

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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How Is Oklahoma Legislation Impacting Oklahoma Christians?

By Bro. Chris Gonthier
BMAO Moral Action

Scripture teaches us that Christians are to be good stewards of the things that God has given to us or has entrusted to us.

Luke 12:42-46 "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

In the Declaration of Independence, we see the following words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We have a unique form of government here in the United States that is vastly different from the "norm". We have freedoms that are not granted by government.

In fact, the Constitution was written in such a way to protect the individual's rights that are given to us by God from an overreaching government.

There are some powers that are granted to the federal government, and some powers are granted to the states. The Tenth Amendment States the following:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor

prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people".

This clearly shows the federal government is intended to be limited.

According to the Fourteenth Amendment, states are intended to be a buffer, or protection, from the federal government.

"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

It is obvious that many in the federal government wish to strip us of our rights. They would like to force Christians, via taxation, to pay for things such as abortion. No longer would Christians be able deny activities because of moral or biblical conviction.

Federally, there are efforts to force Churches to hire LGBT people into positions within ministry. Since the federal government is letting us down, people are beginning to feel hopeless.

The framers of the Constitution understood the potential for government to grow and become

burdensome.

That is why there is a division in the "branches" of government. That is also why there is a division, or separation, of powers between states and the federal government.

In John 14:27 we see the following, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

So, Christians are not to live in the state of fear. We need to live in the state of Oklahoma. People are without hope because their focus is on the things the

media is telling them.

Our faith, and confidence, is to be in the LORD Jesus Christ. We do, however, have some incredibly good things happening in the legislature in the

state of Oklahoma.

There is no way that I will have room to deal with them all here, so I will include a place you can go if you wish more information on legislative issues.

It is one of my personal pages on FB; Mayes County Second Amendment.

Also, requests can be made to my email pastorgonthier@gmail.com for more ways to be further updated on liberty issues.

At present, one of the most relevant pieces of legislation for our association has been introduced.

HB1056

Classifies places of worship as essential. Prohibits the governor or any official in a municipality, county, or political subdivision from prohibiting or suspending activities in a place of worship.

At the time of writing this it has passed through the House Judiciary Committee with a 6-1 vote.

("Oklahoma Legislation," cont on pg 2)



“Oklahoma Legislation” cont from pg 1

SB631

Second Amendment Sanctuary State Act. (Hamilton).

Preempts the entire field of legislation by the federal government, any agency of this state or any political subdivision from infringing on our unalienable rights to keep and bear arms.

(Emergency clause enacted-takes effect immediately) Public Safety Committee passed 9-2

Please keep in mind that these only have passed committee. Bills must pass through committee either on the house or senate side. Then go to the floor for a regular vote.

If they pass through the floor, they go to another committee and if they pass there,

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then floor vote. Then the governor must sign it and it becomes law in 90 days. In order to understand the process better take SB631 as an example.

It has passed through a senate committee and now goes to the senate floor. If it passes a floor vote it will go to a committee in the house.

After passing through the house committee, it will go to the floor for a vote. If it passes it will go to the governor for signature. Since there is an emergency provision it will become law immediately.

HB1057

Prohibits vaccination as a condition of public or private employment. At the writing of this it is pending in the House States Rights Committee.

SB532

...is a similar bill on the Senate side that is still in committee.

SB224

Anti-mask mandate still pending in committee. I know many of our people may be concerned with the happenings in the state.

Do not hesitate to contact me for additional information. There will much more available on my FB page.

Daniel Springs Anticipates Busy Spring & Summer

Exciting things are happening at . We are so excited about summer 2021 and the amazing opportunities God has in store for all of us to be a part of sharing the amazing message of salvation.

February is busy as we continue to accept applications and interview for our summer staff positions. This is one of the biggest blessings each year, seeing high school juniors and seniors and college students come from different walks of life to explore the possibility of investing in summer ministry at Daniel Springs.

