



## Trump admin. to form group for workplace religious freedom

>> DIANA CHANDLER

NEW YORK (BP)—A new coalition of U.S. businesses to protect religious freedom in the workplace is among U.S. President Donald Trump's latest initiatives, Trump said Sept. 23 at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

"This initiative will encourage the private sector to protect people of all faiths in the workplace," Trump said in hosting the 11:30 a.m. Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom.

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## Eight suggestions for planning an annual preaching schedule

>> CHUCK LAWLESS

If I'm honest, I did far too little regular planning of my sermons when I was a young pastor. No one had disciplined me about scheduling a sermon series, and I was too unorganized at the time to think far beyond the next Sunday.

Now, though, I believe that strategic sermon planning is on target. I'd love to hear your thoughts and reflections in response to these suggestions below:

**1. Pray. And then pray some more about the direction you'll take.**

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## 2019 Pastors' Conference challenges to 'See the People'

>> CHRIS FIELDS

One of the most important events that we as Oklahoma Baptists have each year is the Oklahoma Pastors' Conference. When I was elected last year to serve as the president of this year's pastors' conference, I was humbled. The challenge was great, and my desire was to develop a conference that would not only be enjoyable but a conference that would inspire our pastors to think about those things that we are called to do as pastors.

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# Trump admin. to form group for workplace religious freedom

/// PREVIEWED ON COVER

>> by Diana Chandler  
BAPTIST PRESS GENERAL ASSIGNMENT  
WRITER/EDITOR

NEW YORK (BP)—A new coalition of U.S. businesses to protect religious freedom in the workplace is among U.S. President Donald Trump’s latest initiatives, Trump said Sept. 23 at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

“This initiative will encourage the private sector to protect people of all faiths in the workplace,” Trump said in hosting the 11:30 a.m. Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom. “Too often, people in positions of power preach diversity while silencing, shunning or censoring the faithful.

“True tolerance means respecting the right of all people to express their deeply held religious beliefs,” Trump said, citing statistics that 83 percent of the world’s population lives in countries with religious persecution.

Ronnie Floyd, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, applauded the event attended by more than 100 governmental leaders and members of persecuted faith commu-

nities globally, including Christians, Jewish leaders and Muslims.

“I applaud today’s call to broaden international support for the protection of religious freedom,” Floyd told Baptist Press. “This is especially important in the wake of increasing persecution of people on the basis of their beliefs, and the growing number of attacks on and destruction of houses of worship.

“It is time to bring an end to religious persecution and do all we can to see crimes cease against people of faith,” Floyd said. “I am grateful for President Trump speaking and leading in this global effort.”

Floyd described religious freedom as a “first freedom” in America.

“We should work to take the Gospel to the nations to see hearts and minds around the world changed so that all tribes, tongues and nations can freely and safely worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” Floyd told BP.

Trump pledged an additional \$25 million in U.S. funding to protect religious sites and relics from criminal attacks.

“These evil attacks are a wound on all humanity. We must all work together to protect communities

of every faith,” Trump said. “We’re also urging every nation to increase the prosecution and punishment of crimes against religious communities. There can be no greater crime than that.”

Trump proclaimed religious liberty one of his highest priorities as president.

“Today with one clear voice, the United States of America calls upon the nations of the world to end religious persecution,” Trump said. “To stop the crimes against people of faith, release prisoners of conscience, repeal laws restricting freedom of religion and belief, protect the vulnerable, the defenseless, and the oppressed, America stands with believers in every country who ask only for the freedom to live according to the faith that is within their own hearts.”

Joining Trump were U.N. Secretary General António Guterres, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback, formerly imprisoned pastor Andrew Brunson, and various administration representatives. [m](#)



## Messenger Insight: Pastors’ Conference in Focus

Hear all about the 2019 Oklahoma Pastors’ Conference, which is set for Nov. 11 in OKC. For free podcast downloads, visit [www.baptistmessenger.com/podcast](http://www.baptistmessenger.com/podcast) or look for Messenger Insight in the iTunes store.

