

"How Can We Make A Difference?"

By Chris Gonthier BMAO Moral Action

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." Proverbs 29:2.

As we approach an upcoming election year, we must understand that there are biblical principles that we need to take to heart.

When godly people do not get involved politically, then the ungodly make the rules. Having Christians in elected positions can make the world a much better place.

Instead, Christians have become apathetic and lazy and do not involve themselves, except to complain about bad decisions leaders make. The nature of individuals will come out during stressful times, or when people attain power.

Some definitely prove Proverbs 29:4 to be true. "The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it."

There are very few who reject gifts while they are elected. In Oklahoma there are lobby groups that give gifts to elected officials. Very few of them will reject these gifts. It would be a good idea to pass laws prohibiting officials from receiving anything of value from such groups.

Also, while on the campaign trail, various groups support individual candidates. If you want to get a good idea of how a candidate will vote on matters, look at who financially supports said candidate.

Do some leg work and find out if your senator or representative receives anything form lobby groups. If they do, you may want to ask them why and consider if you are okay with elected officials owing allegiance to outside groups.

On the flip side there are some groups that we as Christians are aligned with. These groups support the right to life and actively support the protections that the constitution guarantees.

Get involved with local political groups so you can benefit from shared information. Many groups may be Christian based or have Christian elements in them, but remember they are not church groups. Do not take everything they say as gospel; you will have to do your research.

Two groups that have been helpful to me are the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association (OK2A) and Oklahomans for Health and Parental Rights (OKHPR).

These groups, and others like them, have candidates fill out questionnaires and score them on their voting records. Be aware of one thing that is extremely important.

The endorsement or score of a candidate only reflects on the criteria of that group. A candidate may score well on rights issues, but be woefully inadequate in other areas, such as fiscal matters.

This means that we need to be comprehensive in our approach to determining who is or is not a quality candidate.

There is a trend among Bible believers to not get involved with politics. I am not telling anyone that they need to run for office, that is something in which each individual should seek the Lord's guidance.

What I do encourage is that people become educated.

Luke 8:32 tells us, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

We know this is referring to the truth of Jesus Christ, but to a lesser degree it applies to all truths. When we are better informed, we can make better decisions.

If a candidate shrouds themselves in secrecy, then they automatically become suspect.

Too often we take the attitude that the Lord's will always happen. If the Lord's will was automatic, then God would not give us commands that we are to follow.

Christians have become very lazy and use God's will as the excuse to cover their laziness. We must actively become involved if we are to realize godly government.

A question that we must ask ourselves is "How important is it to leave a godly heritage for those who follow us?"

Do we even care about the challenges our children and grandchildren will face?

Help Us Reach the Nations! Evangelistic International Ministries

Summer is over and Evangelistic International Ministries is already preparing for the summer of 2024.

We had a tremendous year in 2023 as we took three teams to conduct our Overseas Bible School, or VBS as we call them here in the states.

EIM worked with Missionary Larry Wood and his wife, Tammy, in the Czech Republic, and the BMAA's Missions Coordinator for Africa and South America, John Michael Poulin, and his wife, Angela, in Peru.

We closed our summer by working with Missionary Uziel Cerda in Mexico. God allowed us to see several come to Christ. A total of 44 people on those three OBS teams served with us in sharing the good news of the gospel.

In 2024, we are going to be much more aggressive in our trip schedule. We would like to take five teams to five different countries; which are Tanzania, Ghana, the Philippines, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

To make this possible, we need 13-15 people per team which would be



approximately 70-75 team members for the summer. Our team member focus is on taking adults to be a part of our evangelistic efforts.

EIM has found that many adults want to go on a mission trip, but they don't know how or with whom. We invite you to join us next summer and see what God is doing globally.

Below are the dates and cost for each Overseas Bible School trip. The cost of the trips includes airfare, lodging, meals, and in-country transportation.

