



# The VALLEY VOICE

News from the Arkansas Valley Baptist Association

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## Christmas-Time Evangelism

If "evangelism" is declaring the good news of Jesus Christ—His incarnation in time, for you and me, for all time—then Christmas is the most exciting, compelling time of the whole year to be lovingly forthright about what this means to you.

The climate is perfect. Everybody is into Christmas, whether Christian or not. It's in the air, the stores, the media. No other time in the calendar sets the stage for witnessing like Christmas.

On the other hand, some view it like catching a bus. If you miss one, don't worry, another will be right along. If you don't come to Christ this Christmas, well, there's another in 12 months.

To get around this procrastination, I like to share with the people I meet what I call "The Real Christmas Rush." I base it on Luke 2:16. "And they came in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." Both Phillips and Barclay put it: "They came as fast as they could." While some things will keep, there are other things in life we should be in a hurry about.

Don't let anyone put it off till tomorrow. "Tomorrow" is a word the Bible does not know. The shining word it uses is—today. "Today, if you will harden not your heart, hear my voice." "Today, is salvation come to this house."

Urge that person, with all your heart, to join the shimmering company of whom it will be said this Christmas, "They came as fast as they could."

Source: Rev. Gervis Black; [www.Christianity.ca](http://www.Christianity.ca)

## Practical Ways to Demonstrate Christ's Love During the Christmas Season

- Wrapping Paper Giveaway
- Scotch Tape Giveaway
- Christmas Card Giveaway
- Christmas Candy Giveaway
- Caroling and Candy Gifts
- Christmas Tree Collection
- Free Gift Wrapping

Source: [www.servantevangelism.com/matrix/matrix.htm](http://www.servantevangelism.com/matrix/matrix.htm)



## Upcoming Events

- Dec 25 – Jan 1 AVBA Office Closed
- January 8-10 CBC Exec. Bd and State Leadership Meeting
- January 22 AVBA Exec. Bd. AVBA Office, Las Animas
- January 31 Payment Due for Mexico Mission Trip



## Mexico Mission Trip

A mission to Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico is planned for April 13-21, 2007. Prayer walking, Gospel distribution, and evangelism will be the focus of the trip.

The cost will be \$672 per person. Although the deposit deadline has passed, four slots remain open for the trip. Contact Frank Cornelius at 456-0966 or [frank@avba.net](mailto:frank@avba.net) for more information. Information is also available at [www.avba.net](http://www.avba.net).

## AVBA Executive Board

The AVBA Executive Board will meet January 22, 2007. Along with regular business items, there will be a discussion regarding the proposed changes to the state convention executive board.

Currently, the state executive board has about 45 members. Not only is this expensive, it also hinders meaningful discussion about important issues.

For several months a task force has been studying the executive board structure. This task force has brought an initial proposal to reduce the size to about 15 members.

Mark Edlund, Executive Director of the Colorado Baptist Convention, will be present for our executive board meeting to discuss the proposed changes. This will be your opportunity to give your input.

The meeting will be at the AVBA office in Las Animas. We will begin with a meal at 6:30 pm.

## Contact Information

For information about AVBA churches and events: [www.avba.net](http://www.avba.net)

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