Listen at [www.baptistmessenger.com/2019Pastors](http://www.baptistmessenger.com/2019Pastors)

## EVENTS

- OCT 3**  
Singing ChurchWomen West Concert  
Info: 7 p.m., Sayre, First; [bgcoworship.org](http://bgcoworship.org)
- OCT 10**  
Singing Churchmen Concert  
Info: 7 p.m., Stroud High School [bgcoworship.org](http://bgcoworship.org)
- OCT 17**  
Singing ChurchWomen East Concert  
Info: 7 p.m., Haskell, First; [bgcoworship.org](http://bgcoworship.org)
- OCT 25-26**  
BGCO Marriage Retreat  
Info: Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center, Davis; [bgco.org/ministries/family](http://bgco.org/ministries/family)

- OCT 27**  
Oklahoma Baptist Symphony Concert  
Info: 6 p.m., Chouteau, First; [bgcoworship.org](http://bgcoworship.org)
- NOV 3**  
SBC Disaster Relief Appreciation Day
- NOV 7**  
VBS Jumpstart  
Info: \$20, 8:30 a.m., Edmond, First; contact [pjones@bgco.org](mailto:pjones@bgco.org) or 405/942-3800 Ext. 4308
- NOV 7**  
Singing Churchmen & Singing ChurchWomen Joint Concert  
Info: 7 p.m., Edmond, First; [bgcoworship.org](http://bgcoworship.org)

## NEW ONLINE WEB-EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

- LifeWay Research: Most churches aren’t engaged in a ‘worship war’ over music*  
**AARON EARLS | SEPT 13**  
A new study from Nashville-based LifeWay Research found 15 percent of Protestant pastors in the U.S. say the biggest challenge they face in the area of music is navigating the varying music preferences of members.
- TRUSTEES: ERLC honors Denhollander, Lankford*  
**TOM STRODE | SEPT 15**  
Trustees of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission unanimously ratified Rachael Denhollander for the Distinguished Service Award and Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma for the Religious Liberty Award.
- LaVerne Brown, Okla. missionary to Sub-Saharan people, dies*  
**MARY JANE WELCH | SEPT 18**  
LaVerne Brown, an IMB missionary who shared the Gospel among Sub-Saharan African affinity peoples in Africa and Europe, died from cancer at age 48 on Sept. 12.

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# Encourage: 'WE' are Oklahoma Baptists



Hance Dilbeck

Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma  
@Hance\_Dilbeck

On November 11-12, Oklahoma Baptists will gather at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs for our Annual Meeting. I hope you will come and participate, even if you have not in the past.

This is an important year for us. As we move toward the Annual Meeting, I want to reflect on the reason why we exist. Our mission is simple:

We encourage one another to advance the Gospel.

Consider the three primary building blocks of our mission: 1) We, 2) Encourage, 3) Gospel Advance.

Today, let's think about the significance of the word "We." Oklahoma Baptists work together as We. "We" and "one another" are vital New Testament words. John Wesley used to say, "The Bible

knows nothing of a solitary religion."

When Jesus saves us, He changes "me" to "We." The "We" is often described as fellowship. Fellowship, *koinonia* in the New Testament, describes the deep sharing that followers of Jesus Christ experience. We share a common redemption in Christ Jesus; we share the same experience of grace, and we share the Holy Spirit within.

Christian fellowship is theological, and our fellowship is very practical. Do not overlook the very practical aspect of fellowship in the pages of the New Testament. Our fellowship is a sharing of time, work and money.

"We" stands firm against some other words I hear from time to time; words that I resist. For example, "We" is much better than "it." The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma can sound like an "it," an institution—buildings, budgets and boards.

At the core, our cooperative work is a sharing, a fellowship in Christ Jesus. We share time together; we share money together, and we share the work together. Let's try to eliminate "it" as a pronoun

that refers to Oklahoma Baptists.

