The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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"God Bless The USA"_

by Christ Gonthier, BMAO Moral Action

"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,..."

Taken from the Declaration of Independence.

We forget that the United States government was created for a very specific reason, and that was for the protection of our rights.

We have the right to do, or to not do. It was not the intention of the Founding Fathers to control us, but to protect us from overreach.

Biblically speaking there are three institutions that God has ordained: family, government, and the Church. Each serves a unique purpose and is necessary for us individually and societal. Problems arise when there is a crossover into realms in which there is no authority or purpose.

Romans 13:3,4 tells us, "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

So God ordains leaders in government to do good, and to punish the evil. Many governments do the opposite, doing evil and punishing the good.

Governments that are just and true hold to

the consent of the governed AND the securing of our rights.

The fourteenth amendment of the United States Constitution says the following in 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."

Oklahoma House Bill 4455 will give up to \$700 million dollars of taxpayer money to a foreign owned company to move to the state of Oklahoma. This company, and others like it, are bringing in morals and values that differ from most Oklahomans.

Taxpayer money is intended to fund proper governments in the performance of their legitimate duties. Any other use of taxpayer money is theft.

I have a small business, and I have not been given money to start my business. I pay taxes, which in turn support these other businesses.

As government grants itself the authority to subsidize companies, they ultimately decide who will succeed and who will fail.

Now I am being forced to support businesses that I may have a moral objection to. I can choose not to support movies that have objectionable content.

I choose not to go to bars or strip clubs if that violates my moral code. I do not have to buy an electric vehicle if it is not something I believe in, nor will not meet my needs.

I will have to subsidize the industry

thanks to government improperly reallocating tax money. The governor and most legislators felt the need to push this corporate welfare on the people at a time when we are already struggling with inflation. The icing on the cake is that some of these companies force training on people that are not biblical.

The Bible is clear that there are two genders. If someone chooses to believe otherwise, that is their choice. However, as companies meet the approval of a "woke" government and benefit from governmental subsidies, the indoctrination is suddenly forced upon the employees.

Let it be clear that I am not advocating the mistreatment of those who do not share our values. I am saying that we should not be indoctrinating our children nor mandating such training on employees. Some of these companies have such requirements.

Is it ethical to give American taxpayer money to foreign owned companies?

Is it ethical to determine who will succeed or fail by artificially propping some companies and not others?

Who determines the criteria for which companies get the support?

In a free society the citizens make the decisions by choosing where to shop and what companies to patronize. As we lean more and more towards socialism one begins to wonder what happened to capitalism and free enterprise. It is not free when we have to pay taxpayer money to bring companies in.

This leads to a very important understanding that all must realize. We are on the road that leads to losing freedoms and having government make those decisions for us. Not only will economic decisions be made for you, but also your social and spiritual ones as well.

In Boston they had a Tea Party to remind a man named George that trampling freedom was unacceptable. We need to be good stewards, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

1 Corinthians 4:2.

If our children are to be free, we must stand now and give them a free America.

God Bless The USA.

Latest News From New Generation Baptist

Even though our attendance is small, it has been consistent and does not seem to have been affected by the Covid outbreak the last few years.

Our tithes and offerings have been fairly consistent also, even though a lot of our income has come from outside sources. I must brag on God; he is so good to us. He supplies over and above all that we need.

We continue to see professions of faith out in the community when we go out. We need to focus more on our discipleship.

We plan to redouble our efforts for oneon-one discipleship. We hope to begin a couple of new Bible studies in the near future also, including one in Spanish.

Brothers Chris, Luis and I were able to attend the BMA national meeting in Springfield, MO. recently. It allowed us to have a great time of fellowship on the trip. We also were able to fellowship with other brothers in Christ which was a great encouragement.

In addition, we were able to hear some great preaching and music.

This is an excerpt from Brother Chris' monthly report:

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Regarding the national meetingWe enjoyed the theme for the week, "Preach the Word", which is the great passion that Luis and I both share and we were even able to share the gospel with a few guys in our hotel lobby together the last night of the conference.

