

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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Number 5

“What is America’s Hope?”

Dr. John Adams
Moral Action Committee
Executive Director

What is America’s hope? We must claim God’s promise of healing.

II Chronicles 7:14. God says, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

We must meet several conditions before healing can come:

First, God’s people must humble themselves before a holy and righteous God. We must become broken in our souls and spirits in order for our Father to renew us.

Second, we must pray. We must renew our daily fellowship with the Father. Our Father desires to spend time with us, but do we desire to be in His presence? Prayer is essential.



Third, we must turn from our sin. How can we do this? Dr. Adrian Rogers said that we must “name it, nail it and forsake it.” We must identify and confess our faults to the Father.

John said, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”. (I John 1:9).

Fourth, we must not carry our guilt around. Every believer must “nail” his sins to Christ’s cross. They have been paid for by Christ’s blood, and they will not be held against us.

Paul declared, “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Colossians 2:14).

The songwriter wrote,

*My sin, oh the bliss
of this glorious thought,
My sin not in part, but the whole;
Is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul.*

Fifth, we must “forsake” wickedness. When we forsake a wicked life, we literally run from it. Paul told Timothy, “Flee also youthful lusts...” (II Timothy 2:22).

Are we willing to forsake the worldly lifestyle and embrace righteousness? Will we let Jesus lead us?

When these conditions are met, our Father will forgive us. He will wipe the slate clean, and give us a fresh start. He will fellowship with us and bless His children again.

Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). Glory!

Our American and Christian hope is Jesus, God’s only Son.

At the BMAA National Meeting your missions department celebrated 75 years of being on the missions field. In this picture Dr. John David Smith, Director of Missions, reminisces about earlier days with Bro. Grady Higgs, former Missions Director, and long time missionaries, Bro. David Dickson and Bro. Buddy Johnson.



Cards for President Kimbrow

As we reflect on the time President Terry Kimbrow has dedicated to Central Baptist College and her mission, we are overwhelmed with thankfulness towards President Kimbrow and towards God for His guiding hand over the decades.

President Kimbrow's retirement celebration will be on Friday, May 9 beginning at 4:00pm, where we will have a formal program in Burgess Auditorium followed by a fish fry on the campus lawn at 5:00pm.

We are still encouraging all alumni, current and former employees, students, and friends of CBC to write a note of thankfulness or encouragement for President Kimbrow as he enters a new stage in life.

As the longest standing CBC president, Kimbrow has made a profound impact on CBC and on many lives over the years. If you are one of these lives who has been impacted by his ministry, we encourage you to let him know through one of these cards.

If you would like to send a card via mail, please address it to Peggy Pillow, Central Baptist College, 1501 College Ave, Conway, AR 72034.

If you plan to attend the retirement celebration, feel free bring your card with you. We will also have a station for anyone who wants to write a card at the event.

We strive to celebrate and thank President Kimbrow with the same dedication, joy, and heart with which he has faithfully served CBC for so many years, and we encourage you to get involved!

Student Activities Recap!

It has been a busy and exciting time on campus over the month of April with two major student events taking place.

We had our 10th Annual Hall Wars on campus April 14-17. With staple events like Footsketball and Lip Sync and new games like Slingshot Splashdown and

Next Level @ Night, it was a great week of making memories and having fun!

After a Lip Sync with nearly all teams represented the Hall Wars Champions were announced with the Commuter Girls (Purple Team) taking home the trophy!

The second annual event that took place in April was Spring Fling on Friday, April 25. Every year, this is a favorite event for many students with a crawfish boil and games on the lawn.

This year, we had an excellent turn out and a lot of fun taking a break from the busyness of the semester to enjoy the evening.

Please continue to pray for us as we finish up our semester and look towards graduation.

It has been a great year, and we are prayerfully looking forward to another year of transformed lives and academic excellence starting in August!

