE STORY—an original musical drama on the life of Christ created and produced through the church’s worship ministry under the direction of its worship pastor, Terry Adams—Dec. 7, 8 and 9.

Performances are Friday at 7 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday at 3 and 6:30 p.m.

THE STORY will be told through the character of Simon of Cyrene, the man who helped Jesus carry his cross to his crucifixion, who later became a disciple.

THE STORY will be presented by a cast, choir and orchestra of 175 people. The crew, hospitality team and other volunteers will add another 100 people to that number. All the props and costumes were made by the faithful volunteers lovingly known as the “J-Crew.”

Over the past two years, Hoffmantown members have distributed 15,000 tickets through the community for THE PROMISE, the church’s former production.

While the new hour-and-40-minute-long presentation strongly emphasizes the life and ministry of Christ, it maintains a feeling and flavor of Christmas, telling of the life-transforming power of the life of Christ and revealing the why behind some of the most powerful moments in his life and ministry. It is an opportunity for Christians to invite their unchurched family members and friends to an event where they will hear the story of God’s love and redemption.

Free tickets and more information are available at the church and at www.thestoryabq.org.

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Robert Louis Tremaine Jr., pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Hobbs from 1962-67, died Oct. 24 at the age of 78.

Born in Trinidad, Colo., Tremaine attended high school in Albuquerque before going to Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in 1957 and excelled as a center on the school’s basketball team, setting several school records and being selected to the All Border Conference and All Southwest Rocky Mountain Area teams for three years.

While at HSU, Tremaine met and married the woman who would be his wife and ministry partner for the rest of his life, Glenda Wages Tremaine.

After college, Tremaine pastored First Baptist Church in Red Springs, Texas, until being called to Northside Baptist (now Crosswinds Community) Church in Hobbs. In 1967 he was appointed by the Southern Baptist Home (now North American) Mission Board and sent to Worcester, Mass., where he led the first Southern Baptist congregation in New England until 1974, when he was called to pastor First Baptist, Miami Beach, Fla. His final pastorate was from 1979-88 at First Baptist, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Tremaine also earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees; and during his work as a home missionary, he was involved in starting 38 new congregations and 51 churches.

In 1992, Tremaine was called to be director of missions for Parker/Palo Pinto Association in Weatherford, Texas, a post he held until 2005.

A memorial service was held Nov. 10 at the church he pastored in Hobbs.

After the Tremaines’ oldest daughter, Tori, preceded them in death, they set up the Tori Tremaine Scholarship, which is managed by the New Mexico Baptist Foundation, for children of missionaries or mission volunteers attending HSU. Memorial gifts may be made in Bob Tremaine’s name to the Tori Tremaine Scholarship, c/o New Mexico Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 16560, Albuquerque, NM 87191-6560.

Survivors include Tremaine’s wife of 55 years, Glenda, of Arlington, Texas; a son, Tim, of Arlington; a daughter, Tara, of Los Angeles; and two grandchildren. —30—

THESE ROADS WITH DR. B

Crafty Ladies
By Joseph Bunce, BCNM Executive Director

This past Saturday, I went with my bride, Sharon, to a Holiday Craft Show at a local school. For those of you that know Sharon, you realize that Martha Stewart has nothing on her when it comes to crafts and home decor. Sharon likes to admire
the handiwork of others, and I found myself discovering that folks give out free samples of homemade jelly and crackers as we strolled around the booths. It was better than shopping Sam’s Club when it comes to strolling and snacking. Remember, the only day that I will eat homemade jelly is on days that end in a “Y” and Saturday “y” does. There was one booth that captured my attention. Sharon pointed it out to me because I would have walked right past it in pursuit of more jelly samples. The booth had a sign that said “100% of proceeds go to the Baptist Children’s Home, Portales New Mexico.” Thank you “Crafty Ladies.” WOW! That is so cool.

The sign was a great testimony of what it means to use your talents for the betterment of others. We talked with the ladies in charge of the booth and discovered a few things. The “Crafty Ladies” is a small group made up of four sweet ladies: Deanye Chapman, Angie Ray, Sharon Reagan and Ester Bertch. This group meets in one of the member’s home and has been doing so for 13 years. This past year, the ladies raised $2,500 that was given to the Children’s Home. Talking with these ladies made me understand that the motive of what we do is paramount when it comes to what we do with our talents. The “Crafty Ladies” enjoyed fellowship and concern for each other along with providing funds for a great cause.

There is something special about the holiday season that brings out the giving spirit in all of us. So let’s take a moment and talk about what giving does for those who will invest in others. Acts 20 is a passage that illustrates what it means to invest your life for the sake of others. Acts 20:32-35 says, “And now I commit you to God and to the message of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands have provided for my needs and for those who were with me. In every way I’ve shown you that by laboring like this, it is necessary to help the weak and to keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, for He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’ ” (HCSB).

Paul is on his way Jerusalem fully aware of the fact that he would never see the Ephesian Christians again. He then quotes Jesus concerning the blessing of giving rather than receiving. It is amazing to me that Paul’s last conversation with these brothers was a reminder that the giver is more blessed than the receiver. Paul had given his very life to the spreading of the gospel, and now he was saying clearly that he profited far more than he ever gave.

