

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LVII

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Number 11

“The State of The State”

By Chris Gonthier
Moral Action BMAO

Churches

The Covid era has had a profound impact on many churches across the nation. It would be easy to say Covid caused attendance to drop, but the reality is hearts had fallen away before Covid.

Notice people still grocery shop and go to box stores. They choose to not come to church.

Revelation 3:14, “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

The Lord’s people have failed to be good stewards of that which God has entrusted to us. We don’t vote or get involved and take a stand against evil.

We should go to city council meetings, county meetings and get involved with state politics.

We should have a presence at school board meetings as well as having Christians serving to protect the children from the evils being forced on them.

State

There is a battle over many issues and they all center on morality. One of my personal pet peeves is the apparent apathy involving

elected officials and their responsibilities. I serve on a city council, and I see firsthand actions that are very irresponsible.

I have been asked to approve things I believe to be unconstitutional, as well as have been asked to approve things I have not been given time to read. I have a rule of thumb, If I don’t read it, then it is an automatic no vote from me.

I was elected by my constituents to represent them and protect their interests. This is true of all elected officials. Many officials throughout the state and nation do not even read legislation that they approve.

Too many people like to emphatically express their views on our “Democracy”. Please understand the United States is not, nor ever has been, a Democracy. We are a constitutional republic, meaning the rights of the individual are protected.

In a democracy two wolves and a sheep vote on what is for supper. In a constitutional republic, two wolves and one well-armed sheep have the same conversation.

I will mention some of the issues that we are currently facing just so they will be on your radar. There is no way that I can go into much detail here.

Transgender athletes (biological males in women’s sports as well as in locker rooms and bathrooms. Including high school sports).

Indian nations having judicial authority over nontribal members.

TIFS using taxpayer money irresponsibly.

Using public money in public institutions to perform “sex change” surgeries and other such “therapies” on minors.

Digital currency...SEL-social emotional learning...ESG social credit score.

These will combine to allow the government to track what you buy, what you are allowed to buy as well as giving you a score that would restrict you from acquiring even basic necessities unless you comply with mandates.

Removing Second amendment rights.

Voter fraud changing election results in local, state, and federal elections.

Two-tiered justice system.

Weaponization of federal agencies.

Dark money being used to sway elections (mass producing lies and propaganda to change elections with no accountability).

State and tribal views on issues such as abortion, are they legal in the state or tribal land.

McGirt decision and the Supreme Court. This decision is being used inappropriately to justify unconstitutional actions.

Government subsidizing businesses and passing the tax burden on to the citizens of the state.

(“State of The State,” cont on pg 7)

"From the Pastor's Pen"

By Worthy Shank

"Carry the Gospel to Whomsoever"

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:34

In the first 33 verses of Acts 10, we read of Peter being sent of God to Caesarea, to a man named Cornelius. Peter is facing a new experience. He has been called of God to go to a Gentile with the gospel.

An angel of the Lord has already prepared Cornelius to receive Peter when he comes.

Peter experiences a vision from God which prepares him for ministering the gospel to a Gentile; something totally unknown to Peter.

After Peter has this meeting with God, he meets with Cornelius and a group of his kinsmen and friends.

And that brings us to the text above [Acts 10:34]. This was the beginning of a great movement of fulfilling the Great Commission to carry the gospel to "all nations" i.e., around the world.

This brings us to the point of this devotional thought for this week, "God is no respecter of persons." God is impartial. He sees man from the inside and shows no favoritism toward anyone.

Peter said in one of his epistles that "God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish but that all would come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9

This behooves us to keep this in our hearts and minds that, as God says, so

New Generations, Norman October Report

God continues to pour out his blessings on our group here in Norman as we labor in his field. We continue to share the gospel here and elsewhere as we have the opportunity.

I would encourage you to put a spiritual rock in the shoe of those that you encounter daily. What do I mean by that? Engage people in spiritual conversations. One of the best ways I have found is to ask people if there is anything I can do for them.

Usually the answer is no, but I then ask

must we do; show no favors or disrespect toward ANY man [mankind].

In our society today, there is much discussion concerning folks of different ethnic backgrounds, races, and cultures. Much of this discussion is in a negative manner.