June 1- 8 Honduras \$2,600.00

June 12 – 22 Tanzania

\$3,300.00

June 28 – July 6 Ghana \$3,300.00

July 13 – 19 **Nicaragua** \$2,600.00

July 24 – August 3 Philippines \$3,300.00

We will also be conducting a baseball camp in Nicaragua on July 1-5. This is open to any baseball coach that would be interested. The cost will be \$2,300.00.

If you are interested in any of these trips, please contact:

Fonda Norris 870-226-3626 or email at fnorris@eimworldwide.org.

For more information about EIM, please visit our website, www.eimworldwide.org.



"? Was Just Thinkin

By Narita Roady

"Are You Planning a Pity Party? Think Again!"

September 10, 1945, it was a routine day, for Mike the rooster of Fruita, Colorado. He was doing what roosters do best, pecking in the dust.

He was a plump, tender, 5½ month old fellow with not a care in the world. The farmer's wife, Clara Olsen just happened to have plump chicken on her evening menu. Unbeknownst to Mike he had been chosen for that honored position.

Her husband, Lloyd went out as he had many times before to do the dirty deed. He gathered Mike up and stretched his neck across the block. Clara's mother was coming for dinner and she loved the neck. Wanting to earn mother-in-law brownie points, Lloyd tried to leave a generous amount of neck bone.

The axe made its faithful blow and poor Mike staggered about like most poultry, but that is where the similarity ends. Mike did not die!

He started up where he left off, walking around the yard and attempting to "peck" food with his buddies. Stunned, Loyd, found someone else for dinner.

The next morning he found Mike sleeping with his head under his wing and still very much alive. Astonished, Lloyd began to feed him grain and



Opening Worship & special music Program, "*Called"* Titus 2:3-5 *"Ministering to Young Mothers"*

Break

"Valuing our Special Children" Worship in Song & Offering

Reports and Election of Officers Selection of 2023-2024 Project & Goal Installation of Officers Martha Langley Vicki Bowen/Heather Krausse Debbie Clark Kim Mobly

Gwen Hankins Vicki Bowen

Susie Edgar

Blessings to share/Ideas for women's activities/Bible studies Dismiss @11:45am

water with an eye dropper. Mike continued life as a chicken, pecking and preening.

Awed scientists determined that Mike's jugular vein was narrowly missed and a clot stopped the bleeding. With most of his brain stem intact, he would be able to remain quite healthy.

Well Mike lived another 18 months and grew from $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to nearly 8 pounds. He was healthy and active all his remaining days.

Mike also became quite famous, not to mention make a nice living for his owner who obviously had a change of heart. He was valued at and insured for \$10,000, quite a sum back then.

Life and Time Magazines and of course the Guinness Book of World Records each recognized him. He died one night in a motel room while on one of his road trips. He began to choke and Loyd could not find an eyedropper to help clear his throat.

Upon hearing this story one might think, "Wow, what and example of having an insurmountable spirit in the face of tragedy!"

Another might say, "What an example of how we need others to care for us."

Not me, I see Mike in a totally different light. To me, Mike brings to mind some one who is filled with self-pity. Totally self -absorbed, going through the motions of life, but not really living, unaware of what is going on around them in God's work and the lives of others.

Pity parties are more than just frustrating to the party giver and aggravating to those around them. Selfpity stands on the threshold that leads to many sins. Tempted to throw a "pity party"?

Here are nine reasons to resist the temptation.

1. It shows a lack of trust in God.

Self-pity is a consequence of not trusting God. The Poor Pitiful Pearls of

("Pity Party," cont on pg 5)

"Lifeword Reaching Into Ukraine" Lifeword Sunday Set October 22

Lifeword is using media to share Jesus and make disciples everywhere!

One of the key spots in the world that Lifeword is targeting with new media outreach is the country of Ukraine.

Recently Lifeword Executive Director, Donny Parrish, spent two weeks with Lifeword's Ukrainian Director, Pasha Onatsko. They discussed strategy for reaching out to those in Ukraine who need to hear the story of Jesus.

