

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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Number 5

## “Love Lost”

By Chris Gonthier  
BMAO Moral Action

Revelation 2:4, “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”

Too often we allow ourselves to lose focus and become distracted by issues that have little importance or no relevance to what we are called to be or do.

Matthew 6:33 tells us, “but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

People will be quick to claim they are seeking the kingdom of God, but they forget the righteousness part. How dedicated are we to following God?

In Genesis 6 the Bible gives record of the sad state to which humanity had fallen.

“And God saw that the wickedness

of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil

continually.” (verse 5)

Society had sank to a point that God was upset with mankind. He made the decision to destroy the earth and all that was on it.

Most of us are very well acquainted with the story of the great flood and the boat that Noah built. The question I want us to consider is, “Why Noah?”

It is obvious that there were multitudes on the earth in those days, so why did God choose Noah?



Verse 8 tells us, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” It is all about grace. In verse 14 we see God telling Noah to build the ark. Subsequent verses give the details that must be followed.

Verses 14-16 give us the description of how the boat was to be built. God gave specific details, and each detail was specific and necessary.

None of us will ever be called to build an ark to save mankind, but each of us is called for a purpose.

Imagine how each and every compartment was to be built to preserve every species of animal.

Imagine if Noah had left some out, or perhaps even skipped steps.

As we try to answer the call of God on our lives, we must realize there are general commands in the Bible that are given to all believers. There are also some unique callings that are placed on each individual's life.

Noah was specifically called to build the ark, and each of us have our own specific callings.

Verse 22 tells us, “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” Do we do all that God commands us to do?

Noah's obedience led to God declaring him to be righteous. Genesis 7:1, “And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”

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**“Noah made preparations and his family was spared.  
God is calling us to help mankind prepare  
for the judgement that is coming.  
We must pay attention to the details  
of God's call for our lives so we may positively impact  
those that are around us.”**

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(“Love Lost,” cont on pg 8)

# "From the Pastor's Pen"

By Wearthly Shank

"...Press Toward the Mark"

here idle till I am ready to send for him, don't you worry about it. I want you to follow me."

John 21:20

"Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? 21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? 22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me."

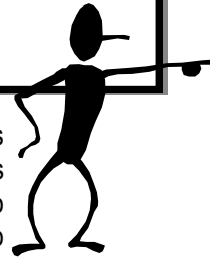
I have used this passage in several sermons when preaching on an individual's service or labor to illustrate the need to do the work that God has set before us as individual servants of God.

We, being people, sometimes begin to worry more about what other Christians are doing than what God has set before us to do ourselves.

Jesus has said on various occasions to "let your light shine" or "Go ye therefore and preach the gospel..." or "go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in".

The point is, God has set some labor before us and He expects us to "pick up the mantle" [so to speak] and run with it.

In the text, Peter questions Jesus about what He has for John to do. Jesus asks Peter, "If I have him remain



Don't be like Peter here! Don't concern yourself with what others are or are not doing. Scripture tells us that we will all give an account OF OURSELVES, not of or for anyone else.

I have challenged the church to "Everyone invite one." Have you?

**Think about it!!**

## Dear Churches of the BMA of America

I am very humbled at your recent vote to elect me as your president this year. This is not an office I desired, but I accept it as God's Will and direction. I pledge to you to do my best with the Lord's help and guidance. I ask of you the same two things asked of the churches I have pastored: 1) remember I am human and 2) be sure to pray for me.

I was born in 1952 to godly parents who started their married life in 1930 as tenant farmers in East Texas. I graduated from Jacksonville College in 1972 and worked in teaching, coaching, maintenance, and administrative positions in public schools for forty years while also serving as a bi-vocational pastor. Since 2015, have been in the full-time pastorate.

In 1972, God gave me a top-notch helpmate when I married Charlotte Harrell a "P-K" whose daddy Melvin Harrell was a longtime, faithful BMA pastor in Wood County, Liberty, and Hopkins County Associations in northeast Texas. We have been blessed with a son Dr. David Johnson of Tyler, TX, a daughter and son-in-law Mary Ann and Brian Mauk who are both educators and church youth directors, and two granddaughters Triniti and Allie Mauk.

