

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LVII

OCTOBER 2022

Number 10

Oklahomans on Crux of Vital Issues

By Chris Gonthier
BMAO Moral Action

There are some serious issues that we are facing currently in the state of Oklahoma. They range from having our constitutional rights taken away to gender reassignment surgery being performed at a state university on minor children.

No matter a person's personal view of "sex change operations", the idea of allowing a child to make such a decision troubles me. I believe that most people would agree that an eight-year-old getting married is not a good idea.

Such reasoning would include physical immaturity, mental, and emotional lack of growth, as well as not enough knowledge and life experiences to make such a decision.

This would make some people say that the parents have the right to choose. I believe that parents have the right to protect children and make appropriate health decisions. I do not believe parents should make decisions that could have such permanent and life altering impacts that are not pertinent to a child's health.

I further believe that people who morally object to such procedures should not be forced to pay for them with their tax dollars. I believe that this argument also holds true in the matter of abortion.

Now our country is in total chaos on the matter of abortion

There are those who are misinformed, primarily those on the left politically, who say abortion is illegal.

The overturned decision of Roe V. Wade did not make abortion illegal. It stated that this decision was not something that the federal government had the authority to decide and so it was sent back to the states for the decision. This means some state will allow it with varied restrictions, and some will not.

Just so you know my position, I am pro-life, and I use science and the Bible to make my decisions. I unapologetically maintain that I have a biblical world view and that is the basis of my viewpoints.

As I am writing this article the Oklahoma representatives and senators are dealing with the reassignment surgery issue. Should a publicly funded state institution be engaging in such practices is the question at hand.

Oftentimes, the federal government will use money as a lure to entice us to allow what would not usually be accepted. I believe irreparable harm

can be forced on these children who become political pawns that are sacrificed to ideology.

Both my daughters had the traditional "tom boy" behavior, but they were and are still girls (young ladies). My wife and I would never have tried to change what God made them.

The extremists who push their narrative and agenda would loudly proclaim that change should be in order, but I say individuals like different things. You don't have to be a male to like hunting or fishing, nor do you have to be female in order to enjoy cooking.

One of the most troubling issues that we are currently facing in Oklahoma today is with Indian nations.

The waters have become so muddied because of a simple Supreme Court case, *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. This was an opinion of the Supreme Court, not law.

Constitutionally the Supreme court did not and does not have the authority to make an Indian reservation. They make an opinion based on facts that are presented to them.

In this case the decision was made exclusively for one tribe. On page 37 of the Supreme Court's opinion regarding *McGirt V Oklahoma* we see the following: *"Each tribe's treaties must be considered on their own terms, and the only question before us concerns the Creek."*

According to the written opinion of the Supreme Court, the *McGirt* decision has no relevance to the Cherokee Nation.

Now the Cherokee nation is claiming reservation status as are some other natives.

Although I am not saying this is the official position of any tribe, there are those who feel that either nonnatives should not be allowed to retain

(*"Vital Issues,"* cont on pg 2)

"From the Pastor's Pen"

By Worthy Shank

"Consider Thy Ways!"

"Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat but ye have not enough; ye drink but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Thus saith the Lord; Consider thy ways.

Haggai 1:6-7

Twice, in chapter one, Haggai challenged the people to consider their ways [verse 4-5 and 6-7].

In verse 4, he questioned the dedication and motives of the Israelites because of their self-interests and lack of dedication to the house of the Lord.

They have devoted their time, talents, and wealth to their personal interests and let the house of God lay waste.

Then, in verse 6. Haggai points out the dismay in their lives because of their lack of dedication and commitment to the work of the Lord.

They have experienced crop failures.

They have suffered from lack of proper nourishment. Their clothing is insufficient to cover them from the elements. And their wages seem to be forever running short.

So Haggai challenges them to **Consider thy ways!**

Have you met with some of the pitfalls of life? Have you found yourself "between a rock and a hard place" in your daily activities? God is inviting you to consider your ways.

To consider your ways is to have a serious self-examination. Ask yourself these questions:

- Is what I'm doing pleasing to God?
- Is what I'm doing glorifying Him?
- Does what I'm doing agree with Scripture?
- Does what I'm doing focus on God or me?
- Will what I'm doing bring me closer to God?