"We" also stands firm against the word "They." When a fellow Oklahoma Baptist uses the word "They" to refer to our convention, the word scrapes across my ears like fingernails on a chalk board.

We encourage one another to advance the Gospel. This is not about what They do for me, and it is not what I do for them. We serve one another. We are Oklahoma Baptists.

When we gather in November, consider all the discussions, reports and presentations about our cooperative efforts. You will observe an emphasis on our gatherings, our goings and our giving.

Remember that New Testament fellowship has always involved gathering together (time), going together (work) and giving together (money). These are the tangible, practical spheres in which Christian fellowship is expressed.

I hope that you will come to our annual gathering this year but leave behind "it" and "they." Oklahoma Baptists, WE encourage one another to advance the Gospel. [m](#)

## Sword & trowel: Suicide watch & 13 reasons why (to choose life)



Brian Hobbs

Editor of the Baptist Messenger  
@BrianGHobbs

People in Evangelical Christian circles expressed heartbreak, shock and sadness at the recent news of the apparent suicide of Jarrid Wilson, a young pastor and advocate for mental health.

The suicide epidemic is real. Everyone from mental health experts to Christian leaders who know God's Word forward and backward, seem perplexed as to what is accelerating this trend.

Contrary to Netflix's damaging series "13 Reasons Why," today I am offering 13 reasons why life is worth living and why suicide is never the answer.

**13. We are not our own.** If we live life as though it's ours to use, we often will make destructive choices. If instead we live as though we belong to God, we are more apt to live wisely, with eternity in mind. Our lives are not our own (Rom. 12:1-2).

**12. Your life is valuable.** Growing up, the self-esteem movement told me how special I was. While I since have learned that I am not all that special, I learned an even greater truth: I am valuable (and so are you) because we are created in God's image (Gen. 1:27), and we each have inherent worth. Never forget that.

**11. People need you.** It's easy to drift through life feeling like you have no purpose. We need to realize—whether we are ever told this or not—other people are counting on you. Other people need you.

**10. There is help.** If you are feeling suicidal, don't wait to ask for help. One expert on suicide said, "If you are struggling with depression, please call 1-800-273-TALK 24/7."

**9. There is hope.** One of my biggest struggles in life is being a father. I am not the father I want to be. Yet, I read a book title that was called "Hopeful Parenting," and I was reminded of the power of hope. In life, we can always cling to hope.

**8. Persistence pays.** In the most brilliant, but brief, commencement address of all time, Sir Winston Churchill said, "Never give up. Never, never." That is the best possible advice, humanly speaking, on days we feel like giving up.

**7. Problems are often temporary.** I read an article by a woman whose own husband and son each committed suicide. This dear woman said, "Don't choose a permanent solution to a temporary situation." When we focus on our problems, our minds can play tricks on us and tell us things will never get better. Wisdom and life experience, though, show that problems are often temporary.

**6. Suicide transfers your problems to others you love.** Through reading this same article, it was clear to see that the problems that these men who took their own lives were overwhelming. Perhaps the men were

trying to escape their problems by suicide. It only ended up transferring their problems to other people.

**5. Satan is lying to you.** Jesus said, "The thief (Satan) comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly." The blueprint of the devil is death. God's plan is for life. (John 10:10). Today, choose not to believe Satan's lies.

**4. There is more to life than what you see.** Right now, around the world, other people are struggling. Don't fall into thinking those picture perfect Instagram moments that everyone else is posting means you are alone in your troubles. Others are struggling too.

**3. God's people love you.** Christians do not always reflect the unconditional love of Jesus. In fact, we rarely do. But in God's family, people outside the church and inside the church should know love. If you are a follower of Christ, today show others you love them, not by words only, but by actions.

**2. God loves you.** The Bible says, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Let that truth sink in. Remind yourself of that daily, and remind others as well.

