

SUMMER REFLECTIONS OF WINTER WONDERS

Has it been that long ago that our campus, and practically the entire state of Arkansas was blanketed with a foot of snow? Actually, it was in February, the week of Valentine's Day. So soon the seasons rotate, and already warm days hint of the heat of summer.

But reflections of that unusual week are alive and well for most everyone at the Home. Best of all, it was a true "Snow Day" for the kiddos. There was no virtual school, no homework, just total freedom to enjoy nature's special gift.

Readers who are older may have recoiled at the frozen, white



Most of the kiddos at the Home delight in a full day of fun and wonder of a gift of nature seldom seen in the area.

blanket that snarled traffic, made getting to work difficult, or made staying indoors a necessity, but such is far removed from the mind and heart of children. All day, it was bundle up and play outside in the wonderful white stuff. There were sledding, attempts, at least, to build snowmen, but best of all the unusual treat of snow ice cream, and everyone had all he or she could eat. Asked about the special winter holiday, one will hear much, but it all falls under the general and memorable title of "Snow-mageddon 2021."

have recoiled at the frozen, white

ONE NATION; UNDER GOD . . .

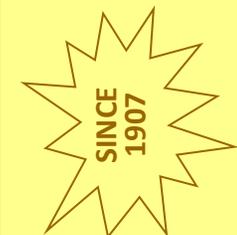
Arriving at the campus of Texarkana Baptist Children's Home, one will notice flags flying high in the memorial garden. There are two of them, each dearly loved. One is the flag of the United States of America, and the other is the Christian Flag. The flagpole stands in the middle of the memorial garden where engraved stones bear the names of individuals whose life and labor meant much to the Home and to former children and employees who remember them well.

It is good to remember and to reflect upon those so honored, and to take pride in our Christian faith and in our nation. Children are taught much about each, and are given the experience of raising the flags while reciting the pledges of allegiance to what God has given to us.

If one word were chosen to describe each of them, it would surely be "Freedom." Each generation faces life differently to the one before them, but the unchangeable tenants of faith, and the necessity to stand for freedom must be consistently shared or lost. At the Home, children are taught by word and by example to love God and to love our nation. Then they are given the freedom to embrace each of them in the course of life, and as the Holy Spirit convicts their heart.



Selected children are privileged to raise the flags each day, and to recite the pledge allegiance.



HOMELINE

Texarkana Baptist
Children's Home
...changing legacies

Spring/Summer 2021



ADMINISTRATIVE MEMOS

*My Update Notes
Heather A. Thompson*

“Why do you quote this proverb concerning Israel: ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children’s mouths pucker at the taste?’ As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, you will not quote this proverb anymore in Israel.” Ezekiel 18:2-3

If one will grant me some contextual leniency, I realize this proverb is during Old Testament times and belonged to the nation of Israel. But while reading through Ezekiel recently, it flew off the pages as I thought about it in light of our kiddos at the Children’s Home.

As their names and circumstances flooded my mind, I couldn’t help but to lament their suffering. They didn’t choose this life. Yet, for the moment, their mouths are puckering because of their parents’ sour grapes.

And then I heard a most profound statement from Bro. Roger Copeland in Sunday School: “God knows our future better than we know our past.” What a most comforting and relieving truth! Not all hindsight is 20/20. Our view, memories and perspectives can be way off at times.

So regardless of what a person’s past may hold, or what one may even believe about their past, God knows their future better! He knows His plans for us.

Coming to a Children’s Home is never ideal. But perhaps...just perhaps...it has the chance of being an ideal consequence. Coming to Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home is the opportunity to not just live in a safe environment, but the opportunity to hear of Jesus’ sacrifice, to hear the plan of salvation, and to hear the promises of God for a

future HE has prepared. The Lord has a purpose, plan and calling for every life!

In Zechariah 4:10, The Lord says, “Do not despise small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” We rejoice not only that the Lord knows the future of our kiddos, but that His great desire is to give them a future free from the bitterness of their parents’ sour grapes.

