

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LX

NOVEMBER 2025

Number 11

“Reasons to NOT Read the Bible”

Check any and all that apply:

- ☐ It's too hard to understand.
- ☐ I'm just really not much of a reader.
- ☐ I'm waiting till the movie comes out.
- ☐ I'm too busy.
- ☐ I'm just too tired.
- ☐ I just keep forgetting.
- ☐ I hear the Bible when I go to church.
- ☐ I don't feel like it applies to my life today.
- ☐ I don't know where to start.
- ☐ Nobody but preachers really read it.
- ☐ I've already read it once.
- ☐ I do read it, but only when I need to.
- ☐ I plan on it, when I get a chance.
- ☐ It's kinda long.
- ☐ It's kinda boring.
- ☐ I'm kinda lazy.
- ☐ It always makes me feel guilty.

Some of these may be valid, honest excuses why we avoid reading God's Word, but in the end that is all they are...excuses. If you're looking for a reason to not do something you really weren't looking to do in the first place, any reason will do.

And the real truth is, if there is something we desire to accomplish, very little will stand in our way. We have to move past the reasons that are preventing us from studying the Bible, and develop the desire, the need, to delve into God's Word.

We are encouraged by Bible guys of old to pursue God's principles. David wrote a lengthy psalm of 176 verses, trying to convince his readers of the effect God's Word can have on their lives.

His son Solomon wrote dozens of proverbs persuading us to excavate the wisdom buried in God's truths, and later would come to the conclusion that keeping God's commandments will be the only logical driving force in our lives.

Old Testament prophets warned the people time and again, that their problems stemmed from neglecting to understand and keep God's commandments.

Paul encouraged his young friend Timothy to anchor his thoughts deeply in doctrine, so as to avoid the lies of the world around him.

And Peter encouraged his readers to desire the sincere milk of the word. That word "desire" is a very potent description of our relationship with God's Word.

It brings to mind when my children were babies, how they would wake us (okay, woke their mother) at any hour to let us know they were hungry. They didn't care the time of day or night, or how much it might inconvenience their parents (once again, their mother). Something inside of them knew a need must be met, and no one would rest till it was.

Like an infant desires to be fed, like an addict craves their addiction, like Pavlov's dog salivating at the ringing of the bell, we should possess this selfsame longing for the sincere Word of God.

So how does someone discover this craving for the Bible? Peter answers the question in the very next verse. "Have you even given the Lord a taste?" he asks. King David knew this principle. "Taste and see the Lord is good."

All cravings, all the things we feel we can't live without, good and bad, begin with just a taste.

One cigarette can lead a man down a lifelong addiction to nicotine. A passion for reading begins with that first good book. Runners get hooked on a workout adrenalin, actors talk about a rush accompanying that first moment they step onto the stage, workaholics can't stay away from the job.

And as for me, well, I'd probably be thinner if I'd never tasted that first bite of chocolate cake. Maybe the potato chip folks got it right, you can't eat just one.

But so many have never discovered the true value of the Word because they've never given it a sincere try. They've read a little, gotten bored or busy, and laid it down, leaving a bad taste in their mouth.

They've scanned the words, but not dug deeply enough to understand the meanings, and they've walked away disillusioned, wondering if they are just not capable of perceiving what others have received.

Some of us have strolled near the light of His Word, close enough for the truth of our guilt to be exposed, and fled, too ashamed to return.

So what is it going to take to make you try again? Like parents trying to manipulate their child into eating vegetables, I'm asking you to just give it a chance. A smattering of the history of the world, a morsel of prophetic looks into end times.

Just a few pearls of wisdom from the Psalms or Proverbs. A brief glimpse at the glory of Jesus found in the Gospels.

Everyone's needs vary, but when people ask me where to begin reading in the Bible I'm almost always going to suggest the Gospels. If you want to know love, study

(“Not To Read the Bible” cont on pg 6)

Sunray Baptist Church of Purcell Hosts Annual BMA of OK State Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the BMA of Oklahoma was held at Sunray Baptist Church in Purcell, October 3-4, 2025.

