

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LVI

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Number 2

## The State We Live In Oklahoma and Pending Legislation

By Chris Gonthier  
BMAO Moral Action

In this time of misinformation we have difficulty following truth. At the federal level we see so many opposing views and statements that it has become nearly impossible to know what is true, and what is false.

Since Joe Biden has been sworn in there has been a flurry of executive orders and cabinet positions assigned. In this article we will look at some legislation being introduced which may be of interest.

The majority of these proposed "bills" will be on the state level. There is also some noteworthy items to look at the federal level.

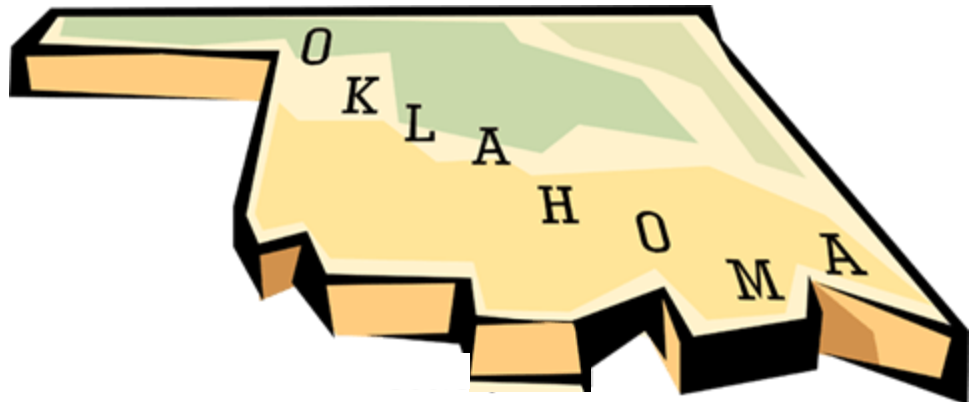
H.R. 127 is one such bill being introduced at the federal level that seriously challenges Second Amendment Rights.

Don Spencer, president of the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association, has a very good summary of this and other bills on the FB OK2A Discussion page. To break it down, it will simply do the following:

Create a registration system that anyone has access to, including military, all governmental agencies, and even the public. All guns, including serial numbers, and the location stored within the home will become public knowledge.

Everyone in the home will have to have a psychological exam by an approved

psychologist. They will ask others about you including people who may have ulterior motives.



You will have to register all guns, certain guns will be banned as well as certain ammo. You will have to have 24 hours of training just to get a license, and an additional 24 for certain class of weapons including many semiautomatic weapons many people already own.

You would also have to pay \$800 yearly insurance to the government. Possession of large capacity magazines, drums... etc. will be a crime. This is just a partial summary, it gets even worse because of huge fines and lengthy prison time for non compliance.

This week I spent time talking to our state's lieutenant governor, two state senators and a state representative. They were making us aware of some things that may be of concern to the people of Oklahoma.

I will try to reference bill numbers when I can, but some have not been assigned numbers yet.

I will try to give brief summaries of the bills, as time will not allow me to go in depth. SB 18, Senate Bill, is one of the bills being introduced that will make Oklahoma a second amendment sanctuary state.

This bill, introduced by Senator Bergstrom, will go a long way in the direction of protecting Second amendment rights. Some may be thinking, "Why are second amendment rights important to Christians?" Well, the sword was the defensive weapon of the day, and Jesus made a comment about this subject in Luke 22:36.

"Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."

One of the benefits of this bill is that it will help restrict unconstitutional federal overreach. The aforementioned federal bill, H.R. 127 is full of restrictions that violate the "shall not be infringed" clause of the second amendment.

SB 451 sponsored by Senator Bergstrom, will help with the protection of private property. This bill expands the castle doctrine to the limits of your property, not just the boundaries of your home.

Also, if you had to produce, or show a weapon in the defense of life or property

("Pending Legislation," cont on pg 7)

# Daniel Springs Camp Goals and Dreams

When I look back on 2020, I have much to be thankful for as God has been so good to us. I took the holidays to slow down and enjoy more time with my amazing wife and our three boys.

I also took some time to really take a good look at the facility's needs, and to reflect on the dependable young men and women that live locally that God blessed us with who were able to invest in groups as we were able to host pool parties, small events and church group retreats during the summer and fall.

Now the question is what is God going to do in 2021, and how do we get to be a part? Here are some of our prayer needs and goals.