"Pasha is a great leader. Lifeword is so excited to have him on our team," said Parrish.

"He understands that while the people of Ukraine are fighting for their freedom from Russian oppression, their greatest need is freedom in Jesus. The people of Ukraine are especially open to hearing the story of Jesus during this time of conflict and danger."

"Pasha is putting together a great team to use social media and the internet to introduce people to Jesus through Lifeword."

Lifeword invests in people all around the world to reach their own culture for Christ. Parrish says that Lifeword's goal is to train people who relate to and understand their culture to tell the story of Jesus in a language that they can understand. "God is using Lifeword to tell His story in over 150 languages around the world. Our goal is to be in at least 200 languages in the next four years," said Parrish.

Lifeword Reaching Into Panama

Carolina Murillo studied gastronomy as part of her professional career and never thought about using her knowledge and skills for ministry until Bro. Rigoberto, Lifeword's visionary leader for Central and South America, suggested she use the topic of food to create videos that offer recipes along with biblical and spiritual concepts.

Her husband, Ronald Murillo, Jr., moved the family from Costa Rica to Panama to carry the baton after the unexpected passing of Ronald Murillo, Sr., who had just begun a new BMA mission work in Panama.

Ronald now pastors Centro de Vida Panama, and both Ronald and Carolina produce content for the Lifeword Cloud.

Carolina says, "The cooking show idea seemed original and I liked it, because my main job is the Lord's work, so I can merge my culinary skills and ministry. The program is called



More Than Food, because the Word of God is more than physical food and has the power to transform lives."

During the pandemic, and as Carolina shopped at the supermarket, she began sending videos about recipes to friends and neighbors. She also included a spiritual application.

As women watched these videos, they began engaging with her about things like cooking times and ingredient details. Those interactions continued, and many began asking for prayer.

In a recent visit, Carolina shared with Director of Operations, Luis Ortega, that the Lifeword show has opened doors in their community, all over Panama.

"It has been a very useful tool," Carolina says, "and important for our ministry."

More Than Food has helped people witness in a more strategic way and build discipleship relationships. Strangers approach the Murillos with requests such as: "Will you pray for us?" and "We saw your program. Thank you for giving us the Word of God."

FOLLOW

Lifeword is taking steps towards a new initiative in their efforts to share Jesus and make disciples everywhere.

"Our vision was clear - find a way to not only share the gospel of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible, but also show them how to follow Him daily," Yalanda Merrell, Director of Audience Engagement at Lifeword, said.

As a media ministry, Lifeword explored how discipleship could be done digitally, and, she states, "Getting to this point has taken countless hours of brainstorming, digital planning, and content production."

While it's still in the testing phase, Lifeword gives us an inside look at this new discipleship effort called FOLLOW.

FOLLOW is an interactive, video-based discipleship tool. It introduces people to the hope Jesus offers and what it looks

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"Pity Party," cont from pg 3

the world think they are all alone and no one cares. They fail to see that EVERYONE'S life is faced with difficult experiences, filled with frustration, anxiety, and disappointment.

They believe that they are the ONLY ones facing such problems, forgetting their all knowing, all loving Father is intensely involved in every aspect of their life. 1 Peter 4:19, Isaiah 43:2

2. It takes the focus off of the Lord and puts it on yourself.

When we are filled with self-pity, we are actually filled with SELF and there is little room for anyone else, including God. What we are really saying is I am the only one who is important.

How can we do His will and follow His promptings if He can't squeeze into our lives anywhere?

1 Corinthians 2:15

3. It says my God is not in control of

what comes into my life.

Self-pity causes us to have a victim mentality, and unknowingly we become superstitious.

