

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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## “A Baptist Distinctive”

By Chris Gonthier, Moral Action

We live in a troubled world with many complex issues facing us today. As Baptists it can be quite difficult at times to know what, or even if, we should do something.

Add to the fact that timing can be a critical factor, it can be enough to make a sane person crazy, or a crazy person find sanity in what society considers normal.

One distinctive of being a Baptist is the freedom of choice, freewill being a fundamental concept. So how do we know what to do, and what we should expect of others? Let me be clear, there are some fundamental doctrines which we must share if we are going to fellowship, one with another.

Salvation by grace and through faith being perhaps the most obvious. Ephesian 2:8-9 says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Eternal security of the believer is also very important. It is of utmost importance that we accept the fact that we are saved by grace and the Lord keeps us saved. We also see in these verses that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.

Another cardinal doctrine we as associational Baptists hold to is the autonomy of the local body. There are

other important doctrines besides these, but these give an idea of some of the types of fundamental doctrines we cling to.

Now let us discuss further the concept of freedom of choice as it pertains to Baptist polity.

### Church Covenant

*Man, having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.*

*We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.*

*We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid*

*all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.*

*We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.*

*We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant, and the principles of God's Word churches have posted on the wall a church covenant.*

(If I am not mistaken John Newton Brown wrote this in 1853).

The year 1853 was a different time and there are opportunities for immorality that did not exist 175 years ago. One of these is centered around videos, movies and the cinema.

We also have social media and the vast reservoir of evil it offers to choose from. So, whereas we have agreed to abstain from certain things, this should in no way be considered an all-inclusive list of things which we need to abstain from.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” So basically, if it is evil, we should stay away from it. This would insulate us from the harmful effects it would have on us.

Most would agree with this biblical principle, but the application of this abstinence would be much varied.

Let us first consider the current Olympic games and the “Last Supper” debate. Couple this with the “golden calf” front and center of the stage and it makes you wonder.

When several things are pulled from Christianity and flaunted in a way that is displeasing to the Lord one must determine if it was intentional. Some will

(“Baptist Distinctive,” cont on pg 5)

# "From the Pastor's Pen"

By Wearthly Shank

"If Christ Visited Your Home"

## Read Luke 19:1-10

Jesus said in verse 5, "today, I must abide in thy house."

You can learn much about a person by paying an unexpected visit to his home. The things you see and hear are very revealing.

At one time Jesus told a man named Zacchaeus that He must visit his house.

I recall this article as the late Porter Wagoner recited it in melody of song.

*"If Jesus came to your home  
to spend a day or two*



## The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

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*If He came unexpectedly,  
I wonder what you'd do?*

*I know you'd give your nicest room  
to such a honored guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him  
would be your very best.*

*And you would keep assuring Him  
you're glad to have Him there  
That serving Him in your own home  
is joy beyond compare?*

*But when you saw Him standing there,  
could you go to the door  
with arms out stretched  
to welcome Him,  
your Heavenly Visitor?*

*Or would you have  
to change some things  
before you let Him in?  
Or hide some magazines  
and put the Bible where they'd been?*

*Would family conversation  
be continued at its pace?  
And would you find it hard each meal  
to say a table grace?*

*Would you be glad to have Him meet  
your very closest friends?  
Or would you hope they'd stay away  
until His visit ends?*

*Would you be glad to have His stay  
for ever on and on?  
Or would you sigh with great relief  
when He at last was gone?*

*It might cause some embarrassment  
the things that you would do,  
If Jesus came to your home  
to spend some time with you."*

## 2024 BMA Salary and Benefits Survey

BMA Financial and BMA America Information Services are partnering on the second BMA Salary and Benefits Survey. The purpose of the electronic survey is to provide churches with benchmark data to inform and assist in the establishment and maintenance of viable compensation packages for their pastor and staff.

The data resulting from the study will be made available with respect for the autonomy of each local church, but we hope the information will provide an objective resource in considering appropriate staff compensation.

The survey is designed to be completed by all church staff personnel and is completely anonymous. An email was sent out on Thursday, May 30 to all pastors and staff in our database. If you did not receive an email and would like to participate, please go to [bmafinancial.org](http://bmafinancial.org) and complete the survey online.