First, pray for us to continue to make facility improvements in anticipation for not just the summer camp season, but to continue to allow the camp to be used all year for retreats and activities.

A couple of the big projects we are working on are some much needed pool and lake renovations. Both of these are

major parts of the camp experience and both of these projects are needing some much-needed work.

The pool was constructed in 1966 and over time, as we all know, everything needs some work done to it. The lake is a beautiful part of the campus and with some work it can allow for more activities.

Second, pray that God will build up the ministry partners and volunteer groups that continue to help make improvements and updates to the facilities.

One of the most exciting things that I have seen over the last six years is the overwhelming support for Daniel Springs Camp.

The churches, groups and individuals that have financially given over the many years, whether through a one-time gift or by being a monthly ministry partner continues to help this ministry be a place where God changes lives.

The other part of this amazing partnership is the groups that come and volunteer their time, knowledge and resources. It is very relevant to say that it is not what you know, it is who you know.

I am thankful that we serve a Savior that has all the people and resources we could ever need or want, and He continues to send those needed people to invest in the camp.

Some have known specific trades like carpentry, plumbing, electrical and painting, but many have just been willing to help in any way necessary.

We are setting aside March as our Mission and Volunteer Month. If your church, your family or just you would

like to come and spend a few days investing your knowledge and willing hands at Daniel Springs Camp being a volunteer partner, we would love to host you. We have many different projects around the campus that we need help with, in anticipation for this year and many years to come.



Third, we want to continue to be an extension of the local, state and national departments by being a facility used for all different kinds of events and retreats.

It was and continues to be exciting for groups to come to the campus not just for summer camps, but for retreats and activities all through the year.

Our desire is to help churches and our local, state and national works with events by partnering with staff needs for retreats or events.

It has been a blessing to connect some of the summer staff with church groups that need help with events that they are hosting at their facilities.

What a privilege it is to visit churches to share about what is happening here at Daniel Springs Camp. The great thing is that when we get to share about what is happening at the camp it is just not a camp story.

Daniel Springs does not exist to be a ministry by itself. We are so blessed to be an extension of the local church and what God is doing there.

If you would like to hear more details about some projects, March Mission month or would like me to come share about Daniel Springs Camp please let me know by calling the office,

**(903) 685-2433**

or

**emailing me at**

**[jason@danielspringscamp.com](mailto:jason@danielspringscamp.com)**

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# "I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

## "To Bee or Not to Bee"

The sweetest holiday of the year is celebrated this month – Valentine's Day. All my life I've wanted to be sweet. \* sigh \* No matter how hard I try, it just never seems to be an adjective used to describe me.

I remember once when Jerry and I were first married I met a young woman in the apartments where we lived. Everyone liked her, and sweet was the word most often used to describe her.

I decided this was my chance! I would study her, imitate her, and if I did it long enough I would eventually be sweet!

A close observation revealed the following:

-She smiled a lot. (No problem I did that)

-She never stated any opinions or ideas regarding what was being discussed. (This could be hard)

-Most of all, in a conversation, she rarely spoke. (This might be in possible!)

With all my concentrated effort and the best of intentions, I began to pattern myself after her. Hercules' strength was no match for the Titanic effort I put into being sweet . . . for a week.

During that time people ask if I was sick, what was wrong with me, and if I was depressed!

By the end of the week I couldn't stand it any more! I'm sure I blew everyone

away for a few days as all those bottled up thoughts burst forth!

Being sweet, I learned, took a lot of work! Many facts about one of God's creatures offers us spiritual lessons on being sweet.

It is the bee.

Here are some things we must BE to BE sweet:

### BE DILIGENT

Busy as a bee, is a well known adage. The bee is always working at making honey. We must never stop working at being sweet.

The flesh is naturally sour grapes, therefore we should forever be on guard to not give it control.

### BE DEAD TO SELF

A bee is totally unselfish. Her first concern is the hive. A bee will give her life to protect the colony. Once she stings something, she dies.

We too must die to self to be sweet. A selfish heart only breeds hatefulness. For self to be first there must always be

a battle with anyone or anything that tries to usurp its position.

The competition must always lose, no matter what the cost.

### BE STRONG

A bee is able to carry heavy burdens. Freight planes carry 25% of their weight, while a bee can carry 100%. If we are to be sweet, we too must carry heavy burdens. This requires us to be quick to overlook the slights and unkindness of others.

