

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LXI

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Number 4

2026 BMAO *Celebrating 75 Years of Faith and Fellowship*

This October, the community of Wynnewood and our surrounding sister congregations will gather for a monumental milestone: the 75th Anniversary Celebration of our 33 churches.

This two-day event, held on October 2-3, 2026, serves as a powerful testament to seven and a half decades of unwavering witness, service, and spiritual growth in Oklahoma.

The festivities will be hosted at Eastern Gate Missionary Baptist Church, located at 40463 Highway 29 in Wynnewood, OK.

For 75 years the churches of the BMA of Oklahoma have stood as pillars of the community, and this anniversary is an opportunity to honor that rich heritage while looking forward to obeying Mt 28:19-20 "The Great Commission".

What to Expect:

Worship & Reflection: Special services dedicated to praising God for the legacy of these congregations and the impact of the Gospel in Oklahoma and the World.

Fellowship: A time for members from all BMAO churches to reconnect, share testimonies, and strengthen the bonds of our shared mission.

Heritage Highlights: Recognition of the families and leaders who have served

through the years, carrying on the traditions of faith that began in 1951.

Whether you are a lifelong member or a neighbor seeking a welcoming spiritual home, we invite you to join us for this historic weekend.

As we celebrate "75 years of witness and service," we do so with confidence that the God who has been our help in the past will remain our wisdom and strength for the years to come.

Eastern Gate
Missionary Baptist Church
WYNNEWOOD, OK
(405) 665-5398.

Pastor, Lloyd Christensen
(405) 227-1683
Email - egbewyannewood@yahoo.com

Church's Physical Address:
40463 Highway 29
Wynnewood, OK 73098

Mid-Year Meeting around the corner
April 4, 2026
Southgate Baptist Church
Moore, OK.

9:30 - 12 noon
There will be a meal furnished by
Southgate Church
Guest Speaker, Bro. Larry Barker
Host Pastor, Bro. Doug Brewer

UPCOMING EVENTS

BMAO State Midyear Meeting

April 4, 2026

Central Baptist College Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

April 11, 2026

Featuring Southern Gospel
Free Admission
Love offering to offset expenses
See pg 5

BMAA National Meeting

April 21-23
Conway, AR

SOAR Youth Conference

July 1-3
Norman, OK

Kids Camp

July 6-10, 2026
Binger, OK

Baptist Medical Missions Slating Guatemalan Clinics

Baptist Medical Missions International will be serving alongside BMA Changemaker missionary, Bro. David Marroquin, in Guatemala, March 23-30.

Bro. David has strategically planned for our medical team to follow the Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Ministry, focusing our efforts in the Petén region.

In this area, Bro. David is leading a revitalization effort among local churches. BMMI will partner with these churches by setting up medical clinics to serve their communities, offering hope through free healthcare.

Each person who attends the clinics will not only receive medical care, but will also be personally introduced to the local pastor and church, and hear about the love of Jesus.

Our team is committed to providing free healthcare, medications, and eyeglasses...helping open doors for pastors to build relationships and become a trusted presence in their communities.

We invite you to be part of what God is doing through BMMI. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us...through prayer, financial support, or by helping send needed supplies: such as Artificial Tears eye drops, sunglasses and reading glasses.

Every gift and every prayer helps bring both physical healing and eternal hope to those who need it most. Together, we can make an impact that reaches far beyond a single clinic.

Learn more about BMMI and how to give online at

Bmaglobal.org/bmmi

Or send your donation to

**BMMI, PO Box 878
Conway, AR 72034.**

A Fond Farewell to a Faithful Sister in Christ

Inetha Smith Dacus was born September 3, 1932 in the Lindsay area. She passed from this life and went to see her heavenly Father on January 4, 2026 surrounded by her loving family.

At the age of 13, Inetha was saved on Easter Sunday in 1945 and baptized at the First Baptist Church of Lindsay. She faithfully served her Lord throughout her life.

On September 2, 1950, Inetha was married to Elmer Dacus. They enjoyed 69 wonderful years together.

Elmer, Inetha and their family moved to Oklahoma City in 1961. They were members of Jefferson Heights Baptist Church (now New Heights Baptist Church) in Oklahoma City, then joined Southgate Baptist Church. They were charter members of this church.