They did not receive the gospel, but good gospel seeds were sown!

I'm thankful for brother Luis and Melissa who have been faithful to minister in our church for many years now. Luis is not only a hardworking and successful electrician, home renovator, and business owner, he does a good job preaching and Melissa translating and leading worship, and now they are leading a Wednesday night bible study.

I think they're also planning on going through the Spanish version of EE training with me and Pastor Carlos Caceres in May at his church, Good Shepherd Baptist.

We will also be hosting a two-day EE training event at our church on June 10-11.

Please continue to pray for brother Chris as he will be on the road teaching Evangelism Explosion both here in Oklahoma and in Texas in the next month.

If you or your church would be interested in receiving some evangelism training, please let Bro. Chris or I know and we should be able to help you.

Thank you very much for your prayer and support for the ministry here.

Steve & Lynn Puckett, 724 Fairway Dr. Norman, OK 73069 Cell – 405 570-8325

Chris Lorenz Cell – 405 226-4111

Master's Builders Still Hard at Work

On March 14, The Master's Builders began their 175th job in Gary, Texas. Jason Prewitt, Camp Director at Daniel Springs Encampment, had a few projects that the Builders could help with. Daniel Dorm, their event center, needed some more room in the kitchen and bathroom areas. This event center has been such a blessing to the camp. The kitchen and bathrooms, on the west side of the building, were extended into unused space which will give them more room for use with larger groups.

The men also added eight RV electric hookups and three water spikets to outside wall on the west side of Daniel Dorm. This will allow people with campers to use the event facilities at Daniel Dorm.

The Summer Staff Break Room, which was built in 2020 by The Master's Builders, was converted into a Staff Residence for Morgan Sandifer. The men added a bathroom/closet to the 18' X 24' building, which already had a kitchen, washer/dryer, and appliances.

While at Daniel Springs, The Master's Builders had the opportunity to hear more about the work called "Kingdom Kids" in Haiti from Holly Greer who mentors and cares for her "street kids". Joy and love overflow from Holly as she talks about her kids there!

You can follow the work of The Master's Builders on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders". Rose Bittner does a wonderful job keeping our posts up to date!

Thank you to all our men and women who work with this ministry! To all who have gone before us and the ones God will provide for the future. To God be the Glory!

If you have questions about this ministry or if your church has building needs, please contact, Eddie Sikes at 479-462-1675, Mike Green at 972-935-3877, or David Axe at 903-918-0720.

Nelda Malone, Reporter

"I Was Just Thinkin

By Narita Roady

"Gifts for Mama"

Three brothers grew up, left home and became very successful. It had been quite a while since they had seen each other so they arranged to get together.

As they visited and caught up on each others lives, the discussion turned to their elderly mother whom they rarely saw due to their busy schedules.

Each son began to share about the gifts he had presented her.

The oldest son boasted, "I built a mansion for mother. I had an interior decorator come in and furnish it with finest money could buy, and had the yard professionally landscaped. Now she has a beautiful place to live."

The number two son bragged, "Well I bought her a new Mercedes and hired a full time chauffeur to drive her wherever she needs to ao."

The third and youngest son smirked and said, "Ha! I've out done both of you! We all know Mother's eyesight is failing and how this has hindered from reading. I know she loved to read her Bible, so I found an amazing parrot that has the entire Bible memorized and can recite it.

I located him in a monastery where 20 monks took 12 years to teach him this amazing feat. It came at no small cost as I had to give an offering of one hundred thousand dollars a year for 10 years!"

His siblings were duly impressed, and he added, "But it was worth every penny of it! All Mother has to do is simply name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it word for word!"

After wonderful reunion they returned

their homes and jobs. Not long after, they each received thank you notes from their aging mother. The first son's letter began:

Dear Harvey,

The house you built me is gargantuan! Being alone, I only need one room to live in, but I still have to clean the entire house! Thanks. Love. Mom

The second son's letter read: Dear George.