Over the last five years, it has been an amazing journey to see how God has brought some great young adults to invest in each other, campers, adult sponsors and then to watch their personal relationship with the Lord be strengthened. This summer adventure starts out as a group of individuals and as the summer progresses, we have seen lifelong friendships form.

Plans and details are being worked on for the March Missions Month. March is set aside for individuals and groups to come and work on projects at the camp. No matter if it is just you, your family, a small group or a large group we would love for you to come and spend time with us at the camp and help us continue to make Daniel Springs Camp a place where people meet and grow in their relationship with each other and the Lord. These projects vary from construction, demolition, minor and major repairs, cleaning, sorting, painting, power washing and many other projects.

If you want to come by yourself or bring a group of any size, we would love to see you.

I know many are wanting more details about what our summer schedule is going to look like. We are currently working out the details of the health and safety guidelines we have to follow. We will hopefully have this information ready to begin sharing with you near the middle of February.

If you have any questions about March Mission Month, have a student that would like more information about being a summer staffer, or have questions regarding the summer schedule, feel free to contact us by phone at (903) 685-2433 or email us at info@danielspringscamp.com.



"I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

"Who's In Your Driver's Seat"



Two elderly women, Sylvia and Minnie, were out running errands in a rather large old car. Being literally "little" old ladies, they could barely see over the dashboard.

As they were traveling along they approached an intersection. It was clear the traffic light was red, but they just sailed on through.

Minnie was in the passenger seat. She thought to herself, "I must be losing it, I am certain we just went through a red light."

A short time later came upon another intersection and once again the light was red and as before they sped right through.

This time Minnie was nearly certain that the light had been red but still had that niggling in the back of her mind that she was getting senile.

Getting anxious she decided to concentrate on the road. At the next intersection she adjusted her glasses and peered intently at the road ahead to make sure she wasn't seeing things.

Sure enough, at the next intersection the light was without a doubt red. And as before, they flew right through. She turned to the other woman and said, "Sylvia! Do you have any idea we have ran three red lights in a row?!! You could have killed us both!!"

Sylvia turned to her with a shocked expression and said, "Oh no! Am I driving?"

How easy it is to bump God out of the driver's seat of our lives and take over. We don't even realize we do it because it progresses in small, subtle ways.

A little bit here, a little bit there, and before we know it, we are running our show. How can you know?

Well there are little sign posts along the way.



Your Bible has become another book on the shelf or a decoration on your night stand.

The only time it is in your hands is when you go to church. That is if you even take it to services with you. God's Word is His message and guidance for us, a mirror for our souls.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

When we neglect reading His Word we have set out on our own. Our ideas, feelings, thoughts become our guiding force. Without its power and influence, we will fail to see when we are heading for trouble or our choices are leading us in the wrong direction.

No need to remind you "who" is right beside you "helping" you navigate . . . yup, the devil. You are without a doubt headed for trouble.

"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:103-105



Another essential part of our walk with God is prayer.

You will find yourself treating the Lord as

genie in a bottle. Your supplications consist of "gimme, gimme gimme."

Thanksgiving and praise are probably non-existent.

Your prayers look more like demands that requests, and always asking for YOUR will to be done, not His.

There is never time it seems to spend a specific period talking to your Heavenly Father. Mornings are too rushed and by night time you fall in bed exhausted or unwind and relax it front of the TV.

You have not only taken control of your life at this point but have the audacity to give the Lord orders! And you wonder why your prayers aren't answered!

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:3



Attending worship services may have stopped completely.

You may not even be able to remember the last time you attended unless of course it was a holiday. Per chance you still go to church because you want to socialize, for show, or out of guilt or habit. You may or may not bring your Bible but it is not opened. Your mind wanders about what you will have for lunch or planning the rest of your day: focus is not on the message.

To be honest you can't wait till the preacher says the final amen and you can go home.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,

("Driver's Seat," cont on pg 7)

Current News From Your National WMA

Dear WMA and Women in Women's Ministries in the BMAA

You may have heard that the National BMAA meeting has been postponed to August 2, 3, and 4, 2021 at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachi, TX.

