

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LIX

SEPTEMBER 2024

Number 9

## “The Importance of Church Membership”

By Chris Gonthier  
BMAO Moral Action

Among missionary Baptists we believe that baptism and church membership are extremely important.

To make myself extremely clear on the matter, neither of these will effect a person's salvation. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even though church membership doesn't effect salvation we need to be a part of a church. Sometimes it may not be easy to determine which church we should be a part of.

It would seem reasonable to join a church if the members led you to the Lord or were in some way were a significant part of your conversion process. I say process to include the time leading up to the time of salvation, not to be confused as a multistep series of events to become saved.

Church membership and church attendance are both hugely important for someone's spiritual growth.

Hopefully having a strong relationship with one's pastor will help guide spiritual growth.

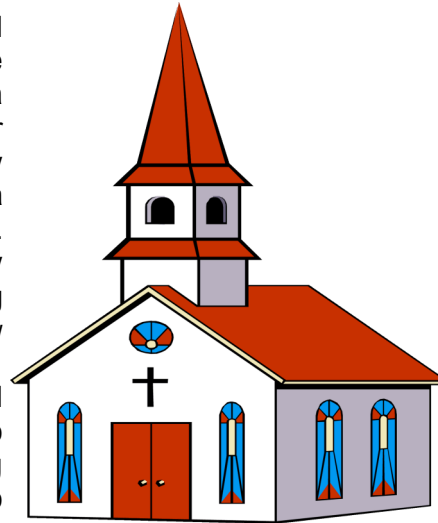
Proverbs 11:14 tells us, “Where no counsel is, the people fail: But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

The goal of a good pastor is to help the flock. When there is a new convert a pastor has to tend differently than he would to a more mature member. The same would apply to a shepherd tending to a lamb versus how he would treat a sheep.

We must understand that all people go through a growing process. There is no shame in taking time to grow properly.

Matthew 13:4-8, “And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixty fold, some thirtyfold.”

So if they did not fall on good ground growth was hindered and death was



eminent. To not have nourishment and a strong root system was in fact a death sentence. So to is our spiritual growth.

Sometimes someone will grow too fast, and not have the ability to be sustainable. I have seen times that the new convert being so anxious to grow does not allow himself to become rooted.

Notice in the final verse it talks about falling into good ground. There has to be a penetration into the ground for growth to occur and there must also be penetration for spiritual growth.

Too often there isn't time for strong roots to develop. When people church hop it is like moving a plant between pots and they get transplant shock. No real time for the root to develop and no real time for growth.

Is there ever a right time to change churches and move one's membership. Of course there are legitimate reasons.

I had a member who recently moved to another state. There was of course no way to remain faithful over great distances, so she found another church, one that was local to her new home.

The interesting thing is this was a senior lady who moved to get nearer to her family. It was proper timing, and she handled the move in the right way.

She consulted with me so we could pray. She sought advice on how to handle the move and to not take on the world by herself.

Consequently, the move went well, and I believe she is doing fine. Sometimes though, people move without discussing anything with the pastor.

When a person is not willing to even discuss moving with the pastor I would urge caution.

A godly pastor will always desire people  
("Church Membership," cont in pg 4)

---

**“We must understand  
that all people go through a growing process.  
There is no shame in taking time to grow properly.”**

# "From the Pastor's Pen"

By Wearthly Shank

"Suffering and Reward"

1 Peter 3:13-15

*And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye: AND BE NOT AFRAID OF THEIR TRRROR, NEITHER BE TROUBLED.(emphasis mine)*

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

In verses 13-14, a question is asked and answered. Peter asks, who can harm you if you are a follower of that which is good? "that which is good" is referring to the examples set before us in Christ.

The answer to the question is, if [and when] we suffer for righteousness sake, we are to be strong, knowing that God can and will give us the strength to bear threats that come against us.

Then in verse 15, we are told to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts. Acknowledge

Him as holy in our esteem for Him. And be ready always to give testimony of the reason of the hope within us, to whoever may ask.

With the spiritual condition of our society today sinking into the very depths of worldly lusts, passages of Scripture like this seem to just jump out at me. It seems as though there's a new assault on Christianity each week.

Paul speaks to Timothy [2 Tim. 3:1-5] of these last days of perilous times and describes the actions of godless people.

All this should shake us to the bone, or maybe the depths of our hearts with deep concern for what lies ahead for us and the generations which follow. It's quite clear that we need to break out our Christian armor and polish it up, getting ready for the battle.

