

ARKANSAS CHRISTIAN CRUSADER



APRIL, 2019

**Scripture: You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?
Matthew 20:22**

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HERITAGE HYMN

"ARE YOU ABLE, "SAID THE MASTER

"Are ye able" said the master,
"To be Crucified with Me?"
"Yea" the sturdy dreamers answered,
"To the death we follow thee:"

Chorus

"Lord we are able" our spirits are Thine;
Remold them, make us like Thee divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
A beacon to God, to love and loyalty.

"Are ye able to remember?
when a thief lifts up his eyes,
That his pardoned soul is worthy
Of a place in paradise?"

"Are ye able" still the Master,
Whispers down eternity,
And Heroic spirits answer,
Now, as then in Galilee,

Earl Marlatt/Harry S. Mason BEACON HILL

STATE MINISTERS REPORT

Greetings to the pastors and churches of the Church of God in Arkansas.

As I look out my office window I see a very beautiful spring afternoon. Everything seems to be coming in full bloom. April is fast approaching and we are getting ready to celebrate Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Everything's coming back to life because He came back to life. We are a blessed people to have a God that loves us so much that He sent His one and only son to pay the penalty for our sins that we might be able to spend eternity with him forever.

I want to thank the pastors and the laity for their support for this years spring meeting. Our speakers this year were Darryl Allen and Susan Allen who led our praise and worship with Bonnie Hudson and Community Park Praise Band. Thank you Community Park for hosting this years spring meeting.

I pray that this year's starting out well for all of our pastors and our churches. I pray that we are pursuing the heart of God and trusting him to lead and guide as we walk in his steps.

We are looking forward to an exciting C. W. C. convention this year, May 3 and 4th at Oak lawn Church of God in the beautiful town of Hot Springs Arkansas. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Arington, phone number (501) 293- 5151.

June 27, 28th, 29th and Sunday the 30th 2019 is the International Convention. It looks like we have several pastors and others planning on attending this year's convention in Orlando, Florida.

Our summer convention for the state will be July 17, 18th, 19th and General Assembly on Saturday the 20th at 9:30 am. Community Park Church will be hosting this year's convention.

We have some exciting things going on with our children's and youth ministry training. We put together about 18 women and men from across Arkansas to look at every aspect of our children's and youth ministry within the state. They have met together three times so far and things are really looking exciting. Our team handed out this year's summer camp packets at our spring meeting. If you did not attend or someone from your church did not attend please be looking for a packet in the mail.

Youth camps will be at Camp Paron in Paron, Arkansas and the dates are:
For children August 5th through the 7th. And for the youth will be August 5 through the 9th.
If you have any questions concerning children's camp please contact April Matthews at (870) 820-3447 and for our youth please contact Jeff Irving at (501) 690-4435.

I continue to pray for God's blessings and guidance for our pastors and our churches.
Your servant in Christ,

Jim Eustace

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The CWC State Women's Organization has available scholarships for our state youth, see the State Web site for a copy of the application, or contact Kathy Arington, State President for The information, there is a \$3,000 grant and it will be divided between the accepted applicants. Bernice DeYoung at Grape Chapel is the contact for this committee. Several in our state have attended college with the help of this grant. It's not limited to which college you wish to attend but it must be a Church of God college.



YOUTH CAMPS

BE SURE AS A PASTOR OR YOUTH LEADER THAT YOU HAVE YOUR PACKET TO REGISTER THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CHURCH. LEADERS NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY CHILDREN TO PREPARE FOR. CAMP DATES AUGUST 5TH TO THE 9TH.

HELP A YOUTH ATTEND BY PROVIDING FINANCING FOR ALL



CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTION

Greetings,

If the CWC locals have not submitted their Christ Birthday Offerings, please get those to Dollie Brink this week! You can reach Dollie at: 3275 Quail Lane, Benton, AR 72019. Thank you.