We must be of utmost care to remember what God's word says and how we, as Christians react to some of the rhetoric we are involved in.

When God said, "Whosoever may come" that means exactly what it says. We have no authority to pass over, neglect, or in any other way, refrain from sharing the gospel to whosoever will listen.

them If there is anything that I can pray for them about. I have found that most people welcome having someone pray for them.

After I pray for them, this will sometimes open the door for a more spiritual conversation. Be alert, be aware as the Holy Spirit moves in the conversation.

These are some examples of some folks I encountered yesterday— telemarketer, delivery person and mail lady.

Chris's monthly report:

This past month, Luis and I had the

("New Generations," cont on pg 7)

BMAO Bids Farewell to Hero of the Faith

Bro. F.M. "Buddy" Strickland entered his eternal life to be home with the Lord on Wednesday, October 26, 2022. He entered this life on December 11, 1934, to John and Agnes Strickland in OKC. Buddy served in the U.S. Army from 1957-1959 and he married his lifelong love, Betty Louise Kern, on November 11, 1960, in Oklahoma City.

Bro. Strickland pastored churches for the BMA Missionary Association of America in Norman, OK; in Spring Creek, AR; in Cleveland, MS; in Henderson, TX; in Bethany, OK; and in Newcastle, OK. He became an elder at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Blanchard during his retirement years.

Known by the congregations he faithfully served as "Bro. Buddy", he devoted his life to his Savior and to loving and serving others. He adopted every church family he served as his own. He loved to teach, to sing hymns and to laugh. Buddy loved old westerns on TV and OU sports – he was "Sooner born and Sooner bred" through and through. He was also a very proud member of the Chickasaw Nation.

Bro. Buddy was preceded in death by his parents, Agnes and John, and by his sister, Jo Ann. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 62 years, Betty; his daughter, Kay Lynn Hale and husband Steve of Norman, OK; his son, Tony of Blanchard, OK; one grandchild, Tori Hale; many beloved nephews and nieces and many, many church family members and friends.



The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

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Trisha Marlow
Session Speaker



Rachel Keyser
Session Speaker



McKenna Marlow
Session Speaker



Penny Jacobs
Session Speaker



Sarah Marshall
Session Speaker

GIRLS TRUTH CONFERENCE

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022
10 AM - 4 PM @ SOUTHGATE BAPTIST
COST: \$10 AND INCLUDES LUNCH

A Saturday conference designed for young girls to hear truth from the Word of God. Life is tough and our students are bombarded with lies from the enemy about their identity, relationships and life. We want girls to learn more about the Holy Spirit and get equipped with the Word to stand against every lie! Powerful messages and breakouts dealing with topics our girls face every day.

10:00 AM - WELCOME | SNACKS | MUSIC

General information can go here. We are asking a young female accapella group to lead music.(greeters)

10:30 AM - GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER

A speaker to talk about truth from the Bible in today's difficult times as related to girls and how studying God's word and spending time with him will help - Penny?

11:00 - 11:30 AM - SESSIONS 1

4TH - 5TH | What the Bible says about Paganism, Crystals, Witchcraft - MM
6TH - 8TH - What does love look like? Agape Love - TM

11:30 AM - 12 NOON - SESSIONS 2

4TH - 5TH - What does love look like? Agape Love - TM
6TH - 8TH - What the Bible says about Paganism, Crystals, Witchcraft - MM

NOON - 1:00 PM - LUNCH | CRAFT | MUSIC

Boxed lunches + Craft Supplies to make at round tables. Assigned Seating? Table Name Cards? Make it feel special? (necklaces) - need kitchen and craft peeps

1:00 - 1:30 - MUSIC & GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER

God Esteem? What it is and how to get it. Sarah?

1:30 - 2:00 - SESSION 3

4TH - 5TH - SESSION 3 | Guarding Your Heart - SM
6TH - 8TH - SESSION 3 | How to treat others - RK

2:00 - 2:30 - SESSION 4

4TH - 5TH - SESSION 4 | How to treat others- RK
6TH - 8TH - SESSION 4 | Guarding Your Heart - SM

2:30 - 3:30 - WELCOME MOMS FOR TEA CLOSING SESSION | DOOR PRIZES | SONGS

What should this topic be about? "Joy is contagious" ? Or "In her Shoes" for the girl to image being in their mom's shoes. (Speaker?)