For questions about the study call:

**1.844.262.8637**

or email

**Ryan Johnson, Chief Development Officer**

**[ryan@bmaamerica.org](mailto:ryan@bmaamerica.org)**

# "I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

## "How Many Cows Are You Worth?"



In the Kaniwata Island in the Pacific Ocean, there lives a native known as Johnny Lingo. His talents are abundant and his skills sought after. He is in great demand as a guide from fishing to pearl diving to even shopping.

Yet in spite of all the respect the residents had for him, the mention of his name still provoked snickers and sarcastic remarks among his fellow islanders.

Why such a contradiction of respect and ridicule of the same man? Well Johnny gave eight cows for his bride. It is a custom of the island that the prospective groom gives a gift of livestock to his future father-in-law.

Two to three cows would net a reasonable wife and four or five would secure a very fine spouse, but eight cows, that was unheard of! No one had ever paid that price before!

What makes this even more amazing is that Johnny's blushing bride definitely wasn't a Kaniwata beauty queen; in fact her father had had grave concerns of getting her a man at all.

Her name was Sarita. She wasn't exactly ugly, homely might be more of a better description.

In addition to her lack of beauty she was slouched over and so fearful she avoided direct eye contact, not exactly a prize by island standards?

Johnny's peers could not figure out how such a shrewd business man could be out done by Sarita's dim-witted father.

Did anxious bridegroom do it out of pride for boasting rights? Was he truly taken advantage of in the deal? No, his wisdom is far above his peers.

If you saw Sarita you would think it was not the same woman described above. She walks tall and graceful, with her head held high. Her eyes sparkle and her smile dazzles.

Her husband holds the key to this miraculous transformation. No, he did not need to give eight cows for her, far above the highest price.

He loved her with all his heart and her only.

With all his heart, he wanted her to know what great value she had not only to him but most of all to see herself as priceless. His extravagant gift for her would forever be a reminder of those things.

Do you feel you are of great value? What are you basing your worth on? The things I am about to share with you are well known to Christians, and even common knowledge, but I believe we need to be reminded of how special we truly are.

The worth of something is based on the price the buyer is willing to pay. The greatest price ever paid in the history of mankind was given for YOU; the blood and life of Jesus Christ.

Ponder on that a moment; how remarkable this is! The Creator of Heaven and Earth sent His only Precious Son to live a persecuted, poverty filled life on earth and die an unjust, horrific death for YOU. Therefore, realize your value is inestimable.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:18-19

If that is not enough, YOU are one of kind. Since God created the first man and woman, there has never been anyone like you and never will be! People go to great extremes to collect rare and exclusive items. Astronomical prices are paid to own the "only one" in existence.

May of this year the famous auction house, Sotheby's, sold a painting for \$72.84 million! It has three strips of color painted across the canvas; something like a preschool student would paint.

A 1924 pocket watch sold for over 1 million dollars! All this, just for lifeless objects that will not last and could be destroyed at anytime.

In addition YOU are made in His Image! No other creature in heaven or on earth bears His image. What an honor!

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them". Genesis 1:27

When you accepted Christ as your Savior, you become royalty such as the earth has never seen.

YOU are a child of the King of Kings right now, not just when you reach heaven!

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26

People base their worth on who they are, their position, their family, their jobs, and their abilities. All these things can change in a heart beat, but who YOU are in Christ is forever.

We give great time and interest to that which we treasure, and will go to any lengths to protect and care for it. He knows the numbers of hairs on your head moment to moment, not even your mother cares about that!

"But the very hairs of your head are all numbered." Matthew 10:30

YOU are so important to God that He is watching over and caring for you constantly! He never stops; He never turns away. His thoughts are continuously on you and about you.

There is nothing He does not know about you. Even the smallest details of your life are of great interest to Him!

"Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!" Psalms 139:2-4, 17

In God's heart and eyes you are of such inestimable value that He chose YOU to do His work and carry His sacred message to the world. What cherished "cargo" we are called to deliver in His name. He could have used any other way but He wanted YOU!

("How Many Cows," cont on pg 7)

# “From Served to Serving”

We are Abby and Audrey Faulk, sisters from a missionary family in Washington State. We moved from Jacksonville, TX, up to the great Pacific Northwest in 2010 when we were five and ten years old as our dad, Brad, was called to the Tri-Cities (Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco) to plant a church.

With our dad as the pastor and mom as the worship leader, we definitely got to see a lot of the “behind the scenes” that takes place in not just leading a church but leading a church plant.