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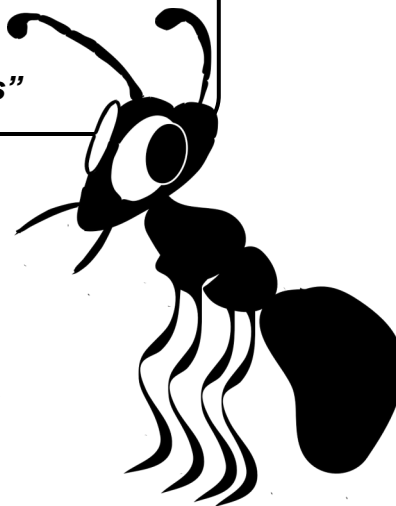
President Kimbrow has had a significant impact on many people over the years. If you are one of those individuals, you can send him a letter or card. To mail your letter or card, send it to:

Peggy Pillow
Central Baptist College
1501 College Ave
Conway, AR 72034

"I Was Just Thinkin' "

By Narita Roady

"Wisdom From Critters and Bugs"



Most of us have heard of the legendary "Dear John" letter. Countless men through time have received one along with it a broken heart.

Well a young woman named Sylvia decided to write one to a young man who had been ardently vying for her affection. Here is the letter:

Dear John,

I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart. I can be forever happy--will you let me be yours?

Sylvia

The problem here lies in the fact that Sylvia had not made the best grades in her grammar classes at school. Her punctuation was horrendous. While John's heart was doing flutters and flip flops over her proclamation of love, this is what Sylvia really meant to say:

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn. For you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're apart, I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?

Yours,
Sylvia

Just a tad bit of a difference wouldn't you say? Those tiny little dot's we call periods and itty bitty curves called commas when put in the wrong places changed the whole meaning of the letter drastically.

Amazing the power they have, isn't

it? An overlooked reality is that ALL little things make a difference, but even more so to God.

While many might disagree, something counted as a small thing among people is wisdom. Yes folks may profess and proclaim its great importance, but when it comes to choosing wisdom as the most significant and desirable aspect of their lives, it suddenly plummets to somewhere near last place.

Financial security, prosperity, comfort, achievement, and many other things quickly take wisdom's first place position in their lives.

Too bad more of us aren't like Solomon. Solomon was in a position to have anything the carnal heart could desire but he chose wisdom. I think he was already pretty wise to begin with don't you?

"In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee."
1 Kings 3:5

This scripture makes it very clear that wisdom is paramount to God. He further stresses this in Proverbs 30:24-29.

"There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;

The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces."

He uses four living wonders of His creation that people would certainly count as trivial and irrelevant in the scheme of things, but God has some big lessons for us to learn.

Ants are pretty common to us. They aggravate, frustrate and annoy us in general, so how can they teach us anything about wisdom?

Ants are a perfect example of cooperation. They work together with great efficiency. One ant is not concerned to be elevated above another ant. They labor side by side as equals, keeping their focus is on the job before them.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Philippians 2:3

We need more Christian "ants" in our churches, homes, and work places. Can you imagine the impact God's people would have on the world if they worked together as the ants do?

The opposite is far too common among believers. They loudly declare their love of God and dedication to His work, but all they do is work against Him.

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Titus 1:16

You see them in churches everywhere. Their focus is not on what they can do to help, but on themselves and what "they" think should be done. Instead of stepping in and becoming part of the team, you hear them criticizing their brothers and sisters in Christ, their pastor, and their church in general.

They complain loud and clear about

("Critters and Bugs," cont on pg 7)

The Master's Builders at Camp Garwood

able to set trusses!

While we were there, this area of Missouri and Arkansas had historical and catastrophic flooding. The Builders were unable to work on the building for two days.

Several locations around the area received 12 to 15 inches of rain, and the creeks and hollows filled up quickly! We had to keep a close eye on the camp creek for a couple of days! There were also several tornadoes, and The Builders were thankful that none touched down near the camp. The rain set us back a bit but we enjoyed two afternoons of movies in the cafeteria and some delicious meals.

The BMA Churches of Southeast Missouri certainly kept us well-fed! We were overwhelmed and blessed by their commitment to making sure we lacked for nothing. Meals, supplies, desserts, and snacks were either brought in or money was

sent in to help with providing meals for us.