Preparation is on for the CWC State Spring Convention, beginning Friday, May 3 at 5:00 pm with \$10 registration. The Convention runs through Saturday morning. Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast will be provided. I'm asking the locals to provide estimated attendance numbers to me by April 25.

Tina Robinson, Hot Springs, will be speaking on the topic, "Proclaiming Joy!" Tara McKinney from Harrison, AR will be leading worship for the weekend. I've heard she may be enlisting the help of her dad, Terry Arington. If we can work out logistics, the board thought it might be fun to have a CWC luncheon sometime during the summer convention, possibly on Friday, July 19. If this would interest you, let me know! You can text or call me, or we can talk at the May 3&4 convention.

Be blessed!

Kathy Arington
501-293-5151

CWC Spring Convention

May 3 & 4, 2019

Oaklawn Church of God

2110 7th Street

Hot Springs, AR

Friday, May 3

5:00 pm	Registration - \$10
6:00 pm	Dinner - Italian
7:00 pm	Worship in Music – Tara McKinney, Harrison
	Guest Speaker – Tina Robinson, Hot Springs
	Proclaiming Joy!
	CWC Trivia and Door Prizes

Saturday, May 4

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Worship Time in Sanctuary
	Guest Speaker – Tina Robinson
	Communion – Jeanne Drake, CPC
	Business Meeting
	Door Prizes

Please provide a count for your local to Kathy Arington, 501-293-5151 by April 25, 2019. Pass the word, invite your friends!

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

BENTON - GRAPE CHAPEL

Greetings from exciting Grape Chapel where Jesus is the Subject!

We have been blessed once again to have completed another successful Faith Promise campaign. Nearly \$11,000 dollars was collected over the prior year. This brings our 30-year total to more than \$300,000 which has gone toward building homes and churches, training missionaries and pastors, providing shelter for abused women and orphaned children, leading people to Christ, giving encouragement to the grieving, emergency relief supplies, and many other projects that have been a miracle in someone's life.

Our Sunshine Ambassadors continue to meet on the first Monday of each month for a potluck lunch, devotions, sharing prayer concerns and then singing, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God." Currently, we support Child of Promise and have an occasional outing, such as to the Bauxite Museum. We would love for you to join us!

The CWC continues to have a busy year. The Super Bowl Supper had a great attendance and raised needed funds for supporting various ministries, including the state office, New Beginnings, Safe Haven, and Child of Promise. We also take food to the Hospice in Bryant once a month.

Finally, a group of members spent a week serving in various ways at Prince of Peace Orphanage in Guatemala. The experience was truly life changing and we're excited about going back soon. In fact, Karvin Adam's is planning another trip in August. If you have an interest in going, please contact him as soon as possible to reserve a spot!

Scott Grogg, Pastor

BENTON - NEW SONG

Greetings from New Song,

We have been so blessed these past few months. As many of you know, several from our ranks have recently completed their ordination and have hit the ground running. James and Ashley Burchfield are involved in our Children's ministry and Trea and Ann Marie Mahan have taken on our Youth ministry. Several in our congregation have stepped up to help them and God is growing those ministries. Jeannie is currently walking us through Psalms and Isaiah on Sunday evenings and I am leading us through the Revelation on Wednesday nights. We are currently studying John's epistle on Sunday mornings. Our Men's prayer breakfast is going strong (with Jerry Richards at the helm) and we are seeing more men show up early on a Saturday morning to gather together to pray and study God's word. Easter is right around the corner and we are getting ready to honor the Lord in celebration of His risen Son.

We have several prayer needs and covet your prayers. We will keep you in ours as well. We hope to see many of you at Community Park for the MACU choir concert.