Our church’s story is not your typical church story. We met in parks, hotels, living rooms, banquet centers, other churches, schools, and pretty much any other place you can think of, before we felt led to disband the church after Covid kept us from getting back up on our feet.

One thing we learned from this experience, that our dad always reminded us of, was that a church is not a building; it is the people. We are called to make disciples, followers of Christ, PEOPLE willing to set their pride aside and surrender to an Almighty God.

Looking back over the 13 years that God allowed us to serve this church plant, VSM teams coming to help us is definitely a highlight of our time in the church-planting experience.

And we would not have been able to reach as many people as we did without students’ willingness to serve!

We always looked forward to working with the teams. Whether we were putting on an “Easter Extravaganza” or Vacation Bible School for the kids, landscaping and gardening wherever we were meeting at the time, handing out flyers for our church service, or even building a potential place for us to meet.

The VSM teams were always so willing to serve and remain faithful to God’s plan, which was so inspiring to us growing up! To watch these people selflessly give up

a time in their lives where their sole focus was to serve and tell people about Jesus was so incredible!

Seeing the way these missions impacted our church in Washington opened our eyes to a whole new opportunity—that is VSM! We had the opportunity to serve in Honduras this year with a VSM team, and what a life-changing experience that was.

To be able to go serve people for the glory of God and share the Good News with them was just indescribable. And

it’s easy to think that this trip is just you serving the people of wherever you go, but how far from the truth!

The amount of humility and gratitude that we gained from this trip still leaves us speechless.

We served in some places with no air conditioning in the scorching heat, met so many kids with no shoes, yet the overflowing joy in these people! It was so beautiful to see people still coming together to worship Jesus because nothing else mattered!

We are blessed with so much, yet take so much for granted here, and this experience definitely opened our eyes to see how joy is so much more than the “things” we desire on this earth.

These people didn’t

have much, but they had joy in the Lord, and that was all they needed!

As Christians, it is our job to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Volunteer Student Missions provides the perfect opportunity to do so. But it didn’t stop for us in Honduras, and it won’t stop for you wherever you serve.

We are called to make disciples of ALL nations (that includes your own hometowns, your school campuses, your youth groups). Spread the Good News wherever you go, whether it’s down the street, or across the country. Go!

Are you interested in serving on a mission trip? Go to [letsgovsm.com](http://letsgovsm.com) and request information about VSM 2025!



**“One thing we learned from this experience, that our dad always reminded us of, was that a church is not a building; it is the people.”**

# “Baptist Distinctives,” cont from pg 1

say no, some will say yes. I emphatically agree with the second.

Promiscuity, nudity, sexualism, LGBT, displaying the golden calf coupled with drag activities all make it obvious to this writer that something intentional was happening. This, in my opinion, was an intentional attack on Christianity.

The Bible gives us statements of male and female origins.

Genesis 5:2, “Male and female created

he them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.”

God distinguished the sexes; he made them different. So why are the Olympics allowing biological men to compete with women? This is morally wrong and unacceptable in the eyes of God.

So should we boycott the Olympics and not watch the show? Here we leave some things in the realm of the

obvious. We should not be viewing certain things such as drag, mockery of Christ and other such abominations.

What about the actual events and the fact that most athletes have no part in the politics of it all? The same media that showed the opening ceremonies gets money from the other broadcasts and coverage of the events.

I applaud some companies who withdrew their support after they realized what was happening. The Olympics are to bring the world together under the umbrella of healthy athletic events. The Olympic committee and France used this opportunity to impose wickedness on unsuspecting millions.

I will not watch the Olympics this year. I will send a message to those who plan future Olympic ceremonies. I will not hate those who differ from my stand.

It is clearly a sin to watch the wicked displays, but others may choose to watch the actual events.

Imagine if you will for a moment that the Olympics attacked Islam the same way that in my opinion Christianity was attacked. France would possibly be burning, and all the athletes would be sent home. I am not advocating for such actions, but Christians are being attacked for being intolerant just because of boycotts.

Get a grip people, if I choose to not watch something because I feel it is evil that is my choice. If someone else differs, that is their choice. Forcing a wicked political statement on people because they have an opportunity to do so is just wrong.

To those who choose to watch I ask you to prayerfully consider the message you send by watching or not watching.

Mocking Christianity and all things biblical is not ok.