**1. Jesus died so you could live.** The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him" (John 3:16). Jesus came to give you life and eternal life. If we know that, believe that and trust Him, that truly would be the greatest reason why. [m](#)

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# Rite of passage: Stranger danger

/// PREVIEWED ON COVER



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Twitter | @WalkerDeanMoore

Stranger Danger was something I actively taught my children. I instructed them, “Don’t take candy from strangers; Don’t get into a car with strangers,” etc.

I even role played this for them. I would dress up in a trench coat (I read too many *Mad Magazines* as a child). I would approach them with candy and try to lure them into my car. They learned to yell “NO!” and runaway. Now, I know most predators don’t wear trench coats any more, but I was trying to teach them a skill set of “what if” situational responses.

When our son Caleb was somewhere between 4 and 5 years of age, we had a scary incident. We had taken a youth group for spring break to Laguna Beach Christian Camp in Panama City, Fla. All of our youth had gone out early on the beach and divided into small groups to go through their morning Bible studies.

One of the groups had asked us if they could take Caleb with them and make him a part of their team. Our sons have always enjoyed hanging out with the older students, so we let Caleb go with them.

About an hour later, an elderly couple pulled into our camp. As their car rolled to a stop, the back door opened, and out jumped Caleb, waving good-bye to them.

I asked the couple what was going on? They said they were driving down the road when they saw

this small child walking backwards with his hand up in the air and thumb extended in the well-known “hitchhiker pose.”

“We were concerned about this child on the side of the road, so we pulled over, and he said he needed a ride to the camp,” they said. I thanked the couple for taking care of him.

Pulling Caleb aside I asked, “What were you thinking getting into a car with some strangers?” He assured me that he had interviewed them, and they had grandchildren of their own. Then he wanted me to know that he had never hitchhiked before and wanted to experience what it was like. So much for role-playing Stranger Danger.

What is funny? This generation that has been taught not to get into car with strangers are now holding up their hand, with cell phone tightly clasped, waiting for a stranger who comes and picks them up. They call it Uber, which is nothing but trying to find a stranger who is driving around the middle of the night to come and pick you up.

Then there is Grubhub where you call a stranger to go pick up food for you and bring it to your house. And then there is Airbnb where, if your roommate is gone for the night, you can rent out their room to a... stranger.

On my last trip to the Middle East, guess how I got around? I had an app on my phone where I found a stranger who would pick me up and take me to a stranger’s home. The directions on how to get into the stranger’s house were to go up to the second floor, lean out the window, and there I would see a pipe running out of an air conditioner. There will be

a rock sitting on top of the pipe. Pick up the rock, and your key will be there.

Our flight was delayed, and we found ourselves at 4:30 in the morning getting out of a stranger’s car, walking into a dark apartment building, climbing up two flights of stairs and leaning out of a window to look for the key under the rock.

Guess what? We found it, and the apartment was very nice.

I have been thinking about renting my two boys’ room out since they are married and gone. If they call and said, “Dad, guess what. We are coming home for Christmas,” I am afraid I might have to tell them that I have their room rented out to a nice couple from China during those dates. But I know a good website that have strangers renting out their room.

One distinction of the Christian life is our treatment to strangers and those who are in need. Recently, I went to visit a good friend of mine. As I entered the house, I was introduced to a stranger. It was a lady whose home was destroyed in the floods that we had in Tulsa this year.

My friend picked up the lady and moved her into his home. He and his family helped to find and fix up another house where she could live. They did all this at no cost to the lady in need. That reminds me of what the Scriptures says:

*“For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in” (Matt. 25:35).*

As you teach your children Stranger Danger, don’t let them be a stranger to the One who was born in a manger.

## Showing your appreciation to a multi-vocational pastor



Philip Jones

BGCO Multi-Vocational Pastor (MVP)  
Strategist

Pastors are a gift from God to the church, and we should show our appreciation. Eph. 4:11-12 says *“And He gave some to be... pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

Pastors and their families are dear to my heart because they are gifts from God to the church. It was a pastor of a small church who led me to the Lord, and it was a pastor who mentored me in ministry. Strong’s Concordance defines the pastor as a shepherd, a feeder, protector and ruler of a flock of men.