President Jeff Swart will reevaluate the Covid situation in June to see if it is safe for us to meet in August and if not, the meeting will be virtual.

For the National WMA to be prepared either way, it will be necessary for us to vote on the items of business by email or mail. We will move forward with our plans for the Women's Conference on Tuesday, August 3 and pray that comes to fruition.

URGENT REMINDER!

The Treasurer's fiscal books will be closed February 28. Offerings collected by then will be shown on the current year's report, however money for the current project (Missionary Care) will be accepted through April 1 and shown on the next year's report.

Any offerings after April 1st will go to the new project. Our goal is \$85,000.00. Our current balance is \$45,997.00.

Let's reach down deep and give as the Lord leads! Please consider this our Business meeting. We need three messengers from your group to vote on each of the three items of business.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1) When the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer have completed closing out the books, the jobs of the new Treasurer and new Assistant Treasurer will begin and the Recording Secretary's minutes will reflect that so the new Treasurer and new Assistant Treasurer can open a new bank account in the state where the new Treasurer resides.

Do you approve?

2) Do you approve of the recommended officers for the 2021-2022 to take office August 3 after the National meeting, whether it is in person or virtual with the exception of the Treasurer's and Assistant Treasurer's offices.

They are listed in the box below.

3) Do you approve of the Darlene Carey Institute as the National Project for 2021-2022?

Your cooperation and participation will be greatly appreciated!

I never would have dreamed we would have to conduct business this way but with the Lord's help, we will get it done. Please send me your votes as shown below.

Thank you in advance!

I am really praying the Covid virus will be under control and we will be able to meet together in August.

Be safe and God bless!

Recommended Officers for 2021-2022

President - Charlotte Johnson of Gilmer, Texas
1st Vice Pres. - Brenda Hornaday of Palestine, Texas
2nd Vice Pres. - Cindy Allen of Jacksonville, Texas
3rd Vic. Pres. - Kelly Williams of McNeil, Arkansas
Recording Sec'y - Jessica Haden of Mt. Olive, Mississippi
Assist. Rec. Sec'y - Jodi Rhea of Wynnewood, Oklahoma
Treasurer - Janet Widger of Salem, Missouri
Assist. Treas. - Sara Buckley of Potosi, Missouri
Media Editor - Alicia Johnson of Jacksonville, Texas
Editor - Jackie Ricks of Mineola, Texas
Historian - Tracy Goede of Bonne Terre, Missouri
Director of Youth Auxiliaries - Laurie Hicks of Magnolia, Arkansas
Assist. Director of Youth Auxiliaries - Katy Nix of Magnolia, Arkansas
GMA/YLA Promoter - Lane Flynt of Mt. Olive, Mississippi
Assist. GMA/YLA Promoter - Hayley Rasco of Waxahachie, Texas
Sunbeam Promoter - Sandra Kizer of Pittsburg, Texas
Assist. Sunbeam Promoter - Linda Dertinger of Soso, Mississippi
Song leader - Judy Wallace of Bald Knob, Arkansas
Pianist - Linda Strickland of Bella Vista, Arkansas
Project Promoter
2022 Chairman - Beth Caldwell of Lucedale, Mississippi
2023 - Diana Morris of Brownsboro, Texas
2024 - Connie Reifsteck of St. Louis, Missouri
Salary and Expense Committee
2022 Chairman - Glenda Chamberlain of Gilmer, Texas
2023 - Sherry Laminack of Greenwood, Arkansas
2024 - Pat Duncan of Hardy, Arkansas
Inspirational Resource Committee (frmly. Study Book Committee)
2022 Chairman - Pat Quesenbury of Arlington, Texas
2023 - Kirby Pool of Gilmer, Texas
2024 - Valarie Fish of Emerson, Arkansas
Advisory Committee
Bro. Charles Johnson of Gilmer, Texas
Bro. David Kizer of Pittsburg, Texas
Bro. Randy Rhea of Wynnewood, Oklahoma

New Generation Baptist Church, Norman

Thank you very much for your continued prayers and support. The ministry in Norman continues even in times of trials.