A serious examination and some honest answers to these few questions can make a drastic difference in your relationship with Christ as well as your spiritual walk.

"Vital Issues," cont from pg 1

possession of their lands, or should pay taxes to the Cherokee nation, or whichever nation is over that land.

I do not know how widespread this sentiment is, but I have heard it more than once and have also heard others who encountered this belief.

Now the Cherokee nation wants judicial authority over non-Indians under certain conditions. This is a violation of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution. 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 life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

I am a citizen of Oklahoma and the United States, and I fall under the jurisdiction of the state and USA, not any tribe.

I want it to be clear that I am not anti-Indian, nor do I desire them to lose their languages and cultures. Heritage is a good thing to hang onto and pass to future generations. What I am saying is that hundreds of nations with conflicting laws is fracturing American society.

Matthew 12:25 says, "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 made all Indians citizens of the USA and the state in which they reside. We are one nation.

This is the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the Oklahoma Baptist nor the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma.

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Published by the
Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Direct all correspondence, publication material
and news items to the office of the editor

Direct all subscription payments to:
Carl Barnes
P.O. Box 5171
Ardmore, OK 73403

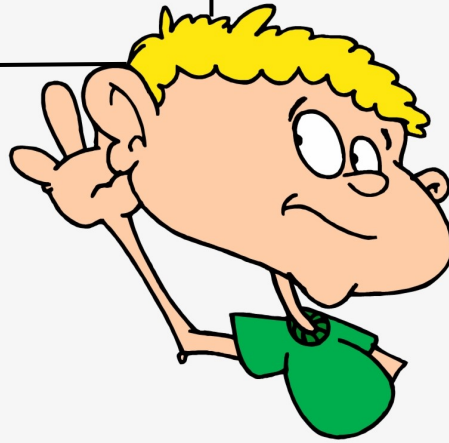
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"I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

"Can You Hear Me Now?"



In times past when there were no phones, the golden child of 'technology' was the telegraph. This modern marvel astonished everyone with its lightening speed in long-distance communication.

Intrigued by this new invention, a young man decided to apply for a job as a Morse Code operator. Writing down the address from the ad in a newspaper, he set off.

Upon arriving, he found the office, big, bustling with activity and very noisy. The constant clatter of the telegraph filled the air. There was no receptionist at the counter, only a sign. It told all prospects to fill out an application and sit in the waiting room until they were called into the inner office.

The young man took an application, filled it out and took a seat with seven others who also wanted the job. After just a few minutes, he suddenly stood up and walked right into the office.

Of course, the other applicants who had just been sitting in a bored stupor perked up, and began questioning what had happened. Grumbling to one another they discussed how they hadn't heard anyone call him in.

What did he think he was doing? They had all arrived before him! Soon they settled down and comforted themselves in the fact that such a bold move would surely exclude the young man from procuring the job.

However, in just a few minutes, the employer accompanied the young man from the office and into the waiting area. He announced, "I want to thank each of you for coming, but the job is now filled."

As you can imagine all the other young men began to complain. Finally one said, "Now wait just one minute, why did he get the job, he was the very last one to come in. None of us were even interviewed! That's just not fair!"

Smiling, the boss said, "I'm really sorry, but you see, while you have been sitting here, the telegraph has been sending a message in Morse Code. It said, 'If you understand this message, then come on in. You have the job.'"

"I have to conclude that none of you understood what it said. Obviously this young man did, and the job is now his"

Are you like the attentive young man or do you fall into the category of the other applicants? What distracts you from hearing the Lord speak? Why is it so hard for His children to hear Him?

What great things does He want to do through us and for us that we are missing?

We are constantly bombarded with interruptions. Noise and activity abound wherever we go. Never before has the world been filled with so many distractions, mental and audible, yet I feel neither of these are what truly kept us from hearing the Lord.

What hinders us most is our heart has been distracted. It is the heart that seeks God not the mind or ears, although they usually are means by which He speaks to us.

Consider this. Next time you go shopping watch the mothers in the store. Nothing is nosier than a store. People are talking, registers sounding, messages being blasted across the P.A. system, and carts clanging.