Until next time...May God bless you richly,

Bro. Bob Burchfield

CROSSETT - FIRST CHURCH

February seemed to be the month to have banquets. We had two banquets at our facility. One was our annual Valentine's Banquet. We enjoyed a nice meal together, and watched several participants in a heart pounding game of Family Feud. Everyone declared it a great time, and a good way to celebrate a day focused on love. The other banquet that we held at our fellowship hall was for the volunteers of the Crossett pound. While we didn't view it as a "church function", it created an excellent opportunity to get people into our facility, and show our support for a worthy cause. The highlight of the event was the presentation of a service dog to a lady in our community who has seizures. The dog will be able to detect when she is going to have a seizure, and will do certain things it is trained to do to ensure her safety. The volunteers raised a lot of money that will go to help provide homes to many great animals. I have personal experience with some of the people that give of their time here, and I know they do a great job and a service for this community.

Now that we are through February, Easter is right around the corner, and our Easter musical is in the works as of this writing. I hope to report by next time that practices are going smoothly, and our choir is sounding great. The year is off to an exciting start and, as always, the best is yet to come.

many blessings,
Pastor Mike

EDORADO - FIRST CHURCH

Hello from El Dorado,

We have had an exciting time recently as the youth and children took an excursion and had an overnight stay at Moro Bay Park. Everyone had a great time and it was wonderful to spend time in fellowship in God's great world.

As we prepare for Easter, we are trying to get our Children more involved with the Sunday morning service before they go to Children's Church. This also gives some of our grown-ups a chance to interact more with the children, as they are doing the presentations. We are hoping to make this a regular part of our service.

We eagerly await Easter Sunday and the excitement that it always brings with it. Blessings from all of us to all of you. In Jesus.

Pastor George Jones



GURDON - EVERGREEN CHURCH

Greetings from Gurdon,

Since the first of the year, we have been on a journey through the book of Acts to discover what it means to Be The Church. What we have found is that the early Church was devoted to: 1) The Word of God, 2) The Fellowship, 3) The Breaking of Bread, and 4) To Prayer. We have been working to make sure we are devoted to those things as well.

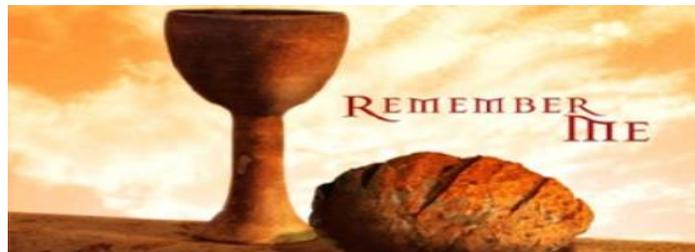
Speaking of prayer, we are in the middle of our Seek God For the City 2019 campaign. It is 40 days of focused prayer for the people of the city of Gurdon. The weekly themes are: to renew Christ's life among His people, to bring the light of the gospel to many, to reveal Christ's glory to all people, to establish righteousness in our city, to bring His peace in relationships, and to welcome the visitation of God.

The Community Pantry ministry is thriving. We had an appreciation dinner for all the volunteers in which we poured blessing and encouragement within them. We ate together, shared with one another, gave prizes and awards, and finished up with a game of family feud!

On Sunday March 31, we are having a joint potluck meal following the morning service at the Community Pantry with Bro. Ivory Curry and Carrie St. Church of God. We already work together at the Pantry every month, but this will be one of many more times to deepen our relationship with one another.

Blessings to all,

Kevin Sims
Evergreen Church



During supper, Jesus, well aware that the Father had entrusted everything to him, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from the table, laid aside his garments, and taking a towel, tied it around him. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash his disciples feet and to wipe them with the towel. When it was Simon Peters turn, Peter said to him, "You, Lord, washing my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but one day you will". John 13-3:7

HOT SPRINGS - OAKLAWN CHURCH

We are experiencing excitement in Hot Springs. The end of January, Pastor Terry shared a book with the Leadership Team, written by Thom Rainer. The book is titled, "Becoming a Welcoming Church". As a team, we began seeing our church through different eyes and we have been making some changes. We are experiencing some cosmetic changes, but also experiencing relational and spiritual growth. Our youth group has been mighty on Wednesday nights, but shown little interest in Sunday mornings. Last Sunday there were 4 youth sitting right up front – this was a very encouraging sight! Our spring calendar is full, as we end March with a work day on March 30. Also an all-church cookout on Saturday afternoon with the MACU choir. The choir will be singing on March 31 at 10:30 am.