As we prepare ourselves for the battles that lie ahead, we will need a strong spiritual awakening in our personal lives: a revival that will shake us deeply and sweep through our church, into the streets, then on across the county and the great state of Oklahoma.

**Think about it!!**

## Central Welcomes New Admissions Officer

### Welcome to CBC

The Office of Admissions is pleased to welcome Dillon Hall to the Admissions staff as a Personal Admissions Officer. Dillon is a current CBC student pursuing a degree in Bible with minors in Christian Care, Youth Ministry, and Pastoral Care. He is from Damascus, Arkansas and attends First Baptist Church of Damascus. Dillon has a passion for CBC and our students, and we look forward to working with him going forward.

Dillon will join Personal Admissions Officers Ryan Guyton and Austin Gray led by Director of Admissions, Sterling Claypoole, and assisted by Assistant Director of Admissions Lisa Padgett. This team of admissions professionals works very hard to communicate our message and mission to all interested individuals and groups.

### Honor and Memorial Gifts

The following are honor and memorial contributions received since the last report by Central Baptist College. Some of the contributions are recurring gifts but are only listed once.

#### In Memory of:

Dr. Conrad Carroll by Kiwanis Club of Conway;  
Mrs. Maggie Chandler by Marlyn Masingill;  
Ms. Corinne E. Clements by Mr. Nelson Ortiz;  
Ms. Elizabeth J. Evans by Mr. William and Dr. Janice Jackson;  
Mr. Glynn H. Horton by Mr. and Mrs. James Laminack;  
Mr. Ronnie James by Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Pittman;  
Mr. Byren Jones by Dr. and Mrs. Terry Chrisope;  
Mrs. Lucile Jones by Dr. and Mrs. Terry Chrisope;  
Ms. Sharon J. Keeling by Ms. Christine Stewart; and Ms. Brenda Wilcox;  
Mr. Walter Malone by Mr. and Mrs. James Laminack;  
Mr. Joel Smith by Bethel Baptist Church of Rison;  
Mr. Harold Wilcox Ms. Brenda Wilcox;  
Dr. Carroll Conrad by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Walters

#### In Honor of:

Bro. Don Chandler by Ms. Marlyn Masingill;  
Mr. Winston P. Foster, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Terry Kimbrow;  
Mrs. Mary Ned Foster by Mr. and Mrs. Terry Kimbrow.

## 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

## *"Looking for Hope in All the Wrong Places"*

After much testing the results that came back were not as hoped for. With a heavy heart the doctor entered his office to deliver the bad news. There he found a young man, sitting and nervously playing with the edge of his cap.

Gently and kindly the doctor shared the outcome of the tests. The disease he had was terminal.

The young man's head lowered and his shoulders shook as he sobbed. Tearfully he looked up to the kind physician and said, "What am I going to do? I am too young to die. There is so much I want to do, marry, have a family. . . .", his voice trailed off.

The doctor spoke to him with compassion, but honestly. He shared with him how there is no way to know the outcome, and that everything that could be done would be.

The young man's job was to do everything he was told and not to focus on dying, but living.

The man's eyes brightened; he wiped away the tears, stood up and with a smile shook the caring doctor's hand. "I'll do just that!" he replied. "Thank you! Thank you!"

Well, one day he came into the medical clinic for one of his treatments and his regular doctor was not there. Instead, there was a new doctor on duty.

After his treatment was finished the young man was smiling and whistling as he headed for the door. The new doctor

called out to him offhandedly and cruelly, "They've told you haven't they? You won't even live to the end of this year?"

It was as if an arrow had pierced his heart. His mouth dropped open and tears began to flow from his eyes. He rushed to leave, running into his beloved doctor. Turning he pointed to the new doctor and blurted out between sobs, "He. . . he. . . he took away my hope!"

Putting his arm around the heartbroken man, the physician looked him in the eye and said, "I guess he did. So maybe it's time to find a new one."

Have you ever found your hope shattered into a million pieces; you're so downhearted you feel your heart resides somewhere near your ankles; discouragement is dragging you behind the 'car' of life; and your confidence has hit such an all time low that the Guinness Book of World records is contacting you?

These all are sure signs that you placed your hope in a person, a relationship, or circumstance and you were robbed!

"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help". Psalms 146:3

Why do we do this to ourselves? Why do we not realize that our choice is

the source of our pain and disappointment? Too often we even go as far to blame God for failing us when we DIDN'T even include Him in our plans!!