Thank you, “Crafty Ladies,” for reminding me of the power of giving. I pray that you are blessed real good! I know that New Mexico Baptists have folks all across our state that bless the socks off of many, never seeking to profit. You are all heroes that make the Christmas season special.

God has given us a wonderful gift. Don’t waste it.

Please know that Sharon and I love you and are honored to give our lives serving you.

Dr. B
Need a smile?

I heard about a preacher that was struggling to figure out how to raise money for the Christmas missions offering. To make matters worse, the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. “Here’s a copy of the service,” he said impatiently. “But, you’ll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the mission offering.” During the service, the minister paused and said, “Brothers and sisters, we have a great opportunity to touch the world with our giving. Any of you who can give $1,000 or more, please stand up.” At that moment, the substitute organist played “The Star Spangled Banner.” And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

THANK YOU for your giving to the Cooperative Program and Mission New Mexico! These are mission offerings you can support year-round.
Given this year through Nov. 19:
Cooperative Program — $3,260,782
Mission New Mexico — $189,913

Executive Director Bunce has set up a “blog” (an online Weblog) at www.josephbunce.com or connect with Joseph Bunce on Facebook. He says, “I want to use this avenue as a means for you to share some of the great things taking place in your ministries across New Mexico. Check it out and post your comments each week.”

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Centennial Celebration Recordings Available

Messages from the Baptist Convention of New Mexico’s Centennial Celebration, the Centennial Banquet and the Pastors’ and Laymen’s Conference were recorded and are being posted on the BCNM’s website. Also available on the website are the reports of the New Mexico Baptist Children’s Home, the BCNM Christian Life Committee, BSU Christian Challenge, Inlow Baptist Camp and Conference Center and Sivells Baptist Retreat and Conference Center, which were on DVDs that were given to messengers during the celebration.

To watch, listen or download the messages and reports, go to www.bcnm.com and click on the “Centennial Celebration” button. Audio recordings in an MP3 format also will be available.

CDs with audios and DVDs with videos will be sent to those who request them. To request CDs or DVDs or for more information, contact the BCNM’s technical services director, Brian White, at 924-2359 (Albuquerque), or 1-800-898-8544 ext. 359, or bwhite@bcnm.com.

— 30 —
Gardner Pastored in Abq., Gallup (Photo)
By John Loudat

Bruce M. Gardner, who pastored churches in Albuquerque and Gallup and directed the mission department of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, died Oct. 19 at the age of 82.

Born and reared in Albuquerque, Gardner graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He began his ministry as associate pastor of Fruit Avenue Baptist Church, Albuquerque. He and his wife, Berniece, then moved to Gallup, where he would pastor Calvary Baptist Church.

The Gardners then answered God’s call to Idaho, where he pastored a church in Idaho Falls, then to Provo, Utah, where he pastored until accepting the regional convention post.

Gardner served as a Southern Baptist home missionary with the Utah-Idaho convention until his retirement in 1995, at which time he and his wife moved to Bluewater Acres, which located 12 miles southeast of Thoreau, and joined First Baptist, Thoreau.

“His love for people, his positive and encouraging personality, and his dedication to his calling resulted in him touching many lives with the love of Jesus Christ,” says his obituary. “He was a very loving and encouraging husband, father and grandfather. He is a friend who will be deeply missed.”

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Berniece; children: Jacqui, Keith and Jeana; four grandchildren; and a brother, Paul, of Albuquerque.

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NEW BOOKS

These are announcements, not advertisements of new books. Listings are not to be construed as endorsements of the books.


This book by Albuquerque native and former Santa Fe church planter Alan Danielson and Darren Currin draws from the words and action of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark to teach groups how to become missional communities. This 13-week study is a practical, hands-on resource that includes both on-campus and off-campus discipleship experiences. It has been created to take a group to the next level by teaching them how to be a group of action in the same way Jesus was a man of action.
Whether you are widowed or divorced, the feeling and experience of aloneness is a common one. In From We to Me, noted grief experts help you find confidence and hope as a single person and begin reinvesting fully in your life. Whether or not you’ve thought about the future, this caring guide will help you work through your grief and loneliness and point you toward wholeness once again.

Erin Walsh thanks her family is as close to perfect as a family can be. But when one grim diagnosis is all it takes to shake them to the core, she wonders if things can ever go back to the way they were. Erin’s attempts to go about life as usual feel empty, and as each member of her family seems to struggle alone, she is about ready to give up on God. However, Erin has yet to learn that God will never give up on her.

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HEART MEDICINE

A man was watching a football game when his wife returned from the mall, loaded down with bags.
“I thought you were only going window-shopping,” he said.
“Yes, I bought the curtains for the kitchen window, but I got a few things that match them: a can opener, a coffee maker, a blender ....”

Getting away from their high-stress jobs, May and Trey spend relaxing weekends in their motor home. When they found their peace and quiet disturbed by well-meaning but unwelcome visits from other campers, they devised a plan to assure their privacy.
Now when they set up camp, they place this sign on their RV door:
INSURANCE AGENT. ASK ABOUT OUR TERM-LIFE PACKAGE.

Hunter: “Why?”
Guide: “I’ve never been mistaken for fish.”

Adam: “Do you really love me?”
Eve: “There’s no one but you.”

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