

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

from the **Yavapai Baptist Association** December 2011

ON TARGET



Hello:

Someone said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. Yet we who serve in churches have done something even more insane; we continue to do the same things over and over again *in the flesh* expecting God to bless us.

In most of our Bibles we find this title to the fifth book of the New Testament: "The Acts of the Apostles". Many would say, however, that the book should be called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" because it was the Holy Spirit who was acting through the Apostles and the members of the various congregations that changed the world.

Isn't it time that we repent of the sin of doing the Lord's work in our strength and turn back to him as our one and only source of hope and help?

Byron Banta, the Interim State Executive Director for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, has called our churches to a Solemn Assembly, a time to get on our knees to seek the Lord, Sunday evening, January 15th, at Mountain Ridge Baptist Church, 23104 N. 67th Avenue, Glendale, AZ. The hope is that every ASBC pastor and all of the key church leaders will come together in humility and repentance to seek the Lord concerning the future of the work we are called to do together. A lot of changes are taking place in Southern Baptist life, changes that affect the way we do our work, and we need to seek the Lord who is our source for the help we need to do his work.

Please plan now to cancel your Sunday evening gathering (if you have one) and plan to be a part of this Sacred Assembly. Lord willing I'll be there with you.

Your Brother,
Rik Danielsen

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Pastors,

What a year it has been. Oh, I don't know the particulars in your congregation, but I know what "the ministry" is like. There have been ups and downs, encouragements and discouragements, passions and pains: but you get a chance to breathe, you still thank the Lord for the great privilege of serving Him. Whatever has taken most of your time this year, I'm fairly certain that the word "uneventful" will not cover it.

Scripture reminds us over and over again that there are times and seasons in life. The rain falls, the flower fades, the sun and the moon are constant in the sky. Yet, has not God stated that as long as the sun and moon continue in fixed order that He will not forget His people? The constancy of ministry--with all of its seasons--is a proof in itself that the Lord is with us and that our work continues with all of the meaning (even more?) as when we were first called.

Let us endeavor to meet the new seasons of 2012 with the passion for lost and hurting souls that was part of our first calling. Sometimes that soul is "me". Which is why we need the support of other ministers. If you've got a good idea about how to encourage and equip our churches' leaders, we'd like to hear it. I'm looking forward to a great year with fellow ministers through the Leadership Development Team. I'm looking forward to a great year in the YBA.

May God bless His servants,
Brian LeSturgeon

CHURCH STRENGTHENING TEAM

There will be a YBA VBS Team meeting on Monday Jan. 2nd @ 6 p.m. at RRBC. We have several teaching positions that need to be filled in order to have a complete YBA VBS Training on April 28th! If you have been looking for an opportunity to serve, this will definitely be something you want to attend.

VBS Regional Training events for 2012 will be:

- March 10 - East Valley
- March 17 - Tucson
- March 31 - West Valley
- April 21 - Flagstaff

***Mark your calendars and
watch for more information
in future Newsletters***

There will be a Transform Lives Seminar (Net21) on March 24 @ Crosspoint Church (Tempe) with a cost of \$20.00 Plan on having your Sunday School staff attend this great training ~ they will be blessed.

ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR

December 2011

- 2 YBA Christmas Party, 6:30 pm at FSBC Chino Valley
- 8 Council Meeting 1:30 at Robert Rd. BC
- 21-27 YBA and ASBC offices closed
- 25 Christmas Day



CHURCH NEWS

From The Ridge Christian Fellowship



One Missional Community from the Ridge Christian Fellowship, cleaning up the park they adopted

Three Missional Communities at the Ridge are living out their 'sentness' in the community loving God and people in real and concrete ways. Missional is who they are, so mission is what they do. The Ridge partners with The Church Next Door, Corner Stone and Willow Hills living out a culture of service in our community through eight Missional Communities throughout the Prescott, Prescott Valley and Chino Valley area. Two more Missional Communities will be coming on board in January.

From Bagdad Southern Baptist Church

The Bagdad Community Christian Choir will be performing the Christmas Cantata - 'There's A Song in the Air' at 7:00 p.m. on December 18th. The Cantata will be held at the School Auditorium. All are invited to come and enjoy an evening of music.

For more information about our Association please go to the website

yavbaptists.com.

Please forward this email to all of your Christian friends and church members.

Rik Danielsen