3:30 - 4:00 - MOM ONLY SESSION | HANDOUTS + WRAP UP

Talk to moms about being "in her shoes" what it is like to be a 4th - 8th grade girl today (self image / friendships / relationships / social media + more)
Girls can stay in main gym area and work on crafts.
Hand out goodie bags to each girl + Survey

CBC Targeted By Ransomware Attack

By President Terry Kimbrow
A Day Like No Other

January 27, 2022 was like any other Thursday, with one exception; it was Homecoming weekend, and many were gathering on campus for the festivities. I was in my office doing some last-minute work on my computer.

It was a few minutes after 3:00 p.m. – I know, because what happened next is forever etched in my mind. My desktop computer shut down in the middle of a document I was typing.

We rarely have an interruption in power, and the lights on my computer were still on. It was then that I realized this could be really, really bad.

The Takeover

Not only did my computer shut down, but I quickly learned that all 230 desktop computers on campus had rebooted and with this message on the screens: “You now have a new Admin.”

CBC Information Technology (IT) personnel went to work immediately, unplugging all desktop computers and anything else that was on the network. Our IT Director began the process of powering down the servers. It was grimly obvious what had occurred, but a phone conversation would soon confirm one of my greatest fears:

We were undergoing a cyber-attack and a ransomware attack as well. What we didn't know initially was how deeply they had infiltrated our system, nor did we know when and how it occurred.

Had they only taken over the desktop computers, or were they in all 35 of our servers? All we knew for certain was that it was not good.

The Call

Approximately 15 minutes later, while I was standing in the foyer of the David T. Watkins

Academic Building, I received a call on my private cell phone from an unknown number which sometimes I don't take. But considering the urgency of everything going on around me, I answered the call.

A man with a middle eastern accent, the one we would eventually label the Threat Actor (TA), spoke to me and identified himself as Michael.

I asked him how he got my phone number. He said, “I know everything about you.”

According to the FBI agent, the TA was probably someone speaking on behalf of the person making the threats. In the agent's words, “I think it would be safe to say we will never see the person behind this. They are most likely operating out of North Korea or Russia.”

The Threat

During the initial phone call, the TA instructed me to look on my phone for a message he was sending that would tell us how to unlock a file on one of our servers.

There the “hackers” would tell us the amount of ransom they were demanding and how it must be paid. He told me we had 72 hours to decide or “bad things would happen” and among other things, our “business would never recover.”

In one of my later calls with the TA, he claimed they had obtained a large amount of data that would do us great harm if sold on the dark web. He said I had not followed their instructions, and that if we did not comply, “Bad things will happen to us.”

In that same call, he made numerous other threats: a DDOS attack (Distributed Denial of Service), unpleasant things that will bring the College down, continued ransomware attacks on CBC that would destroy us, and leaks of student and employee data, including their personal information.

Over the coming weeks, I would answer four such calls from the TA. One of those threatening calls lasted 20 minutes, as I listened to him rant about what the “hackers” were getting ready to do to CBC.

Incident Response Team

One of the first entities I called was the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Field Office in Little Rock. We were able to make

quick contact with the “Cyber Security” agent for Little Rock.

Provisionally, IT had recently signed an agreement with CDW-G, a network solutions company, for times when we need online help not available locally. Our IT Director began to obtain what would become a cyber security Incident Response Team (IRT).

The IRT members, spanning several time zones, worked virtually to get our system up and going within a short amount of time. We also contacted our insurance company after-hours, Brotherhood Mutual, to check our coverage for this event.

We had no idea how long it would last or if there would be permanent damage to our system and/or loss of data.

From that day forward, the attorney for our insurance company gave advice as we met either via Zoom or phone call on a daily basis. Those calls would continue for the next 6-7 weeks.

Our IT Director, Jerry Dowdy, was on-site for the next five weeks, every day and night, working virtually with the IRT. Members of the IRT worked literally around the clock for what would be, not days, but weeks.