The meeting was well attended and was a great time of fellowship and worship.

Pastor John Wylie brought the annual message on Friday evening, preceded by an excellent time of worship in music led by the Central Baptist College Singers.



All officers from the previous year were retained for the coming year.

President, David Langley

VP, Kevin Bowen

Rec Sec, Doug Brewer

Asst Rec Sec, Dennis Clark

Bro. Gene Hankins was re-elected to serve as State Director of Missions, and Bro. Carl Barnes as our State Promotional Secretary and Treasurer of Missions.

We were privileged to hear from Bro. Larry Barker from our BMA Church Health Solutions more than once. Bro. Barker hosts Church Health

conferences throughout the Midwest on a regular basis. He also spoke to us on the progress of other BMAA departments.

It was also an honor to hear from Dr. Phillip Attebery about the progress made at our BMAA Seminary in Jacksonville, TX. The Seminary is actively seeing growth in enrollments over the past year.

The Brotherhood also heard from Bro. Mike Angus from Just the Crumbs Ministries. With all the things going on in the world he had much to tell us about disaster relief.

The next state midyear meeting will be held April 4, 2026 at Southgate, Moore. The next state annual meeting will be held at Easterngate, Wynnewood, October 2-3, 2026.

BMAO Missionary Advisory Committee Report

October 3, 2025

Seven men of the Missionary Advisory Committee met at Sunray Baptist church in Purcell, OK. The discussion was for prayer and planning our next mission. Doug Brewer was asked to lead in prayer toward a new mission in Oklahoma.

The minutes from page 57 in our minute book was discussed on Grace Harbor ending support, realizing that support is available if needed.

We agreed to extend our gratitude to both Nathan Brewer and Thomas Mobly for allowing God to use them in the work of establishing Grace Harbor church.

Grace Harbor church is now self-supporting, and we are looking forward to seeing God use them to help establish more strong churches. We asked Nathan his thoughts on going forward in the work at Grace Harbor church.

Missionary Advisory Committee recommends Carl Barnes as Treasurer BMAO, Gene Hankins as Missions Director for the (BMAO) Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma at the existing salary of \$6,000.00 each and Christmas bonus of \$500.00 each with our full support.

Bro. Nathan Brewer shared with us two factors:

Gratefulness of the financial support from the BMAO and other financial supporters and how thankful they are for it. The maturity of Grace Harbor church.

Going forward ideas, planned for Grace Harbor church, such as doctrinal teaching and BMA history and background.

Missionary Advisory Committee Officers

Kevin Bowen - Chairman

Gene Hankins – Missions Director

Carl Barnes – Treasurer of Missions

David Langley – Secretary

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

E-mail: Michael.mobly@yahoo.com

Subscription rates are, any church may pay
ten dollars a month, or one hundred twenty
dollars a year, to receive a digital copy of the
paper emailed to one email address
in your church.

"I Was Just Thinkin' "

By Narita Roady

"You May Be Taking God for Granted If You..."

Before he surrendered to the ministry, Jerry worked in the field of accounting. For several years he worked for an international CPA firm. During that time he was responsible for checking hundreds of millions of dollars in accounts.

He had some interesting jobs such as helping with Conway Twitty's Oklahoma tax return and auditing Mr. Sylvan Goldman's assets, the inventor of the shopping cart.

His specialty was auditing. Think of how you balance (or are supposed to balance) your check book each month. How many of us search and look for that last dime or penny we are missing?

Well this is what he did but on a much larger basis. During the audit of one multi-billion dollar business, he was having difficulty balancing an account. It wasn't a penny or a dime off, but more than a million dollars.

He was sharing his dilemma with one of the company accountants he was working with and the man off handedly

replied, "Oh if that is all it is, don't worry about it."