April 6 – Community Yard Sale and Bake Sale sponsored by CWC. This is held in our gym from 7-2, rain or shine.

April 7 – 10:30 am, Common Bond, a Southern Gospel Quartet with Church of God roots out of Kentucky.

April 14 – 10:30 am, Friend Day, encouraging everyone to invite their unchurched friends

April 21 – Easter Sunday Celebration

May 3 & 4 – State CWC Spring Convention at Oaklawn Church of God

We are looking to the future in Hot Springs!

Kathy Arington

KINGSLAND - SMITH CHAPEL

Happy spring! We are enjoying the sunshine and warmer temperatures here in Smith Chapel, and know all of you are as well.

Among the things going on in our church over the recent months include: The Kids Club and Psalm 119 groups packed 30 Birthday Bags to donate to CASA. These consisted of cake mixes, icing, candles, gift wrapping, small gifts, and anything that you would find at a birthday party. Items were donated by our parents and members of our congregation for this great project. Our Pastor, Shane Matthews, and his family were in Hot Springs for the recent Spring Meeting. As another aspect of the trip, they also were privileged to minister with Robert Holt at Healing Waters Outreach. They served approximately 150 meals, groceries and other personal items. Shane also shared during the worship service. While the Matthews family was busy on their trip, we had the pleasure of a sermon by Reverend Bert Brown. He brought a wonderful message, and we enjoyed visiting with he and his wife Judy. Our Food Ministry continues for shut-ins and those in need in our community at large. We have begun having Prayer Meetings on several Sunday evenings in each month. A group meets and prays over all the prayer requests received during that week.

Brother Brad Duncan will be our speaker this Sunday, the 24th. Shane and Family are home again and will be there.

On March 31st, our church will be hosting two of our sister churches from Crossett and

El Dorado. This will be our Tri-church service and we will be providing the potluck after the service. Reverend Mike Neal will be delivering the message.

We are also preparing for our Easter Service on April 21.

Blessings to all! Becky Morgan Cheney

LITTLE ROCK -EAGLE POINT

God's blessings are without measure! The Lord's grace and goodness have been lavish, as we have taken seriously the reminder **"An Empty Seat is a Serious Issue."** Our building and parking lot have begun to reflect a fresh season of growth. Fervent, faith-expectant prayer continues to bust on the scene ... weekly answered prayers and testimonies bring glory to God and encouragement to the church. Developing our spiritual roots has taken a positive leap.

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV.

Sunday evening Warrior Training and Women of Warriors Bible Studies are changing lives and relationships. Likewise, our Monday morning Ladies Bible Study, Mid-week Bible gathering, and Sunday morning classes are filling our rooms ... praise God we have begun to struggle with space issues! Recently, our adult classes have been involved in a special emphasis targeting the Church of God Reformation ... **our roots**. Coming soon will be Bible Studies on Financial Management and The Daniel Plan, a plan for becoming a healthy follower of Christ. Finally, the Eagle Point family has taken the **"Let's Roll"** challenge as we prepare for future ministry. **Christ is our hope!**

Jerry Riddle, Pastor

ROGERS - EXQUISITA PRESENCIA CHURCH

The Lord is good with us; He still opens doors and brings new believers to his house.

We are starting our 2019 discipleship course with 14 new students on new abundant life level and 35 in the other 4 levels.

Winter was a little strong for us this year, but thanks to God that the Church was not closed by the snow storms on Sundays. He is faithful.

We are excited with our couples retreat preparation to be celebrated on Jun 20-22/19. The speakers will be Marcos Garcia and his wife who is the National Hispanic Council Director. We are still praying to have more couples coming to this 3 day retreat conference.