Negotiation

At the advice of the attorney, we retained the services of Coveware to manage the specialized process of cyber extortion negotiations. Its sole purpose was to communicate with the TA via a chat that the TA provided in an encrypted file.

The person assigned by Coveware was posing as someone from our IT Department speaking on my behalf to negotiate the ransom demands and mainly to buy us time so we could assess the damage, put safeguards in place, and restore all systems.

Ransomware experts troll the web looking for small vulnerabilities. They can enter the system and watch the various activities as long as they want, unnoticed until they are ready to make a move.

Most importantly, they have the ability to exfiltrate files, ones they consider to be of most value, to hold over the heads of their victims. That was how they planned to damage CBC should the ransom demands not be satisfied.

Additionally, and perhaps the most evil thing they do, is encrypt files on servers making them useless.

(“Ransomware,” cont on pg 5)



CBC Targeted By Ransomware Attack continued

Over the next several weeks, IT and the IRT would focus on getting the hackers out of our system, to determine how many files, if any, had been exfiltrated, and how harmful would they be, and what files were encrypted on our servers.

The Coveware Negotiator (CN) requested from the TA samples of the material that they had exfiltrated. The TA eventually released some documents that proved they had something.

Then it was up to IT and the IRT to figure out if the files they had were of any value for them. In the end, we learned that they did not have “everything” they claimed to have. They were lying and using threats and manipulation to hopefully get us to pay the ransom.

The Ransom

In the initial chat conversation with the hackers, the ransom demand was \$3,000,000 USD paid in Monero (XMR). Monero is a cryptocurrency similar to Bitcoin, but it boasts that it is secure, private, and untraceable.

Though the TA told me on the phone that we had 72 hours to decide, when the demand came through on the chat with the Coveware negotiator, the deadline given was five days, after which the ransom would increase to \$6,000,000.

Over the course of the daily negotiations, the ransom demand was reduced to \$600,000, then to \$500,000, with a final offer to settle at \$400,000.

Again, the goal of the negotiation was to buy time for the IRT and IT to do their work of restoration and recovery of all systems.

Held Hostage

The hackers kept their word in holding us hostage over the next five weeks. All 35 servers remained off-line as the IRT worked with IT staff to determine the best way to restore as much data as possible and get our system back up and running.

You may wonder what is controlled by those 35 servers. Here is a list:

- Campus-wide Wi-Fi
- Canvas (course management software)
- Admissions Office functions (including recruiting of new students)
- Financial Aid Office functions
- Registrar's Office
- Access to Campus Anywhere (student information system)
- Business Office functions
- Access to some of our fundraising database

(donors and alumni)

- HVAC controls
- Campus-wide security camera system (116 security cameras)
- All voice-over IP phones
- All electronic door locks.

Campus-Wide Network Outage

It was a true blessing that classroom instruction continued uninterrupted via Zoom technology, with messaging to our students and employees about a “campus-wide network outage.”

Since the insurance company attorney assumed oversight of messaging, she approved the eighteen “network outage” e-mail updates I sent out to faculty, staff and students over the five-week period.

The messages were intentionally vague, not only to avoid any negative public relations, but also because the last thing we needed at such a critical time was for people to panic. I did enough of that for them.

During the protracted outage, the campus-wide network was inaccessible to faculty, staff, and students while the IRT worked with IT to, not only restore all systems and preserve data, but also to strengthen and fortify the network to prevent any such future incidents.

Restoration & Recovery

We were blessed to have redundant off-site backups. Though ransomware detonation was successful on 262 end points—about half of our total—remediation and recovery activities were eventually successful.

Those activities included: restoration from backups, reimaging servers, hardening the system, and blocking all identified files and network indicators of compromise.

On February 24, 2022, restoration was deployed with critical systems brought up first. Over the three weeks, the restoration continued, which extended six to seven weeks for some systems.

Evil to Good

As usual, God took what was intended for evil and brought us good from it. Here's a list of upgrades to our network infrastructure:

- One added storage server and one new server host

-New Firewall and software to monitor and detect threats

-Deployment of Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) for all systems

-Installation of Carbon Black on every server and computer on campus – 253 endpoints

-Determined Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that was exfiltrated and informed the person(s) of the breach via US -Mail, as required by law.

