

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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“Stewardship”

By Chris Gonthier
BMAO Moral Action

Today's Christianity has some very unfortunate deficiencies. We are not as dedicated to the cause of Christ as we need to be. It is both too easy, and much too readily acceptable, to have a very weak faith with very limited influence.

When we look at the life of Paul, we see a true warrior who gave everything for God's glory. We need to be concerned for those who will come after us and begin ensuring there will be a legacy to inherit.

I am not focusing on the financial well being of our loved ones, although that is important.

“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.”
Proverbs 13:22

There are other fundamentals that we should be greatly concerned about as well.

At creation, mankind was designed and equipped to be caretakers, or good stewards, of the blessings that God has given to us. At the very onset of humanity, it was instilled in Adam to be a caretaker of the garden.

“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”
Genesis 2:15

When man becomes sedentary, we are existing in the state we were not designed for. God has blessed us tremendously, yet we have become

settled on our lees.

“And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, the Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil.”
Zephaniah 1:12

Our nation has become full of apathetic people who really don't care about anything. We act as though God is irrelevant and that he will not reward good or evil.

People no longer fight for godliness or righteousness, electing to take the easy road and avoiding all confrontations. We must struggle to maintain those precious gifts we have received from God.

The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence begins with 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...”

At the very founding of our nation, it was determined the country would be built and maintained on biblical principles.

The documents upon which all are laws are based, are harmonious with scripture. The sad fact of today is that not very many people are interested in the affairs of the nation.

As we continue to lose our liberties,

we need to realize that our ability to share the gospel will become in jeopardy.

We have recently seen restrictions on our assembling to worship freely. If we preach Bible doctrine we are labeled as old fashioned or bigots.

We cannot exercise our biblical convictions because of the fear that we may offend. We don't go to church, and if we do, many times it is not a doctrinally sound church. We are being coerced and intimidated to turn our backs on the things of God.

No longer does our nation, our families, or our freedoms seem to matter.

As seen in Luke, we have a job God intends for us to do. “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. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.”
Luke 12:42-44

Everything we have has been given to us by God, and we are to use it for the glory of God.

“John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.” John 3:27.

Since everything has come from God we need to use it wisely. We need to be busy about the Lord's work, and make sure We stand for the things of God.

1 Corinthians 4: 2 says, “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

The Question that we need to be asking ourselves is how faithful are we? Are we

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Latest News From Grace Harbor



book to understand what the purpose of the church is, the qualifications of an elder, the call for young pastors to lean into their calling, and then the church's responsibility to elders and in rising elders up.

Beyond that, our folks were able to witness (many for the first time as new believers) the Lord's calling and faithfulness in raising up men to shepherd the church.

I also think this will be the beginning of seeing several other men step into the role of pastor/elder at Grace Harbor.

We shared with our church that we feel compelled to immediately begin praying for and pouring into other men that would sense this call of God on their life.

We anticipate the months ahead to be a fruitful time in being out in our community, praying for, and sharing the Gospel with neighbors.

As challenging as the last year has been in really connecting deeply with people, we believe the Lord is going to give us a big opportunity to see many find hope and trust in Christ!

March was an eventful and exciting month for us as we formally ordained Thomas Mobly into the ministry as a church, as well as installed him as an elder of Grace Harbor.

We were told early on that one of the few important milestones in a new church is that it has the ability to become self governing.

Thomas is one whose life has been in the view of those who are part of Grace Harbor for several years now. Thomas has very much functioned as a pastor and shepherd of those God has brought to us, but we believe there is significance

in the recognition and formality of what we were able to do just a few weeks ago.

What I found significant is that it served as a discipleship opportunity.

Starting way back in August of 2020 all the way up to just last month, we took time to preach through the book of 1 Timothy. We believe that the Word is the primary discipleship resource, so preaching plays a large part in our hearts and minds being formed.

We took time to walk through the

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"I Was Just Thinkin' "

By Narita Roady

"Every Which Way"

We had a friend many years back that was quite a character. He was a loving gentle man, and very much a country boy.