Can you imagine?!!

Their assets were SO LARGE that a million dollars was as immaterial to them as a penny is to most people!! They were so blessed that they took for granted astronomical sums of money that could feed, clothe, shelter and care for thousands upon thousands of people in need.

What does it mean to take something for granted? It means we assume it is unimportant in the total scope of our life; it is assumed not valuable; it is dispensable, replaceable, and will essentially always be there should we need or want it.

When we take things for granted the less valuable things in our life blind us to our true treasures of blessings and opportunities. The extraordinary becomes ordinary and we cease to notice it any more.

I believe the root problem of this is ingratitude, to God. He has blessed us so abundantly that we have turned into spoilt children, quickly forgetting what we have been given, only to be grasping and grabbing for the ever illusive "MORE".

This attitude reminds me of the folks God made record of in Romans 1:20-21. They are without excuse:

because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful."

How many professing born-again Christians go on year after year without giving any thought to God, unless of course hardship strikes and they want some favor from Him? His name is not even on their lips save taking it in vain.

They have not time for His work or His church.

In Psalm 10:4-6 David accurately describes those who take the Lord for granted. The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity.

This commonly accepted misconception is a standard motto of those who assume upon on their blessings: "It won't happen to me. Nothing will ever change".

Think about it do you look at yourself as God's servant or do you look at God as your servant? Is your first thought of the day, "What does God want or need me to do for Him today?"

Or are you a faithful servant to yourself and your selfish desires? Then you take God for granted.

Do you plan to get into church and really serve WHEN; things slow down, you get a new job, you quit working so many hours, the kids are older, etc? Then you take God for granted.

What you are honestly saying is I will serve God when it costs me nothing and do not have to do without what want. I'll let you in on a little secret. That day will never come because the devil will make sure it doesn't.

You are basing your decision to obey God on the Devil's reasoning, how then can any good come from it? You are

("Taking God for Granted," cont on pg 7)



“Anchored in Faith”

An Invitation to the 7th Annual Scholarship Gala

Every spring, our community gathers to do something extraordinary: we invest in the lives of Central Baptist College students.

On Friday, March 6, 2026, at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, we will come together for CBC's 7th Annual Scholarship Gala. It will be an evening that pairs fellowship and inspiration with a very practical outcome: scholarships that open the door to a Christ-centered education.

The Scholarship Gala is CBC's premier annual fundraising event. Since 2019, friends and partners like you have helped us raise nearly \$4 million for student scholarships.

Behind that number are countless individual stories of students who were able to enroll, persist, and graduate because a faithful community believed in them.

At CBC, we are committed to transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence.

Scholarships make that mission accessible. They bridge the gap for students who are called to prepare for ministry, service, and leadership but need financial support to make it possible.

Our theme this year, “Anchored in Faith,” reflects both who we are and how we move forward. We are not immune to cultural headwinds or economic uncertainty, but our anchor holds.

We trust God's provision, and we work together as faculty, staff, alumni, churches, and friends to equip students for lives of purpose.

We are honored to welcome Jonathan



Falwell as our keynote speaker. The son of the late Rev. Jerry Falwell, Jonathan serves as senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church and Chancellor of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

He brings a pastor's heart and a leader's perspective to the issues facing students

and Christian higher education today. I look forward to his message and the encouragement it will bring to all of us who care deeply about the next generation.

The evening will feature dinner,

fellowship, and an inspiring program centered on CBC's mission and vision.

You'll hear directly from students whose lives have been changed by scholarship support and from partners who believe, like we do, that Christ-centered education is worth championing.

Your presence makes a difference. So does your partnership.

Sponsorships begin at \$2,000

Single tickets are \$100 each

To purchase tickets, secure a sponsorship, or make a donation, visit cbc.edu/gala. You may also contact Peggy Pillow at ppillow@cbc.edu or 501-205-8834.