The new car you gave me is mighty snazzy, but I am too old to go many places, so stay at home 99% of the time. Therefore the Mercedes sits in the garage unused. Even if I did want to go somewhere I wouldn't because the chauffeur is so terribly rude and illmannered! Thanks a lot! Love. Mom

The third son's letter said: My Dearest Charlie,

Out of all you boys, you are the only one that knows what your mother really likes and enjoys! Chicken has always been my favorite and this one was absolutely delicious!

Much Love. Mother

It's that time of year again, Mothers' Day. Store displays are filled with a myriad of suggestions as to what to buy

You may say, "Of course I love my mother!" That may be true but it is so easy to forget to show it in word and deed.

Mom on that special date.

What to get mother is always a dilemma. You want to give her something meaningful and to show vour love.

Many proclaim, "Mom is sooo hard to buy for, I have no idea what to get her!" With many Mothers, there really isn't anything they need or want. Young families are usually short on cash. So what can you give Mom that would truly express your love and appreciation for her? Well there are several ideas that fit the bill exactly.

How about the gift of prayer?

I don't know of anyone that can't use more prayer! It is so easy to forget that our mothers have feelings and needs just like we do, after all they are Mother!

What mother wouldn't rejoice to know her children are praying for her health, strength, to have peace and joy, that she will be blessed by the Lord?

Let your mother know you are concerned about her and want to know when she has prayer needs. Then be faithful to take them to the Lord in prayer.

The gift of forgiveness is always in demand

Mother's are not perfect and they do make mistakes. I love what my cousin told her daughter, "It's not like I had a bunch of other kids and practiced on them before I had you. This is all new to me too!"

Maybe your Mom has deeply hurt you by things she has said or done, or neglected to do. Forgiving her may open the door for a deeper and closer relationship with her, but it will definitely restore you relationship with God.

Forgiveness does bless the other person, but in reality the forgiver is the one that receives the greatest blessings.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

("Gifts for Mama," cont on pg 7)

Latest Central Baptist College News

Schedule your CBC Day

CBC Day for 2022 has been scheduled for Sunday, September 11. We are encouraging churches to set aside this Sunday, or another day which best fits your church calendar, to pray for CBC.

Churches are also encouraged to take a one-time offering for the annual fund program, "Gifts that Transform," and/or make a pledge to give additional offerings over the twelve months to follow.

The ultimate goal of the annual "CBC Day" is to fully underwrite the expenses associated with the Bible and Missions Departments and to fund the Ministry Tuition Grant Program—all distinctives of Central Baptist College.

It is my strong desire that the churches of the BMAA come together for one day of our three-month Special Emphasis and see what God can and will do through our people.

Duffy Guyton, Director of Church Relations, will be attending the BMA National Meeting next week. If you would like to schedule a CBC Day, visit our website at cbc.edu/cbcday or stop by the Central Baptist College booth at the BMA National Meeting, meet Duffy, and learn more about hosting a CBC Day in your church.

Duffy can also be reached at dguyton@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8920.

CBC to Celebrate 70th Anniversary

This year we are celebrating a monumental milestone at CBC. It's been 70 years since our first day of classes on September 15, 1952.

To celebrate this huge accomplishment, we're planning a BIG Anniversary Celebration on campus. Help us celebrate by joining us on September 15, 2022. See you in September!

Adult & Online Course Grant Available

Are you a working adult looking for a convenient and flexible college option, but you are not quite sure about how it all works? We understand your hesitation,

so that is why we are giving new students an opportunity to start for FREE!

All you need to do is complete the application process and be accepted for the fourth 5-week course of the spring semester, by April 25, in the PACE department.

The grant will cover the tuition for your first required PACE course, CBC 1300 PACE Orientation.

In addition, to receive the tuition grant, the enrollment team will register you for 12 credits (one 3 credit course per 5-week block) in the fall 2022 semester beginning July 5.