In 1974 they moved back to Lindsay and served in the Missionary Baptist Church there. She served in GMA, WMA, as well as teaching Sunday School, VBS, visitation, and other areas. Inetha spent many hours reading and studying the Bible, having read the Bible through many times.

Many pastors and missionaries enjoyed Sunday meals at her house through her kindness and hospitality. Inetha loved being a homemaker. She never tired from doing good for others.

She enjoyed sewing, quilting, crocheting, crafts, scrapbooking, and attending the activities and events of the grandkids, and great grandkids. Many family members have been gifted with beautiful quilts and handmade items.

Inetha enjoyed keeping records of many different things. Recently, we discovered she had recorded after crocheting a tablecloth, that it had taken her 100 hours to complete, and 12 skeins of crochet thread.

Inetha is survived by her five children and their spouses. Many grand children and great grandchildren. Her children are: Debbie and Dennis Clark, Marilyn and Bruce Traylor, Elaine and Don Nicholson, Brian Dacus, Jennifer and Mickey Smith.

It is such a wonderful blessing to know Moma is enjoying being with her Heavenly Father and her loved ones.

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"I Was Just Thinkin' "

By Narita Roady

"When a Spider's Web Became a Stone Wall"

The sounds of cannon balls crashing around was deafening and smoke, filled the air. Robert the Bruce, a young soldier, found himself in the midst of a horrific battle during the Scottish Reformation around the year 1300. There was no denying it; his army was being thoroughly defeated by their enemies.

Chaos reigned around him as he and his fellow soldiers found themselves swiftly retreating, fearing for their lives. The enemy was in hot pursuit.

Running with all his might it was a while before he realized he had been separated from his comrades.

Quickly he ran up a tall ridge and saw some small caves in the rocks. Exhausted from fleeing, and with nowhere else to go, he crawled into one of the grottos to hide.

Within moments the enemy would swarm the area looking for him. He knew they would search the caves and if found he would be killed.

Trembling the young soldier prayed as he awaited his fate. *"God, please protect me if it is your will. Please know no matter what your will may be, I love you and put my trust in you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."*

In anticipation of his adversaries, he anxiously turned his eyes toward the opening of the cave. There he spotted a little spider beginning to weave its web. He watched as the spider unhurriedly spread its fragile strands across the

opening of the cave.

He chuckled to himself as the thought, *"What a sense of humor you have God. I asked You for protection, a wall of stones is what I need and You sent me a spider! How could a tiny spider rescue me?"*

All too soon he heard the shouts and heavy footsteps of his enemies, as they scoured the terrain looking for men hiding.

A soldier, weapon in hand, slowly approached the entrance of the cave. Crouching in the back of the cave, trying to blend in with the darkness the young man held his breath and prayed.

If worse came to worse, he would make one last desperate attempt to catch the enemy off guard and save his life. He knew his chances for survival were slim.

His heart felt as if it would pound right out of his chest. Cautiously the enemy was drawing near to enter the cave, until he saw the spider's web.

The diligent little spider had completed her task and her web now completely covered the cave entry.

"No one can be in there," he shouted as he backed away. *"This spider web would have been broken had anyone entered the cave,"* he continued as the troop moved on.

When he was sure they were gone, the soldier fell to his face and with great sobs, cried to God, *"Forgive me Lord, I*

should have remembered that a spider's web in Your Hands is stronger than any stone wall."



This is a true story. Years later someone wrote about Robert's ordeal and penned these words we should all remember:

"Where God is, a spider's web is as a stone wall. Where God is not, a stone wall is as a spider's web."

Often times in life we find ourselves in situations where we are trying to out run our problems. An army may not be chasing us to kill us but it can certainly feel that way.

Our heart races, fear overwhelm us, and we feel we have no place to hide. We experience helplessness and vulnerability. We yearn for security but find none.

Our difficulty lies not in our lack of safety, but in seeking it in the wrong places. We have only to look up to God. He and He alone can provide us with the protection we need.

The flesh seeks to do things in its own strength and look to outward circumstances. The Lord wants us to look only to Him. Even if we think we see external conditions are favorable, He wants us to look only to Him.

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
Psalms 20:7

He loves impossible situations to show Himself strong. The Bible is filled with examples of saints that were protected super naturally.

