

Pool House Opens

In a ribbon cutting ceremony the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship presented a new swimming pool house to the city of Helena-West Helena on Friday, June 22. Ben Newell, CBF/Together for Hope missionary to the Delta explained to Mayor James Valley that the gift was a result of a year of volunteer efforts by many CBF supporters and several monetary gifts from CBF churches and individuals.

Ben and Leonora Newell hold swimming camps at the municipal pool each summer. The completion of the pool house comes in time for this year's All Church Challenge (ACC) that will minister to hundreds of children from Phillips County, one of the twenty poorest in America.

The new building replaces the one built in 1928 and was beyond repair. More than a year ago, Ben invited CBF's Charles Ray to meet with A.J. Jones, Parks and Recreation Director for the city. Because of his experience in renovating old structures, Charles was asked what could be done to the current building for no more than \$55,000. Ray's quick answer was, "nothing". He went on to suggest that a new structure be built at the end of the pool. A few days later a design was created and Ben went to work.

More than 3000 hours were donated, amounting to the equivalent of \$51,000 in labor. A CBF supporter in Little Rock donated the entire electrical work, labor and materials. This person made 16 trips to complete the project. Little Rock is a 250 mile round trip. A Memphis supporter making five trips a week for three weeks constructed most of the interior. These efforts, coupled with dozens of others who helped, have made an impact in an area that has been neglected for years.

After the ceremony the city's fire department provided lunch and the community was invited to swim for free. 155 residents accepted the offer.

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