The fourth 5-week course of the spring semester meets May 2 through June 9. Classes are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option.

The Enrollment Team will work with you so that you can take advantage of the following grant opportunities like our \$500 BMAA Grant, that applies for all students who attend a BMAA church, the Ministry Tuition Grant, Student Referral Grant, Arkansas Academic Challenge Grant, or the Veterans Tuition Grant.

In addition, you will work with our Financial Aid & Business Office Team to make payment arrangements or finance the remaining semester balance.

The enrollment process begins by applying at online.cbc.edu. If you have questions, contact the PACE Enrollment Team at pace@cbc.edu or 800.441.5106.

Fall 2022

Registration & Connect Days

Fall registration is right around the corner and our new traditional oncampus student orientation days, Connect Days, are available to schedule once the admissions process is complete.

Connect Days are vital to the success



of our new students. New students will register for classes, set up payment arrangements, connect with current students, have fun and get familiar on campus for a successful fall semester.

Students can choose one of the following dates to attend: April 29, May 24, June 21, or July 19, August 2nd, 22 or 23.

To learn more about Connect Days visit cbc.edu/orientation.

High School Seniors should visit cbc.edu/apply to start the application process. Contact Admissions at admissions@cbc.edu or 501.329.6873 with any questions.

Central Baptist Hosts 3rd Annual Scholarship Gala

Central Baptist College hosted its third annual Scholarship Gala on April 2. The black-tie optional event featured keynote speaker, Alex Kendrick, and was held at the Conway Expo Center.

The proceeds of the event benefit student scholarships, and Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow announced \$510,315 had been raised through event sponsorships and private donations. This total included over 65 event sponsors and many additional individuals and businesses who made contributions towards the total.

"I am beyond grateful for the generosity of so many," said President Kimbrow.

"The Central Baptist College Board of Trustees, businesses, not only in Conway, but across the state of Arkansas, and other individuals who are such faithful supporters of Central Baptist College all came together to make this an unforgettable night for the support of Christian Higher Education."

Missions Relationship Manager Sidney Vines

"When I was in high school and the summer after, I was invited to serve in middle school ministry. And that's where my love for middle school and high school girls began. Really, that's where my love for ministry began."

Sidney Vines has a heart for ministry, particularly to young girls, which is the perfect calling for a youth pastor's wife who serves alongside him.

Since September of 2021, she has served as relationship manager for BMA Missions.

A lifetime BMA church member, she grew up at Mount Olive in Guy, AR,

attended college at UALR (University of Arkansas at Little Rock), then met Chris Vines at a Passion conference in her sophomore year.

A year later they married and moved to Fort Worth while Chris attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and she served in student ministry at a church they attended.

During their time at Southwestern, she was event coordinator for the Department of Institutional Advancement, a job she loved.

In 2014 Clif Johnson asked Chris to join the staff at Garrett Memorial in Hope, AR, as student pastor, so they

moved to south Arkansas with their son, ten-month-old Carson.

Two years later Elliot was born. Hope has been their home for eight years, and they feel blessed to serve alongside and be discipled by Clif and his wife Kristi.

As her boys got older, Sidney began doing wedding planning. In college she had completed a year-long internship plus certification in the business, then worked for a wedding florist in Fort Worth, great training for later when church members and friends began asking her for help with weddings.

Four years ago she went full time in the wedding planning and floral design business.

Chris and Sidney have also been on mission trips, served on VSM teams, and led their church on trips in the States and abroad.

Sidney says, "I've always seen wedding planning as a ministry and thought of it as an avenue to do backdoor discipleship. I feel blessed that God has given me those experiences in planning and mission trips and now merged the two as I serve BMA Missions."

Sidney says, "My job is our people, our pastors, our church members. I want to be the liaison between them and 'the office' and talk about what's going on, answer their questions, and help connect them with our missionaries."

In her first months at BMA Missions, she has called pastors to introduce herself, let them know what she's doing, why she's calling, and how they can connect with the Missions team and with missionaries.