Our hope at Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home is to be the beginning – even if just a small beginning – to the work the Lord wants to accomplish and complete in the lives of the children He brings here.



Hay is not just for cows; it’s for youngsters’ good times, too! Girls at the Home make the discovery.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Please follow us on Facebook: Baptistkids-Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home. As we slowly transition from the printed page to the electronic one, we will continue to issue a couple of editions annually of The Homeline for the foreseeable future, but we will increase our news and other postings on Facebook for the enjoyment of our readers. We do so appreciate our many friends and supporters who follow us there as well as viewing our web page: www.baptistkids.org. We ask that our friends who really like receiving our paper in the mail to be sure to advise us of any change of address as that saves us money on postage and returns.

The Homeline is produced by the staff of the Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home, Dr. W. A. Dillard, Editor. Heather Thompson is Administrator and point of contact at the Home. Crys Adams is Office Manager. Trustees are Allen Hagood, Chairman; Dr. W. A. Dillard, Fred A. Penny Sec.-treas., Doney Blackerby, Nathan Rogers. Dr. Morris L. Cloud is Trustee-emeritus. Address all correspondence to Texarkana Baptist Children’s Home, P.O. Box 611, Texarkana, AR\TX 75504. The physical address of the Home is 5401 E. 9th Street, Texarkana, AR 71854. Telephone (870)774-8214. TKBCH is supported by the churches of the American Baptist Association. Email is received at: office@baptistkids.org Visit us online at www.baptistkids.org and on Facebook at BaptistKids



**TRUSTEES
NOTES**
*Allen Hagood
Chairman*

There are times and various works wherein making a report is anything but fun. However, that is far from the case here. It is with joy that this report is sent to you about our Texarkana Baptist Children's Home. God continues to amaze me with His faithful blessings. I am often reminded that everyone who supports the Home by offerings, or prayers, or both is definitely a part of what God is doing here.

Recently, two children of the Home have made public professions of faith in Christ Jesus. It thrills us to know that whatever the circumstances, and wherever life takes these children, they now possess eternal life, and that will never change.

Larry and Angie Elmore have joined our staff as house parents. They are gifted in many areas of our mission of childcare. Already they have proven to be a great asset, and they are deeply appreciated.

The adverse weather of wind, rain, and snow left us with winter damage to our buildings. There was some flooding in the kitchen and dining room. Repairs were necessary to some door openings, and some floor tiles had to be replaced. Additionally, some exterior vinyl siding had to be replaced. We consider ourselves fortunate that the damage was not more severe.

Trustee Doney Blackerby and farm manager, Byron Myers are doing quite well at taking care of the cattle herd, equipment, buildings, and land of the farm. We have sold sev-

eral calves and have others to sell later on.

Terry and Layne Parsons of Benton, Arkansas gave the Home a bull. This will help our herd, and the gift is a special blessing. Hay season will be in full swing soon, and we are praying that we will be able to put enough hay in our barns to support our cattle next winter. Of course, it would be nice if there were extra bales that could be sold.

In our counselling Center, there is one apartment available for a pastor, missionary, or the widow of such who may need it. Persons who are interested in the apartment should contact us by telephone at 870-774-8214.

Readers should know that we are grateful for every expression of love for this ministry to needful children.

REMEMBERING DEXTER WINN
1937-2020

Texarkana Baptist Children's Home is located at 5401 E. 9th Street, Texarkana. But there is another campus, eternal in the heavens, that has become more populated in recent years with cherished folks, including our most popular man of daily influence. That man is Dexter Winn.

After some twenty years of working with Texarkana Baptist Children's Home (his post retirement years) Dexter Winn heard the call of the higher campus. His presence brought goodness and smiles to all associated with him, and his departure leaves a psychological hole that is tempered with fond memories and a sense of thankfulness that it was ours to travel down life's pathway together a few years .