These were the churches I have listed that helped, and if I missed any, please forgive me and know we so appreciate each one of you: Stoney Point Baptist, Matthews Baptist, Ohlman Baptist, Bates Creek Baptist, Black River Baptist, Zion Baptist Church, and Kewanee Baptist.

Also, on the two Sundays, we had a wonderful lunch at the two churches we attended: Lower Doe Run and Ohlman Baptist. A big "Thank You" to everyone for loving on us through your kitchens!

The folks at Ohlman came in one evening during the rain and fried fish with all the "fixins" for us for supper! There were several ladies that spent hours

("Master's Builders," cont on pg 5)



On March 31, The Master's Builders began work on a newly poured slab at Camp Garwood, in Garwood, MO. The camp is about 12 1/2 miles NE of Van Buren, Missouri.

This was our first time going to Camp Garwood to work, and we were so very blessed during our time there. The Camp Director, Chris Polk, and his wife, Laura, were so caring and concerned about our needs as we settled in for our two weeks of work.

We were all able to stay in a newly renovated dorm there, and that made it so convenient for the job site and the cafeteria.

The Builders were at Camp Garwood to help with a 20 X 60 building. This building includes two living quarters for visiting evangelists, group leaders, etc., on one

side, and a nurse's station and quarters on the other.

Between the two sides of the building Chris Polk wanted to make sure to include a nice breezeway that will have a large ceiling fan and benches. This will help facilitate check-in and a cool-down area for campers.

The Builders framed the building, put in doors and windows, hung metal siding in two colors on the exterior, and the electrical wiring was run for the building.

Joe McElroy and Jacob Hale of McElroy Construction did the trusses and added the metal roofing. It was such a pleasure to have these guys do this work as the Builders are no longer

***“Master’s Builders,”* cont from pg 4**

at the cafeteria and at their homes to make sure we were never hungry. Thank you to these special people:

Beatrice Evans (Ms. Bea), who was ALWAYS there, early to late every single day; Barbara Werley (Ms. Barbie), who cooked AND made sure the Builders stayed organized, Laura Polk (who cooked a wonderful rib dinner for us), Sharon Lourance and her mother, Joan (who provided endless snacks and a full thanksgiving meal), and Janet Widger who also spent many days in the kitchen preparing meals and helping Ms. Bea and Ms. Barbie.

Janet also pleased a bunch of old folks one evening with cornbread, beans, and fried potatoes for supper! Janet Widger also served with the “Just The Crumbs”, Disaster Relief ministry, while they were serving the community of Des Arc, MO. She had also helped Bro. Lavon Hayden of Mississippi, Doyle Morris of Oklahoma, and Dwyann Morrow of Mississippi in this ministry in North Carolina.

The town of Des Arc was almost totally destroyed in the March 14 tornado outbreaks. What a compassionate, loving, and caring group of people who serve in this ministry!

Two of our Master’s Builders ladies had the opportunity to help in Des Arc and saw firsthand the full impact of their ministry.

While working at the camp, we had the opportunity to reconnect with former missionary to the Philippines, Bro. Melvin Meade and his wife, Carolyn. What a surprise to learn they were so close and then being blessed to attend their church services and eat a meal with them!

We also learned that Bro. Meade is an accomplished artist, and craftsman. He gifted each Master’s Builders family with a beautifully decorated cedar birdhouse.

Thank you to these special people and their church family.

Several men came and helped with the building when they could, and they were a great blessing to The Master’s Builders.

These included: Chris Polk, Camp Director and Pastor at First Missionary Baptist Matthews, and his father, Lonnie Polk; Claude Evans, Pastor of Stony Point Baptist Church; Terry Sharpe, Pastor of Ohlman Baptist Church; Melvin Meade, Pastor of Lower Doe Run Baptist Church; Matt Bolen, Jeff Reynolds, Johnny Beardsley, and of course Joe McElroy and Jacob Hale.

I may have missed some, but we do appreciate each one of you!