As we prepare for March 6, I'm grateful for the generosity you've shown and hopeful for what God will do through this year's Gala. Thank you for standing with CBC, for believing in our students, and for helping us remain anchored in faith.



Missionary Care Needs Some Care

By Dr. Jonathan Montgomery
Director of Missionary Care

2025 has been one of the busiest and most fruitful years for BMA Global's Missionary Care ministry.

We have hosted numerous activities to encourage and support our missionaries, and we have one main goal: to care for those who serve. But right now, this ministry itself needs some care.

This ministry depends entirely on financial support to provide counseling, coaching, conferences, and connection opportunities for missionaries and their families around the world.

After an incredible year of activity and ministry, our funds are running low, and we need your help to continue providing the encouragement and support our missionaries depend on.

This year alone, we hosted several events:

We celebrated 75 years of BMA Global missions by hosting reunions for former missionaries and their families, which were joyful times of reconnecting and remembering God's faithfulness through the years.

Our North American church planters attended this year's ReCharge Leadership Retreat, where our care team hosted a special luncheon for them and their families.

As church planting grows across the U.S., we're walking alongside these planters just as we do our international teams.

We also held our second beach retreat for college-aged missionary kids, helping them navigate the transition from the field to life in the States.

This time together deepened relationships and strengthened their faith as they adjust to new surroundings.

The highlight of 2025 was our Regional Care Conference in Turkey for missionaries serving in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Partnering with Bethel Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi, we provided a refreshing week of worship, fellowship, and encouragement, including a memorable visit to ancient Ephesus.

Along with hosting these ministry

events, our care team has continued offering counseling and coaching, "providing care for every missionary, at every stage, with every need."

Even apart from gatherings, Missionary Care remains a constant source of support for those who serve with BMA Global.

While 2025 has been a high point in care and encouragement, 2026 may look different for one key reason: our financial support is low.

Missionary Care raises its own funds to provide these services and events for missionaries in the States and around the world.

The many opportunities God gave us in 2025 stretched our budget beyond what was available, especially with unplanned expenses for the Turkey Conference. Still, every moment of encouragement and renewal that came from it was worth the investment.

We want to do more in 2026: host care conferences in other regions, deepen our involvement with MKs, and continue encouraging our veteran missionaries... but we simply can't without increased giving.

I've been meeting with pastors and individuals to share these needs, and we're thankful for new donors who've added us to their monthly budgets.

As a new pastor, my speaking schedule is limited, but I'm always glad to meet with pastors and missions committees over coffee or a weekday meal. You can reach me at jonathan@bmaglobal.org.

Missionary Care continues to make a real difference in the lives of those serving through the BMA.

With your prayers, encouragement, and financial support, we can keep strengthening and sustaining our missionary families for years to come.



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Adventures on Ice"

The roads were bad, but the trip was necessary. I needed to go to Stratford, and although travel advisories were out, I would be careful. My wife dutifully told me, as I was leaving, "be careful."

I jokingly said, "No, I think I'll be careless." We both laughed and I left. I got set to go and put in the beautiful Ray Boltz CD "Allegiance," and I cautiously headed for Stratford.

The Interstate was clear and also Highway 177 through Shawnee and Tecumseh. However, as I continued on south from Tecumseh, I noted the roads hadn't been salted, but it appeared the tracks were clear.

I was driving about 55 mph when I came up behind a car traveling at 40 mph. I just thought he was being unduly cautious as I started to pull out to pass.

Suddenly, the rear of my pickup broke loose and started to swing around on me. I immediately got off the gas, turned into the slide and brought it under control. However, I thought, you know, 40 mph isn't really a bad speed.

So I dropped back in like, like a good little boy, and followed him at 40 mph the rest of the way. There was no further trouble, except for a slight bobble every once in awhile.

By this time I had heard Ray Boltz sing his songs through several times, and although I enjoy that, I decided to listen to something else. Ah, yes, Johnny Cash would be good.