I (Steve) have endured several health issues – a major surgery, Covid and blood clots, but God continues to work in the ministry here.

Chris is taking up a lot of the slack and continues to develop his ministry skills. Please continue to pray for him and the ministry here in Norman.

This is a copy of Chris' monthly report:

"Then shalt thou say in thine heart, 'Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? And who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone: these, where had they been?'" Isaiah 49:21

As I'm contemplating the last month and what the LORD has done, I can't help but think of this passage in Isaiah which the famous pastor of the 1800s, Charles Spurgeon helped shine some light on for me.

The immediate context concerns the children of Israel, but Spurgeon applied it directly to every New Testament church, the household of God, of which we may be startled by the increase of those added to our number (especially during difficult times such as these) so that we might ask in surprise:

"Who hath begotten me these?...who hath brought up these?...where had they been?"

This is my reaction as I think of our morning service this past Sunday, online services because of the historic snow storm, and preaching from my parents' house in Broken Arrow because snow prevented travel back to Norman.

I counted a Sunday congregation of at least 20 people, mostly attending online,

whether from Arizona, Norman, or Nevada, where our people reside.

If someone told me a year ago about our virtual "zoom church" consisting of friends and family from other states, no doubt I would have said "Who hath begotten me these? Who hath brought up these? Where had they been?"

The majority were attending online, but there were a few attending in person that day, including my friend Alyson, visiting from Florida, a pastor's daughter who inherited from him a passion for the LORD, for the church, and for the lost, and blended her beautiful singing voice with mine as we led the worship song "The Wonderful Cross".

Along with Alyson, (Praise Jesus!), my parents were sitting there at the service and listened to the word of God preached!

I have been praying for my parents for years and have never been able to connect with them spiritually, but they listened thoughtfully as I proclaimed the heart of the gospel on Valentine's Day which is the love of Christ that kept him on the cross, bleeding, shaking, convulsing, gasping and dying for us!!

Oh how great the love of God is for us through Jesus!!! To endure such pain and then bring our loved ones to behold God's love displayed in the cross!

Concerning our friends or family, attending church online, or in person, surprisingly we ask: "Who hath begotten me these? Who hath brought up these? Where had they been?"

To our joy we know that it's the LORD and we are eager to see who the others are that he will add to our number!

Thank you for your continued support and the opportunity to serve the Lord and his people in Norman.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**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**

"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Dual Controls"

It had just turned cold so we put the electric blanket on the bed. There are dual controls on it, so it can be adjusted for comfort for either side. I wasn't all that cold, so I didn't turn my side on.

However, I woke up about an hour after going to sleep. I was burning up. I looked at my control and it was still off. However, Lelia's control was on "high." (Actually, more accurate terms would be "bake" or "broil.") I put my foot on her side of the bed and it was cold.

When we put the blanket on the bed, we had inadvertently switched the controls, so that her unit controlled my side of the blanket and mine controlled hers.

She had turned hers up to get warm. When she continued to be cold, she cranked it on up. I solved the problem by tuning her side off and mine on.

This incident reminded me of the time I went to a dentist. He had deadened my gums and had begun to work on my teeth. However, the sharp fingernail on his little finger was digging into my chin which hadn't been numbed.

As I began to squirm, he thought it was because of the teeth work and eased up on the drilling.

However, the more he shifted pressure away from the drill, the more his fingernail dug into my chin! He suddenly stopped drilling and reached for the needle to give me more pain medication. That was when I was finally able to tell him the real problem.

This incident also sort of reminds me of Jesus' illustration of the people of His generation in Matthew 11:16-17. He said His generation was "...like unto children sitting in the market place and calling unto their fellows, and saying, 'We have

piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.'

They were "calling the shots" without any authority and were getting upset because they weren't getting any response from those who were not under their control.

Lelia was giving the blanket a command, but it wasn't responding to her side, because it wasn't controlling her side. Although she cranked up the heat even more, she still got not results on her side.