Hance Dilbeck preached a sermon recently in which he highlighted the role of the pastor from 1 Pet. 5:1-5. In that passage, there are three powerful words used to define the role of the pastor: the word “elder,” the word “feed” and the word “oversight.” These God-called men, who are gifts to the church, have immense responsibilities as shepherds of the church.

There are nearly 1,800 churches in our Oklahoma Baptist family, and our

churches have been given pastors to feed, to protect and to lead. More than 50 percent of these churches have pastors who are multi-vocational. They not only faithfully serve the church that God has given them, but they work in secular employment to provide the financial support, so they can feed, protect and lead the church of which God has called them.

October is nationally recognized as Pastor Appreciation Month. Some churches have long standing traditions of honoring the pastor and showing him how much they appreciate him faithfully discharging his call in the church. If your church does not traditionally observe Pastor Appreciation Month, let me ask you to seriously consider it. Here are two reasons why it is important.

**1. Pastors face discouragement.** Discouragement falls on pastors of large churches as well as pastors of small churches. Pastors do not have special immunity from discouragement. No matter how godly, wise or anointed pastors may be, they are still human. Because of this, we should remember that they also have their limitations. They have weaknesses and needs. They have moments of discouragement.

**2. Pastors are overworked.** In my 31 years as a pastor, this question was asked often: “Pastor, what do you do?”

The truth is, very few people know what the weekly schedule of pastor looks like. All they see is the hour he works on Sunday morning preaching. Who wouldn’t like a job where you only worked one hour a week?

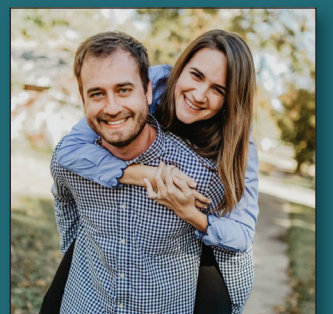
Thom Rainer once did a study and found that pastors spend an average of 22 hours a week preparing sermons. Furthermore, pastors spend several hours a week providing counseling; doing hospital visits, weddings and funerals; sharing the Gospel; doing custodial duties at the church like opening and closing the building, turning on and off the lights and general cleaning of the building.

Would you consider asking your church leadership to show appreciation to your pastor and his family this month? Here are some suggestions:

- Take up the challenge to pray for your pastor specifically every day through the month.
- Volunteer time to take some of the workload off your pastor.
- Thoughtful gifts also would be appreciated. You might ask the church to receive an offering to send the pastor and his family on a vacation.

Pastors usually are wary of receiving gifts, but Pastor Appreciation Month is the perfect opportunity for the church to be pushy and say, “No, we insist! You have sacrificed for us, let us, the church, bless you.”

### PRAY FOR A PLANTER



Matthew and Joanna Beasley

Norman, Hope Community  
Launched in 2017

God is on the move in Norman. Matthew and Joanna are excited to be part of what God is doing in their community. The church planter couple long to see disciples of Jesus raised up in neighborhoods in Norman that are currently unreached with the Gospel.

#### Prayer Requests:

- For Norman, Hope Community as they are in the process of purchasing its first building.
- The church is seeking to raise \$25k before they close on the building.
- For everything to continue to go smoothly and according to God’s plan.

[oklahomachurchplanting.com](http://oklahomachurchplanting.com)



# Oklahoma Baptists support See You At The Pole

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>> PHOTOS: 1) TREVOR RIDDLE; 2) BRIAN BALDWIN; 3) BRIAN HOBBS 1) Students of Thackerville Public Schools gather around the flag pole; 2) Students of Christian Heritage Academy in Del City pray in the rain; 3) More than 1,600 students gathered for the 'Saw You At The Pole' event in Durant in 2018.