Superstition is based on good luck or bad luck. Whatever befalls one is strictly by chance and we begin to act as martyrs. As believers everything that comes into our lives is God okayed. He is in complete control. *Romans* 8:28, *Lamentations* 3:37, *Hebrews* 13:5b

4. We disobey scripture by not giving thanks in all things.

When we indulge in self-pity we are directly disobeying God's command to always be thankful, no matter what our circumstances. Instead of an attitude of gratitude, we begin to have an attitude of ungratefulness.

We are totally blinded to all the wonderful things we have to be thankful for and focus on what we do not have.

"Lifeword" continued from pg 4

like to follow Him. And, with one click, they can connect to a local church to continue this journey.

But it doesn't end there. FOLLOW is also a tool the local church can use to make disciples.

"The great commission was given to the local church, and we knew we wanted to create something to come alongside the church to accomplish this mission. Our goal is to provide an easy to use tool that is engaging, biblical, and accessible on a hand-held device."

"No matter where someone is in their walk with Christ, they can use FOLLOW to lead someone to Jesus, connect them to a church, and show them how to follow Christ daily."

Merrell said more is coming soon on this project, and she's thankful for those who have a passion for sharing the name of Jesus and discipleship, because that's what Lifeword is all about.

Lifeword Sunday, October 22

Lifeword Sunday is October 22, 2023. This is the day set aside for churches across the BMA of America to pray for the ministry of Lifeword and to give a special offering to help Lifeword increase her impact around the world.

To register your church for Lifeword Sunday visit www.wetellthestory.com.

There you can register your church, purchase Lifeword Sunday t-shirts to help share the ministry of Lifeword, and enter your Pastor's name into a drawing for a new MacBook Pro.

Lifeword Sunday offerings are crucial to help Lifeword continue to expand around the world! Together we can Share Jesus, Make Disciples, Everywhere! It is akin to seeing only a tiny black dot on a piece of white paper, focusing on the problems and over looking the vast blessings.

Philippians 4:6, Ephesians. 5:20

5. It hinders our work for the Lord and every ministry with which we are associated.

When we are filled with self-pity, we stop everything to lick our wounds and dwell on our troubles. Our ability to help others, lead them to the Lord, and do His work is destroyed.

We end up doing nothing, and the longer we feel sorry for ourselves the less we do, until we have completely dropped out of the Lord's service.

6. It snaps us of the strength we need to do the Lord's work.

Self-pity drains us of our ability to move forward into the future that God has planned for us. When one thing, circumstance, or event in our lives ends, God always has a new beginning. The enemy wants to stop us before we reach the point of new beginnings and paralyze us.

Nehemiah 8:10

7. We are a poor testimony to others.

The world is filled with hopelessness and desperation. Christ offers the world hope and help to face its problems.

We are Christ's example to the world; we are to be different. Otherwise why should others look to Christ when they see we are just as miserable as they are?

8. We are giving Satan ground.

Self-pity results in giving ground to Satan. Hopelessness, despair, and selfishness are all signs that we are listening to the enemy instead of the Lord.

Be warned, the old saying, "Give them an inch and they'll take a mile" certainly applies to Satan. Whenever you give into him in any area of your life, he will end up taking more and more.

We must persistently fight anything that tries to control our life other than God and

("Pity Party," cont on pg 6)

"That Reminds Me

By Jesse Spurlock

"Shaped Below to Fit Above"

I was reminiscing the other day, as I seem to do a lot, the older I get. I recalled an incident that still causes me to think about physical illustrations that teaches us spiritual truths.

Between homes, we rented at one time. The landlord wanted to put a "car porch" on the house. He told me that if I would build it and he would knock off a couple of month's rent for my labor.

I didn't know what a "car porch" was, but I knew what a couple of months rent was. I told him I could probably build it if he would tell me what a "car porch" was.

When he started describing it, I realized what he wanted was a CAR PORT to shelter our car. I had never built one, but was sure I could handle it, if I had a little help. He hired a high school student to help me.

Although the student made some mistakes, he was a fast learner and hard worker, so we got along fine.