She says, "I want to let our people know how they can serve or give, become more integrated and involved, and just get the Missions message out there."

If you have questions, concerns, or more about Missions, please call Sidney at 870-826-7757.



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Cell Phones"

I just read an article that Danish researchers reported in a study that cell phones won't cause brain damage. I thought that was interesting and comforting as I have a cell phone and probably will continue to use it.

However, I've seen some folks use the cell phone in such a way I can readily understand why someone thought they might have been brain damaged, and launched a study to find out if the cell phone caused them to act that way, or if they used them that way because of their brain damage.

The other day a driver came up behind me as we approached Fort Smith Junction on the I-40. He was going well over 70mph.

He swerved, barely missing the rear of my pickup, to pass me on the right and then back into my lane. He entered the deadly curve at the Fort Smith Junction while holding a cell phone to his ear with his left hand and steering with his right.

That led me to wonder which came first with him, the cell phone or the brain damage. Amazingly, he made it through without crashing.

He only used both lanes and both the inside and outside shoulders a couple of times. Not bad for a one handed, brain damaged driver.

I fully realize someone will think that, as a preacher, I shouldn't even think bad things about such a driver and really ought not to say anything bad, or infer he might be brain damaged. I ought to just pray for him.

Well, I did pray, but it was for myself for what I thought when he served just enough to clear my rear bumper and sailed by on my right and partially in my lane.

The fact I didn't say aloud what popped

into my mind about him ought to count for something.

C e I I phones, when used properly,

are one of the greatest tools we have today. They allow us to be reached in emergencies and notify the authorities when we happen upon a tragedy.

It's amazing the phones have been reduced in size so they can now be carried in the shirt pocket. (That's a good place for your cell phone when you're driving.)

It also should be noted you don't have to answer the cell phone when you are driving 70 mph. You could pull over and answer it. Or you could call them back when you find a safe place to stop. The caller's number is on the phone.

Now, I want to make it clear I really don't think folks are actually brain damaged who use their cell phone

while driving. I think most have enough sense to know they shouldn't use it that

way, but they do anyway.

Probably most don't think anything will happen while on they're on the phone.

However, most of us have never had a traffic accident we expected to

have. Had I expected mine, I would've been doing something differently.

By the same token, when someone knows there's a hell and that Jesus is the only way of salvation, they often aren't immediately saved. They aren't brain damaged.

They're like the cell phone user driving in heavy traffic. They don't expect anything to happen. However, physical disaster often results in traffic, as does spiritual disaster in the rejection of Jesus.

If they knew they were going to have an accident while on the phone they wouldn't have been on the phone.

If they knew they were about to be called to face Jesus they wouldn't have postponed accepting Hm.



"Gifts for Mama," cont from pg 3

Any mother would be thrilled with the gift of time from her children

Busy schedules and raising our own families often make it difficult to spend time with our mothers.

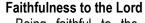
If you live near your mother set a time each week to visit her or take her somewhere she'd enjoy. If your mother lives far away, phone calls, letters, and special cards through out the year will mean a great deal.

While we may have grown up and left home, our mothers still hold us near and dear to their hearts.

Let's not forget the gift of gratitude

Have you ever written your mother a letter thanking her for all she did in caring for you and raising you as a child?

Go into detail. Set down and ask God to help you recall all the loving and thoughtful things she did, the sacrifices she made, and especially if you had a Christian mother, all the things she did that molded you into a godly adult today.



Being faithful to the Lord and His church is another way to truly bless your mother, especially if she is a Christian

After all those years of sacrifice, struggle, and heartache in raising you, she wants to know it bore fruit in and made a difference in the person you are today.

I believe, 3 John 1:4, speaks for all Christian mothers, I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Last of all, love your mother

You may say, "Of course I love my mother!" That may be true but it is so easy to forget to show it in word and deed.

Never pass up the opportunity to tell her, to give her a hug or a kiss. You never know when it may be your last.