We have all read the Bible stories for years, some of us having heard them in Primary Sunday School class. Somehow our familiarity with them has dulled our hearts to the awesome display of God's protection and power in the lives of

(*"Spider's Web,"* cont on pg 7)

***"Has your battle been long and hard?
Do you feel you have no more strength to go on?
You don't have to, God will give you strength
and literally hold you up."***

BMA Volunteer Student Missions Introducing Teens to the Field



By Angela Rice

This summer, more than 80 students are stepping out in faith to serve around the world through Volunteer Student Missions. Each one carries the hope of the gospel to different places and people who need to hear the name of Jesus.

Recently, these students gathered at Cold Springs Camp for a time of training, preparation, and encouragement. It was more than just learning logistics, it was a time of spiritual growth, surrender, and calling.

As they sat around tables, listening and learning, seeds were being planted that could shape the rest of their lives.

Training sessions covered essential areas like security, logistics, team dynamics, and evangelism—all vital for serving effectively alongside missionaries on the field.

Preparing for what God has called them to do is not just important—it is part of their obedience. Every lesson, every conversation, and every moment was equipping these students to go with confidence and purpose.

We were also honored to have our missions host from Costa Rica, Luis Ortega, and his family join us for the weekend. They poured into our students, teaching mission strategies and helping them think deeply about how to share the gospel in different cultural contexts.

Each team spent intentional time studying the culture they will be serving in, prayerfully developing the best ways to minister with love, respect, and effectiveness.

Throughout the weekend, students spent time in prayer, planning, training, and team building—growing not only in knowledge, but in unity and dependence on the Lord.

It was a powerful reminder that God is already at work, preparing hearts both in those who are going and those who will receive them.

During the weekend, Dr. John David Smith shared a compelling message on the importance of missions, challenging students to look beyond this summer and consider a lifetime of service. His words stirred hearts and opened eyes to what God might be calling them into long-term.

We are praying that among those seated at the tables, God is raising up lifelong missionaries, men and women who will boldly say “yes” to His call.

I am so thankful that God gives our young people these opportunities to serve alongside our BMA missionaries. He is shaping their hearts, strengthening their faith, and using them in ways that will have eternal impact.

We are also incredibly grateful for the faithful leaders who have dedicated their time to pour into these students—guiding them, encouraging them, and walking with them as they prepare to go.

Would you join us in prayer?

Pray for these students and leaders as they prepare to go; that they would walk in boldness, humility, and deep dependence on the Lord.

Pray for the people they will encounter, that hearts would be ready to receive the gospel.

And pray that God would continue to call and send workers into His harvest, perhaps even from this very group.

Let's go VSM!

VSM's Gateway
to Missions

Central Baptist College Hosts *Old Fashioned Hymn Sing*

Central Baptist College will host an Old Fashioned Hymn Sing at 6pm, Saturday, April 11, 2026, in Burgess Auditorium on the CBC campus.

The event will feature Southern Gospel groups Hallelujah Harmony Quartet, HisStory, The Holcomb Family and The Representatives.

Admission is free and open to the public. A love offering will be received to help offset the groups' expenses.

The evening is designed to celebrate the rich heritage of congregational hymn singing and to encourage fellowship among alumni, church partners, donors and friends of the college.

"The hymns of the church proclaim timeless biblical truth and remind us of the faithfulness of God across generations," said Dr. Jeremy Langley, president of Central Baptist College.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to welcome our churches and community back to campus for an evening centered on worship and encouragement."

The event will be held in Burgess Auditorium, located at 1501 College Ave. in Conway. Seating will be available on a first come, first served basis.

For more information about the Hymn Sing or other events at Central Baptist College, visit cbc.edu/events.

Founded in 1952, Central Baptist College is a four-year, private Christian liberal arts college committed to transforming lives through Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.



CENTRAL
BAPTIST COLLEGE



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"A Modern Dictator"

I'm sure when you saw my title you pictured some harsh ruler in some far away country. However, I had something a little closer to home in mind. The dictator I want to tell you about is sitting on my desk, with one big eye.

Sitting beside him is the actual brain of the outfit. I don't usually even look at the brains which apparently offends him, so he will make a weird noise once in awhile just to let me know he's still there and actually in charge.