There is so much more that I would love to include, but this article is getting

quite lengthy, so “Follow us” on Facebook, Please! “Like” us at “The Master’s Builders” (arbor logo) and you’ll be able to follow all the details of each job, with pictures too! This was job #193 for The Master’s Builders.

We plan to head out to Go Forth Baptist Church in Kilgore, TX to work next. While there, we plan to help with framing walls inside a metal building on site to provide a gym space, classrooms, a kitchen, and bathrooms.

We plan to begin work on Monday, April 28, for two weeks. Come by and visit us and see what is going on if you are in the area. We would love to see you!

Please pray for this ministry! We need workers if we are to continue.

If you have questions about The Master’s Builders Ministry, or if your church has building needs, contact:

Mike Green at (972) 935-3877

David Axe at (903) 918-0702

or

Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675

Nelda Malone - Reporter



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Changing Times"

During this past year, gas prices have been up and down worse than a kid on a trampoline. No one seems to know where it is going to stop, but most know it will not go back to anywhere near \$1 per gallon of a few years ago.

I thought about the price of gas one day when I pulled into Sam's. The price was \$2.00 per gallon.

People were lined up at all the pumps. That was because every service station in town had gas from six to ten cents per gallon more.

Everything seems to be relative. Sam's \$2.00 was cheap when compared to the service stations selling gas for \$2.08 just down the street. However, compared to the price of gas when we lived on the farm, 19 cents per gallon, Sam's was outrageous.

I recall several occasions when I've pulled into a service station for gas and discovered their price was several cents a gallon more than the station just across the street. I've been told most people just go ahead and buy gas there because they would have been too embarrassed to leave.

Not me! I just drive off.

The rising price of gas reminds me of when it started going up in Oklahoma. It had been below 50 cents per gallon for a long time, and we weren't ready for it to go higher. They had some sort of crisis in the oil industry and they joyfully began raising the prices. I hadn't liked it but I had paid almost 60 cents per gallon when I filled up at home.

We had gone out of town and had to fill up before returning home. I pulled up to the pumps of a likely looking service station. The price wasn't posted so I figured it might be slightly higher. The attendant came running out and asking,

"Fill it up?"

Before answering I looked at the price on the pump. It had 89 cents per gallon. I asked, "Is that price right?" He said, "Yes."

Restarting my car I said, "I'm not paying that much for gas! I bought gas this morning for 60 cents per gallon."

He said, "I don't know why you thing that's high. Milk is \$1.36 a gallon and no one complains."

I gather this man had never heard of comparing apples to oranges. I said, "Well, I'll tell yoj for sure, I can go a lot further on a gallon of milk than on a gallon of gas." He looked as if he couldn't believe it when I drove away.

The man's comparison between the price of milk and the price of gas reminds me of a lot of other comparisons that are designed to get

others to accept some unacceptable behavior.

A preacher who smoked got tired of others condemning his habit. One day he said, "The next one who says anything about my smoking may find me putting my cigarette out in their cup of coffee." He was implying drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes were equal.

I don't do either of those, but they are not equal in the weight. The preacher my have had a point about his critics, but his comparison of coffee and cigarettes was like comparing milk and gas.

Although sin is sin in the sight of God, some sins are more atrocious than others.

John writes in 1 John 1:8-10 of some sins and said we may be forgiven of those when we confess them.

In Matthew 12:31-32 Jesus declared blasphemy against the Holy Spirit to be an unpardonable sin.

That's not a contradiction. Those are so much two different sins as milk and gas are two different liquids.



***“Critters and Bugs,”* cont from pg 3**

how they are being mistreated or how things aren't being done THEIR way.

I challenge you. Find an ant colony working to reach a challenging spot and have formed a chain from their bodies. Now, go very close and listen.

Do you hear the little fellow at the bottom of the pile complaining about how hard his job is or that there is none to help him? Is he murmuring that he was given the hardest job of all and no one cares? Of course not! He bears his load in silence giving it his all to accomplish

the goal of the colony.