We want someone with 'skin on' that we can see to rely on, when the One we can't see is the One that can truly help us!

First we have to realize that there are two kinds of hope and we frequently mix them up. The first kind is simply a strong wish.

"I hope we win the game. I hope I get a new car for Christmas. I hope I win the contest for \$1000, etc."

It is plain to see (at this moment) that such expectations haven't a leg to stand on. They are simply figments of our imaginations, part of a "happily ever after" script we write in our minds then unfortunately choose to believe.

I see them as a sort of mental and spiritual gambling.

The second kind of hope, the REAL one, is a combination of faith and trust in God, walking hand in hand. When we choose these we may have an idea of what we would LIKE to happen, but we ultimately leave the final results to God, knowing his decision will be absolutely right.

Instead of attempting to walk on clouds, our future is on solid ground!

Wishful hoping is actually very dangerous to our spiritual well being. False hope usually has taken root from our worries and fears, and we all know worry is a form of fear and that fear does not come from God!

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7

Our anxious hearts try to calm themselves finding their own solution to the problem. One we believe will be in our best interest.

In actuality we are playing God with our lives. When our expectation is in the

(*"Looking for Hope," cont on pg 7*)

---

***"We are no longer victims of life's twists and turns but victors in Christ!***

***Circumstances and the choices of others no longer have control over our emotions, like little ships being tossed about in a terrible storm."***

# Daniel Springs Camp Reports Record Growth

by Charles Johnson

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp held their annual "end-of-the-camping season" awards celebration banquet on Thursday, July 25, in the camp cafeteria.

Sixty-five employees, their family members, trustees, and friends of the Camp gathered for the event.

The attendees were treated to a delicious fajita Tex-Mex buffet meal. The tables were decorated with bright tablecloths and balloon bouquets.

A centerpiece photo backdrop featured a balloon train and appreciation banner.

Decorations were provided and installed by trustee Charlotte Johnson and Triniti Mauk.

Special recognition and appreciation gifts were given to the summer missionaries (summer staff) and camp maintenance, food, and medical staff. The summer missionaries included increments for one through six summers of serving at the camp.

Camp director Jason Prewitt who is in his tenth year at Daniel Springs gave

special recognition to Mrs. Rosetta Hicks who has completed thirty years of summer work at the camp in the food service department.

He also acknowledged camp nurse Terri Gaidusek who has served in this position for twenty-five years.

Prewitt reported to the audience there were more than 1900 campers who attended DSBC in the summer of 2024. This is an increase of over four-hundred campers from 2023 as the Camp continues to recover from the COVID pandemic years when the camp was closed.

More importantly, he thankfully shared some 180 of the campers made professions of faith in Jesus as Savior during the summer of 2024.

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp sits on a 54-acre scenic plot of land in southern Panola County near Gary, TX. It is owned and operated by the Baptist Missionary Association of America and is administered by a nine-member trustee board.



## "Church Membership," continued from pg 1

to be in the will of the Lord. If God wants a person to serve elsewhere why would the pastor be angry?

If you are not sure enough of needing to move that you will not discuss the issue with the pastor and give opportunity for them to pray with you, then maybe you should reconsider.

One of the duties of a pastor is to help teach the new convert.

1 Peter 2:2 says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

A pastor will know what to feed the newborn babe. Sometimes a baby wants to eat what the adults are eating, but they are not capable of digesting adult food. No steak for an infant and certainly no honey.

I have noticed that a child will become angry if they cannot have what they want, even if it is not good for them. I have noticed that sometimes people are wanting to move to be better fed. In reality they are just loathing the bread and desiring the meat.

Numbers 21:5 says, "And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread."

Even though there was food, it was not what they wanted. I believe people would do well to realize that looking for a church that they like is not always the same as looking for the church that they need.

I believe that God will put a person in a particular place because it meets their need, not necessarily their want. Sometimes people are quick to move because it is convenient or easy. As always it is best to seek the guidance of the Lord in everything.

Also remember, sometimes God places us to minister and serve because we are needed

# Lifeword Sunday 2024

Lifeword Sunday will take place on October 20th, 2024. This is the one time of year that we ask the churches of the BMA to pray for Lifeword, celebrate what God is doing through the ministry of Lifeword, and take a special offering to help Lifeword increase her gospel footprint around the world.

Jesus Christ understood the value of a

great story. He was The Master Story-Teller.

His parables and teachings not only impacted a generation, they changed the world.