By forgiving offenses toward us, and maintaining a sweet

spirit, we shoulder the pain they bring without reviling.

### BE FLEXIBLE

Did you know a bee's stubby little wings fold in a split second when she plunges into a flower or the compact cells of the hive. If God had made her wings rigid, she wouldn't be able to accomplish those feats.

To maintain a sweet attitude, one must be very flexible. People are often moody and situations can change from nice to nasty in a heartbeat. A rigid person must always be treated or spoken to a certain way or their disposition rapidly sours!

A sweet spirit does not depend on others choices and actions. It is steadfast no matter how difficult the conditions.

### BE IN THE WORD

After a long night in the hive, the tiny bee starts out empty. She takes only a speck of honey for fuel to reach the first flower of the day, where she can refuel.

We must be in the Word daily and with the Lord to refuel our spirits. Without His

("To Bee or Not to Bee," cont on pg 7)

***"We must seek out ways to show forth a sweet spirit, to actively look for opportunities. Kind deeds and actions don't just happen, they spring from a heart seeking to show the love of Christ to others."***



# Central Baptist College News

Central Baptist College

2021 Homecoming Court Announced

The Central Baptist College Student Services Department has announced the court for Homecoming 2021.

The nine women selected for the 2021 Homecoming Court are Sierra Burrow, Abigail Herring, Madelyn Jameson, Cora Lentz, Allison Mantooth, Elizabeth Riley, Mallory Sullivan, Jordan Wilkie, and Ashanti Williams. These nine women were selected by their peers to represent Central Baptist College.

Sierra Burrow is a freshman Psychology and Social Services major from Quitman, AR. She is a leadership scholar and is involved in the Wednesday night student campus ministry. Sierra is the daughter of Thad and Heather Burrow and attends Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Abigail "Abby" Herring is a senior Business Administration major with an emphasis in Marketing and a minor in Communication and is from Maumelle, AR.

She is a Leadership Ambassador, a member of the President's Leadership Council, and a member of Student Orientation Staff where she most recently served as Team Leader.

Abby is the daughter of Jeff and Kristin Herring and attends Antioch Baptist Church.

Madelyn Jameson is a senior Biology major with a Chemistry minor and is from Greenbrier, AR. She is the Lab Coordinator and a member of Student Orientation Staff.

Madelyn is the daughter of Dr. Martin and Jennifer Jameson and attends Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Cora Lentz is a senior Health Sciences major from Vilonia, AR. She is a member of the CBC Band, Worship Choir, Chamber Choir, Women's Chorus, and Handbell Choir and is a member of the

Medical Professions Society.

Cora is the daughter of Lee and Carrie Lentz and attends New Life Church-Conway.

Allison Mantooth is a sophomore Kinesiology/Exercise Science major from San Antonio, TX. She is a member of the CBC Singers, Worship Choir, Chamber Choir, and is a photographer and reporter for Tower Media.

Allison is the daughter of Chris and Amy Mantooth and attends University Baptist Church.

Elizabeth Riley is a junior Communication/Marketing major from Sherwood, AR. Elizabeth is a member of the CBC Choir, is the student faculty secretary, and is a news reporter for Tower Media.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Zack and Liesel Riley and attends Faith Bible Fellowship.

Mallory Sullivan is a junior Communication major with a Business minor and is from Bryant, AR. She is a

member of the CBC Choir and is the Tower Photo Editor.

Mallory is the daughter of Chuck and Keri Sullivan and attends Chenal Valley Baptist Church.

Jordan Wilkie is a sophomore Elementary Education major from Rison, Arkansas. She is a Leadership Scholar, a Resident Assistant, and a member of Student Orientation Staff.

Jordan is the daughter of Richard and Alicia Wilkie and attends Center Missionary Baptist Church.

Ashanti Williams is a freshman Elementary Education major with a minor in Mathematics from Jonesboro, AR. She is a member of the CBC Band and Tower Media.

Ashanti is the daughter of Antonio and Antionette Reid and attends First Baptist Church in Jonesboro.

The Homecoming Court will be presented, and the 2021 Homecoming Queen will be announced in a private ceremony on the Central Baptist College Campus on Friday, January 29 at 6:30pm.

