

## The Expected One

Your missionaries to the Hispanic Community in DeQueen, Francisco and Gabby, were very busy on Saturday, December 2. They made and distributed 1,250 tamales at the City of DeQueen's annual Christmas Parade. They collected a lot of prizes, including three bicycles, for a drawing at their children's program at the conclusion of the parade. Three hundred and fifty people attended their program. Francisco gave a gospel message and a sixty people responded in faith to Christ's invitation to be saved! That is what I call a Christmas and Easter parade all rolled into one!

Surely we ought to celebrate the birth of the Seed of the Woman, the Messiah, the Kinsman Redeemer, the Second and Last Adam, who would take away the sins of the whole world. The chance of December 25 being the actual birthday of Christ is virtually none but that is of no consequence. The great question (and there is no greater one) is the one asked by John the Baptist of Jesus in Matthew 11:3, "Are you the Expected One or shall we look for someone else?" Many have falsely claimed to be the Messiah. The greatest of all tragedies is to be deceived into following one of these pretenders.

The Old Testament gives many clues about the true identity of the Christ. He would be born of a woman and come from the line of Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, David, etc. Micah says to look for one born in Bethlehem. Daniel says to look for one born nearly 500 years later. Isaiah says to look for one born of a virgin and called "God With Us". Malachi says to look for one who was preceded by a forerunner (John the Baptist). Hosea says to look for one called out of Egypt. Deuteronomy says to look for one who is a prophet like Moses. Psalm 110 says to look for one who is a priest like Melchizedek. Second Samuel says to look for one who is a king like David. Isaiah says to look for one who would minister to Gentiles in the region of Galilee. Jesus is the only one who fulfills these predictions so you can celebrate the birth of Jesus with great confidence.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the OBA and beyond..... *Steve Ellison*

## Ouachita Baptist Association

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 Associational Missionary, Steve Ellison; Moderator, Brett Lee;  
 Secretary, Ronda Lambert; Treasurer, Beth Pearcey

### 2017—2018 Association Events

Dec 20-Jan 1	OBA Office Closed
Jan 8	Executive Board Meeting (6:00pm) (Hatfield FBC)
Jan 16 & 18	Seminary Extension Semester begins (Mena, DeQueen, & Hodgen)
Jan 20	OBA Annual Meeting (10:00am—3:30pm) (Salem BC)
Jan 21	Sanctity of Life Sunday
Jan 23	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Sherry Baker)
Jan 29-30	ABSC Conference on Evangelism & Church Health (Geyer Springs)
Jan 30	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office
Feb 6	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Board Camp BC)
Feb 13	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Dallas Avenue BC)
Feb 20	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Calvary BC)
Feb 27	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Yocana BC)
March 6	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Concord BC)
March 13	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Mena FBC)
March 27	BCM lunch 11:00—12:45, OBA Office (Vandervoort FBC)