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:15

# “Everlasting Smiles 2024”

By Angela Rice

Coordinator of Short-term Missions

In 2023, more than 14,000 Everlasting Smiles Christmas shoeboxes were sent to three different countries—this is the largest year for shoeboxes since I began working for BMA Global!

The shoebox ministry strives to bring joy to a child, but more than that, we want to share eternal joy through knowing Jesus Christ.

The small shoebox gift is a way to invite and encourage children to come to church and, many times, families will also join in the activities centered around the giving of a gift from the States.

At each shoebox event, the gospel is shared, some hearing this message for the first time. Each child will also receive a Bible in their heart language.

This small gift that we pack with such ease here in the States will be a treasured memory for many years to come, and with that memory, the hope of Jesus.

This year, our shoeboxes will go to Nigeria and Guatemala, the primary language of these countries being English and Spanish, respectively. Our goal this year is 14,000 shoeboxes, and this will completely fill our two containers.

It's not too late to get involved. For more information on what to pack, where to drop off, and how to print posters, visit [bmamissions.org/christmas-shoeboxes](http://bmamissions.org/christmas-shoeboxes).

If you would like to make a donation to Everlasting Smiles, send your donation to P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, and our team of volunteers will pack your boxes for you.

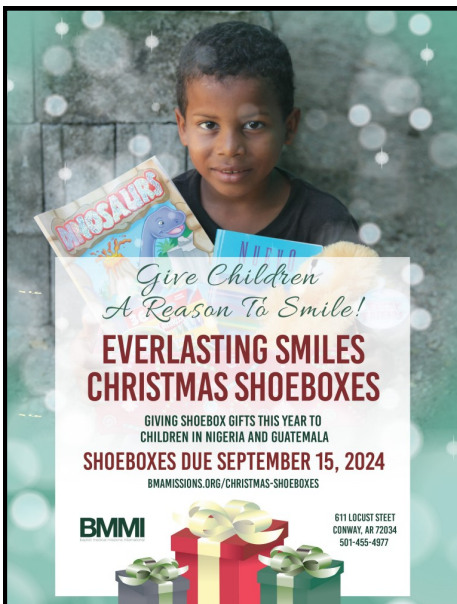
For \$20 we can pack a box that includes the box, wrapping, supplies, toys, Bible, and shipping.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at

[angela@bmaglobal.org](mailto:angela@bmaglobal.org)

or call

214-498-3041



# "That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Enough is Enough"

When I worked at the Federal Reserve Bank I had 20 guards working for me. With that many you are bound to get some who weren't, as the term goes, "the sharpest knife in the drawer." That didn't really present much of a problem because they did their job with few mistakes. However, I'm often reminded of some of the things I was privileged to enjoy while employed there.

Oklahoma is known for its changing weather, so it's not accurate to say we don't get much rain or that we get too much.

However, there have been times when it began to appear we might need to start building an ark and gathering animals.

We had one such spell when it had rained several days in a row. The first full day of rain one of the guards came past my office saying, "Quack! Quack! Quack!" I didn't appreciate it as much as the guard seemed to but I ignored it.

When I called the guard on the phone she answered, "Quack?" When I gave her the instructions or information she would respond "Quack!" By the second day of that I was ready to get some duct (duck) tape and tape her bill shut!

Several others were calling to complain and ask I do something about it. Of course, there wasn't a whole lot I could do other than instruct her to answer the phone and respond professionally instead of like a duck. She thought we were being picky, but she stopped quacking, which was what counted.

I've often thought there ought to be a law about the number of times someone could tell a joke, or in the case of some, the number of times they were permitted to repeat the punch line of a joke.

After five or six times it ought to be apparent the other person either got it and didn't think it was funny, or simply wasn't going to get it.

As I recalled this incident I remember how irritating that repetitious quacking was. I thought about some of the other repetitious "quacking" going on in society today.

In recent years the homosexual community has been pushing ungodly lifestyles down the throat of society through every means available to them. It seems every time a new TV show or movie comes out, the homosexual garbage is given a prominent place.

Their constant clamor and quacking is really beginning to annoy me.

Romans 1:24-32 clearly and beyond all doubt or question declares homosexuality to be an abomination and that God will give the violators over to a reprobate mind. In spite of that many ignore the truth and



participate in it anyway, endorse it, or encourage it.