("CBC News," cont on pg 5)



**Back Row** (left to right): Madelyn Jameson, Abigail Herring, Allison Mantooth, Elizabeth Riley, and Jordan Wilkie **Front Row** (left to right): Ashanti Williams, Cora Lentz, Sierra Burrow, and Mallory Sullivan

# “CBC News” continued

Due to social distancing guidelines, only guests of the Homecoming Court who have a ticket, will be able to attend in person.

Watch the Homecoming Court livestream at [cbc.edu/homecoming](http://cbc.edu/homecoming).

Homecoming 2022 has been scheduled for January 28-29, 2022. Make plans now to attend.

## New Date Annual Scholarship Gala

Central Baptist College has announced a new date for its 2nd Annual Scholarship Gala. Planned for February 20, 2021, the event will now take place on Saturday, June 5 at 6:00pm at the Conway Expo Center.

The black-tie optional event will be catered by Central Baptist College Dining Services under the direction of Chef Jill McCollum.

The night will be a celebration of patriotism and faith and will feature keynote speaker, Ret. Lt Col Brian Birdwell. The proceeds from the event benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports institutionally funded scholarships.

“Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 global health pandemic and with vaccine implementation currently underway, we felt it was best to postpone this event until late spring,” said Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow.

“It is important to us to be able to host an in-person event, and to hold the event when our supporters will feel more comfortable coming together to celebrate Christian higher education. I am excited for attendees to hear the inspirational

message that Ret. Lt Col Birdwell will bring.”

“In early November we announced that an anonymous couple had given a \$400,000 matching gift for the 2021 Scholarship Gala,” said Amy Reed, Central Baptist College Director of Development.

“All sponsorships, individual ticket sales, and additional contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$400,000. We are making good progress toward our event goal of \$800,000, one hundred percent of which will be used to fund student scholarships.”

The inaugural event held in September 2019 raised in excess of \$500,000 through event sponsorships and private donations.

“Never has there been a time when we need individuals, churches, and businesses to come alongside Central Baptist College and support the transformational life change that education can provide,” said President Kimbrow.

“I cannot wait to celebrate with many others the red, white, and blue, and to celebrate the amazing blessings bestowed upon us by God. Ret. Lt Col Birdwell is dynamic and inspirational; his story is one of faith and miracles, as is the story of Central Baptist College.”

About Ret. Lt Col Brian Birdwell: On September 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 was crashed just yards away from his second floor Pentagon office, Ret. Lt Col Brian Birdwell was critically wounded and severely burned.

Of the burns that covered more than 60 percent of his body, nearly half were third degree in severity.

Today, following 39 operations, months of



hospitalization and numerous skin grafts, Brian has made a miraculous recovery. Despite physical limitations, he testifies not only to his physical healing, but the ultimate miracle of grace through Christ.

In 2004, he authored a book, *Refined by Fire: A Family's Triumph of Love and Faith*, with his wife, Mel. He has served in the Texas State Senate since 2010.

Event sponsorships begin at \$2,000. Single tickets are on sale for \$100 each. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation to help CBC meet its matching gift goal, visit [cbc.edu/gala](http://cbc.edu/gala) or contact Amy Reed, Director of Development, at:

[areed@cbc.edu](mailto:areed@cbc.edu)

or

501-205-8934.

Central Baptist College is committed to transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment, and is a four-year, private, liberal arts college owned and operated by the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas.

CBC offers approximately 40 baccalaureate degree programs, 16 athletic teams that compete in the AMC conference of the NAIA, and six fine arts performance groups.

For more information about CBC visit [cbc.edu](http://cbc.edu).



# "That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Science Fiction"

I have a lot of VHS tapes I have made over the years. Most of them were made when I didn't have time to watch the show, so I recorded it for later viewing. That's a foolish premise. If I didn't have time to view it initially, why did I think I'd have time to view it later?

However, I have had, on occasion, been able to watch one, and was shocked to discover there is apparently a shelf life for VHS tapes. The picture of the one I chose to watch began flickering, jumping and hanging up. It then straightened out and continued on for a short time, only to begin messing up again.

I recalled someone had told me VHS tapes could deteriorate after a time. I arbitrarily chose a few others, only to discover several of them had the same problem.

Deciding I needed to transfer them over to DVD's, I bought a DVD recorder. That worked fine except for the tapes that were already having a problem. Then the DVD recorder simply transferred the flickering and jumping to the DVD disc. Now I had a permanent record of the flickering. Still, I plunged ahead with the project.