Lifeword exists to help make disciples through the creative proclamation, production and promotion of biblically-sound media that communicates in the heart language of every tongue, tribe, and nation.

Lifeword's job is to tell His story to the nations.

In 164 languages and to an audience of over two billion people, Lifeword is using media... radio, the Internet, and digital print... to share His story across the globe.

We need you and your church family to help us accomplish this.

Register your church today at [WeTellTheStory.com](http://WeTellTheStory.com).

In the next couple of weeks, we will be mailing you a packet full of information regarding Lifeword Sunday and how you and your church can get involved.

Our Lifeword Sunday t-shirts will be available for purchase on September 1st! Available in short-sleeve, long-sleeve, and sweatshirts, this is a great way to help us continue to tell the story of Jesus to the nations. Go to [WeTellTheStory.com](http://WeTellTheStory.com) to order yours!

The gospel is a story that needs to be heard by the whole world and we're depending on you to help us share it.

**At Lifeword,  
We Tell The Story**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CBC Day**  
Conway, AR  
September 8, 2024

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

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



**WE TELL THE STORY**

*October 20, 2024*

## *"That Reminds Me"*

By Jesse Spurlock

*"Let There Be Sound!"*

We have a clock radio we set as an alarm. I usually put it on a nice smooth, mellow radio station, so I'm awakened by some pleasant music. There are several things which can go wrong with that scenario. One is it works if no one changes the radio station or volume.

Usually, I choose a station with disc jockeys who play only mellow music. I reasonably expect to wake up to some smooth music that will slowly wake me. However, one time I was awakened at 4:45am with an old time country song, "Carolina in the Pines," blasting full volume.

I don't remember who the singer was and I don't know what station it was on, because I almost busted the clock radio getting it shut off.

Someone had not only changed the station, but increased the volume. It wasn't me, it wasn't Lelia, and it wasn't anyone else I talked with.

I assume it must have been that ghost from "Family Circus" named "It wasn't me." I now check the volume and the station when setting the alarm.

Being startled by a sudden loud volume reminded me of an incident at the church I pastored in Western Oklahoma. A deacon's son was an accomplished and professional organist and came to visit. He came to church with his parents and volunteered to play the organ for us.

He began by playing, "My Tribute." I had heard that piece on the piano many times and knew toward the end it suddenly increased in volume to depict great praise and glory to God.

I was sitting directly beside the organ with its cloth covered back only a couple of feet from my left ear. The organ music was very soothing and mellow. I sat back, closed my eyes to relax and enjoy the beautiful music.

I didn't know "My Tribute" well enough to know when the crescendo was coming, so I was caught totally off guard when it did.

As it reached that point, he bore down on the volume with great feeling and enthusiasm. The blast right in my ear startled me so badly I almost jumped out of my skin and dropped my Bible from my lap. I also knocked the song book off the bench beside me.

My reactions were very obvious to everyone. The congregation roared with laughter.

Until the organist brought his music concert to a conclusion, I kept my eye on him, just in case he decided to cut loose again. Everyone apparently was aware of my watching him because snickers and chuckles continued through the remainder of the music.

The organist later apologized for startling me, but he was offended I had



"ruined" his organ recital with my "over-reaction."

Loud noises often startle people and cause us to do humorous things. However, when we are the one startled it isn't all that humorous.

I recall visiting in a small country church once. I knew the preacher before he was saved and had heard the was

a real "fire and brimstone" preacher. We were sitting on the front pew. The pulpit was on a raised platform.

The preacher was loud which kept our attention, but he suddenly jumped from the platform onto the top of the piano and then landed flat-footed about two feet in front of me.

If he was trying to "scare the devil" out of the congregation he almost succeeded with me. But it also put an end to my worshipful attitude in that service.

# **BMA of Oklahoma Annual State Meeting**

**October 4-5, 2024**

**Grace Harbor Church**

**11300 N Council Rd  
Oklahoma City, OK**

# Should Christians Vote in America's 2024 Election?

**Dr. John Adams,  
Moral Action Executive Director**

The Word offers several passages supporting the importance of government, including our role on Election Day.

First, the government and its leaders are established by God.

Romans 13:4 states, "For the one in authority is God's servant for your good." We desire to help select the best leaders possible to serve in the roles that lead our communities, state and nation...."A. McFarland.

There is a growing concern about evangelicals who refuse to exercise their responsibility to vote. When we face this issue, we look to Scripture and America's

history where we find overwhelming evidence to support the view that Christian participation in voting is vital to the future of our nation.