I was saved at age 12 during a revival meeting held by Bro. Mike Reed. I surrendered to preach at age 16 during a revival meeting held by my uncle Don Hymer. I was ordained to the Gospel ministry in March 1971 while attending school in Jacksonville. I have been privileged to serve as pastor of three BMA churches in the past fifty-three years and am going on year 40 at my current field at Rosewood Baptist Church-Gilmer, TX. I have been in the BMA my entire earthly life plus nine months! My grandmother Zelma Hymer was a messenger in 1950 at Lakeland, Florida, when the BMA (then NABA) was formed. I love and believe in the work and ministries of the BMA at all levels.

Please mark your calendars for April 22-24, 2025, which will be our next annual national association meeting at Pathway Baptist Church in Waxahachie, TX. Preliminary plans are already being developed around a theme of the importance of local churches.

**Brotherly, Charles Johnson**

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# *"I Was Just Thinkin' "*

By Narita Roady

## *"Thank You! I Did It All Myself"*



When the request went out for volunteers to contribute to the Ladies' Group bake sale, Sylvia quickly committed to baking a cake. She was new in the community and church and wanted very much to be accepted.

All was fine and good until the morning of the sale she realized she had forgotten. In a panic, she dug through her cabinets and to her relief found an angel food cake mix. Quickly she mixed it up, had it baking while she dressed for work.

All seemed to be going well until the timer went off and she removed the cake from the oven.

It was a mess! The center was flat and the cake was horribly deformed! She was caught between a rock and a hard place. If she took the cake or failed to bring one, either way she would leave a bad first impression.

There was definitely no time to bake another cake.

Then she had a brilliant idea! She would build up the center of the cake with something and ice it, but what could she use? Rushing through the house she found the ideal apparatus, a roll of toilet paper!

Placing it in the middle of the woe be gone cake, she covered it with lots of icing. Not only was it stunning, it looked like a perfect cake!

As she was leaving the house to take her masterpiece to the church and set off for work, she gave her daughter, money

and some very precise guidelines. Her daughter was to be at the bake sale exactly at opening, buy the cake, bring it home, and throw it in the trash.

Being an obedient girl she did exactly as she was told, but to her horror, she found the cake had already been sold!

When she called her mother and told her Sylvia felt sick. Lying in bed that night she couldn't sleep. What would they think of her now?

She envisioned the gossip and rejection she would face. Now she would never be a part of her new church!

The next day she struggled to push any thoughts of the cake fiasco out of her mind as she focused on an elite bridal shower in honor of a wealthy church member's daughter. The influential had made it clear that Sylvia was beneath her.

The luncheon was very sumptuous and the guests definitely upper class. All went well until dessert. There on the beautiful crystal plate in a place of honor, sat Sylvia's cake!! She felt faint.

The Christian thing to do was to warn her hostess no matter what the consequences to herself. As she was about to do so, she heard the Mayor's wife exclaim, "My! What a beautiful cake!"

Sylvia sat in silent shock when she heard the hostess say, "Thank you, I baked it myself!"

We can't help but share in Sylvia's moment of seeing her bully get her "come-uppance." The assumption is she received her "just desserts" (pardon the pun) by trying to take credit for something she did not do.

In fact nothing is quite as annoying as seeing someone slurp up the praise and glory that rightfully belongs to another.

Face it, we all love praise, to be in the limelight, don't we? Praise makes employees work harder, children have a great desire to mind and cooperate, and even animals are obedient and behaved.

A moment of glory either perceived or experienced is powerfully intoxicating to our fleshly nature. We crave recognition from our peers. So what can be wrong with it?

I think we first have to look and see who really deserves credit. Searching the scriptures reveals that God is the one that should receive the glory. The very fact that we can breath, walk, talk, exist is due to God!

Not one scrap of our existence can be attributed to us!

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, . . . . Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"

Acts 17:24a-25

Our Heavenly Father gives so lavishly as well as freely, we have become so accustomed to His generosity and have forgotten all we are, is due to Him.

At the bottom of all this is that nasty ol' sin called PRIDE. Plain and simple, giving ourselves credit for God's success, is nothing more than pride. When we are filled with self-importance, we are worshipping self, not God.

Exodus 34:14 tells us that won't work

("I Did It All Myself," cont on pg 7)

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***"Try though we may, there is no part of our life that we can excel in without God. From the biggest achievement to the smallest, most insignificant action, without Him we could do nothing."***

# CBC Honoring Students & Staff

## Central Baptist College Honors Seven in White Coat Ceremony

The Central Baptist College Math and Science Department recognized seven students for their academic excellence by awarding them with white coats in a private ceremony held Monday, April 1. This event marked the twelfth White Coat Ceremony to be held by the College.

Each student achieved academic excellence, completing rigorous academic requirements set forth by Math and Science Department faculty, and was approved as a recipient for their white coat.