-Review of other recommendations to further harden our servers.

Thanks to the excellent service rendered by Brotherhood Mutual, CBC only had to pay the insurance deductible. That saved the College hundreds of thousands of dollars.

No Ransom Paid!

It's important to note that no ransom was paid to the hackers thanks to the swift response by CBC's administration and IT department and the tireless efforts of the FBI, IRT, and Brotherhood Mutual.

An Emergency Need

The cyber incident brought all activities to an abrupt halt for five weeks during the prime student recruiting period for all 2022-23 students. Without access to our systems, recruiters could not effectively do their jobs.

That was even more pronounced in the PACE/Online program where most of the application process is completed virtually.

The initial loss of not being able to recruit new students for an extended period was estimated at \$450,000 in terms of a sharp decline in enrollment resulting in tuition and other revenue not collected.

Now that enrollment figures have been finalized for the fall, that number could easily reach the \$1 million mark.

Walking With Me

As I struggled with the seemingly insurmountable task of raising an additional \$1 million, this passage kept coming to me, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”

I realized that this is a burden I could not bear alone, so I gathered pastors and leaders from seven churches to come alongside me—trusted friends who I could pour my heart out to without reservation, knowing they would do whatever they could to help me.

(“Ransomware,” cont on pg 8)

"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Roman Numerals"

I was reading in the Book of Romans and came to Romans 1:17. "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

I was pretty sure I knew what it meant, but I wanted to see what one of the commentaries might say about the phrase, "faith to faith."

I went to my Barnes Notes Commentary to see what Dr. Barnes had to say about it. My question was very simple, but I had forgotten now comprehensive Dr. Barnes was.

The verse was not complex, but Dr. Barnes notes were. His notes on that one verse covered two and a half pages. That made me feel some better because obviously Barnes needed a lot of words to tell what he thought the verse meant and why.

Of course, Paul had said, in that one verse, what it took Barnes more than two pages to say.

That reminded me of the old preacher who had look in several Bible Commentaries trying to find an answer to a question he had. He sighed, and picked up his Bible.

As he re-read the passage, he suddenly understood exactly what the verse said. He said, "You know, this Bible sure does shed light on these commentaries."

As I paused to meditate on the volume of words Barnes had used for one verse, I turned to the back pages to see how many pages he took to cover Paul's sixteen chapters of the Book of Romans.

He took 340 pages, plus another four pages for the appendix. As wordy as he was I suspected he was probably a Baptist, but discovered he was just a long winded Presbyterian.

However, something else struck me as unusual about Barnes' Notes. He uses Roman Numerals for the chapter numbers. Instead of Chapter 16 he has "Chapter XVI."

Although I use Roman Numerals myself on my sermon outlines, I suddenly realized I had no idea why a red blooded American boy from Oklahoma would even know the Roman numeral XVI meant 16, much less use it. Why not just write 16?

I wonder if others are like me with Roman Numerals. I readily recognize lower numbers, but when I open Barnes' Notes to the page marked Psalm CXXXVIII, I have to do some calculating to know I'm looking at his comments on Psalm 138.

As I said, I don't know why I should know the Roman Numerals or use



them. I'm sure if Mrs. Austell, my English teacher were alive and heard me say that, she would throw up her hands in disgust. She would say, "I taught you that in English Literature in 1951. How could you forget it so quickly?"

I looked in my Webster's New World Dictionary to see what it said about Roman Numerals. About the only thing I understood of the definition was they were "Roman letters used as numbers until the 10th century A.D."

Since the tenth century was a few days ago I was left still wondering why anyone still used them. I wondered how tenth century Romans would feel if they knew then that their numerals were going to be used by 20th century preachers to outline sermons telling others about Jesus Christ who the Romans crucified. Although delivered by the Jews, Jesus was crucified by the Romans.

However, regardless of what they might think about it, using Roman Numerals to outline a sermon telling others how to be saved is the greatest use ever made of Roman Numerals.