Add to this a mother, tired, busy, and frazzled, in a hurry to get home, her

children chattering and begging her for something, and her mind filled with not only what she needs to get but also her never ending to do list. Now that's distraction!

Mom is so busy she may not see that junior has wandered off, but let her little one cry out in pain or fear and in the midst of all of this; she will stop, hear and immediately seek out her child. How?

She heard with her heart. Just like the young man in the story his purpose, his focus, what his heart was set on enabled him to hear when others could not.

We actually have a double standard here. We expect God to be 'Johnny on the spot' and be all ears when we speak to Him, BUT when He speaks to us, we have "selective hearing."

I am thankful the Lord is faithful and always hears us in spite of this. So what do you do about this hearing problem?

Change your focus

Put Christ back on the throne of your heart. Push aside all those things competing for your heart's attention and place God at the very top of that list. How? The same way you put other things first, you choose.

Don't be fooled, Satan will relentlessly attack you with temptations catered to your weaknesses and desires. That is why choosing the Lord is something you do on a constant basis. Once He has His rightful place in your life, you'll be able to hear when He calls.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
Matthew 6:21

Develop a close relationship with Him

A relationship with Christ is like any relationship in our lives. It is developed,

("Can You Hear Me Now?" cont on pg 7)

CBC Schedules Dates for Preview Days

The Central Baptist College Stampede Open House schedule has been set for 2022-2023. During the year we will host three opportunities for prospective students to personally experience campus life.

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Friday, November 11, 2022

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

At an Open House, you can visit with current students, meet faculty members in the degree areas in which you are interested, learn about different student organizations, and take a guided campus tour. You may also win one of several CBC door prizes.

To register for one of these Stampede Open House events visit <http://cbc.edu/visit> or call Lisa at 501-329-6873.

Schedule Your Personal Tour

If you are a high school junior or senior, it's a great time to schedule a personalized tour of the Central Baptist College campus. In addition to Stampede Open House, there are two kinds of tours offered through our Office of Admissions: Personalized and Group Tours.

Personalized One-on-One Tour: Even though we call it a "one-on-one" tour, we encourage you to bring your family and friends, and let us show you all that CBC has to offer. This is what you can expect on your personalized tour:

- Reserved parking spot with your name on it right in front of the Watkins Academic Building
- Personalized agenda designed to answer all of your questions you might have about Central Baptist College
- Tour of the Mabee Student Services Complex to get information about Student Services, and Dining Hall.
- Visit to Mustang Outfitters to shop for your CBC gear

- Tour of the Cooper Educational Complex to see the Computer Labs, Departmental Offices, and Burgess Auditorium
- Tour of the Story Library and Café 52
- Tour of the Watkins Academic Building to visit the Financial Aid Office, Registrar's Office, and Business Office
- Personal visit to the President's Office where you will receive a special gift (I would love to visit with you if I am in the office)
- Tour of Dickson Hall for students who are interested in living on campus and/or athletics.
- Meeting with an athletic representative if you are looking at one of CBC's sixteen NAIA intercollegiate athletic programs.

Group Tour

It's our honor to host groups from churches, youth groups, schools (public or private), or any other group you may have. We strive to make any group feel welcome on our campus.

You will enjoy many of the elements of the one-on-one tour listed above. Prior to the start of the tour, admissions personnel will speak to you as a group to answer your initial questions about CBC and provide you with a viewbook and a drawstring backpack.

If I am available, I will personally welcome you to the campus.

To register for a tour online, go to <http://cbc.edu/visit>. Then simply click "schedule a visit" and fill out the information and submit.

For questions, additional information, or to schedule a visit by phone, contact the CBC Admissions Office at

501-329-6873



New Generations September Report

Greetings again from Norman, Oklahoma. I hope that things are going well in your area of ministry.

We are extending our efforts in outreach here. We were part of an outreach called Operation Andrew where we knocked between 150-200 doors.

Many of course were not home however we were able to make many contacts. We had two teams who were involved and were able to share the gospel a few times. Chris's team had one profession of faith.

During the outreach while visiting in some areas we noticed that it seemed to be very spiritually dark, like a demonic oppression.

We noticed especially in this one area that a young man who came to the door was dressed in women's clothing and nail polish.