Everything was under control as good ole Johnny belted out "Ring of Fire." I was still behind the other car and driving 40 mph and he was having not trouble, so I was enjoying the view and the leisurely trip.

As I came up the hill for the turn-off for a place called Romulus, I once again

puzzled about meaning of that name. It reminded me of the Romulans in the old Star Trek shows.

That was what I was thinking when I was suddenly jolted back to reality as the rear of the pickup suddenly broke loose and I found myself in a full-fledged spin-out.

I did everything I was supposed to do, but soon was going sideways off the pavement and down a sloping embankment.

I came to a stop without hitting anything. However, it was a rather steep embankment.

I had no weight in the rear of the pickup and only two-wheel drive, so I couldn't get the traction needed to go up the embankment to continue south. The embankment had a more gently slope to the north. I thought, well, I guess I'll just go north and go back home.



When I got the front wheels up on the pavement, I gave it more gas and suddenly the rear came spinning around on me and put me up on the pavement and facing south again. "Thank you Lord, and okay! Since You headed me that way, I guess I'll just go on to Stratford!"

So, that's what I did.

Which spiritual application would you like to hear on this incident?

How about "Only listen to Christian music?" No?

How about judging the situation by surface appearances? (It looked clear.)

How about tempting God by putting ourselves at risk in spite of warnings? (Traffic advisories.)

How about plunging ahead after God's warnings? (One near spin-out and several bobbles.)

Personally, I think the most important application in this incident is God's constant watching over us.

Psalms 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about those who fear Him, and delivereth them."

God surely had delivered me many times.

"Reasons to NOT Read the Bible" cont from pg 1

the greatest love of all time. If you want to learn about relationships, look to the life of the One who would do anything to have a relationship with you. If you have a yearning for a deeper faith, check out the author and finisher of our faith. Want to experience the abundant life? Study the creator of all life.

Some folks enjoy the historical side of Jesus, so they like to point you to Matthew. Others just want to read about the incredible miracles and healings, so they easily are drawn to the account of Dr. Luke. Most will suggest the Gospel of John. Talk about intimacy with the Messiah, John was lost in that relationship. I'm no longer the apostle John, just call me "the disciple Jesus loved."

But for me, there is no more enjoyable read than the record of a youthful writer named Mark. I can't help to think he must have been a teen when he came to know Jesus. Everything about Mark suggests the energy of youth. Look closely and you'll find nothing ever happens slowly for Mark. He loves the amazing way Jesus works. For Mark everything happens quickly and with excitement.

(*"Not To Read the Bible" cont on pg 7*)

“Taking God for Granted,” cont from pg 3

assuming that day WILL come. God says other wise in His Word.

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is

even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:13-14

In financial matters, do you believe that God will continue to allow you to take His money and squander it on acquiring all the stuff you want to have? Then you take God for granted. What a

“How many professing born-again Christians go on year after year without giving any thought to God, unless of course hardship strikes and they want some favor from Him?”

“Reasons to NOT Read the Bible” cont from pg 6

And immediately his fame spread throughout the land.

And straightway, many were gathered together.

And immediately, the paraplegic arose and took up his bed.

Immediately there came out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.

Straightway the woman was healed, and the damsel arose.

I almost expect Mark to write, “Jesus told the man to be healed, and BOOYAH, he was healed.” “The seas were rockin’ and BAM, Jesus calmed ‘em right down.” I love to read this Gospel, because to Mark it was the incredible news of the saving power of Jesus Christ. He doesn’t sit still long on any story. State the facts, get to the remarkable, and move on. At least not until he begins to recall the last week of Jesus’ life. Then he slows down, as if to say, “Wait, don’t miss this. It’s important.”

The first thirteen chapters describe the life of Jesus, while he uses the last three to tell the story surrounding His death.