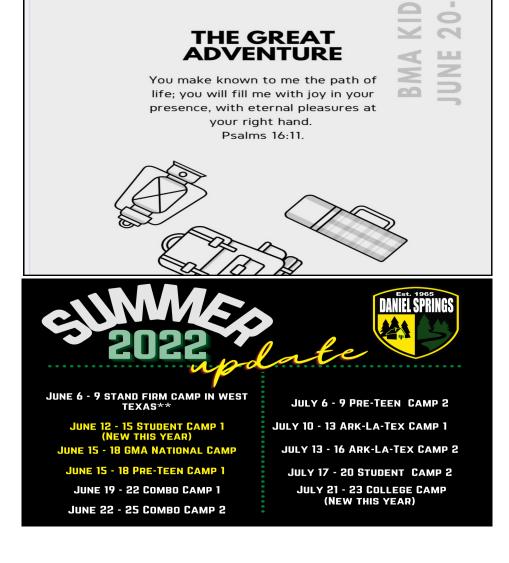
You may be thinking, "My mother is no longer living to celebrate Mothers' Day with, so what does this mean to me"?

Nursing homes are filled with women whose children neglect them. You would be surprised at the large number who never receive a visit, a card or ever hear from their offspring.

What about the mother's whose children live such great distances they rarely get to see them? Maybe there is a special woman in your life that has blessed you by her love and godly example.

Don't forget the women that may have never had children, but have been a mother, aunt, or grandma to countless children.

You can still honor your Mother by reaching out to others. I am sure she would be proud.





Raising Up Leaders in Romania

By Larry Barker

When our family moved to Romania, God immediately burdened my heart for the pastors and workers there, men like George Padure, Nicu Curpas, Dorine Popa, and others. It was easy to see that they had hearts for service but were burning the candle at both ends.

Most of them pastored three to four churches and visited each congregation once a month to observe the Lord's Supper.

I asked one of those men, George Padure, to help me find a young minister, a seminary student that we might help but more importantly might be able to mentor and develop into a ministry leader. This is the testimony of that answered prayer, Dani Bagosi:

"I had to work during the summer times in high school and I got a full-time job as a salesman while I was a student at Immanuel University in Oradea studying theology and getting ready to become a pastor, knowing beyond any doubt that God called me to preach His Word."

"For three years I was riding my bicycle over 30 miles every day for work and to go to the classes at the University in Oradea.

I used to sleep only four to five hours at night studying and preparing my assignments."

"But it came the time of a big decision in my life at the end of the third year of my studies. I had to decide either I quit

my job to be able to focus more on the classes and especially on writing my final dissertation or I quit my studies without graduating in order to provide for my family, my mother, and my sister who also was in school and needed help."

"I knew that God was in control of my situation and He would find a way, so I prayed a special prayer begging God to intervene in one week and to provide for me the way to finish my studies."

That prayer was followed by a meeting at Brother Padure's home where I met Dani, who had ridden his bicycle to meet me for the first time.

God answered both our prayers, and we began a wonderful working relationship that has lasted more than twenty years.

Dani says, "I am in ministry because of Bro. Larry's obedience to come to Romania at the right time God told him to come. God is indeed answering our prayers when we ask something good and according to His will. God synchronized our wishes for the ministry and crossed our paths according to His call and plan for both of us! Praise the Lord! What a mighty God we served!"

Dani is my Timothy in the ministry, and now he and his wife Claudia have three beautiful children and live in Santandrei, just outside of Oradea.

As our Romanian coordinators they oversee our team working to reach their country for Christ.

Please pray for them as they work tirelessly for the advancement of the gospel!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kids Camp June 20-24 Cedar Hills Binger, OK See pg 7

Southeast
District
Youth Camp
June 6-10
Camp Goddard
Sulphur, OK

SOAR
BMAA
Youth Conference
June 29-July 1
Dallas, TX

BMAO
State Youth
Camp
July 18-22
Cedar Hills
Binger, OK