Sometimes it is something like he is clearing his throat, which is enough for me to look his way. However, once in awhile the noise sounds serious and sends a shiver down my spine as I visualize major surgery.

But, apparently all he wanted was my attention because he will go back to a silent purr. I can almost hear him snicker and say, "Just kidding."

The truly irritating thing about this dictator is he has a keyboard extended toward me. This is to give me the impression I actually control him. But he and I both know better.

Most of the time he will do whatever I ask, but ever so often he will unplug the keyboard just to see how long it will take me to figure out why he is not responding. He doesn't usually do that until after he has lulled me into the misconception that he is there for my every wish and command...and voila!

There I am hammering on the keyboard and nothing is happening on the screen. When I get pretty good at figuring that one out, he will do something else very insidious.

He will just quit responding and sit there with a small dash blinking away in that big ol' eye, waiting for me to try to figure this one out.

By now you know the dictator I'm

talking about is my computer. I know it's a dictator because just a few minutes ago it put out a message on the screen.

"There are unused un-used icons on your display (or some such computer term), click on the bubble to clean up your display."

I'll do that later, I thought, and I clicked on the X to get rid of the bubble. The bubble disappeared and I started to continue my work. Nothing happened! Then, the bubble message popped back up.

"All right, all right," I exclaimed, as I clicked on the bubble.

My dictator proceeded to show me which icons I needed to remove. I obediently agreed. When I had done what he wanted, he let me go back to the work I wanted to do.

This is probably humorous to YOU,



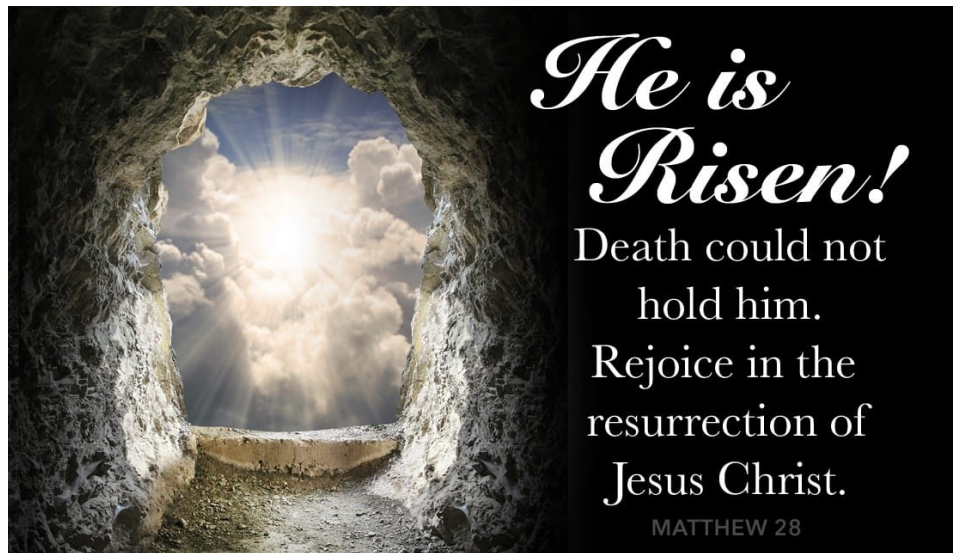
because it happened to ME! I'm convinced some of these things are permitted to come upon us so that we know we are not really in charge of our own destiny. We humans like to think we control everything around us, but there are lessons on every hand to tell us that's not the case.

Great illustrations were the Murrah Building bombing in 1995 and again in the 2001 September 11th attack. In those we were all shown how vulnerable and helpless we were.

For children of God it was just a reminder of something we already knew. James 4:14, "...for what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away."

But for those who were unsaved, it was such a blow that many of them have never gotten over it. Our answer was in Psalm 62:8.

"Trust in Him at all times ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us."



“Spider’s Web,” cont from pg 3

people just like us.

God does not need earthly weapons or man’s strength to shield us. Everything in creation is at His disposal and His command, just as the spider proved in protecting the young soldier. While He may choose to use those things we can see or touch, His strength does not depend on them for our deliverance.