>> by Chris Doyle  
MANAGING EDITOR

Every year, across the world, students gather around their school's flagpole to pray, observing See You At The Pole (SYATP). Oklahoma Baptists make a strong effort to keep this annual occurrence across the state.

On Sept. 25, countless communities had students meet early at their schools to pray at the flagpole. Brian Baldwin, student missions and evangelism specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, was excited to hear about the turnout at the many schools across Oklahoma.

"It's an excellent opportunity for the students to be bold, to declare their witness to Jesus as they gathered around the flag pole," Baldwin said. "It's good for our students because it shows declaration of dependence on God. It's also good for churches to bring unity at the poles and rallies, even with the partnerships that are a result of what happens at See You At The Pole."

Baldwin also emphasized the way SYATP has a lasting impact on students

"It's an opportunity to persuade students to think about the Gospel and to have the opportunity to share, especially with the rallies," he said.

Several Oklahoma Baptist leaders participated with students at SYATP, but they also were involved in the rallies afterward, Baldwin mentioned, which happened later in the day. And many of these post rallies are supported through the Edna McMillan Oklahoma State Missions Offering.

"Churches that are putting on the rallies get with their director of missions and request these funds that are provided through the State Missions Offering," Baldwin said. "At the rallies, they are required to have a Gospel presentation and provide an opportunity for students to respond. It's a great opportunity to impact lostness."

Baldwin also understands how important it is to have students be a part of SYATP.

"Anytime you get students together to pray it's go-

ing to make an impact because prayer makes an impact," he said. "It says in Psalm 127, 'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.' We want God to be involved in everything we do."

SYATP also has other impactful results.

"After students gather around the pole, the desire grows to do more things like that," Baldwin said. "Whether they launch a campus ministry club at their school, or they strengthen ministries that already exist. In turn, these ministry opportunities impact the campus, their communities and really our state."

Baldwin was confident there would be great participation at the rallies happening across Oklahoma. "Every year, people are saved, and that's the greatest result from these rallies," he said.

To read more about SYATP and the participation in this year's rallies, visit [skopos.org](http://skopos.org).

## VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

### OKLAHOMA

Ministries with on-going opportunities:  
Tulakogee Conference Center, Wagoner—John Hewitt, 918/462-3212, [john@tulakogee.com](mailto:john@tulakogee.com)

DaySpring Villa, a faith-based shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence or human sexual trafficking and their children, Sand Springs—Susan Cox, 918/245-4075

Hospitality House of Tulsa provides family centered lodging, emotional and spiritual support for family members of patients traveling to Tulsa for medical care—918/694-8888

Hospitality House of Oklahoma provides for the physical, spiritual needs of families with loved ones incarcerated in McAlester. Lodging available—918/429-0142

### DISASTER RELIEF

Training:  
**Oct. 26**—OKC, Putnam City, 11401 N. Rockwell; 8 a.m.-2 p.m.-Lunch provided. New volunteers \$15, returning volunteers needing badge \$10, BCM students \$10.00. Register at [okdisasterhelp.org](http://okdisasterhelp.org).

Chaplaincy:  
**Oct. 18-19**—Critical Incident Stress Management, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$45, OKC Police Training Center, 800 N. Portland Ave, Oct. 3 deadline.  
**Refresher training dates:** Oct. 29, Nov. 25 and Dec 14. This is for endorsed chaplains. For more info visit [www.bgco.org/chaplaincy](http://www.bgco.org/chaplaincy)



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# New church 'Ascends' in Woodward

/// PREVIEWED ON COVER



>> PHOTOS: 1) PROVIDED; 2-3) CHRIS FORBES; 4) PROVIDED BY HIDDEN HARVEST SURVEY 1) Church Planting Pastor, Blake Farley briefs the 65 member launch team on last minute details before the inaugural meeting of Ascent Church; 2) Church planter Taylor Farley puts last minute touches on the new church's children's ministry; 3) Mike Hill, left, and church planter Blake Farley, right, share a greeting with Farley's dad, Kevin, center, in the first of two worship services held by the church; 4) Statistics were extrapolated from 2017 survey research from 'Hidden Harvest.'