As he opened the door, a rush of marijuana smell hit us in the face. I sure hope that Oklahoma does not approve recreational marijuana use in the future.

We have enough problems without adding that to them.

Chris and I were able to attend the BMACO meeting at Grace Harbor in Oklahoma City recently. It was a great time of fellowship with brothers in Christ from other churches.

One thing that we talked about was the shortage of young preachers to fill the pulpits of some of our churches which are in decline. Please pray about this issue.

Chris's monthly report:

We are thankful for the wonderful couple, Larry and Cathy from FBC Norman, who supported the efforts of our church in this campaign (outreach).

With Larry and Cathy, I had the opportunity to share the gospel with a young man named Jordan, a kind soul, who ended up praying to receive Christ! Please pray that he really gets rooted in his relationship with God and

that our follow up efforts are successful with him!

I think that what we learned is that Norman is still hard soil, but there are still some of the Lord's sheep out there to find and there are plenty of prospective homes in Norman that are ready for us to visit (with many families working from home these days.)

We have also begun men's and women's Bible studies. I am leading the men's group and Sue is leading the women's group through the book of 1 John on Wednesday nights and the Lord has added a few individuals to our number in each of these groups.

Please pray for Robert and Steve (the two men that joined us for the first session) that they will continue coming to services and Bible studies and grow stronger in their faith.

Please also pray for Natalie who was baptized at our church over the summer and has been faithfully attending services. She just came down with COVID, so please pray for her speedy recovery!

A couple that attended our church a few years ago have returned and have also attended bible study. We are seeking to be a firm, but supportive Christian family that will help them remain clean from drug addiction.

Please pray for continuous victory so they can be the example to others struggling to overcome addictions in Norman.

Thank you all again for the spiritual and monetary support. You are making a difference through your ministry at New Generation Baptist Church.

Steve & Lynn Puckett
Cell – 405 570-8325

Chris Lorenz
Cell – 405 226-4111

Luis & Melissa Santos
Cell – 832 513-3505



New Generation celebrated Ordination Services for Bro. Chris Lorenz and Bro. Luis Santos on September 25. Please pray for these men as they begin this new chapter in their ministries. Pictured above are Bro. Luis, his wife Melissa and their daughter, and Bro. Chris.

"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Cutting to Fit"



As I was coming back down the young man asked, "How did you do that?"

"Do what?"

"Cut the board on the ground and know it would fit when you got it in place up there?"

I asked him, "Why would it not fit?"

He said, "Oh, I didn't see you measuring. I thought you just "eyeballed" it from the ground and cut the

board without measuring."

I had to laugh at the ramifications of that.

Thinking about measuring and cutting in one place, to be placed elsewhere, I'm reminded that's what God is doing with us. He is measuring and molding on earth to make us fit in a special place He has prepared for us in Heaven.

I've made some mistakes in that method of my life, but God never does. When He finishes with us we will always fit perfectly.

I'm not a professional carpenter, but have helped construct a lot of buildings in my time. I've paid attention to methods used by the professionals I've worked alongside and used them.

One time, our landlord hired a young high school student to help me construct a carport in the back of the house. He was more of a "gofer" than a real helper. I had never built a carport before, but I was better off than my helper.

When he came he told me the landlord had sent him over to help build something called a "car porch" onto the side of the house. Realizing he was talking about a carport I asked him if he'd ever helped build one. He said he knew what a carport was, but he'd never even seen a car porch, much less built one, but he was willing to learn.

I had never heard of a car porch either, so we just built a carport. We had several interesting adventures in that.

One mistake we made was a good illustration of how sin works. We were to make a ten foot wide storage room at the back of the carport. I intended the outside two by four to be nailed to the ends of the floor joists of the room. I had my helper start.

I didn't realize until later he nailed the outside two by four to the inside of the outer floor joist and nailed it to the end of the inner floor joist. That caused the outside two by four to angle away from the side of the house.

The error was only the width of the two by four, and not too noticeable at first. In the beginning, it was only a matter of inches, however, by the time it got to the entry of the carport, ten feet later, it was several feet out of line.

That's the way sin operates. It isn't far off when it first starts, but it also isn't long until it leads far, far off track.