Once we were helping them do some work on their new home they were building. For about two weeks we were with them daily.

We met them early one morning and over a cup of coffee discussed the day's work. He sat across from us in his standard uniform of overalls and a white t-shirt.

I happened to notice his shirt was on backwards. When I pointed it out he replied, "Yea, I know, its that way for a reason."

Extremely puzzled I ask him why. He proceeded to share his common practice concerning his work clothes.

"You see," he responded in his deep southern drawl, "on the first day I put on a clean t-shirt". On the second day I wear it backwards."

He emphasized this my stroking the front of his chest.

"On the third day, I turn it wrong side out and wear with the front forward again. Then on the fourth day," he grinned proudly, "I wear it wrong side out and backwards. That way I can get 4 days of work out of the same shirt and the front is always clean."

"You're joking," I replied.

"Nope," he answered looping his thumbs under his overall straps, "I'm dead serious."

I stood with my mouth gaping. I looked over at his wife in disbelief and she shrugged her shoulders and nodded her head, adding, "Saves me doing laundry."

I watched over the next few days and many times there after. He wasn't joking!

Have you ever had that happen with scripture? You may have read it many times before, but then you read it one more time, and you see something new! God reveals another nugget of wisdom from a well known, possibly even memorized scripture.

This recently happened to me when I was looking at some familiar scriptures on the crucifixion of Christ, that we study at least once a year during the Easter season.

It certainly rings true of the old saying that Scripture has one interpretation many applications. I realized four ways to 'get more wear' out of these scriptures.



When God chooses you
to serve Him
there will be suffering

What greater honor could be bestowed upon a woman, but to bear the Son of God?!

This wonderful privilege caused Mary great suffering. Nowadays an out of wedlock pregnancy is brushed aside without any regard to God's Word, but in Mary's day it was not taken lightly.

The suspicion, shame, and rejection she faced were enormous. We cannot imagine the anguish

and grief she suffered watching her beloved Son be tortured and die on the cross!

Somehow people get the idea that if they are devoted servants or are honored with a great position of service, that it is a free ride from there.

The Lord warns us as His children we are to expect suffering in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." And Romans 8:17, He tells us why. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." That makes it all worth it doesn't it?

Severe testing reveals whether our walk matches our talk

In Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:27, Jesus taught us to love our enemies no matter how badly they treated us.

During His brutal mistreatment at the cross, He lived what He taught. Luke 23:34 testifies this when after all they had

("Every Which Way," cont on pg 7)

***"If Christ who was man bore all He did,
why can we not do the same with far less?
We have no idea who or what
our resilience and fortitude may be depending on."***

CBC Slates 2021 Graduation Plans

Spring 2021 Commencement Announced

Central Baptist College is pleased to announce that Spring 2021 Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 8.

Due to the continuing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 global health pandemic, the College will once again offer private ceremonies for each graduate.

This year's class consists of 131 total graduates, 107 in the Traditional program and 24 in the PACE program.

The College's Academic Leadership Team is organizing this year's Commencement activities, and the directives and guidance from the Centers

for Disease Control & Prevention and by the Arkansas Department of Health will be taken into consideration.

One hundred of this year's 131 graduates are making plans to participate in this year's ceremony.

Each graduate who participates will be given a private appointment time. Upon entry into the Harold E. Cooper Educational Complex, the graduate and their entire party will be escorted to a private holding room where he or she will be greeted by either a CBC staff member or a student volunteer.

While graduates wait for their official graduation time, a CBC faculty or staff member will be with them to pray specifically for each graduate.

At the appointed time, the graduate and his or her party will be escorted into the Burgess Auditorium for his or her private graduation ceremony.

Central Baptist College faculty will be socially distanced throughout the Burgess Auditorium to celebrate with the graduates.

Once the graduate's guests are settled, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Gary McAllister will officially present the graduate by announcing his or her name and degree earned.