It was in the late 1990s that the church of his membership paid a visit to the TBO (now TKBCH) Campus. He stated that he thought he would like to work in a Home such as this. That was all he needed to say to find an application in his hand. The rest is storied chapters that trustees, staff, and children can tell best.

Dexter was born in Waldo, Arkansas on October 8, 1937. He departed this life from Dallas, TX on December 22, 2020. The dash separating those two dates is a time of intense living that found him serving our nation in the U.S. Navy; working in oil fields; serving as a Conoco Oil Company accountant; and in retirement an all-around first class "Get-ur-Dun" house parent, Assistant Administrator, math tutor, breakfast cook, riding mower chief, and everybody's grandpa and humorist.

Few individuals have impacted life on the campus as he did. He is missed terribly. But there had to be great rejoicing by children, former children, employees who were waiting to greet him on a campus to which we will all be privileged to enjoy in God's time. We remember an unusual Christian man who taught by precept and example. We remember, and we salute as though he were standing at the flagpole with a number of kiddos he was teaching to love Jesus, and to love our country! Often upon departure we would say, "It was good to see you, Dexter." Dexter would invariably reply, "I'm just so glad you got to see me!" That brought smiles that still linger!



Dexter Winn

BENEFACTOR BLESSINGS

In-kind Goods and Services

All of us who have to do with Texarkana Baptist Children's Home are so blessed and thankful for individuals, corporate, and civic partners who aid us in the care of needful children. Because of the love and compassion of so many kind folks, the ministry of the churches to children at large who need a helping hand in a safe environment is doing well. Many thanks to you, dear friends, and to our Heavenly Father for the many in-kind goods and services we continue to receive. Each gift helps us to carry on this ministry in a manner commensurate with high community standards.

Gift: Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Handbags, Jewelry
Given by: **Cato, Texarkana, TX**

Gift: Clothing, Sandals, Jewelry
Given by: **Cato, Texarkana, AR**

Gift: Hygiene items. Health & beauty aids, Cleaning & laundry supplies, Batteries & light bulbs, Bed linens, Throws, Household items, Storage & trash bags, School & office supplies, Toys, Charcoal, Canning jars, Clothing, Deer corn, Candles/room freshener, Drinking glasses, Meal supplement drinks, Jewelry
Given by: **Walmart, Texarkana, AR**

Gift: Bath tissue, Facial tissue, Napkins, Paper plates, Paper towels
Given by: **Redwater ISD, Redwater, TX**

Gift: 1,300 trash bags, 161 rolls bath tissue, 12 rolls paper towels, 280 Pop Tarts, 15 boxes cereal, 16 pudding/Jell-O cups, 296 bottles water, Jackets/toboggans for all kiddos
Given by: **The Eye Guys, Texarkana, TX**

Gift: 2 pumpkin wall hangings
Given by: **Alli Fitzhugh, Benton, AR**

Gift: All-occasion gift wrap/ribbon
Given by: **Maxine Griffin, Texarkana, AR**

Gift: 10 boxes sliced ham, 23 boxes chicken breast/whole chickens,
Given by: **Americold Logistics, Genoa, AR**

Gift:
Bucket of chocolate, Shampoo/conditioner, Bodywash, Deodorant, Toothpaste
Given by: **Emilie Smith, Texarkana, TX**

Gift:
Repaired flat tires for TBCH vehicles at

no charge
Given by: **Artex Tire, Texarkana, AR**

Gift:
44 trash bags, 2 boxes facial tissue, 118 rolls bath tissue, 280 napkins, 100 paper plates, 55 Thanksgiving plates, 180 disposable cups, Toaster Waffle maker, 2 cutting boards, 2 covered cake plates, Swiveled cake stand, 5 glass mixing bowls, 2 tong sets, 2 77-piece silverware sets
Given by: **Eastside MBC, Gary, TX**