In transferring the tapes I suddenly became aware of the number of science fiction tapes I had. Most of those clearly promote the theory of evolution, life on other planets, and destruction of earth by aliens.

I believe the Bible, which flatly contradicts those ideas, so I found myself wondering why I enjoy watching such types of movies. I've reached a conclusion about it, but I'm not sure it is the right one.

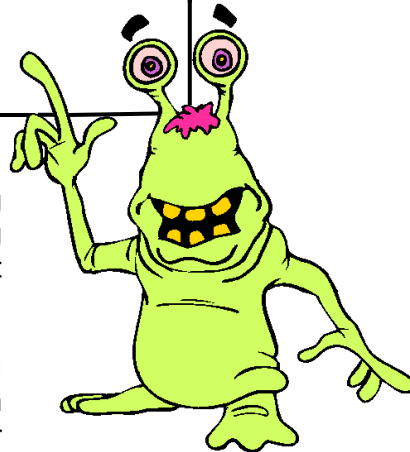
I don't like boring movies, and most of the science fiction movies aren't boring. I like to see heroism in action and there's

usually plenty of that, with the hero battling against overwhelming odds and coming out victorious.

But I think what I enjoy most about them is how outlandish their aliens are. It makes me glad God designed us and not some Hollywood writer. Judging from their creatures, we would probably have green skin, four arms, breath through our forehead and have a large pointed head.

The important thing to remember about these movies is they are just that...movies! They aren't to be accepted as reality.

However, I went to see a movie with a friend a long time ago. It was a science fiction movie about creatures from outer space taking over the human body. Afterward my friend said, "That was the



dumbest movie I've ever seen."

I thought he was talking about the idea of aliens taking over the human body. But he continued, "The police were driving Nash's for police cars. Police departments always use Fords or Chevys' The Nash ain't no police car."

God put some laws in place that cannot be violated, except in science fiction movies. The science fiction style of time and space travel is not possible under such laws.

However, there was a time when such laws were violated, and that was by Jesus Christ Himself, when He walked on water. Upon His being taken into the ship, it was immediately at the other shore. (John 6:15-21)

We are told, "when He appears we shall be like Him." In our glorified bodies, time travel and many of those other things I find fascinating in the science fiction movies will be a possibility.

However, no ray guns will be allowed.

## Missionary Lindsay Welcomes New Pastor

Bro. Thomas Dickerson accepted the call as pastor and assumed his duties as pastor on November 1, 2020.

Thomas and his wife, Frances are in the process of completing the sale of their house in Garland, TX and completing the purchase of a house in Lindsay.

Thomas accepted Jesus as his Savior at the age of eleven, and then accepted the call of GOD to preach the Gospel at the age of thirteen. He graduated from Forney High School, then enrolled in Jacksonville College, earning an Associate of Arts degree in Religious Education.

He completed his college studies at UT-Tyler, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a double major in Sociology and Spanish. He then enrolled in the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, earning his Master of Divinity degree, with a double major in Theology/Counseling.

Thomas has served as a youth pastor, pastor, church planter, and taught extension classed for a seminary in Spanish. He met his wife, Frances, after being introduced to her by longtime friends, Frances was the first of her family to come to faith in Jesus. She is gifted in working with children's ministry.



## **“Pending Legislation,” cont from pg 1**

it would not be considered brandishing.

HB (House Bill) 1056 would clearly establish that places of worship are essential. This would prohibit government from closing churches during times of crisis.

- Municipal Employee Carry introduced to allow municipal employees to be legally allowed to carry in some buildings with the approval of the city council.
- Teacher Carry Teachers with a valid SDA license would be able to carry in class with school board approval. A person with a valid SDA could

carry a concealed handgun while at the capitol.

- College Campus Carry Person with a valid SDA License could carry on college campus with some other restrictions.
- Blocking of Roadways Provides physical and civil protections to a driver of a vehicle who is on a roadway that is unlawfully blocked by a mob or looters.

There are efforts underway to refine ambiguous and improper language to make things clearer. Currently, a

convicted felon could be riding in a car with someone who is a SDA license holder, and could be arrested for unknowingly being in a car with someone who is in the legal possession of a firearm.

We have legislation introduced for a statewide mandate to wear masks, and other legislation prohibiting governmental agencies from mandating masks.

There are efforts to keep vaccinations as a personal choice, and employment could not be effected by taking or not taking a vaccine. A person could not be denied their rights or services based on vaccination choice.