Yes the spider protecting Robert the Bruce is amazing, but no more amazing than a young lad using a smooth stone from a brook to kill a 9 foot giant whose weapon was a spear with a 15 pound head. In doing so he defeated a whole army.

1 Samuel 17:37-51

Or consider how astounding it is that an entire nation of millions of people on foot trapped at the Red Sea, no place to run, pursued by an angry Egyptian army, escapes by the sea parting and them walking across it.

Think a young man also taken into captivity by the enemy, forced to live and be trained for the king’s personal benefit, refusing to stop worshiping His Lord, found himself with an overnight stay in a den of hungry lions.

God delivered Him by shutting the mouths of the lions. How did He do it, I have no idea, but no man could have ever accomplished it. **Daniel 6:11-23**

What about three youth in **Daniel 3:8-27** who were also captured with Daniel who refused to bow down to worship a golden image found themselves bound and thrown into a fiery furnace heated so hot that the men who threw them in died from the heat.

This would be expected considering the temperature of a Babylonian brick kiln

could have been 1300°C! Yet these three men were unharmed **“nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.”! Daniel 3:27**

These are just a few examples of God’s protection of His people. Because He protected them we can rest assured He will do the same for us! None of us face such peril for our lives as did these faithful Bible servants.

Were they afraid? I believe they were, for they were made of the same flesh we are. Life’s troubles bring the fear of *“what if”* to torment us and Satan furnishes the terrifying thoughts of what might happen.

You must recognize that, *“Courage is not the absence of fear. It is acting in spite of it.” (Mark Twain)*

This is spiritual warfare, not just physical threats! To be victorious we must see each fear as an opportunity to turn to God in trust!

“Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.” Psalms 115:11

The battle may be hard with your emotions and thoughts running amuck, but your Sword will be a mighty weapon. **“. . . and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” Ephesians 6:17b**

Are you facing something frightening right now? God encourages and comforts you in **Deuteronomy 31:6**, **“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor**

forsake thee.”

He is going through it with you; He won’t let you down! These are promises from the Creator of the universe!!

Do you want to run and hide but you feel you have no place to escape. The Lord offers you refuge.

“Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.”

Psalms 57:1

Does it seem everyone and everything is against you? That the enemy has the upper hand and you have no hope of overcoming?

Just as unseen Hands protected those in the fiery furnace, they are at work protecting you also. You have God’s Word.

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 54:17

Has your battle been long and hard? Do you feel you have no more strength to go on? You don’t have to, God will give you strength and literally hold you up.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Isaiah 41:10

There is no way you can know how God will protect you, nor when your dilemma may end. Yes, you may have to go through suffering and heartache, but that is not the end result.

Know you are fully equipped to face whatever has come your way and be victorious! Search the scriptures now! God is waiting for you to find and claim His promises, comfort, and reassurance!

“The flesh seeks to do things in its own strength and look to outward circumstances. The Lord wants us to look only to Him.”

Joe & Mira Costa

OUR MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST



Hello everyone, I pray this finds you well. As you all know, we are in an all out war in an already volatile Middle East. It's been a hard few days for millions who have been displaced & devastated by what is happening.

Earlier this morning, Lebanon officially entered the war and was hit in different parts, mainly in the South, the Bekaa Valley, and the Southern suburbs of Beirut.

What was once just rumors and hearsay has become a reality! Thousands have fled their homes once again and are in need of shelter and basic needs.

Things are bad and people feel hopeless, helpless and broken. It's so hard to see what the Lebanese people have been through in the last six years. Yet we know our God is good & His mercies endure forever. We trust Him and His timing and plan.

As for us, we are safe and are doing well. We have changed our strategy

online for the time being and have focused on posting relatable content that can hopefully act as a comforting voice in hard and cruel circumstances.

We will also be assessing the situation and how we can help people who have been displaced and are in dire need.

Please continue to pray for us as we continue to serve the Lebanese people and continue to love them like Jesus.

Please pray for protection and for this war & bloodshed to end!

Pray for the displaced as they are removed from their homes and loved ones.

Pray that we can be a beacon of light to them and show them who truly our God is.

If you would like to contribute and help us minister to those who are displaced, please contact me:

joe.costa88@gmail.com

or you can simply donate to:

<https://app.securegive.com/BMAMissions/main/donate/category?>