To tie in to the roof, I tore out the boards between the rafters where they jutted out from the roof. To keep the birds out, I needed to block the holes that left into the roof.

Because of the angles involved, the pieces I needed to cut were going to be odd shaped. I climbed up on the ladder and began measuring the odd shaped openings.

I wrote the measurements down and as I was climbing down from the ladder, I realized the student had stopped working and was watching me. I measured and drew the lines on the board I was going to cut.

As I got the saw and started cutting along the lines, the student continued to watch but not saying anything.

When I finished cutting, I started back toward the ladder and the student asked, "Do you think it will fit?"

I said, "Of course. I made sure of the

measurements before I cut them." I climbed back up the ladder and slipped the odd shaped board in place. It fit perfectly so I nailed it in place.

The young man was amazed. He said, "How did you know it would fit? You measured it down here to go in a hole up there. How did you do that?"

I told him, "It fit because I cut it down there according to the measurements I made up here. Why would it not fit? I shaped it down there, to fit up here."

When stated that way, I suddenly realized a powerful spiritual application. I shaped the board down below to fit above. God does that with us also. He shapes us down below, upon earth, so we will fit above, in Heaven.

We have a lot of strange shapes and angles in our life here below, but God just measures and cuts us according to the pattern of the place He is going to use us above. It will be a perfect fit.

That's what Paul wrote about in EPHESIANS 1:5-6, "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved." Without God's shaping us here below, we wouldn't be suitable for a place in Heaven.

All this reminds me of the sculptor who was shaping a piece of marble into the image of a horse. An onlooker asked him how he knew what to cut away and what to leave.

"Simple" replied the sculptor, "I just cut away everything that doesn't look like a horse."

In God's shaping us, He is going to cut away everything that doesn't look like His Son, Jesus.

"Pity Party," cont from pg 5

aggressively obey His word

9. Self-pity produces isolation, anger and hatred.

Like a festering sore, self-pity breeds other diseased attitudes and mind sets. One who is afflicted with it feels that others must join him in his misery. If they do not agree his situation is dreadful and pamper him; he becomes angry.

Those wrapped in self-pity desire others to pity them with the same passion they pity themselves. They begin to hate those they once loved for being so insensitive to them in their so-called time of need and ultimately avoid them.

On the other hand, others avoid them because they grow weary of their constant moaning, complaining and exaggeration of their condition.

Self-pity is a game that we can only win by being a loser! Feeling sorry for ourselves is so common today that it seems almost normal and acceptable.

What we fail to see is that it is really a spiritual battle, one that we are unknowingly going to be a fatality of. It is sin. It is a luxury we treat ourselves to, not a result of an ill-fated catastrophe we happen to find ourselves in.

We offend and insult God when we deny His many promises to care and provide for us.

The bottom line is it is more important to trust Him than feel sorry for ourselves. Next time you get ready to throw a Pity Party just remember DON'T, you can't afford to!

Longtime BMA Minister Dead at 68

Jerome Cooper, 68 of Alexander,

passed away Sept. 22. He was a member of the Collective Church in Bryant.

Cooper Bro. surrendered to ministry July 31, 1974, at Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy, where his father, the late H.D. Cooper was pastor, was ordained and there on February 5, 1976.

Bro. Cooper was a

1977 graduate of Central Baptist



"Meet the Mustangs"

Central Baptist College recently had the opportunity to celebrate its athletes at Meet the Mustangs, an event that recognizes each athletic team individually. Many people attended including students, faculty, staff, and people from the community.

The CBC band provided music throughout the night, and the dining staff served food. Many attendees also took advantage of the free shaved ice that was provided through Henson's Island Snow.

The MC for the evening was sophomore Lawrence Tippen who also plays on the junior varsity basketball team.