The further we get from the original sin, the further off track we find ourselves.

I climbed up on the ladder and measured for the board that would seal off the open spaces between the rafters and the wall. There were several boards in the way, so that the sealing board had to be cut to fit around them.

I wrote all the measurements on a paper while on the ladder. I came down and measured, marked and cut the board according to the measurements.

I suddenly became aware that my helper had stopped his work and was watching me. I thought he was just taking a break.

I climbed back up on the ladder and slipped the board into its spot. It fit perfectly, so I nailed it in place.

Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Annual Meeting

October 7-8, 2022

at

Unity Missionary Baptist Church

2535 St. Hwy. 59, Wayne, OK

We hope you plan on attending and helping to take care God's business. It's always a great time to meet together and fellowship and encourage one another.

If you come on Friday and need to spend the night, the closest town with lodging is Purcell, just a few miles north of the church. Purcell also has restaurants and fast food places for you to dine at on Friday evening then back to the church to hear the CBC Singers and worship together!

Saturday morning we'll have coffee and donuts before our WMA and Brotherhood meetings that will meet at 9:00. Our Unity ladies have a wonderful lunch planned to be served at 11:30 and after lunch we will finish up the business. Bro. Mike Mobly has sent the program schedule to many of you already. I hope you plan to attend! If you have any questions or if I can help in anyway, please let me know. Give me a call or if I am not available, my wife will be glad to help.

In His Service, **Randy Rhea 501-339-3732/Jodi Rhea 501-472-9490**

“Can You Hear Me Now?” cont from pg 3

“We actually have a double standard here. We expect God to be ‘Johnny on the spot’ and be all ears when we speak to Him, BUT when He speaks to us, we have “selective hearing.”

strengthened and made close by spending time together. That means being with Him daily, giving Him your full attention.

I don't know what changes or sacrifices you may need to make to do this, but whatever they are, choose to do it! Once again Satan will have his big toe in the door of your private time with God. He will bring about every imaginable disruption to draw you away.

He will bring thoughts to your mind of the many things you need to do. We need to all take heed to Luke 10:41-42, and learn from Jesus' lesson to Martha.

“And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Be in the Word, in prayer, and in Church

The more you know someone, the more you will be intent on hearing their message. You'll understand where they are coming from, why they say the things they do, and what to expect from them. God is no exception.

To pay attention to God we must truly understand and know Him. When we read God's Word, He speaks to us, tells us about Himself and His expectations of us.

There is a great difference in “reading” your Bible with your mind as a book and looking at it as a conversation with God. Communication: you listen as He speaks.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”

John 10:27

There's nothing worse than a one sided conversation.

Sharing is a two way street. Those with whom you share your most intimate needs with are those you are closest to you. Pour out your heart to God. Refuse to stay in mechanical prayer mode. Droningly, monotone, prayers, recited to God.

Open your heart to him and share not just your fears, your failures, and your wants, but also how wonderful you think He is and how much you appreciate Him. The closer you are to Him the easier it will be to hear Him.

Of course if you are in the Word and in prayer, you will be in church faithfully and consistently. This is where He wants you. He will speak to you through lessons, sermons and even your brothers and sisters in Christ.

It is possible to do all three of these things and still not be able to hear God speak. This is where many veteran Christians miss out. Going through the motions won't get results; we have to seek Him with all our hearts.

“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”

Deuteronomy 4:29

Be assured, God is speaking to you, or at least trying too. He has a lot to tell you: His plans for you, His love for you, and much more.

“Be still, and know that I am God...”
Psalms 46:10a

Are you listening?

CBC Upcoming PACE Registration

Are you considering going back to school? Are you afraid that you can't finish your degree and work full-time? You have the opportunity to enroll in the last 5-week class of the fall semester in the CBC PACE Program. Our next PACE registration deadline is Monday, October 17, 2022. Classes are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option. There has never been a better time to get started.

With eight enrollment periods per year and 5-week courses, you always have an opportunity to try us out, and from now until the end of the 2023 spring semester, we are offering your first class for free. Be looking for more information on this in coming articles. You can take advantage of our \$500 BMAA Grant that applies for all students who attend a BMAA church. We also have a Ministry Tuition and Veterans Tuition grant available.