The graduate will then walk across the stage, receive a diploma from President Terry Kimbrow, and have a photo taken. Photography will be provided by *Donna Evans Photography*.

The graduate will then be able to walk from the Harold E. Cooper Educational Complex, down the Legacy Walk, and through the Ratliff Bell Tower, where he or she will be able to take photos and celebrate with his or her family and friends.

Graduates who are unable to participate in person will have their diploma, tassel, program, and any cords they have earned, mailed to them.

For more information about Central Baptist College's Spring 2021 Commencement, visit cbc.edu/graduation.

Central Baptist College 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.



BMA of OK Church News

Missionary Baptist Church, Lindsay

Greetings,

Missionary Baptist Church missed two weeks during February due to the snow and the pastor testing positive for covid-19. We have a new sign, have made improvements to both the exterior and the interior of the buildings, with some other necessary and planned repairs/improvements being scheduled.

Our attendance in both the English and Spanish services are improving. We have had a couple of first time visitors in the Spanish services. We have one woman who has met with the pastor and expressed a desire to unite with our church. We are investigating and planning towards being able to improve our technology, so that we can have a visible footprint on social media and be able to livestream services.

My wife and I enjoyed attending the mid year state association meeting at Unity Missionary Church, Wayne, Oklahoma on March 27. We felt very warmly welcomed by all. We are excited to be a part of the BMA of Oklahoma.

In Christ's Service,

Thomas Dickerson, Pastor

Sunray Baptist Church, Purcell

Sunray Baptist Church was organized through the efforts of local missionary M.L. West and the South Canadian Missionary Baptist Association (known today as the BMA of Central Oklahoma). Bro. West made contacts and the church was organized on March 23, 1947, with nine charter members. One of those members is now 94 yrs old, Mrs. Wanda (Ward) McPherson.

The church first met at the Odd Fellows Hall located on South Canadian Street. Land was purchased in 1949 and a building was built on the corner of 4th Street and Jefferson. The first service there was on March 15, 1950.

Land was purchased on N. 9th Street and our present building was built. The first service here was on Mother's Day, May 14, 1989.

Sunray celebrated its 74th Anniversary March 21. Bro. Dennis Clark, our former pastor preached the morning message,

"Regaining our Amazement of God." Bro. Clark retired from pastoring, July of 2020. Bro. Clark pastored Sunray for 33 yrs. Sunray has had 14 pastors through the years.

Sunray Baptist Church has a new pastor, Bro. David Pickard.

Sunray will be hosting "*Springsing*" on April 10 at 6 :00pm. Special singers will be Lauren Talley and the Gastineaus.

It's always so good see news from our churches in Oklahoma.

We would love to post your church news periodically as well. Just send articles to:

michael.mobly@yahoo.com

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

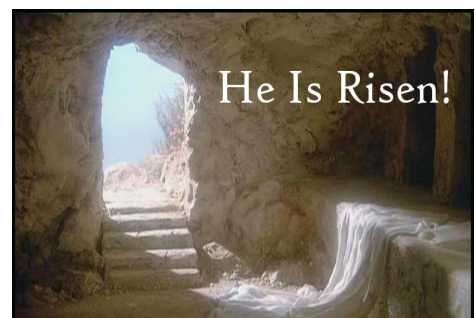
And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

Matthew 28:1-8



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"The Days of Our Years Are..."

Some passages of Scripture take on new meaning with the passage of time. So it was with me the other day when I read Psalm 90:10. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

For those who don't know about this "threescore" and "fourscore" type of wording, a "score" is twenty. So threescore is sixty, and threescore and ten would be seventy. Fourscore is eighty. That eighty didn't strike me as significant, but that seventy, jazz...

When I was a small boy and was first told that threescore and ten was seventy, and fourscore was eighty, it didn't really concern me too much, because that was sooooo old anyway.

However, as I sailed past the landmark of seventy years, I realized seventy is not old at all. It's actually middle age. (Although I've never in my life met anyone who was 140 years old.

Seventy years can't be old, because that's where I am, and where I'm just getting started.