Another bill would prohibit the use of state funds against the second amendment. Home based students could not be penalized because a firearm, or the image of a firearm, is displayed on or in their property during distance learning sessions. Five year SDA cards could be used in lieu of background check when purchasing a firearm.

There are other bills which have the objective of protecting the civil liberties, our rights, of Oklahomans. We have some good legislators who are trying to do what is best for the citizens of the state of Oklahoma.

We need to educate ourselves, and support those who take their oath to the constitution very seriously. The Bible tells us to be good stewards of the things that God has given to us.

Our forefathers believed that we had certain rights that were given to us by the creator.

Our government doesn't grant these rights, but is required to protect them. We need to hold all our rights fast, or we will lose them, along with our ability to share the gospel, which is protected free speech.

As the world around us falls apart, we must take a stand and leave a legacy for our children, and our grandchildren.

## **“To Bee or Not To Bee,” cont from pg 3**

influence we can't maintain a sweet spirit.

The more we spend time with Christ the more we will become like Him, and He was the sweetest man ever to walk the earth.

Kind deeds and actions don't just happen, they spring from a heart seeking to show the love of Christ to others.

### **BE ASSURED**

A fleck of honey the size of a pin head will transport a bee a quarter of a mile! A little sweetness goes a long way in dealing with people too.

No matter how disagreeable an individual or predicament may appear, be assured, a loving gracious response will have a powerful effect on those around you.

### **BE RESOURCEFUL**

Bees seem to have Betty Grable eyes. Each of their immense eyes are actually 6,300 smaller ones. This unusual equipment enables the bee to scan large areas and notice the slightest details.

We must seek out ways to show forth a sweet spirit, to actively look for opportunities.

### **BE CONTENT**

Bees take the raw materials available to do their work. They don't ask for more or complain that they have less.

Each bee is content with the job God has given it to do. The drone never wishes to be the queen, nor the worker to be a scout. Each is diligent and happy with it's calling, and gives it's all to accomplish that task.

Discontented people are not sweet people. In fact they are the opposite. We must be satisfied with all God has seen fit to provide us with, where He has placed us, and how He wants us to serve. It is then and only then that He has control over our hearts.

Once He is first in our hearts, He can live through us, and the world will see Him and how truly sweet He is.

**HAPPY VALENTINES' DAY  
TO ALL MY “SWEET” READERS!**

# 2021 BMA of America Meeting Postponed

From Jeff Swart,  
President of the BMAA

A Zoom call was held on Tuesday January 12 with the officers of the BMA of America, the Executive Directors of the departments of the BMAA, the directors or officers of the BMAA Auxiliaries, the BMAA Production Team, and Richard Smith, host pastor of the 2021 national meeting.

The purpose of the virtual meeting was to discuss the feasibility of holding the national meeting at the regularly announced time in April 2021.

The decision to move forward with hosting a physical meeting of the national association in April 2021 was made the third week in October 2020. Since that time, things have changed.

In the state of Arkansas, and in an around Waxahachie, TX, the number of new COVID-19 cases is setting a record almost every day.

Our utmost desire is to protect the messengers of our churches and so, we

felt that we needed to explore other options.

After more than an hour of discussion, it was clear that our mutual desire was to host a physical meeting of the BMAA in 2021 if possible. Therefore, the 2021 national meeting of the churches of the BMA of America will be delayed until Monday, August 2 thru Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, TX.

The meeting will be conducted with the same format as the 2019 national meeting with some minor changes to comply with local and state health regulations.

The elected officers of the BMA of America will decide by June 1 if holding a physical meeting of our national association in August is still a viable option.

If it is deemed necessary that we cancel our meeting together in August, plans for a Zoom meeting the BMA of America will be implemented and announced through our state papers.

I personally appreciate your patience with me during this unprecedented time in our nation's history. I believe that my desires, and your desires, for our association are the same.

I may take a different route to get where we all want to be, but I assure you that in time, we will all get there.

The best thing that you can do is pray for your officers and if you do, I am convinced that we will do a better job. It is a great joy to serve such a fine group of pastors and churches!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Central Baptist College  
Preview Day  
February 10**

**BMAO State  
Midyear Meeting  
Scheduled for  
Saturday, March 27  
Unity, Wayne**

**BMA of America  
National Meeting  
Rescheduled for  
August 2-4, 2021  
Farley Street Baptist Church  
Waxahachie, TX**