In the passage above, Jesus' condemnation was more serious than the control on an electric blanket however. He ends His illustration by saying, "But wisdom is justified in her children."

His critics were using a double standard of judgment. They condemned in such a way that it didn't matter which way something was done, they were



going to condemn it.

They condemned John saying he had a demon because he didn't eat or drink. But they also condemned Jesus because He did eat and drink and they said He was a winebibber and a glutton.

Don't you just love that type of critic?

I once had a boss who was much the same way. It didn't matter how I did something, or what decision I made he would find a way to condemn it.

As irritated as I got with him about that, I can only imagine what inflection Jesus Christ must have used in His condemnation of His critics in this passage.

Especially since their criticism was aimed at God's chosen forerunner of Christ and God's only Begotten Son—something far more serious than my boss's criticism of my decisions.

But God's condemnation of criticism also extends to criticism of any of His children.

"Who art thou
that judgest another man's servant?
to his own master he standeth or falleth.

Yea, he shall be holden up:
for God is able to make him stand."

Romans 14:4

Just to clear up any confusion

Bro. Jesse Spurlock has been writing articles for the Oklahoma Baptist for many years, and I have so many comment on how much they enjoy his insights into life and God's Word. When Bro. Spurlock went to be with his Lord in September of 2019 I knew I was going to miss not only his writings, but his consistent encouragement he always ministered into my life. Fortunately, Bro. Jesse was the type of man who liked to stay ahead of everything, so he had written and submitted his twelve articles for 2020 before he died. It's almost like he knew something was coming and he just wanted to get it done.

As last December approached, I knew I was coming to the final article, but as I was going through some shelves I came across a booklet he had given me in 2013. A self bound collection of bulletin articles he had titled "Illustrations From Life." Fifty-two articles he had written in 2005.

I hope no one is bothered by the fact we will have new articles from Bro. Spurlock for several years to come in the Oklahoma Baptist. I love printing them. God bless you Bro. Spurlock. I'm so glad you were my friend.



“Who’s in Your Driver’s Seat?” cont from pg 3

giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” Colossians 1:16-17



Daily life is prioritized according to your plans that you believe will bring you success and make happy.

Forgotten is God’s purpose for your life, what He has laid upon your heart. This could be long term or short term goals. Gone is the passion and zeal to serve Him in all areas, even moment by moment.

You have gone deaf to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit leading, prompting and alerting you to Your Father’s will. Feelings may be saying the future is bright and your direction is sure, but truthfully you are headed nowhere.

“Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. James 4:13-16

When trials come your way, instead of turning to God and trusting Him to provide for your needs and answers, you fret, worry, and are consumed with anxiety.



Problems come to all of us. Small ones are frustrating but big ones can be downright frightening even to the point of appearing to have no answers. We all have a bit of worry wart in us, some more than others, so it is normal to be alarmed as well as fear at first. Ultimately what matters is how quickly you turn it over to God. Since you may be doing life solo, you look to yourself and others for solutions. Of course there are none, hence your desperation and emotional turmoil.

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body.” “He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.” Ps. 112:7



Most of us have ideas as to how we intend for our agendas transpire.

If we are wise we would know that it isn’t reasonable to expect everything to go our way.

Taking control of your life bypasses that reasoning and you begin to expect each detail of your “script” to play out. When it all doesn’t pan out you get angry.

This is a big sign!

This one shows you have taken over to the point you are a one man (or woman) show in life’s arena! When you think about it that is quite audacious to think the universe and Creator should following your direction!

“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps” Proverbs 16:9

“There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.” Proverbs 19:21

If you see yourself in any of these warning signs, STOP!



Spend some time with the Lord and have a serious talk. Determine if you are in your driver’s seat and you’ve bumped Him over to ride shot gun. There is a good chance if you are at this point, you may even be mad and God and blaming him for chaos you find yourself facing.



One of many things I love about the Lord and our relationship is He always allows U-Turns.