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” Philippians 1:27

You will find Christians who constantly bicker and argue with others. How can this further the work of God? We all know it destroys it.

I have never seen two ants from the

same colony fighting have you? When there is a fight it is always against the enemy not a fellow member.

We too have one common enemy and that is Satan, not one another.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
Ephesians 6:12

When there is a true battle with an enemy no ant will run away. It is literally a fight to the death: nothing but total commitment.

In the heat of spiritual battles where Satan is making things difficult and uncomfortable, a lot of Christians take off, leaving others to deal with the problems and conflict.

Last of all, one of the ants greatest display of wisdom is the one mentioned in Proverbs 30:25, is how they diligently work during the harvest. No preacher, teacher, or leader is needed to get them working. It is of their own incentive.

Their motivation doesn't come from a program or course prepared for them. Simply, the harvest is there and the work needs to be done.

That's it. That's the reason for their tireless, intense labor. Now is the time of harvest for us too.

“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” John 4:35

Christ's coming is so near, but where are the workers? Lost souls are dying every second and are beginning their first day of an eternity in Hell. It is time we all apply the wisdom of the little ant, and tirelessly be about the work of the Lord in oneness and peace.

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” John 9:4

... to be continued next month.

Robinson Named Director CBC Financial Aid

Central Baptist College (CBC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Wendolyn Robinson as the new Director of Financial Aid. With over 10 years of experience in higher education and financial services, Dr. Robinson is poised to lead CBC's financial aid department and support students in navigating their educational funding options.

“Dr. Robinson's extensive experience and commitment to student success make her an ideal fit for this role,” said Executive Vice President Dr. Jeremy Langley. “We are excited to welcome her to our team and look forward to the positive impact she will have on our students.”

Dr. Robinson, a resident of North Little Rock, holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and a Doctor of Education from the University of Phoenix. Her diverse background and extensive knowledge in financial aid will enhance the services offered to CBC students.

Prior to her role at CBC, Dr. Robinson was the owner and managing director of Refilled Glass, LLC in Maumelle, Arkansas. She also served as an instructor and training developer at Camp Robinson Military Base in North Little Rock. Since 2013, she has been an adjunct professor at Central Baptist College, sharing her expertise with students and contributing to the academic community. Additionally, she held the position of Director of Financial Aid and Registrar at ITT Technical Institute in Little Rock from 2013 to 2016.

Dr. Robinson will begin her position immediately and will focus on providing comprehensive financial support and guidance to CBC students as they pursue their academic goals.

Robinson attends St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas.



BMA Global Celebrates 75th Anniversary with Missionary Reunions

**By Dr. Jonathan Montgomery,
Director of Missionary Care**

We had a great turnout for our first of three missionary family reunions on April 5.

Despite the bad storms and flooding across Arkansas, several were able to make it to Central Baptist College in Conway as BMA Global celebrated our missions heritage with some of the men and women who have made these last 75 years of global missions possible.

The group enjoyed a delicious catered meal from B Hive Catering and Chef Tommy Bowman, son of missionaries Bobby and Ruth Bowman.

There were games, gifts, door prizes, and a photo booth for the missionary families. The room was full of laughter and great stories during our time of fellowship as former and current missionaries reconnected, reminisced, and celebrated their shared experiences.

Our next family reunion is heading to Mississippi. We will be at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel on June 7, beginning at 11:30am.

We hope to see many of our Mississippi friends at this gathering.

Our final reunion is scheduled for Jacksonville College on September 6.

The missionary reunions are open to all BMA international and interstate missionaries, including those who have served, missionary kids who grew up on the field, and their families.

Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP by registering at

form.jotform.com/250163918763159

For any questions about the 75th anniversary reunions, feel free to email me at jonathan@bmaglobal.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kids Camp

July 14-18
Camp Cedar Hills
Binger, OK

Save the Date

ReCharge '25

September 29-October 1
Guest speaker Sam Rainer

BMAOK Annual Meeting

October 3-4
Sunray, Purcell

*Celebrating the
Women in our lives*