“At most institutions, the white coat ceremony is a rite of passage; it is a way of welcoming new students into the medical profession,” said Dr. Gary McAllister, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“At Central Baptist College, the white coat symbolizes the high expectations that science faculty have for their students. This ceremony is intended to impress upon our students the need to excel in their study of science, to love others and show compassion, and to pursue their profession with diligence and integrity.”

The 2024 ceremony included a prayer of blessing led by Amber Smith, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, and the presentation of the honorees and their white coats by department faculty and the 2023 white coat members.

The 2024 White Coat Class is listed below with their major:

- Eliza Derryberry, Associate of Arts Science Emphasis

- Kyle Germann, Bachelor of Science in Biology
- Cameron Hardin, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences
- Ashley Henderson, Bachelor of Science in Biology
- Hannah Long, Bachelor of Arts in Biology
- Allie McWhorter, Bachelor of Science in Biology
- Madalyn Tubbs, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Central Baptist College Math and Science Department faculty include Judy Gabbard, Math and Science Department Chair and Professor of Science; Dr. Katherine Gasaway, Associate Professor of Chemistry; Dr. Rachel Scott, Associate Professor of Biology; and Dr. Mi-Seon Seong, Associate Professor of Biology.

From the Math and Science Department, Central Baptist College offers the following bachelor's degrees.

Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Bachelor of Science in Biology, Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biosciences. Additionally, minors are offered in Biology, Chemistry, Math, and Science.

To learn more about the Math and Science Department at Central Baptist College visit [cbc.edu](http://cbc.edu) or contact

CBC Admissions at  
**[admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu)**  
or **501-329-6873**.

## Fall Semester Registration

Spring is here and so is fall registration! Current students will now be able to meet with their faculty

advisors and set their fall 2024 schedule.

Incoming students that are working through the enrollment process will also be registering for classes the following week.

In addition to creating their schedules they will also register for an orientation event called Connect Day. This extremely helpful event will prepare students and parents for success.

The following dates have been set; April 23 and June 12. More dates will be released in the coming weeks.

To learn more about Connect Days, visit [cbc.edu/connect](http://cbc.edu/connect).

High School Seniors that have not started the enrollment process, there is still time to apply!

Visit [cbc.edu/apply](http://cbc.edu/apply) to start the application process.

Contact admissions at

**[admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu)**  
or call **501.329.6873**

with any questions.

## CBC Recognizes Students and Employees

As our mission statement says, Central Baptist College is committed to transforming lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

As a result, we find joy in recognizing this and other types of excellence on our campus. Recently we had the opportunity to commend the success and excellence displayed by both our student body and our employees.

On Wednesday, April 10, we held our annual Academic Awards Ceremony in Burgess auditorium where we acknowledged the academic success of several students.

At the beginning of the ceremony, all students on the Dean's list and President's list were recognized.

The Business Department recognized students in four categories.

(“CBC Honors,” cont on pg 5)



**CENTRAL**  
BAPTIST COLLEGE



## “CBC Honors” cont from pg 4

William Palmer received the Arkansas Society of CPAs’ scholarship award; Randall Anthony Portoni, Alyssa Lynn Hagedwood, and Annesta Richarda were recognized as Honor Graduates; Katie Danielle Smith received the Outstanding Graduate Award; and Ruben Hernandez and Bryson Jones received the Servant Leader Award.

The Behavioral Science Department recognized Eden Brister, Ashleigh Daugherty, and Hannah Varnado with the Outstanding Students in Psychology Award.

The Communications Department recognized the Tower Media Leadership Team consisting of Lydia Dunlap, Mason Crymes, Kailey Sullivan, Grace Vandergriff, and Hannah Varnado. Candyce Slayton then received the Outstanding Student in Communications Award.

The Literature and Language Arts Department presented four awards. Mason Crymes, Kris Mallory, Emily Pharr, and Paige West received the Creative Writing Award; Josh Ramirez and Anna Battenfield received the Dedicated Student Award; Parker Tebo received the Critical Thinker Award; and Mason Crymes received the Outstanding English Award.

The Math and Science Department presented two awards. Ashley Henderson received the Outstanding Student in Mathematics award; and Lauren McGinley received the Outstanding Science Graduate Award. White Coat Recipients Eliza Derryberry, Kylie Germann, Cameron Hardin, Ashley Henderson, Hannah Long, Allie McWhorter, and Madalyn Tubbs were also recognized.