However, I would think the constant quacking and pushing of the homosexual agenda would be getting on the nerves of even those who support their ungodly choices.

Although not in the same category of homosexuality other "quacking" in society is about to drive me to distraction. It seems every time something happens to a minority in society, they quack repeatedly that it is because of their minority status.

However, in reality, what has happened to them happens to everyone who gets into that situation, regardless of race. They need to stop their constant quacking!

Fight with a police officer and your resulting lumps are well deserved, regardless of race or color!

## CBC Day Registration Open

We could not do what God has called us to do without your faithful love and consistent generosity as we carry out our mission of transforming lives through education that integrates faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment. Thank you for walking and partnering with us this year and in previous years. As our fiscal year of 2023-2024 ends, we are very humbled and grateful for your financial support.

Donations from churches were the highest in the last seven years with a 15.3% increase in church donations. Not only do you demonstrate a heart of support to us through finances, but you have allowed us to personally share with your church, leadership, Sunday school class, and youth ministry concerning the Lord's faithfulness and goodness in all He is doing in the lives of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administration.

From your genuine commitment to His ministry through the college, it is evident that you understand the dire importance of providing, teaching, and demonstrating a Christian world view in this generation of college-age students.

CBC Day 2024 has been set for Sunday, September 8. Please register simply using the link at [www.cbc.edu/cbcday](http://www.cbc.edu/cbcday). Please help us reach our goal of 150 churches to participate in this year's CBC Day.

A registered church will have the option to run an informational video during any service and/or post through social media or on your website. You may also request a representative from the college to personally share with the congregation or group. To better fit your schedule, we are available to share on a Sunday night, or during a mid-week service.

We will be honored to share at BMA of AR events such as WMA and Brotherhood meetings. If you have any questions, please personally contact Duffy Guyton, Director of Church Relations, at:

[dguyton@cbc.edu](mailto:dguyton@cbc.edu) or call (501) 269-6784.

May we continue to encourage each other to live out the following scripture in Galatians 6:9 to "not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

# CBC Announced New Staff Members

Central Baptist College (CBC) is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Sterling Claypoole as the new Director of Admissions.

Dr. Claypoole received an Associate of Arts degree from South Arkansas Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Southern Arkansas University.

After this, he received a Master of Arts in Religious Education, a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling, and a Doctorate of Educational Ministries in Educational Leadership from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He joins CBC having many years of experience working as a Foster-Care Case Worker & Family Coach at Arkansas Baptist Children & Family Ministries, Quality Assurance Manager for the Arkansas State Police and Arkansas Department of Public Safety.

He has also served as a Professor of Psychology and Director of Associate Arts Program at South Arkansas Community College, and adjunct professor at various colleges.

He was also a governor appointed member of the Arkansas School Safety Commission in 2019.

In addition, Dr. Claypoole has held many other leadership and ministry roles having served as a chaplain for the U.S. Navy since 2017 and as a youth minister at churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana.

Dr. Claypoole is a member of The Summit Church in Vilonia. He and wife Jennifer, have two sons Brennan (Cara) and Bradley.

## Central Baptist College Appoints Dr. Jeremy Langley as Executive Vice President

CBC is pleased to announce the employment of Dr. Jeremy Langley as its new Executive Vice President (EVP), effective August 12, 2024.

In his new role, Langley will oversee the day-to-day operation of the College and assist the President as requested.

His specific responsibilities include direct supervision of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Office of Advancement.

Additionally, he will collaborate with key departments such as Finance, Enrollment, Student Services, and Academic Affairs to further CBC's strategic goals.

President Terry Kimbrow said, "Jeremy has a blend of higher education and ministry experience that makes him exceptionally qualified to serve as our EVP."

His seven years of experience in higher education will be invaluable. His commitment to and love for the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) will make his transition into this vital role much easier.

Plus, Jeremy aligns perfectly with CBC's mission." As the EVP, Jeremy will be available to speak at church services, church groups, community events, and other groups as requested and/or invited.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jeremy Langley to Central Baptist College," said Kirk Shelton, chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Search Committee.

"He checks all the boxes in what the Search Committee was looking for. We are confident Dr. Jeremy Langley is the right fit for the job."

In his letter of application, Langley stated, "I believe God has guided the path of my life to prepare me for this position."

