

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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Number 9

Focusing on the Important

By Chris Gonthier
BMAO Moral Action

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work. It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness." Proverbs 16:6-12

"Where is our society standing today?" is the question that we should be asking. People must understand that we are accountable for our own actions.

Since we are accountable to God for ourselves, we must have the ability to choose how we live. The decisions we make must be our own decisions. As we face the prospect of encroachment on our civil liberties, we must understand the dangers our loss of freedom would entail.

The Fourteenth Amendment
Section 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. 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.

We see it is the responsibility of the states to ensure that the liberties of individuals are protected. Our founding fathers recognized that all people are endowed or granted certain rights.

In the Declaration of Independence we see the following: "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.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," Government was created to protect our rights, not to grant them.

Therefore, since government did not grant our rights, it cannot take them away.

We must allow the Spirit to lead us in the paths that we must go. Galatians 5:16-17 tells us, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

We should not get our marching orders from the world, or the things of the world. We should be living in obedience to the Holy Spirit of God. As we are constantly bombarded to change the way we do

("The Important," cont on pg 8)

Disaster Relief Opportunity

As the pastor Our Oasis Baptist Church in Pryor. I am also a native of Louisiana, the area Ida went through. Parts of Louisiana are devastated. No electric, no water...etc. they have great need of water and other basic necessities. If anyone wants to donate to this effort let me know. I can make sure it gets to Louisiana and distributed properly. I have connections with churches in that area. Thanks.

Monetary donations can be dropped off at Yorktown Bank. Our Oasis Baptist Church has an account set up. It is listed Hurricane Ida Relief.

Collecting the following items:

Bottled water, non perishable foods that do not have to be cooked, toaster pastries, cans with pop top lids, juice boxes, etc. Feminine hygiene products, infant formula, diapers, wipes, paper plates and bowls, plastic forks and spoons

NO DRIED FOODS LIKE RICE AND BEANS (NO POWER TO COOK)

NO BREAD...hard to transport

NO CLOTHING

They can be dropped off at Solid Rock Realtors, 330 S Mill Street in Pryor
Larger quantities call pastor Chris at 601-596-6875 for drop off at church.

OUR OASIS BAPTIST CHURCH

865 SE 22nd

Pryor Oklahoma

I believe one of our churches lost a roof

BMAO Church Plant News

New Generation Baptist Church

Greetings again from Norman, Oklahoma. We are continuing in our efforts to share the gospel both here and around the world, as we have opportunity. As Covid rears its ugly head again, we hear of more and more folks experiencing the devastating effects of this plague. We here at New Generation Baptist Church have been blessed not to have experienced these effects.

Our attendance both in the building and on-line seems to be holding steady. We of course would always like to have a greater attendance. We are missing our friend Jacque, who moved back to Iowa. She has been actively involved in New Generation for approximately 6-7 years. Please pray for her as she goes through this transition.

Below is information taken from Chris's monthly report. He has been a busy young man and we thank God for his service to the Church and Christ's work.

We're very thankful that Steve's medical procedure last week was successful and we continue to pray for his complete healing! Praise God!

Attendance for Sunday services has been over twenty the last two weeks, and

attendance for the evening services seems to be up as well! Maybe we can call this a boom in attendance, even with corona virus fears beginning to return with the delta variant. God is still trying to get people's attention, reminding them of their mortality and of course it is only in Christ where folks can find true assurance of salvation.

So, we continue with our evangelism efforts trying to help people realize that they really can know for sure they're going to heaven when they die! Jamie, Lee, Jeff and I have been participating in evangelism training together on Wednesday nights.

Also, we have had some help from a few individuals from outside the church with our Wednesday night training and outreach.

A friend of mine, Chris Broyles, a meteorologist who works in storm prediction at the national weather center was trained in evangelism at our church back in May at the EE "Everyday Evangelism" launch. And he has offered to help with our evangelism on Wednesdays and the church has enjoyed having him.

Also a Hispanic friend of mine, Joselyn, has also taken interest in EE training and joined our team as we shared the gospel this past Wednesday with six or seven teenage boys at a park in Norman. God is beginning to answer our prayers that He would send more workers into the harvest, but we need many more!

Let us continue to pray fervently for a much needed "evangelism awakening" in the church in America!

We praise God for his goodness. If you know of any other people that you think might enjoy this newsletter, please send me their email address and I'll try to send it to them.

Steve & Lynn Puckett
Email – ngbcnorman@hotmail.com

Reporting on the Summer From Grace Harbor

I somehow allowed July to pass without submitting a report, so this report will contain information about both July and August! I appreciate Bro. Gene Hankins and Bro. Carl Barnes for their work and ministry in the BMAO, and for their diligence in the work the Lord has called them to do for our association.

I never come away from a conversation from either of them without feeling deeply encouraged.