Gift: 15 boxes cereal, 64 Pop Tarts, 42 cereal bars, 4 boxes fruit snacks, 26 Kool-Aid singles, 142 bottles water, 35 rolls paper towels, 92 rolls bath tissue, 7 boxes facial tissue, 26 kitchen trash bags, 6 toothbrushes, 9 tubes toothpaste, 8 bars Dial soap
Given by: **Bluff Springs MBC, Rosston, AR**

Gift: 10 Hot Wheel cars, 2 Disney Princess dolls, 2 P J Mask Imaginext kits, 1 PJ Mask Fold-n-Go, 2 totes
Given by: **Katherine, Henry Coats, Doddridge, AR**

Gift: 297 rolls bath tissue
Given by: **Overton MBC, Overton, TX**

Gift:
Laundry detergent, Stocking items, Individual Christmas bags
Given by: **Lori Brent, Genoa, AR**

Gift: Masks, Pillowcases, Infant covers, Headbands, Pillows, Totes, 4 Axe gift sets, 2 4-piece ladies' bath sets
Given by: **Artex Tire, Texarkana, AR**

ARKANSAS MISSION BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/182080709091952/>

For updated information of working schedules or to volunteer, call:

DONEY BLACKERBY
8880 Hwy 114
Rison, AR 71665
870-543-0581

TKBCH

THE OBJECT OF WILLS AND TESTAMENTS

Texarkana Baptist Children's Home and its children have benefited by the kindness and love of others who remembered this Home when making their Last Will and Testament. Some have left the bulk of their estate to the Home. Others have elected to leave a part of their estate, while sharing the remainder with others.

Certainly Texarkana Baptist Children's Home is a worthy recipient of Wills and Bequests. Should our readers desire to share their earthly goods after death with this ministry, it would be good to contact the Home. at 870-774-8214.

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE, HONOR AND APPRECIATION FOR THOSE DEAR TO OUR HEART

*God Bless you for
Remembering*

Memorial and Honor Gifts Helping our Home

*Thank You
So Much!*

In memory of:

Dene Moore

Pat Rice
Francis Walker

Given by:
Bob & Wilda Seiple,
Sarepta, LA

In memory of:

Bertha & Shorty King

Given by:
Vera King Mangum,
Marlow, OK

In memory of:

Luke Parker

Given by:
Joyce Kilpatrick,
Ashdown, AR
Bill Rogers, Jr.,
Texarkana, AR
Donny & Dianne Slack,
Texarkana, AR

In memory of:

Raymond Dale Harris

Given by:
Holland, C. H., Layman,
Stanley & Wayland Harris,
Benton, AR

In memory of:

James Everette

Given by:
Layman Harris,
Pine Bluff, AR

In memory of:

Hubbard & Polly

Breitweiser
Given by:
Gerald & Janelle Haley,
Benton, AR

In memory of:

Marvin Richardson

Given by:
Esker Hudspeth,
Fifty-Six, AR
Sonny Smith & Family,
Sarah & Wayne Powell &
Family,
Pine Bluff, AR

In memory of:

**Martha Eastwood
Frankie Louise Smith
Wanda Sue Thomas**

Given by:
Shirley Morris, Vickie &
Perry Taylor & Family, Rita
& Sonny Smith & Family,
Sarah & Wayne Powell &
Family
Pine Bluff, AR

In memory of:

David Haught

Given by:
Michael Reynolds,
Marlow, OK

In memory of:

**Christopher Lea
Nellie Lea
Del Taylor**

Given by:
Judson Memorial MBC,
Griffithville, AR

In memory of:

M. E. Cowan

Given by:
Glen & June Cockrell,
Tulsa, OK

In memory of:

**Marsha Barker
Jimmy Tom**

Given by:
Arley Cross Family

In memory of:

Bill C. Murphy

Given by:
Phyllis Blackman,
Hot Springs, AR
Charles & Debbie Dragna,
Burbank, CA
William Fallis, D. D.,
Troy, IL
Kay Hanson,
Indian Wells, CA
Mozell Murphy,
Maxine Sequin,
Hot Springs Nat. Park, AR
Bruce & Gail Pennington,
Benton, AR
Wayne & Sandra Woodall,
Bismarck, AR

In memory of:

Jeff Luellen

Given by:
Dorothy Collins,
Choudrant, LA
Peggy Matthews,
Shreveport, LA

In memory of:

**Debbie Langridge
Dragna & Harold
Langridge**

Given by:
Charles & Debbie Dragna,
Burbank, CA

In memory of:

Genevieve Patton

Given by:
Unity MBC, FT Smith, AR

In memory of:

Dexter Winn

Given by:
The Birthday Girls,
Mesquite, TX
Trustees, Staff, and Children
Texarkana Baptist Children's
Home

In memory of:

Dennis Powell

Given by:
A. B. C. D., Little Rock, AR
Rita Brown,
Constance Bull,
Debbie Goble,
Rex Griffin,
Sam & Bertha McIntyre,
Benton, AR
Eva Phillips Family,
Doniphan, MO
Gia Taylor,
Batesville, AR

In memory of:

Wilma Stevens

Given by:
Pleasant Valley BC,
Nashville, AR

In memory of:

Eld. James Kitchens

Given by
W. A. & Laura Dillard

The trustees, staff and children of the Home, in grateful appreciation, and in special honor present the names of known pastors of the Lord's Churches who have recently gone to heaven's glory

Eld. Kimsey Fry

Eld. Charles R. Faust

Eld. Ralph Slate

Eld. Cleo Paul

Eld. Jeff Luellen

Eld. Dale Reed

Eld. Virgil Shaffer

Eld. John Turrentine

Eld. Ronnie Pipes

Eld. Phil Arnold

Eld. James Kitchens

ANNOUNCING UPDATE

Complying with your requests, the Home's website (www.baptistkids.org) now has the capacity to receive contributions both of "Memorial" and "Honor" tributes to loved ones. Thanks you so much for your request. We trust this will make it easier for readers to make loving tributes .

HOME LIFE THROUGH A PEEPHOLE



Life at Texarkana Baptist Children's Home is one of many chapters. This can be said of both students and staff, but we like to focus instead on the life activities of the children because it is so varied, and they are changing so fast.



The Home got its share of snow as February's Valentine treat this year. It was the most intense snowfall in several years. Pictured (R) is a likeness of the campus on the first morning following the snow storm. Six to eight inches of "Partly cloudy" (as weathermen often call it) graced the state of Arkansas and much of Texas. The scenery and the special activities it afforded was met with great rejoicing here.

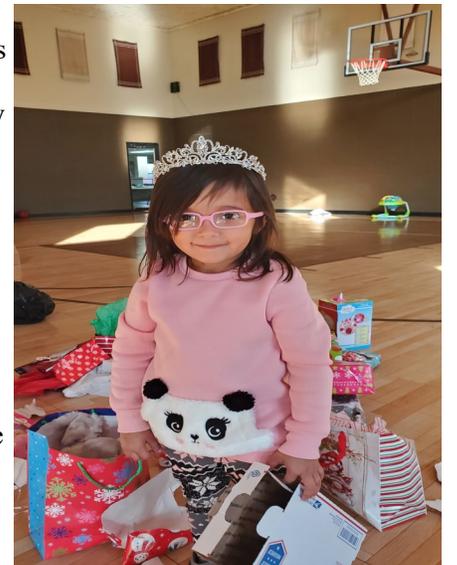
Several attempts at building a snowman were made, but the happiest activity was creating a snow angel. Pictured at (R) is Mia. She, and several others tried it, and jumped in glee at how wonderfully it turned out as a work of their very own personal artistry.