The Kinesiology Department presented the Kinesiology Award to Austin LeJeune and recognized his perfect 4.0 GPA.

Lastly, the Music and Fine Arts Department recognized two students. Caleb Allen received the Outstanding Recital Award; and AJ Woodraska received the Outstanding Musician Award.

### Employee Awards

On Monday, April 15, we held our annual Employee Appreciation and Awards Luncheon. During this event, we recognized faculty and staff for their years of service and presented numerous awards to our faithful employees on campus.

First, President Kimbrow presented the President’s Awards.



The Behind-the-Scenes Award was presented to Dr. Larry Henderson; the Award for Professionalism was presented to Dr. Deandria Bass-Carrigan; the Award for Loyalty was presented to Judy Gabbard; the Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Sam Kohnke and Dr. Rachel Scott.

The Award for Teamwork was presented to Lisa Padgett; the Award for Dedication was presented to Paul Cherry; the Award for Excellence was presented to Chad Smith; the Award for Leadership was presented to Steve Elder; and the FRED Award was presented to Kylie Williams.

Next, Dr. Gary McAllister presented the Academic Awards. Steve Elder, Melissa Starkey, and Dr. Deandria Bass-Carrigan were recognized as Division Winners, and Melissa Starkey received the Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award.

Lastly, the 2024 Employee of the Year was announced.

The nominees this year were Lynsey Brown, Dana Dowdy, Erik Holth, Brian Kolde, Sam Kohnke, Lisa Padgett, Billie Rodriguez, and Kylie Williams.

The winner was Dana Dowdy who received the award for her loyalty, work ethic, positive attitude, and professionalism.

We are very happy to have recognized the hard work of these students and employees and want to congratulate them all once again on these well-deserved awards.

**SOAR'24**  
**ALL IN**  
July 3-5, 2024  
Live! by Loews in Arlington, TX

# "That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

## "Honking Horns and Ringing Phones"

When we bought a Grand Prix in 1995, it came with a remote locking unit. My wife really liked the idea of unlocking it from a distance before she got to it.

I thought it was alright for her but since I carry the car keys in my pocket, I didn't want a remote control on my set of keys to the car.

When I replaced my 1989 S-10 pickup with a 1997 Sonoma, they offered me a remote control locking device (for a few dollars more!) Lelia told me I ought to get it because it was so handy, but I turned it down.

I explained since I carry my keys in my pocket I would probably accidentally unlock the pickup by pressing against the button while it was in my pocket.

When we replaced the 1995 Grand Prix with a Montana van it came with two sets of remote locking units, so I got one whether I wanted it or not.

Since the Montana had a remote activated sliding side door, it wasn't long until I would go to the garage to get in the car and find the sliding door standing open. Or, I would find all the doors locked while the vehicle was parked in the garage. I had accidentally locked the doors or activated the sliding door by getting against the button on the remote control unit while it was in my pocket.

Since I never read the instructions unless absolutely forced to I later made an unexpected discovery. No one had told me about it and I hadn't read the instructions on the remote control unit so I didn't know the remote control units have alarm buttons on them.

If you touch that, even lightly, it will set the horn honking. That was very unnerving the first time I was sitting in our living room holding the baby.

Suddenly the horn began honking in the garage. I had to recognize what it was,

figure out why it was honking, then fish the key out of my pocket and then push the unlock button to get the horn to stop honking.

By that time I suspect everyone in the neighborhood was wondering about it.

That reminds me of an embarrassing moment with my cell phone. Several years ago I had gone to Baptist Hospital to visit my cousin in ICU. There was a sign outside the entrance door stating, "Please turn off all cell phones before entry."

I did that and went in. Several others were there. One of the ICU nurses walked past the door talking on a cell phone.

One of the visitors said aloud, "I thought cell phones were to be turned



off in here." I said, "That's what the sign on the door said, and I turned mine off when I came in."

I had no sooner stated that fact when my cell phone rang. Although I was very embarrassed by it everyone else laughed. I checked the display on my phone and it was still on.

Then I realized in order to turn it off I was supposed to give the command "Off" and then

punch another button to actually turn it off. If you didn't do that the phone would do what machines are notorious for doing. Whatever they want! It just stayed on.

It's almost humorous today with so many cell phones to be in a crowd and a cell phone suddenly rings. Frantically everyone in the room starts grabbing purses and checking pockets to see if they're the "lucky" one getting the call.

I say "almost humorous" because sometimes it happens in the church, and that's not funny.