>> by Chris Forbes  
**BGCO COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BRANDING  
& MARKETING SPECIALIST**

WOODWARD—Sunday, Sept. 15 marked the raising up of a brand new church in Woodward with 312 people meeting under the banner, “This is Home.” Woodward, Ascent, led by Blake and Taylor Farley and a launch team of 58 people, celebrated the inaugural worship meetings of the church with two services and a full children’s ministry in the Woodward Events Center.

Nine professions of faith in Christ were reported, and the new congregation had its first baptism service on Sept. 29. The church plant demonstrated a sacrificial commitment to future church multiplication in the state by giving 100 percent of the first offering collected in both services to Oklahoma church planting.

“We believe God wants us to show our commitment to church planting,” said Blake Farley, who serves as church planting pastor, “and I say this with a lump in my throat, knowing that we are a new church with a lot of financial needs, that we will give everything we collect today in offerings to church planting in Oklahoma.”

Woodward, Ascent also plans to give at least 8 percent of the church’s undesignated offerings on an ongoing basis through the Cooperative Program and 2 percent to Northwest Association.

John Elam, associational missionary in Northwest Association, was present at the launch of Woodward, Ascent and expressed enthusiasm about the church.

“I am always excited to see God at work in young men called to the ministry of the Gospel,” Elam said. “I am especially encouraged when that calling is confirmed and put to task in the work of establishing a new church. Blake and Taylor Farley and Ascent Church will join the churches of Northwest Association in pushing back darkness and proclaiming the incredible message of the Gospel of Christ across northwest Oklahoma. I look forward to seeing what God will do in and through the ministry of this new church.”

### ‘Large launch’ model

Woodward, Ascent used the “large launch” church planting model, an approach that has proven effective in Oklahoma. Since 2015, six new church plants followed this same model in Woodward, Sapulpa, Enid, Deer Creek, Mustang and Ponca City.

Jimmy Kinnaird, church multiplication specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO), believes the model is biblical.

“Jesus began the public expression of His church with a large launch,” Kinnaird said. “After three years of ministry and disciple making, there were 120 people praying in the upper room. The Lord added that day 3,000 people (Acts 2:41).”

“Typically, a large launch church planting model is defined by having more than three times the attendance of a church plant’s launch team,” he continued. “The core group of Jesus at the beginning of the day was 120, so His ‘launch’ was well over three times the size.”

Kinnaird sees the large launch model benefiting church multiplication in the state if church plant-

ers hold fast to the principle that “church” is not an event but a community of gathered believers.

“The benefits of a large launch in Oklahoma can be the same for us as it was during Jesus’ earthly ministry,” he said. “First, a large launch creates excitement both in the core and throughout the community. A large launch bypasses the ‘growing pain’ issues inherent in a small church. Flexibility and growth are expected. The tendency is most churches that start small, remain small. This is not true in every case, but it is true in most. A large church launch becomes self-sustaining sooner.

“Large launches tend to baptize more people. However, large launches do require more work, organization, patience and leadership development on the front end. Large launches may take 14-24 months of leadership, disciple-making and core building before a public gathering. The launch of the early church, humanly speaking, was three years in the making.

“Having said all that, I must emphasize that ‘church’ is not an event but a community of people,” Kinnaird concluded. “Oklahoma needs large launches, but (they need to be) launches that flow out of a life lived with Gospel intentionality at its core.”

### Reaching the spiritually broken in the ‘Bible Belt’

When people who live outside the state think of Oklahoma, they might be tempted to think that the state has been reached or is over-churched. With what seems like a church on every corner, surely almost everyone in the state is a believer or at least has a connection to a church. Farley said he has first-hand experience that this is not the case in Woodward.