Our city hosts a trampoline park called "iJump." As a Christmas gift, Pro-Cut Lawn Equipment of Hope, Arkansas treated all of our kiddos to an evening there. It was a time of intense activity that included rock climbing, trampoline jumping, ninja racing, and jumping dodgeball.



Pictured (top L) is Emily who felt confident she could successfully climb the rock wall. So properly suited up with safety equipment, she embarked on the 30 foot high wall climb. Meanwhile, Chloe decided to practice her jumping skills (L). it was a great time of laughter, and the opportunity to try one's skills in ways not often afforded. It is such a joy to all of us here at the Home to see the kids enjoy themselves so much.



We are most thankful to all who remember this ministry to needful children. It is the host of compassionate folks who go the "extra mile" helping kids to know some of the pleasures of life that would be rare, if not impossible, were they not blessed to have this Home and their help.

No report of activities would be complete without the report of at least one birthday celebration. Much is made here of birthdays. That special day is an esteemed high point in life to each child, and it is a reason to celebrate. We all get in on the act. Featured here is Tabitha celebrating her 5th birthday (R). There are gifts, a special cake, and the shouts of "Happy Birthday" as the birthday song is sung with gusto.

HOMELIFE THROUGH A PEEPHOLE (Continued)



During the Christmas season the Home is blessed with many guests, most of whom bear gifts for the children. Last Christmas we were blessed to have an illusionist to spend some time with the kiddos. He was not only skilled in tricks, but talented in the balloon making art as well. So, from monkeys, hearts, and swords, the kids enjoyed them all in a night long to be remembered.

Rodney is our campus cowboy/swordsman in training. (L). His imagination was working one hundred percent with the balloon sword and someone to use it on. Pictured (R) are Emily and Mckalynn. It may appear that they just monkeying around, but they are actually trying out some balloon skills of their own.



Most all of us enjoy eating; some more than others, and the manner and degree of enjoyment varies, often widely. Robert (L) loves spaghetti, and has never been known to turn down a sizeable plate of it. Perhaps it is the combination of tasty, nutritious food combined with the different experience of eating it, but whatever, it brings him joy. The picture was taken during a fun excursion/ shopping spree across the city of Texarkana.

Bonding of newly made friends brings calmness and happiness associated with acceptance and understanding. This is a continuing process at the Home as children reach out to others and find comfort in new, unassuming, and unquestioning friends who often share a common story. It is therapy unique to life situations rarely found anywhere else. The final two pictures of "Home-life through a peephole" affords readers a "Peep" at how that occurs.

Pictured (L) are Madisyn and Antonio nourishing friendship on a rock column where escape from the world, even for a few moments, provides opportunity for personal exchanges of how pain and disappointment as well as hopes and dreams may be shared. They, too, will learn that the Lord allows us all to go through unpleasantness and disappointment to be able to reach out later in life to help others who struggle with the same things.

Bella and Robert create happiness through growing friendship (R) enhanced by the thrill of swinging together.

Safety, provisions of life, love, and spiritual guidance are necessities found in the ministry of the Home, and fast friendships are made that will be cherished into adulthood, and appreciated for the therapeutic infusion of coping skills that children find in this place. Thanks to all who extend a helping hand to make it possible.



**TEXARKANA BAPTIST
CHILDREN'S HOME**
P. O. Box 611
Texarkana, AR\TX 75504

*"A Christian home for
orphaned, dependent,
and neglected
children"*



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God puts special ministries on special hearts. If He is calling you to extend love and a helping hand to children, please contact our home for details of special ministry at TKBCH. Please make this a matter of prayer.

THE WISHING WELL



OUR CURRENT WISH FROM THE WISHING WELL

The winter snowstorm underscored the need for an electric generator to power our large freezers and kitchen areas in case of extended power failures. Spring and fall storms are also a concern. A dependable generator with sufficient power output to handle these areas will cost approximately ten thousand dollars. Should anyone want to help make this project a reality, it would be deeply appreciated.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27