July kicked off with us wrapping up a great week at our BMA Kids Camp in Binger. We took about 14 kids and leaders along for a great week away.

We could not have imagined just four years ago that we would have the ability to take a group to camp this size, but the Lord has been faithful to us!

We also had a "Family Sunday" in July. Family Sunday happens every three months or so at Grace Harbor, and it is a service where we welcome new members into our church and have baptisms.

This most recent Family Sunday, we welcomed five new members and baptized three folks!

August also kicked off with a strong start at the BMA National Meeting in Waxahachie. It was a bit unusual all around having this meeting in August, but we could not have left more energized and encouraged for the work the Lord has called us to here in OKC.

Then the final week of August, we were able to partner with Harvest Hills Elementary for their back to school event. They had over 300 folks attend this event, and Grace Harbor was privileged to be right in the middle of it.

Our folks donated around \$500 to purchase all of the food for concessions for the event, so that the PTO would be able to raise money for serving the school this upcoming school year. We not only donated money, but several of our folks volunteered and served families.

I can't tell you how many folks

("Church Plants," cont on pg 7)

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

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"I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

"Laundry Tips"

The doorway was suddenly darkened by three hunkering forms. Their shoulders rounded, arms hung to their sides and curved away from their bodies. Their legs were so bowed a horse could have walked right thru them.

They moved with a slow stiff gate toward the table where I sat until they hovered over me with grimaced and menacing faces.

Was this seasoned wranglers – a modern day show down at the Roady Corral? No it was my daughters and in unison the cried out in high pitched whining voices, Mom you did it again!!! You dried our underwear and shirts on the clothesline!!"

I love hanging clothes on the line to dry! I guess it stems from my childhood memories. A sheet hung across two lines became a cool fresh street to run down.

I can still remember my mother's shouts of reprimand as I raced thru, the wet cloth brushing against my hot grimy face.

I love the smell of things dried in the sunshine. Mr. Snuggles has nothing on the fresh fragrance of sunshine and fresh air, no matter what he promises!

My children on the other hand say it stinks and smells like a wet dog! All I can figure is that they are smelling disabled! This same attitude is shared by many people today toward the Lord shining His light into their lives.

Sunshine on clothes has a lot of the

same benefits as Sunshine in our lives.

Sunshine kills many germs and bacteria

In 1877 it was discovered that sunlight kills bacteria. Not only does it kill germs on clothing, but also in drinking water.

Did you know that sunlight is quite capable of doing so even when it passes through window glass? Christ can destroy the sin in our life, no matter how bad it is or where it is hidden!

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

Sunshine is a great stain remover and whitener

The sun removes stains and whitens naturally without spending a lot of money and time scrubbing and rubbing. Not to mention some expensive stain removers that don't deliver all they promise.

People will try to remove their sin and guilt in expensive and time-consuming



ways also. They give more money, spend more time at the church, be on every committee, just to rid themselves of the sin stains in their lives.

God gives us his recipe for a thorough and quick sin remover in 1 John 1:9.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Sunshine freshens

Being rid of germs and bacteria freshen the smell of clothes. When we are free of sin in our lives, our

hearts minds are renewed. Others smell the difference in our attitude and actions.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Sunshine strengthens some fibers

Did you know that linen fibers are actually strengthened when dried in sunlight? (See I did learn something in college!)

We might not always like the searching light of the Holy Spirit that exposes our sin, but being free from the burden and destruction of sin actually strengthens us.

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; Ephesians 3:16

Sunshine saves on wear and tear

Sunshine makes clothes last longer and is better for them. What do you think that lint is in the dryer trap? It's little pieces of your laundry being torn way each time! All that tossing and turning causes damage.

When we try to live our lives based on our own reasoning and devices, we end

("Laundry Tips," cont on pg 7)

"A person displaying a spirit of contention and strife shows they need to be cleansed from a carnal mind."

10th Annual CBC MUD Week Concludes

Thirty-two Student Orientation Staff (SOS) members welcomed new students to the CBC campus beginning on Saturday, August 14. MUD Week, which is an acronym for Mustangs Under Development, officially kicked off with dinner that night.

SOS Dinner & Awards

Student Orientation Staff (SOS) is a group of returning CBC students whose primary role is to help new students feel welcome and at home at CBC. SOS team members are selected based on maturity, work ethic, friendliness, and value-driven servant leadership.

New students entering CBC are faced with numerous questions related to registration, housing, financial concerns, and academic survival.

Each SOS member plays a vital role in helping new students with these and other questions and issues as well as building true relationships with them.

SOS members are tasked to plan and implement activities to help new students develop lasting and meaningful relationships to help them feel connected to CBC.

SOS has been a highlight of CBC's new

student orientation program for well over a decade. The 2021 Student Orientation Staff was directed by Student Services Coordinator Marieca Ashworth, with the assistance of Alumnus Andrew Guyton.