As a matter of fact He delights in them! You’re never too late and you can never go too far to make one. His arms are always open to prodigals. The best part is, where you have traveled alone in the wrong direction, He is beside you all the way as you embark on your new path.

Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

“When we neglect reading His Word we have set out on our own. Our ideas, feelings, thoughts become our guiding force. Without its power and influence, we will fail to see when we are heading for trouble or our choices are leading us in the wrong direction.”

CBC Responds to Three Rounds of Winter Weather

As you are reading this article, Central Baptist College will have resumed normal campus operations after being either closed or operating virtually since Thursday, February 11.

Three winter weather systems that hit back-to-back, dumping over a foot of snow on the campus and bringing sustained temperatures in the single digits. This caused campus operations to be adjusted for over a week.

During this time, many students remained in campus housing, essential campus operations continued, and except for three days, classes met as scheduled. I wanted to share with you a bit about how this was accomplished.

For all of the negative things that the COVID-19 global health pandemic has brought us, one positive is that all classes are now able to be offered in an online, or virtual, manner.

Since faculty have been teaching in this format and students learning this way since March 2020, almost a full year, faculty and students are much more comfortable switching back and forth between in-class instruction and online learning as needed.

Also, almost all employees now have the ability to work remotely from home, no longer necessitating them being in their workspace on campus to perform their job duties.

Classes were cancelled on Thursday, February 11 as we assessed the situation, formulated our plan, developed messaging, and all the other things that needed to take place to respond to the impending winter weather.

From Friday, February 12 until Friday, February 19, all classes met online and employees worked remotely, with the exception of Wednesday, February 17 and Thursday, February 18.

The campus completely closed on February 17 and 18 to do our part to

voluntarily conserve electricity as was being called for by the Governor of the State of Arkansas and our local utility company, Conway Corp, as the state and our region of the United States was dealing with electrical supply issues.

According to the Conway Corporation



Facebook page, “this week’s historic event is causing high peak demand that has never been seen before.”

To continue to do our part to conserve energy, thermostats in all buildings on campus have now been lowered to 65 degrees.

Students living in on campus housing have been asked to voluntarily lower the temperatures in their personal living spaces to 68 degrees.

While most campus operations can now be accomplished remotely, there are some things that require personnel to be physically present on the campus.

The campus Housing Staff must be on-site because students continue to live on campus, both in Dickson Hall and in college-owned upper-class housing. Therefore, the Housing Staff has to be readily available to handle any issues that arise with our on-campus student population.

Another department that continues to function on campus is Dining Services. In fact, Dining Services Director, Chef Jill McCollum, moved on campus into

an empty room in Dickson Hall and remained there all week.

This ensured that Chef Jill could safely get to the kitchen in the Mabee Student Services Complex. With the help of student workers who lived on campus and staff who lived close enough to get to campus safely, all meals were served.

Finally, I can’t say enough about how hard our Physical Plant Department, led by Director Byron Baker, worked the past two weeks responding to these winter weather events. They worked long, hard hours in bitterly cold temperatures to ensure students could travel from their residence to the dining hall on a clear walkway.

They also cleared parking lots, attended to and/or repaired frozen water pipes, lowered temperatures in the buildings, and provided many more essential services.

Because of their work, parking lots and walkways are clear, and employees and students will return to campus on Monday, February 22,

It has truly been a team effort these past two weeks from all of our employees and students. And I pray that during this time, despite all the cancelled and changed plans, the unplanned time at home, issues with utilities, and record low temperatures, that everyone took time to appreciate the beauty in God’s handiwork. It is not often that we see snow like this in Arkansas.

There are times in life when you just have to hit the “pause button.” I think this was one of those times. 2020 was a rough year for everybody, and our lives have been forever changed.

This year has certainly not started out the way many had hoped. We rarely stop to consider the mental and emotional health of each other.

I think the scripture, “Be still, and know that I am God,” is very fitting, and it is my prayer that everyone took time to “be still” and reflect on our Savior during this most unusual time.