The enrollment process begins by applying or scheduling a virtual meeting with one of our Personal Enrollment Officers. Visit cbc.edu/pace to apply. If you have questions, contact the Admissions Office at

admissions@cbc.edu
or
501.205.8893



The Master's Builders "Raising Roofs for Christ"

September 12-23, 2022

Celebration Baptist Church, Haskell, Arkansas

On September 12, The Master's Builders began work on a new 11,475 sq ft. building for Celebration Baptist Church, in Haskell, AR.

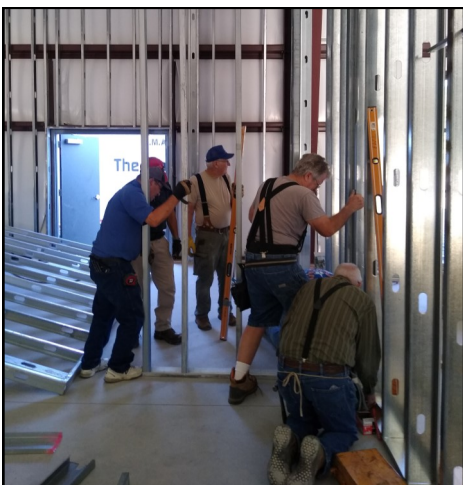
The Master's Builders had helped in the construction of their original building in 2007 and were called upon to help with their new 135' X 85' building.

This was such a blessing to The Master's Builders knowing that this church grew so much that we were called on to build again!! This interior had all metal studs and was a challenging, but rewarding, build for the Master's Builders. (If you have access to Facebook, you can see the pictures and will be able to see more information on the work done at Celebration).

The building will have 3 classrooms, a large youth room, 2 large restrooms, a large foyer/gathering area, and a new sanctuary with a seating capacity of 299!

Celebration is the home church of Dale and Daisy Redman, one of our Master's Builders couples. The Builders all got to enjoy their 4-year-old great grandson, Riley, who was a great help when you needed dropped screws gathered up with our magnet stick!

He brightened our day with his ready smile and sweet spirit. Dale Redman



worked tirelessly to coordinate the building activities before, and during, the job and his efforts were much appreciated.

Pastor Allan Eakin, and many of the men from the church, helped alongside our men as they worked.

These men were Mike Krebs, Zane Clark, Doyle Sheppard, Skylar Roth, Jared Eakin, Chris Moore, Gary Stone, and Bro. Bryan Clay. Bro. Clay is an AR State missionary at Faith Journey Church in Benton, AR.

Pastor Clay and his family have been at Celebration Baptist for many years and have watched the church body grow since 2007. We could not have accomplished what we did without each of these men. What an amazing group!

Each one will never know what a blessing and encouragement they were to our men! Thank you, Lord, for each one.

Many of the men and women of the church worked tirelessly to feed us each day with delicious homemade meals. There was much love shown in the meals that were prepared and some of us MAY have picked up a pound or two despite the hard work!

We experienced love and fellowship from the entire church family and have made many new friends. (And I was blessed to visit with Bro Johnny Hoffman from Central Baptist College again!)

Thank you, Pastor Eakin, and the entire church family, for the opportunity to serve our Lord by working at Celebration Baptist. It all came together in The Lord's time and the work went very well!

While at Celebration, our ladies group boxed up our Everlasting Smiles

UPCOMING EVENTS

BMA of OK Annual Meeting

October 7-8

Unity, Wayne

See pg 6

Central District Women's Missionary Auxilliary

October 22, 10:00am

Pleasant Hill, Blanchard

Annual Craft Show

Southgate Baptist, Moore

November 4-5

shoeboxes ready to go to Conway. This is always so much fun and very rewarding for all the ladies!

This year the boxes will go to Ukraine and Romania and each box was prepared with love and prayer.

The Master's Builders plan to be at the We Are Free complex starting Oct 3rd for a week of work. If you are close and would like to help, please come out to see us.

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

Mike Green, 972-935-3877

David Axe, 903-918-0729 or

Eddie Sikes, 479-462-1675

Get to know us on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders" (we have an arbor logo).

Reporter- Nelda Malone