Prior to joining CBC, Jeremy Langley served as Associate Pastor of Brister Baptist Church in Emerson, AR. From May 2008 to May 2013, he was the Assistant to the President for Dr. David Rankin at Southern Arkansas University (SAU) while also holding the title of Associate Director of Athletics.

He later joined the Development Office where he worked for two years.

He is a Justice of the Peace for the Columbia County Quorum Court, District Five. He is not seeking re-election in 2024.

Dr. Langley earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Mass Communications from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, AR. and a Master of Public Administration from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, AR.

He also holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology from the BMAA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, TX.

In 2023, Dr. Langley earned his Doctor of Ministry in Ministry Leadership from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

He, his wife Mary, and eleven-year-old son, Truitt, reside in Emerson. Mary currently teaches second grade at Emerson Elementary School.

## "How Many Cows," cont from pg 3

Dear brother or sister in Christ, have you been feeling worthless lately, that your life has no value or purpose? Have you allowed the opinions others have of you diminish significance?

Have your failures or lack of success in life to determine your importance? Do not allow Satan to deceive you into thinking you are anything but extraordinary, prized and much love of God. Anything else is a lie!

YOU ARE PRICELESS!

And don't forget it!!

While praying one day, a woman asked, "Who are you, Lord?" He answered, "I Am."

"But who is I Am?" she asked.

And He replied, "I Am Love,  
I Am Peace,  
I Am Grace,  
I Am Joy,

I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Light,  
I Am the Comforter,  
I Am Strength,  
I Am Safety,  
I Am Shelter,  
I Am Power,  
I Am the Creator,  
I Am the Beginning and the End,  
I Am the Most High."

The girl with tears in her eyes looked toward Heaven and said, "Now I understand. But Lord, who am I?"

Then God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered, "You are Mine."

**-Author Unknown**

# CBC Celebrates Staff Achievements

This week, the Central Baptist College is happy to congratulate several CBC employees for their recent achievements.

First, we want to commend Dr. Kateryna Pitchford, CBC's Business Department Chair and Professor of Business, for being selected to make two presentations at the International Leadership Association's 26th global conference.

Dr. Pitchford has performed research on the leadership of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and she submitted two proposals for the upcoming conference.

The first proposal is with a group of presenters and is titled "Destructive Leadership: Mechanisms & Consequences, A Reflection on Current Global Events."

The second proposal is to be presented individually by Dr. Pitchford and is titled "Zelenskyy's Effectiveness Through the Lenses of the Leadership Practices Inventory."

Dr. Pitchford will give these presentations at the International Leadership Association global conference in November of this year.

We would also like to congratulate Dr. Rachel Scott, Associate Professor of Biology, for receiving the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Conway Noon Rotary Club during its 103rd Annual Awards Banquet on June 28.

This award is named after the founder

of Rotary, and it was presented to Dr. Scott in recognition of her significant contributions to the Conway Noon Rotary Club.

Sam Kohnke, the head coach of men's basketball at CBC, was also recently recognized when he received the 8th annual Raymond Bright Award. The award recognizes him as this year's top college coach in Conway.

This comes after Kohnke led the men's basketball team to the NAIA Quarterfinals after which he also received the AMC Coach of the Year.

Lastly, we want to congratulate President Terry Kimbrow for being recognized as the 2023-24 Rotarian of the Year by the Conway Noon Rotary Club.

This award was presented to President Kimbrow in light of his constant dedication, leadership, and commitment to community service and the mission of the Rotary Club.

President Kimbrow has served in Rotary for 31 years and has held many leadership roles including the Conway Noon Rotary Club President in 1999-2000.

Under his leadership, CBC encourages all employees to participate in service clubs and community organizations, and we are very happy to see President Kimbrow recognized

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CBC Day**  
Conway, AR  
September 8, 2024  
See pg 6

**Central District  
Midyear Meeting**  
Unity Missionary Baptist  
Wayne, OK  
September 10, 2024

**BMAO  
State Meeting**  
Grace Harbor Church  
October 4-5, 2024

for his contributions to Rotary.

CBC's mission is to transform lives through an education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Because of this mission, we strive to demonstrate excellence in everything we do, and we are overjoyed when we see the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and administration recognized in the community.

We look forward to another year working alongside these people and are excited to see what God has in store for our CBC family in the future.



**CENTRAL**  
BAPTIST COLLEGE