To celebrate SOS for their hard work and service during MUD Week, a dinner was held in their honor on the evening of August 20. Team Leaders presented the SOS Spark Plug Awards (one per team) and the SOS Reflector Awards (one per team).

The MUD Week 2021 Leader Award and the Team Spirit Award were also presented. The SOS Spark Plug Award is given to the team member that is the heart of the team.

This team member is energetic, encouraging and tireless in their efforts to motivate their team. Spark Plugs were awarded to Ben Stevens, Sierra Burrow, Fred Marsh, Ashanti Williams, Madee Sheridan, and Hannah Hearst.

The SOS Reflector Award is given to the team member that best reflects the core values of SOS which include respect for others, friendship, integrity,

fun, service, and servant leadership. Reflector Awards were awarded to Hannah Varnado, Philip Fulmer, Skylar Hensley, Ashleigh Daugherty, Macy Jordan, and Austen Krisell.

The MUD Week 2021 Leader Award is presented to the team member who excelled in their role on SOS. The award recipient is given an automatic spot as a Team Leader for the 2022 Student Orientation Staff, without having to go through the application and interview process.

The Leader Award was presented to Hannah Varnado. The Team Spirit Award is presented to the team that goes above and beyond throughout the week.

The team does an exceptional job planning their assigned events, is on time, is encouraging and helpful to the other teams, and is actively engaging new students.

The 2021 Team Spirit Award was presented to the Black Team led by Kat Carson.

Though MUD week can be a crazy time for both new students and members of the SOS, Junior Autumn Herring said "At the end of the day, it is all worth it to watch the new students truly becoming a part of the CBC family."



BMA Ladies Retreat 2021

YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE



*She is more precious than rubies and all the things thou
canst desire are not to be compared to her.*

Proverbs 29:11

September 24-25, 2021

6:30 p.m. Friday – 4:00 p.m. Saturday

Goddard Youth Camp
2964 GYC Road Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Progressive Defeat"

Stratford. They were enjoying the motley appearance of our team.

I sensed a growing anger among my Byford teammates, but also the contempt of the Stratford team as they put in their second string against us. We were fuming by then.

Byford hit the court with a vengeance and overwhelmed Stratford's second string within minutes. The Stratford coach quickly put in the first string, but it was too late.

We were on a roll and also routed them with basket after basket. We handed the Stratford Bulldogs their first defeat of the season.

Stratford went on to win the rest of the season, and Byford went back to our "win some, lose some," season.

Attitude made the difference in the Stratford-Byford game by both parties.

Enthusiasm is very important in sports, but also in the spiritual realm. It will often determine our victory or our defeat.

Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..."

Whatsoever means exactly that! God doesn't appreciate luke-warmness in anything, especially Christian service.

Revelation 3:15, "I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert either cold or hot."

"Enthusiasm is very important in sports, but also in the spiritual realm. It will often determine our victory or our defeat."

Our granddaughter was playing in the finals of a soccer tournament. Stephanie's team had defeated the three previous teams 5-0, 5-0 and 1-0.

The new opposing team in this game took the field with enthusiasm. However, with the first few minutes, Stephanie's team scored the first goal.

Quickly, they followed with four more. At the end of the first period the score was nine to zero. They called the game because by that time the final outcome was obvious. The idea is to defeat, not destroy, the opponent.

What impressed me most was the obvious progressive loss of enthusiasm in the opposing team. The first goal affected them, but each successive goal brought a further downward spiral.

By the third goal the opposing team put forth almost no effort. After their fourth goal they were defeated.

Stephanie's team went on to win the tournament. When I think back on the day, that game was the one I remember.

I recall one such game from my school days. I was in the seventh grade at Byford, a country school. Although I didn't really like to play basketball, not playing wasn't an option.

We needed every boy on the boy's team and every girl on the girl's team, or there would be no teams. We had no substitutes for either the boys or girls. Every student was on a team.

Byford didn't provide uniforms and the parents didn't have money to buy any, so

we each used our own t-shirts with our number hand-sewn on the back. No shorts, just regular school clothes for bottoms.

Our team consisted of a third grader up through an eighth grader. We were a strange looking team and subjected to ridicule by everyone. We usually played as hard as we could, but almost always got beat.

We had been playing the country schools, but were scheduled to play Stratford, the town team. They were undefeated for the season, so we figured we would be defeated. However, Mr. Evans gave us a pep talk to do our best.

The night of the game came and we took to the court. Snickers came not only from the opposing team, but also from many of the adult spectators from



“Laundry Tips,” cont from pg 3

up hurting ourselves and those we love. We feel defeated, worn out and discouraged.

When we operate in our own power, it costs us more and in the end we coming to Him anyway! Instead of running from the Holy Spirit's convicting tap on our heart, we should welcome it!