I can’t tell you where you should begin your journey through the Bible. If you’ve got questions about a stronger walk with Christ, maybe you should take your first steps in the book of Romans and continue hiking through Paul’s epistles. If you need sound advice for getting through life or dealing with people, listen to the Proverbs. If you just want to read inspiring words about a powerful God, camp out with a shepherd named David and read his Psalms.

I promise, there is something for everyone. Even if you feel you tried it before, I’m hoping you will give the greatest gift ever given to mankind a second chance. It is guaranteed to appeal to all palettes, if you’ll just give it a taste.

(Taken from the book, “A Simple Love Story”)

“...so many have never discovered the true value of the Word because they’ve never given it a sincere try. They’ve read a little, gotten bored or busy, and laid it down, leaving a bad taste in their mouth.”

bold assumption you can persist in robbing Him while His churches,

His under shepherds, and His work are struggling. God tells us that isn’t the case. Just look at the parable of the rich man in Luke 12:16-21. Here is a serious lesson for all those who have this attitude.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:19-21

Do you believe God is accepting your excuses for rebelling against Him as readily as you are and will continue to bless you in spite of your disobedience? Then you take God for granted.

Do not be fooled!

God has NEVER accepted your excuses; He is patiently and lovingly waiting for you to repent.

And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, . . .

Genesis 6:3

These are just a few thoughts to get you started. Another Thanksgiving is almost here, and each year we are rightfully admonished to look at all the things we should thank God for and express our gratitude.

This Thanksgiving, why not sit down and take a microscopic look at all the things you take for granted, that you we fail to acknowledge God’s provision and generosity in your life.

Prayerfully and sincerely repent of your ingratitude and start out now to live each day with an attitude of gratitude!

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:17

Welcome to the Campus

Central Baptist College is honored to host the 76th Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas on Thursday, November 6.

It is our sincere joy to welcome the pastors, messengers, and guests of the BMA of Arkansas to our campus.

We are deeply grateful for your ministry and partnership in the gospel. Our prayer is that your time at CBC is refreshing, worshipful, and filled with fellowship and encouragement.

For your convenience, an information table will be located outside Burgess Auditorium. Please stop by if you have any questions or need assistance, we're here to help!

CBC is pleased to provide complimentary coffee and water on the platform in Burgess Auditorium, as well as in the foyer area of the Cooper Complex.

During the meeting, CBC Dining Services will offer freshly prepared and

affordable meals in the Mabee Student Services Complex. Menus will be posted at the information table and online through the Central Baptist College Dining Services Facebook page.

Mealtimes & Prices:

Breakfast: 7:30am - 9:30 a.m. - \$6

Lunch: 11:00am - 1:00 p.m. - \$10

Dinner: 4:45pm - 6:30 p.m. - \$9

To ensure a safe and pleasant visit our fire lanes are marked with red curbs and enforced by the City of Conway, parking along "No Parking" streets surrounding campus is restricted by city ordinance, handicapped parking is available on the south and west sides of the Cooper Complex.

CBC employees and students will park off-campus or in the grassy lot south of Story Library to make parking easier for our guests.

We count it a joy to host you on our campus and to share in this time of fellowship and renewal.

As expressed in Philippians 1:3-5: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

May the Lord bless this year's Annual Session with **u n i t y**, encouragement, and a deepened commitment to His mission. It is all for "the sake of the Name."



UPCOMING EVENTS

CBC Stampede Preview dates

November 12, 2025

March 4, 2026

BMAA

Seniors Conference

November 18-20

BMAO Central District Midyear Meeting

March 7, 2026

BMAO State Midyear Meeting

April 4, 2026

Fall Back DST

November 2

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unity Missionary Baptist Church in Wayne, OK is seeking a pastor. We are looking for the man God has called to faithfully preach, and teach God's word as we reach and disciple our community for Jesus.

Please contact us at:

UnityMBChurchOK@outlook.com

or

A. Carroll

405-850-0000

pas.carroll@hotmail.com