I wondered why the Psalmist wrote that the days of our years are threescore and ten? He was surely talking about someone else when he said "our days."

Do you think he might have had in mind him and his brother? You know, like when two brothers would say, "our mother". That would mean "their" mother, but no one else's and especially not mine.

So maybe the Psalmist didn't really mean me. He just meant he and his brothers were seventy, and maybe even eighty.

Of course, most know I'm only having a little fun with those thoughts. I know what the Psalmist meant, and most others do

also. He is talking about the normal life expectancy for the human of his day., but also by stating "fourscore years" he tell us there were those who lived even longer.

Our own personal length of life is in the hands of God. Some will live seventy years, some will live longer, but some will not even reach seventy years. None of us are guaranteed a certain number of years.

Also, the Psalmist's point is not the age we might live, but the fact there will be sorrow and labor all our life, whether we live to be seventy or even eighty.

He concludes with the statement that our life is "soon cut off and we fly away." "He has the brevity and swiftness of life in mind.

I'm also aware there will be those



who might say, "I don't think you should tell anyone you're seventy."

Folks! The only drawback I see in telling others my age is when I do something dumb, people will say, "Well, at least at his age he ought to know better."

Otherwise, I find it very nice that many young people treat me with respect

and assume I know what I'm talking about now.

Also, around the church, when something heavy has to be lifted, the younger men rush over and say, "Let me get that. You shouldn't be lifting that." I can still pick it up, but why argue?

I'm thankful to the Lord He has permitted me to live seventy years in relatively good health, although I do have more aches and pains than I did a few years ago. Each reminds me of how thankful I really need to be.

However, as has been stated before, "It is not how long we live, but rather how well we lived that truly matters at the end of the journey."



I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. Psalm 22:14

“Every Which Way,” cont from pg 3

done He prayed, “. . . Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

Sadly the majority of the time, a Christian’s walk doesn’t match his talk when things get tough. Many profess it until they are tested then fail live it.

Painful trials were allowed by God, for His purpose, therefore we should endure them to the end

Have you ever heard someone (maybe yourself) in an excruciatingly painful trial make these statements: *When is this going end? I can’t take any more!*

They attempt to flee their problems, forgetting that God, in His infinite wisdom and love, has allowed it for His purpose. Does anyone ever consider Christ felt the same way when He faced His death?

In Luke 22:42-44, *He agonized in His flesh over what was to come. Saying,*

Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Praise the Lord He stayed and endured! Without His long-suffering obedience we would have no hope.

If Christ who was man bore all He did, why can we not do the same with far less? We have no idea who or what our resilience and fortitude may be depending on.

We must always be reminded that our trials on earth are nothing in comparison to our rewards in Heaven. Besides, if you become a dropout God will keep enrolling you in the class until you graduate with a passing grade!

“Stewardship,” cont from pg 1

making it free to preach the truth of God’s message? Are we going to church? Are we training our families and presenting the gospel to those around us? Do we study candidates, so we know how to vote? Basically, are we putting the effort in?

Some of us are at the ending of our journeys. Are we leaving things decent and in order for those who are to follow in our footsteps? Will those who follow us bless us or curse us for what we have left for them?

Our children are being desensitized to the things of God. We are allowing garbage to be taught in the schools, and in some cases, the churches.

Confused people are being placed in positions of authority and people who know not God are becoming our moral compass.

We need to quit being lazy and take the stand for God that we need to take.

Remember, our nation, our churches, our children and grandchildren are depending on us.

Christ took time on the cross to care about and minister to others

As Christ hung on the cross, in His darkest moment, facing suffering such as we will never know. He still cared about others more than Himself.

In Luke 23:42-43, He reached out to one of the thieves who was a part of the reason He hung there.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

And again in Luke 23:34 He remembered His very enemies in prayer. *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

How easy it is when we are facing difficult times to put our focus solely on ourselves. This is nothing more than selfishness.

No matter what is happening in our lives we need to keep our eyes and hearts open to the needs of others.