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Hebrews 12:11

Sunshine completely eliminates static

Everyone hates that annoying static cling. Dryers produce static electricity by rubbing clothes over each other repeatedly. When our hearts are not right with the Lord, we produce static in the body of Christ, by rubbing people the wrong way!

A person displaying a spirit of contention and strife shows they need to be cleansed from a carnal mind.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? 1 Corinthians 3:3

When Christ rules in our hearts and minds, we seek to do His will and not our own. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. James 3:17

Sunshine is free!

Dryers cost us in repairs and electricity. The sun charges us nothing to dry our laundry! Everyone is searching for bargains nowadays and God has the biggest bargains going.

Salvation is free, His counsel, the Bible, Grace, Wisdom, Peace, the Holy Spirit, Prayer, Guidance, need I say more? Christians spend big bucks on psychiatrists, counseling, spas, books, depression and anxiety medication, vacations, cars, homes, all in an attempt to buy them the very things God has provided for free.

So next time you feel the Lord has left you hanging, and you feel the heat from a trial you are facing, a sermon you hear or scripture you read. Don't just wiggle and squirm in discomfort. Don't whine or complain. Dry up and allow Him to work in your life.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:22

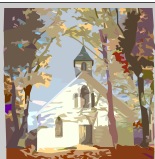
“Church Plant News” cont from pg 2

recognized our faces and our shirts, and were so grateful to see us there again.

Six of our folks (including myself) are attending a 15-week course on evangelism and missions at an area church in OKC.

“Perspectives” seeks to equip the church to share the Gospel in its own context, while giving the church an understanding of God's work among all the nations of the world.

Our folks are greatly enjoying it and are gleaning so much already from what we are learning.



Church News

Greetings from the Missionary Baptist Church, Lindsay, Oklahoma. GOD has blessed us with first time visitors. Last Sunday, we were blessed with forty two in attendance. Several of these were family members who came to honor our most senior member celebrating her ninetieth birthday. Freida Smith is also the longest serving active member.

Our attendance in the bilingual service has increased slightly. We continue outreach efforts for both the English and the bilingual service. On Sunday, August 29, 2021, we will have our monthly celebration of birthdays following the morning service. We have scheduled the first baptismal service since i became the pastor. We will be having our first baptismal service on September 12, as part of the morning worship service and will plan to observe the Lord's Supper on the last Sunday of September, as well as having the birthday celebration/fellowship after the morning service.

Please pray for the young people as students returned to classes on August 19. One of our young ladies, who will be baptized is really reaching out to her friends, inviting them to our services, and really has a heart for serving GOD. Praise GOD for young people who commit themselves to serving the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

This pastor is extremely blessed. I celebrated my fifty third anniversary in the ministry on July 22 and celebrated the anniversary of preaching my first sermon on August 1. Pray for our church as we anticipate and prepare for the harvest of souls and the discipleship that follows. Pray for our nation, pray for the faithful pastors and missionaries around the globe as they declare the precious Word of GOD.

Also pray for the situation in the world.

**In Christ's Service,
Thomas Dickerson, Pastor
Missionary Baptist Church, Lindsay, Oklahoma**

“The Important,” cont from pg 1

things, we must be ever mindful to follow God's direction.

1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Mark 8:34 says, “And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.”

Serving God is not always easy, in fact, many times following the Lord can be very difficult. We have grown accustomed to life and service being simple and basically worry free.

We forget what the disciples had to suffer through as they lived the Christian life. They were beaten, tortured, and killed for the cause of Christ.

Yet, when we experience the slightest discomfort, we are ready to throw in the towel and give up. Service actually requires sacrifice at times. We must be prepared mentally and spiritually to face the challenges of Christian service.

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

People must allow God to direct their steps. One fundamental issue is our lack of being fully aware. Only God knows all the details that we are facing and will be facing.

We cannot possibly fully prepare for the unknown, and therefore we should not make decisions based on partial information. We must trust in the Lord for all our decisions. If we live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God, even our enemies will be at peace with us. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

“When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.” Proverbs 16:6-8

We should be striving for righteousness, not possessiveness. Our focus needs to be on the Lord, and not on trivial matters that have no positive long-term consequences. We need to live righteous lives, and we need righteous leaders. If we are to see the blessings of God return to our lives, it must be on his terms.

If we are to see this nation become great again, it will only happen if we turn our focus back to God. As we watch in horror at things happening in our nation we must cling to the biblical solution.

2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

BMA

Ladies Retreat

September 24-25, 2021

Goddard Youth Camp

See pg 5

BMA of Oklahoma

Annual Meeting

October 1-2

Shady Grove

McAlister

***“As we face the prospect of encroachment
on our civil liberties, we must understand the
dangers our loss of freedom would entail.”***



BMA of Oklahoma Annual Meeting October 1-2

Shady Grove, McAlister