Master's Builders Still Hard At Work

A small, but determined, group from The Master's Builders, began work at We Are Free on the third of October. They worked in the Equine Therapy Barn area in the office and tack/supply rooms. Siding was put up on the outside of the rooms, wiring, insulation and plywood were installed on the inside of each room. Doors were then installed.

This was job # 179 for The Master's Builders. Thank you so much to those who came and worked so hard to help in the ministry of We Are Free. Please continue to pray for this ministry!

We were so blessed in so many ways this week!! Thank you to Mike Krebs and Zane Clark of Celebration Baptist, in Haskell, AR, who came on Tuesday to help in the work. Thank you to those who supplied the great food for our group this week.

Remember, if you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry or if your church has building needs, contact: Mike Green at 972-935-3877, David Axe at 903-918-0720, or Eddie Sikes at 479-462-1675.

“State of the State” continued

Allowing business and industry to violate constitutional rights of employees.

Job loss because of vaccination refusal...violates personal health choices.

Illegal Immigration.

Human Trafficking by the government.

CRT in the schools (very evil propaganda).

Pornographic materials in school libraries.

The Green New Deal and the Climate Change myth.

Credit card companies tracking second amendment activities.

Three Letter federal agencies violating the constitution.

Eighty-seven thousand New IRS agents, some of whom will be armed (they make a law, power to make laws is only granted to congress and power to enforce, violating separation of powers).

There are some liberty groups that follow what is going on at the state level. Oklahomans for Health and Parental Rights (OKHPR) as well as the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association OK2A that will help you stay informed on critical issues.

There are other groups as well, but these two are very informative and I am directly involved with them.

Both of these groups grade candidates and endorse people. This is not intended for you to blindly accept, but gives a good guide as to where they stand on certain issues. We need to know where candidates stand on important issues.

I also want to point out that there are many more issues that are very important and potentially damaging to our nation and that will ultimately affect our freedoms.

If we lose our rights, there goes our ability to preach and teach the Word of God. If they control what you hear and are able to say, then we lose our individuality.

Baptists historically have stood for free agency and the right for people to choose. We know that there will be a one world government and a one world religion eventually.

We must stand strong to prevent this from happening before it is supposed to. Look at places such as North Korea, China, and some Muslim controlled countries.

You do not have rights there, including the right to worship God. We must stand strong here in the United States so people will have the opportunity to know Christ while there is still time.

It is time for Christians everywhere to stand up and face the evils plaguing our society. Evil only needs a vacuum in which to grow and multiply. With such a lack of Christian involvement and influence, our country and state are both doomed.

If we stand on the principles that God has given to us and take seriously the stewardship God has placed on us, then we still have hope.

Each of us must decide whether we will face the challenge or cower in defeat. I, for one, believe what God has entrusted to me is worth fighting for.

New Generations Report continued

opportunity to be ordained by the church. It was such a blessing to be affirmed in this calling and for there to be such an outpouring of love and support on this special day with a good number of people from outside the church coming to the ceremony.

I know that Luis and I both have an unshakeable call to preach God's word and shepherd God's people and that's what we've been trying to be faithful to do over the last several years with Steve's oversight and encouragement. We're not quite a megachurch yet – far from it! But we're hanging in there!

We're trying to be faithful with the people the Lord has given us both in person and online. And we're trying to make improvements to the online experience of NGBC, by trying to maximize the sound quality for not only the sermon audio, but the music as well. This is a challenge, but we've learned a lot and it's getting better.

We're thankful that some folks from Arizona and Nevada continue to attend online, so we want to make sure they have a good experience as they attend “virtually”.

In addition to our three Sunday services, we are continuing our Wednesday men's and women's bible studies through the book of 1 John.

I'm thankful that our church has been used in many wonderful ways to minister to the homeless and needy in Norman over the years. Drugs, addiction, and homelessness continues to run rampant in our country, but I'm glad our church is not afraid to reach out to these folks and show God's mercy and compassion, whether it's at Food and Shelter for Friends, Mission Norman, Church in the Park, or wherever the Lord brings them to us, so that we might show God's love to them and try to lead them back on the right path.

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

Pulpit Announcement

Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, AR, is seeking a full-time pastor.