It is amazing what a comforting and soothing salve this is to our wounded hearts it is. Although we may not understand how, our suffering may be the very lesson we need to help someone else later.

2 Corinthians 1:4 *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble. . .*

Our friend thought he had a very original idea with his four-day shirt, and I must agree. So it’s no surprise that God also has His four way idea for us to get the most out of His Word.

Where is it?

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. . .

**“People no longer fight
for godliness or righteousness,
electing to take the easy road
and avoiding all confrontations.**

**We must struggle to maintain those precious gifts
we have received from God.”**

Latest News From "The Master's Builders"

Following our "Weekend Retreat" at Daniel Springs Camp, The Master's Builders were rested and ready to begin work on their first job of 2021 at Daniel Springs.

This would be the 169th job that The Master's Builders would have the privilege to work on.

Jason Prewitt, camp Director, always has a list of projects ready for our men and they were ready to get after them!

The following is what the men got done in our two weeks there:

The General Store and Bookstore

Doubled the size of the room, cut thru cinder blocks to put a door to connect the offices, run electrical, put in sheetrock, installed doors, installed the tin on outside.

The Summer Staff's Breakroom

We made it stationary, built a porch on it, put in flooring, cabinets, appliances, trim, run electrical, and put in lights.

Guard Shack

We put in flooring, trim and run electrical.

Tabernacle

We fixed broken chairs.

"Urban Skills" course

We built one outside there is one inside already.

We also built eight mobile "sandwich boards" to place about the camp with info on, and mobile cabinets and storage bins for sound equipment and archery "urban skills" equipment. And we tore down an old bridge and built a new one over the creek.

I'm sure I've missed some things, but you get the idea. We did whatever we could to build whatever there was a need for.

The women helped with a few projects.

There is always sweeping to be done, blocks or boards to move to keep the work area clean. But we also stained the bunk extensions that were done several years ago in the Daniel Dorm. Finally!!

We enjoyed the Jacksonville College Choir and leader Bro Randy Decker one night. We always enjoy the fellowship we have with them every year. They are spoiling us!

Holly Greer, granddaughter of Wayne and Leona Wimberly one of our Builder couples, came and shared with us her ministry in Haiti where she works with children.

She shared how the Lord has burdened her heart, from an early age, and how she now has several children she mentors and cares for. She has named her work, Kingdom Kids!! What a blessing she is.

Thank you to Jason and Jessica Prewitt and Morgan Sandifer for all you do! These are hard working, kid loving, God called servants of the Lord! We love you and thank God for you!

There are so many more things I could share about our time there, but you can see and read about our "daily doings" on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders".

The Master's Builders Retreat was scheduled for January, but due to Covid concerns, it was decided to reschedule the Retreat for March 11-13. It would be at Daniel Springs, which is where our first job of 2021 would start on March 15.

We had a great attendance of 32 or so and were blessed to welcome Rick and Angie Morris of Waxahachie, Texas to our group.

There were several of The Master's Builders who could not attend because of health or Covid concerns, but we did

get to visit with Joyce and James Chames of Lufkin, TX. It was so good to see them!

We always enjoy our time together just relaxing. There is a lot of eating, talking, eating, game playing, laughing, and did I mention we do enjoy eating!

At our business meeting we learned that we have a job starting April 12, at Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville, AR. This work was planned for last April but was cancelled. So we plan to travel there and do what ever is needed. We look forward to seeing Scott and Myrtie Small and family.

Keep up with The Master's Builders on Facebook!!

If you have questions about our ministry or if your church had building needs, contact:

Eddie Sikes- (479) 462-1675

Mike Green- (972) 935-3877

David Axe- (903) 918-0720

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunray "Springsing"

April 10, 6 :00pm.

**Lauren Talley
and the Gastineaus**

SOAR

**BMA Youth Conference
Hotel Anatole, Dallas, TX
July 6-8, 2021**

BMAA

**National Meeting
August 2-4, 2021
Waxahachie, TX**