## Bethany, Tulsa Hosts BMAO Midyear Meeting

BMAO Midyear Meeting was held at Bethany Missionary in Tulsa, April 6, 2024.

President and Bethany Pastor opened our meeting with song and Scripture, and moved to the business at hand.

One issue regarded the changing of support to the Grace Harbor Church in Yukon, OK. Another was concerning the possibility of making changes to the schedule during the annual meeting in October. If you have questions or input about the October meeting please contact Bro. Langley.

This was followed by our guest speaker, Director of the BMA Chaplaincy, and President of Southeaster Baptist College of Laurel, MS, Dr. Scott Carson. Dr. Carson spoke to us about the positive efforts and effectiveness of chaplaincy work in our military, and about the future possibilities at the college where he serves.

The annual meeting will be held at Grace Harbor, Yukon, October 4-5 .





# “I Did It All Myself,” cont from pg 3

with Him. He is the only one deserving our worship.

“For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:”

Stop for one minute and think. Name one thing that is possible without God empowering us?

“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?”

1 Corinthians 4:7

Whatever God has blessed us with be it financially, physically, mentally, spiritually, was entrusted to us for His work and His glory. Not ours. Therefore, what do we have to glory in? Nothing, absolutely nothing.

Do you pat yourself on the back for seeing and taking advantage of opportunities that come your way?

Why? God is the one that sent them your way and alerted you that they were

there. He guided you and blessed you with the resources and abilities to prosper. So, who should get the glory?

Are you sprouting a few peacock feathers, gloating over your success in your job and career?

Why? Your skills and talents were given to you by the Lord, not through any doing of our own. So who should get the glory?

In Matthew 25:14-30, God makes it very clear these gifts are His and to be used to glorify Him.

Are you busting your buttons over how great your children behave, their athletic excellence, good grades, and godly standards?

Let the air out and remember, you may have raised your sweet babes, but God gave you the wisdom to train them. All their opportunities and ingenuity came from Him also. You can thank God for the work He has done in them, but can you honestly take the credit?

Are you puffed up by the home you

live in, the car you drive, the clothing you wear, your bank account?

“Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.”

Ecclesiastes 5:19

The truth is that ALL things belong to Him and He is good enough to share them with us.

“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Haggai 2:8

Does this not make it even more fitting that He receive the credit for all we have? Does a feeling of superiority swell up within because you have good health or are especially proficient in a hobby or sport?

If you believe it is due to your eating habits, disciplined exercise or consistent practice then ask yourself this. Who provided your food and knowledge of good nutrition? Who endowed you with a healthy body and a sharp mind? In view of this, do you deserve any credit for your condition or performance?

Try though we may, there is no part of our life that we can excel in without God. From the biggest achievement to the smallest, most insignificant action, without Him we could do nothing.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

We were created by Him, for His glory and for nothing else. He deserves all the glory and all the praise in every situation.

Next time someone gives you the high five or applause comes your way. Remember where your victory really comes from and direct their adoration to Him.

“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.”

Psalms 115:1



## Master's Builders at Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church

Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church in Cassville, MO, needed help with the framing and sheet rocking of the interior of their new 80'X100' metal building, and we began work on April 8. The building includes four classrooms, a nursery, an office, a stage, a baptistry, a storage room, restrooms, lobby, and a large second story storage area. This was job #188 for the Master's Builders, which began their ministry in 1991 with a job in Delores, CO.

# “Love Lost” *cont from pg 1*

If God needed someone that was dependable and trustworthy, could God depend on you? If God needed to impact this generation, who would he call?

The truth is God is calling us for a greater purpose and that is to share the gospel before it is too late.

The condition of the world closely resembles that of the time just prior to the flood. Just as judgement fell upon mankind during the flood, we all face

judgement.

Noah made preparations and his family was spared. God is calling us to help mankind prepare for the

judgement that is coming.

We must pay attention to the details of God’s call for our lives so we may positively impact those that are around us.

Can God depend on you? Or will you miss the boat?

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***“Too often we allow ourselves to lose focus and become distracted by issues that have little importance or no relevance to what we are called to be or do.”***

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Southeast OK District Camp**  
June 3-7  
Camp Goddard  
Sulphur, OK

**SOAR**  
BMAA National Youth  
July 3-5, 2024  
Live! by Loews  
Arlington, TX

**Kids Camp**  
July 15-19  
Camp Cedar Hills  
Binger, OK

2024 BMAO

**KIDS  
CAMP**

JULY 15-19, 2024  
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