Second, voting can be viewed as a form of stewardship (Matthew 25).

*"We are responsible for voting for candidates who will best honor God and moral values."*

Dr. Stephen Olford.



Otherwise, we waste the opportunity given to us as believers and as Americans, leaving the decision to others who may not share our convictions.

From the History books, Samuel

Adams was the organizer of the Boston Tea Party and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Adams said that your vote is a stewardship issue, arguing that we should vote "unto God", and to the best of our

knowledge elect people will be moral leaders.

This was a conviction strongly held during the early days of our nation that remains important today.

Third, Jesus calls His followers to be "salt and light," a teaching that includes our voting.

*"How can we claim to live fully for God yet neglect to represent His values?"*

Tony Perkins.

Shouldn't we care who leads our school board, our state and who represents us in Congress?

From your county, to Washington, who we help elect will determine the future laws that impact us, our children and future generations.....copied - "The Judicial Watch"

Fourth, we no longer live in a culture that will easily accept biblical worldview issues. If we choose to speak out or vote for our values, we will face persecution.

This response should not be shunned but embraced. After all, our Savior warned us that in this world we would have trouble (John 16:33).

Let us not shy away from voting for our values, so may we Christians vote on November 5, 2024!

## "Looking for Hope," cont from pg 3

Lord then we are not just hoping "for" something, our hope is truly "in" Someone!

Our trust and faith is firmly anchored in God, His will, His plans, and His hands. Be forewarned, stepping out in faith isn't always comfortable because we can't see where we are going, only He can! That is where the 'trust' part comes in!

"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved." Psalms 62:5

With counterfeit hope, we have no security because it doesn't exist! When our hope is in God, we have done something tangible and real about our situation, otherwise we are left on pins and needles anxiously waiting to see if our ship comes in.

Does trusting in God mean our troubles are over, that things will get better soon? Not necessarily, but it does mean that we

have the strength and courage to face whatever may come.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD." Psalms 31:24

We are no longer victims of life's twists and turns but victors in Christ! Circumstances and the choices of others no longer have control over our emotions, like little ships being tossed about in a terrible storm.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57

Has someone or something robbed you of your hope? Is your spirit, heart and mind crushed and shattered? Well, it's like the good doctor said, "So maybe it's time to find a new one!"

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

# CBC Celebrates M.U.D. Week 2024



The MUD Run and Blue Party on August 22 concluded M.U.D. Week 2024! It was a great week of welcoming new students and beginning the academic year with a bang. S.O.S. (Student Orientation Staff) put on several events throughout the week including Capture the Flag, Minute to Win It, Kickball, and many more.

We had 70 freshmen and transfer students participate this semester, and the Orange Team was crowned as the 2024 M.U.D. Week Champions.

Everybody on the team got to sign The Post which commemorates all M.U.D. Week champions of years past. At the end of the week, each new student attended the Blue Party where they all wore blue to signify their entrance into the CBC Family.

After M.U.D. Week, some S.O.S. members were recognized for outstanding service receiving awards that are presented to a select few every year.

One member of each team received the Spark Plug Award which recognized them as a driving force of the team. The

following SOS Members received this award: Heath Truett (Green Team), Nadiyah Bunton (Orange Team), Rylie Brissette (Red Team), and Natalie Smith (Yellow Team).

One member of each team also received the Reflector Award. This award goes to the team members who best reflected Christ to the new students and to their fellow SOS'ers throughout the week.

The following SOS Members received the Reflector Award: Lily Seaver (Green Team), Eden Brister (Orange Team), Joy Murdock (Red Team), and Trey Tippen (Yellow Team).

Every year, one SOS member also receives the Leadership Award which recognizes their outstanding leadership qualities displayed throughout the week. The recipient of this award automatically receives a spot as an S.O.S. Team Leader for M.U.D. Week 2025.

This year, the leadership award went to Trey Tippen from the Yellow Team. In addition to these individual awards, the Green Team received the Spirit Stick which is given to the team that shows the most enthusiasm and team spirit throughout the week.

This year, we had 42 S.O.S. members each of whom played a big part in making M.U.D. Week 2024 possible.

We want to thank S.O.S., Student Services, and all our faculty and staff for welcoming our new students and representing CBC well throughout the week.

We look forward to seeing what God does in the upcoming academic year and are excited to see the growth of all our new students throughout their time here.