The event began by introducing the junior varsity and varsity baseball teams (coached by Aaron Brister). The men

and women's soccer teams were then introduced (coached by Dylan Perdue and Thabo Masoga respectively) followed by the men and women's golf teams (coached by Lyle Middleton) and the men and women's cross country/track teams (coached by Ally Swaim). The CBC band then provided music for an intermission followed by the introduction of the women's basketball team (coached by Lyle Middleton). After this, the men's varsity and junior varsity basketball teams were introduced (coached by Sam Kohnke). The softball team came next (coached by Keith Hinson); and finally, the wrestling and volleyball teams were announced (coached by Ken Prophete and Rick Brown respectively).

This event also marked the one-year anniversary of Maverick the Mustang, the CBC mascot, being revealed to the student body. Last year, Maverick was given a grand introduction through a tunnel of sparklers, and after a year of representing the school, he returned to this event to cheer on our teams.

The evening was a success and gave the school a great opportunity to meet and cheer on our various athletic teams full of school spirit and with high hopes for the coming year.

Seminary in Jacksonville, TX.

He served in many roles as a pastor and staff member, including serving as youth director at the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church at Greenbrier, director of youth and music at Bradford Baptist Church in Bradford, interim pastor and assistant to the pastor as minister of youth and education at Park View Baptist Church in North Little Rock and pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Sikeston, MO. and Trinity Baptist Church in Florissant. MO.

The last 18 years of his ministry, Cooper served as minister of music and education at Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville. He also served as editor of The Missouri Missionary Baptist.

In January 1990, Bro. Cooper began working as the first special assignments editor for Baptist Publishing House (BPH). When BPH reorganized as DiscipleGuide, he served as the director of publishing. He served in this ministry for 25 years.

He was also the editing manager for the development of the DiscipleWay material. He served as recording secretary for BMA of America from 2009 until his death.

He was also currently serving on the Publications Committee for the BMA of Arkansas

Survivors include: his wife of 47 years, Peggy Cooper; his mother, Sarah Alice (Yerby) Cooper; two daughters, Sarah Lyn Cooper (Robert Ellison) and Jessica (Jeremy) McGinty; two sisters, Camellia Lewis and Jeanine Miller: and two grandsons.

A celebration of life was held at Collective Church of Bryant on Friday, September 29, with a visitation prior to the service.

Arrangements were under the direction of Roller-Alcoa Funeral Home (rollerfuneralhomes.com).



College, where he

earned a Bachelor of

Arts degree in Bible

with a minor in

Religious Education.

Junior/Senior class

He then received

his master's degree

Missionary

Association

Theological

the

elected

Baptist

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of

was

at CBC in 1975.

president

He

at

72nd Annual State Meeting of the BMA of Oklahoma October 13-14

Friday, October 13

1:00pm	Missionary Advisory Committee	
2:00pm	Committee Meetings State Youth Committee Audit Committee Revolving Loan Fund	Re-Charge Leader's Oasis
3:00pm	Missionary Committee Meeting	October 4-6, 2023
4:00pm	Session One Election of 2023-2024 Officers 2024 Meeting and Midyear Meeting Invitations Reports from national works and guests	ВМАО
Fridy, October 13 7:00pm	Session Two Special Music, CBC Singers Annual Message, Dr. John Jones	Annual Meeting October 13-14 New Heights, OKC
Saturday, Octobe 9:00-11:30am		
12:30pm	WMA Meeting and Men's Fellowship Session Three Reports from national works and guests Committee Reports Missions Report Missionary Committee Reports and Recommendations Report from state Moral Action Adjourn at completion of session	Daylight Savings Time Ends November 5

RE:CHARGE LEADER'S OASIS

WEDNESDAY, OCT 4 BUDDY MULLINS CONCERT IN The Southgate Baptist Auditorium at 7PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us during the Re:Charge Leader's Oasis at Southgate Baptist to hear Buddy Mullins. You might know him best from the Gaither Vocal Band.

Southgate Baptist Church | 740 SW 4th Street | Moore | 405.794.6646