

"Life Letter"

Mission News, Events, & Prayer Requests of the River Valley Baptist Association Summer 2008



"Where we're bringing life to the desert!"

- **"Relevancy"**- Offering people in our churches the opportunity to be personally involved in the Great Commission!
- **"Resourcing"**- Giving back to our churches as much resources as possible to see their vision for ministry become a reality!
- **"Restoration"**- Building "healthy" churches that will not only survive, but thrive!
- **"Reproduction"**- Being strategic in starting new churches and helping our existing churches reproduce and multiply!
- **"Results"**- Closely evaluating the results of our efforts together and maximizing our opportunities for the future!

From Our Missionary...

What's wrong with the American church? . .

With the greater majority of churches plateaued, declining, and dysfunctional, we are all looking for answers. I would like to offer this insightful perspective by Jerry Rankin, our International Missions Board President. . . "God blessed Israel, not for their benefit but to be a priestly nation to be a light of the nations so that His salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6). . . Could it be that, like Israel, God's blessings and anointing will be withheld until we regain a vision for our purpose as the people of God? To what extent must God allow our nation to suffer and our churches to flounder before we begin to look beyond our own programs and interests to our larger kingdom mission?"

That is precisely the role of River Valley Baptist Association. . . We are our churches, and our purpose is to resource the vision of our churches and provide opportunities to be "on mission" together here and around the world. Nothing energizes, empowers, and enlarges my church more than this obedience to carry out a global, Great Commission, mission! I believe God wants to bless this partnership beyond what we can even imagine!

Tommy

River Valley Churches...

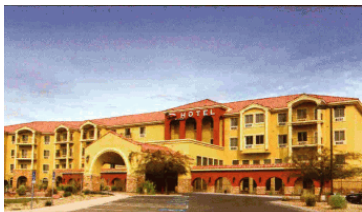
- **First Southern, Ft. Mojave** - Moving forward with plans to celebrate their 25th anniversary December 5th - 7th. Vacation Bible School June 2-7 and a mission trip to New Mexico June 21-28.
- **Golden Valley Baptist Church** - Please pray for God's direction as they begin their search for a new senior pastor after saying goodbye to Pastor Sam & Jan Crouch in May. Preparing for VBS June 16-20.
- **First Baptist, Parker** - Gearing up for VBS, Parker 1st will have their VBS June 22-26. Continuing to sponsor our new work in Bouse.
- **First Southern, Kingman** - Nine high school graduates honored on June 1st. Youth mission projects include World Changers in New Mexico, and Power Plant in Phoenix. Many decisions for salvation from nursing home ministry.
- **Oak Street Baptist Church** - New nursing home ministries, home bible studies, & VBS June 9-13.
- **First Baptist, Lake Havasy City** - Sponsored first "The Fragrance of Christ" Women's Conference, growing nursing home ministry, monthly Parent's Night Out, & VBS June 9-13. Youth attending "T4J" Camp in California.
- **College Park, Kingman** - Added second Sunday morning worship service, sponsored "Life Without Limbs" event at high school and the Kingman community resulting in many salvation decisions.
- **Golden Shores Community Baptist Church** - Sponsoring Prophecy Conference on June 7th & 8th & VBS June 1-6.
- **First Southern, Bullhead City** - Served as ministry headquarters for several different biker ministries during "River Run" with daily breakfasts & shower trailer.
- **Meadview Baptist Church** - Biggest and best "All Day Singin' & Dinner on the Ground" gospel music event with over 200 in attendance! Pastor Dale and Mo have their new home next to the church.
- **Desert Shores, Bullhead City** - Have nearly completed beautiful new building. Watch for more details & announcements!

Missing information on your church?.. Send us your church newsletter, call us, write us, or e-mail us at rvba@citlink.net. Let us know what's happening!

Learn how you can be involved in bringing life to the desert! Check out our website at [www.rvba.net!](http://www.rvba.net)

New Work News...

- **Yucca Community Church** - Continuing Sunday services at the Yucca Elementary School. Prayer walking & surveying the community & searching for land for a new church site. Pastor Byron & wife, Linda, have now moved on the field. Please pray for continued growth, unity, & for God to prosper the Yucca community.
- **Bouse Baptist Church** – Pastor Kent Hanley and wife, Treva have moved on to new ministry opportunities and this new church is searching for a permanent pastor. Implementing a new ministry strategy & expecting great things for the future! Quartzsite Southern Baptist Church also a major partner in this ministry. Please pray for their pastor search and for a permanent location.
- **Beaver Dam** - Continuing the search for new pastor while this ministry continues strong with the help of our new church in Mesquite. Prayers are appreciated for the future of this work & help is always needed with the weekly food ministry that reaches many needy families in this northwest corner of our state. Pray also for the opportunities and challenges related to the nearby community of Colorado City.
- **Future New Work Opportunities** - New works are needed and projected for Kingman & the mesa area of Bullhead City. We've recently surveyed the area of Cibola, near Blythe, California. God is also opening opportunities for us to minister in Oatman through a community gospel sing.
- **Chaplaincy Ministries** - The summer months are especially short for volunteers of truckstop and prison chapels. God is blessing with salvation decisions every single month. Please continue to pray for these vital ministries.
- **Christian Community Church, Mesquite** - Bob Ferrel is serving as interim pastor. Presently meeting at the Falcon Ridge Hotel pictured below. The church has a strong youth group with a monthly gathering from several Mesquite churches. Continue to pray for the many opportunities for the gospel in Mesquite & for a new pastor to be found soon!



Coming Up In River Valley...

Saturday, June 14th – Fathers Appreciation Day – taking place in Peach Springs. This is a special outreach to fathers in the Native American community. For more details, contact the RVBA office.

Saturday, June 14th – Volunteer training for all chaplain volunteers at Arizona State Prison, Kingman. If you are presently a volunteer, you must attend this training to stay current. More volunteers are needed to help with a growing “Celebrate Recovery” ministry. You can contact the Golden Valley Baptist Church at 928-565-4682 or the RVBA office for more information.

June 26th - 28th – Truckstop Ministries represented at the National Truck Show in Las Vegas. Our missionary will be assisting with this event. Please pray for this national outreach to drivers & for our local Petro chapel.

Saturday, August 2nd – Second Annual River Valley Prayer Summit at First Southern Baptist Church in Bullhead City. Be watching for more details.

Saturday, August 14th – Pastor’s fellowship at Calvary Baptist Church, 10:30 am.

Coming Soon!..

A unique opportunity for our River Valley churches to meet their missionaries face to face, hear what God is doing through our prayers and support, and discover powerful opportunities to be “on mission” in the world!



“On Mission Celebration” September 10th - 14th, 2008

- **A Global Missions Event!..** for all ages and for all our River Valley churches. Missionaries from our International & North American Mission Boards will be available to speak in your church.
- **Featuring Missionaries from...** Western Europe, East Asia, South America, Pacific Rim, Turkey, Thailand, Georgia, South Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma, & Arizona.
- **Special Youth Missions Rally...** is planned for Saturday, September 13th featuring youth missionaries from Thailand & California Baptist College.
- **Detailed information is being sent to your church...** giving names and pictures of our missionaries and giving you the chance to host a missionary for this special week. Check with your church office.