What an awesome time we had at the Camp meeting at Bryant AR a couple weeks ago!!, I have to say, that it was so worth for us and for our church's members who traveled with us.

A new credential candidate was introduced to Chogar's credential committee which is God's answer to us.

This weekend our youth group is leaving for the youth camp meeting, its 2 nights/3 day event with other NWA's churches youth groups.

Thank you for your prayers, we are having 6 brand new youth believers who will be coming on this event. We are expecting to see more and more blessings in this summer

I hope this season finds you blessed and well

Leo Chavarria

Exquisita Presencia - Church of God Rogers AR

VAN BUREN - CROSS POINTE

We are welcoming in spring and hopefully milder temperatures. It has been a cold, wet, winter here in the River Valley and we are ready for a brand new season of God's blessings and opportunities to serve Him.

We have made several changes since the holidays and are excited to share them with you. Our long-time Youth Pastor's Brad and Danielle Trent are excited to enter a brand new phase of their ministry in becoming our Family Ministry Pastors. They will continue to assist in our youth program when and where needed but will mostly be concentrating on investing in marriages and families within and outside our church. Brad will be teaching in more of our adult classes, leading our fellowship groups (SALT GROUPS) and being involved in more pastoral duties and preaching. We look forward to what God does in and through them. With that change, we have new Youth Leaders. Tony and Ashley Duschinsky will be leading our youth and have been being groomed for that role for several months now. We know God will do amazing things through them. We had a Ministry Celebration Day on March 17th to mark and celebrate this time in their lives and the new things God is doing. It was a great service and their families each got to be in attendance and share the day with us.

We are thankful for those who serve in our nursery, toddlers, and children areas and God continues to move and bless. Our children will be ministering to us in an upcoming Sunday morning service.
Continued

We are excited about a brand new study we have started on Wednesday night called "Seamless" Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story.

Pastor Brad is leading us through this study and we believe it will be a great learning experience for us all. We offer 2 other adult classes one is our prayer class and the other is walking through the Bible verse by verse. Our children and youth also meet on Wednesday nights.

We have been blessed with a number of new people and families over the last few months and are beginning to see some of them find their place of service in God's Church and His Kingdom. We are thankful for each of them and their contribution to CrossPointe and the lives of those around them.

We are just a few weeks from Easter and we are eager to celebrate this season together. On Wednesday April 17th we will have a night of personal worship we are calling "Me and My Savior" This will be a come and go time where our people can visit several different worship stations by themselves or with their family and have a quiet time of reflection, prayer, conversation, and personal worship. Two of the stations will be foot washing and communion. Easter Sunday will be an awesome time of worship as our Easter Choir ministers to us.

Our continued prayers are with and for our sister churches across Arkansas that as God pours into each of you that you will in turn pour out into the lives of those that need Christ. May God keep you and use you for His Glory!

God Bless
Pastor Ronny Mayfield

Mission to Guatemala February 14–23, 2019

Our mission to Guatemala in February was 2-fold: first, minister to the 42 girls who call Prince of Peace home; second, train church leaders who are changing their country for Jesus Christ.

An 8-member team did general maintenance at Prince of Peace, held VBS and loved and encouraged the girls who have come from tragic backgrounds of abuse and neglect. One cannot visit PoP without being touched by the girls and caring staff.

“Fifty-four church leaders arrived on Thursday in Guatemala City for the six conferences and an evening service. All were from Guatemala except two pastors who came from Honduras. PiM in partnership with CRI has in the last six years trained over 110 church leaders from Guatemala. Estimates are that the country is now 45-50% Protestant. Karvin took the first step to start these seminaries in June 2012 for two reasons: first, to provide training for church leaders who didn’t have the opportunity or could afford formal Christian education. Second, to provide encourage and fellowship, for many of them were working alone with no one to encourage them. Their attendance has proven that these seminaries are important for their ministries.”