Send resume to:

Immanuel Baptist Church
Attn: Search Committee
PO Box 212
Nashville, AR 71852

Steve & Lynn Puckett
Cell – 405 570-8325

Chris Lorenz
Cell – 405 226-4111

Luis & Melissa Santos
Cell – 832 513-3505

CBC Announces Annual Gala

Central Baptist College has announced the date for its 4th Annual Scholarship Gala.

The event will take place on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. at the Conway Expo Center.

The black-tie optional event will be a celebration of "Fearless Faith." The proceeds from the Gala will benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports all institutionally funded scholarships.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Harry Miller, an Ohio State Football player who made national news when he stepped away from the game due to challenges, he faced both on and off the field.

In March of 2022, he publicly announced, "I am medically retiring from football," he said, citing his mental health which almost caused him to commit suicide last year.

Miller is an advocate who is self-described as "just a guy trying to help".

Miller was named one of the 22 members of the 2021 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. He earned this honor for his dedication to community service and the positive impact he has made on the lives of others.

"Each year, we seem to see an increase in the number of college students who identify with some type of mental illness. The statistics of depression and anxiety among young adults and college-aged students are concerning. This year, we want to address this issue in hopes of shining a light on this epidemic" said Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow.

"I am excited for attendees to hear the encouraging message that Harry Miller will bring."

Event sponsorships begin at \$2,000. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation to the CBC Scholarship Fund visit cbc.edu/gala or

contact Amy Reed, Director of Development, at areed@cbc.edu or 501-205-8934.

Central Baptist College is committed to transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-

centered environment, and 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.

CBC Targeted By Ransomware Attack continued

We met in the CBC Board Room, and for the first time, I shared the details of the ransomware attack with someone outside the institution. My goal for this group was three-fold:

- 1) Ask them to help me bear this burden and remind me that God can and will supply the need;
- 2) Boldly challenge them to go back to their respective churches and share this need (or let me come and share it personally); and
- 3) Encourage them to help me get others on board to help meet this need.

Better Together

I want to publicly thank these men for helping me bear this burden. That very day, June 13, 2022, they said, yes, we will accept this challenge; yes, we will walk with you; yes, we will present this to our churches; and yes, we will share this with our church and with our pastor friends.

These men said, "Yes, we are in!" They are Dr. Cliff Johnson, Garrett Memorial Baptist, Hope, AR.; Bro. Daniel Williams, First Baptist, Damascus, AR; Dr. Mark Livingston, Broadview Baptist, Memphis, TN; Bro. Dustin Wisely and Bro. Roger Dunlap, First Baptist, Magnolia, AR; Bro. Don Chandler, Central Baptist, Conway, AR; Dr. Jason Aultman and Bro. Shawn Hammontree, Antioch Baptist, Conway, AR; and Bro. Ed Stephenson, Springhill Baptist, Greenbrier, AR.

Will You Help?

Now, I am boldly calling on the churches of the BMAA, alumni, and friends of CBC, and I am asking you to give now, give generously, and in some cases give sacrificially. We have a critical and emergency financial need brought on by these evil players.

If ever there is a personification of John 10:10, this is it: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." They operate with a single goal and that is to extort money and bring harm to institutions like Central Baptist College. One pastor said, "When our family is attacked, we need to act, and do so quickly."

Ways to Give

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to: Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, AR 72034 or give online at cbc.edu/give. Mark your check or online donation "cyber." You may want to give appreciated securities and bypass paying capital gains, or you can donate your IRA's required minimum (RMD). We have several donors who do so.

A young couple who heard me share at my church about this need set up a recurring credit card donation; we can also draft your bank account if you prefer. If your company has a matching gifts program, it is a simple process to have it match your contribution. Thousands of businesses and corporations have matching gifts programs. Check to see if your employer will match your donation to CBC at cbc.edu/giftmatch.

For more ways to give, or to discuss your contribution, contact us by e-mail or phone.

Contact

Individuals, Businesses, & Alumni: Amy Reed, Director of Development, at areed@cbc.edu or 501-205-8934. Churches and church groups: Duffy Guyton, Director of Church Relations at dguyton@cbc.edu or 501-205-8920; or feel free to contact me personally at tkimbrow@cbc.edu or 501-205-8818.