“One of the biggest oppositions I wrestled with personally, when discerning the call to plant in Woodward, was the idea that Woodward had enough churches,” Farley said. “I thought that everyone who wanted to go to church had a church, and those who weren’t interested already had their mind made up that they weren’t going.

“God convinced Taylor and me that this wasn’t the case,” he continued, “but the enemy has been

ruthless in attacking us with this claim. We have had some well-meaning—and some not so well meaning—people tell us that we were foolish for planting in the ‘Bible Belt.’ However, God has blown us away with the response of broken and spiritually-dry people yearning for what only Jesus can provide.”

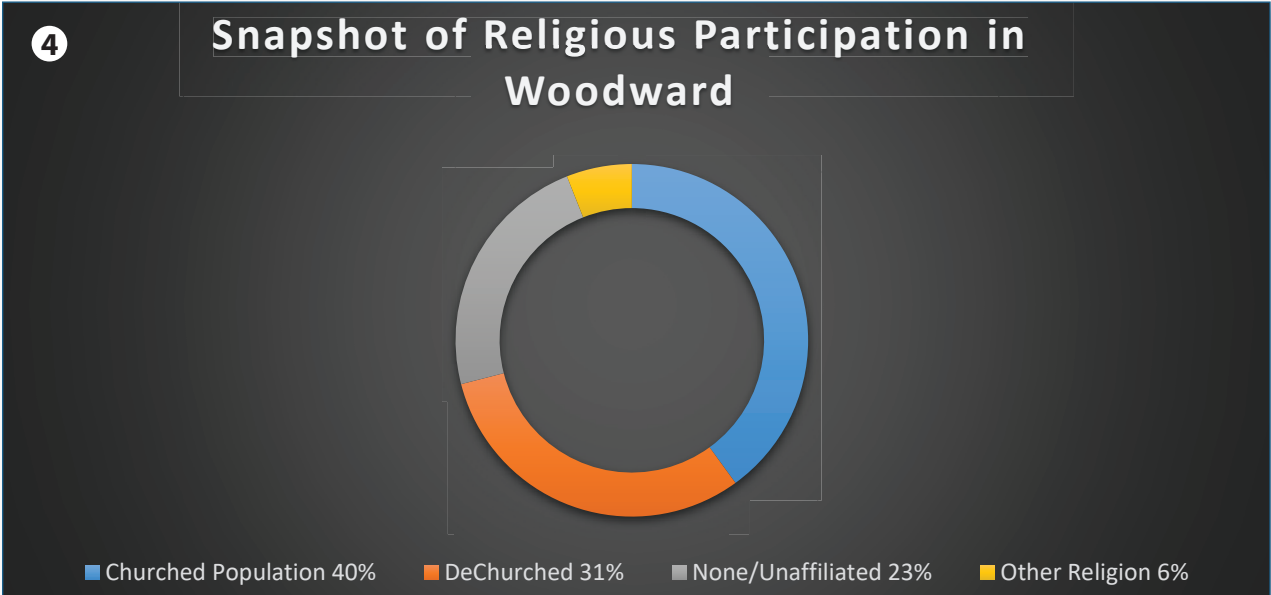
A 2017 survey conducted by Oklahoma Baptists of the state’s unchurched population estimates that 23 percent of Woodward residents have no church background. Of the city’s 12,356 inhabitants counted in the most recent U.S. Census, the survey estimates that less than 5,000 residents regularly attend church, with another 3,800 dechurched people who have a church background, yet are inactive in church. The survey estimates more than 2,800 in Woodward are religiously unaffiliated, what church planting missiologists call “Nones.” Another 6 percent, or 741 people, are affiliated with another religious group, according to survey estimates.

Farley explained that Woodward, Ascent is seeking to reach the city’s dechurched and unaffiliated population.

“We aren’t starting Ascent to reach those already in the family of God,” he said. “We want our mission to be the same as our King’s mission: ‘to seek and save the lost.’ Through His Spirit, we believe we can accomplish just that.

“Over and over, as we have gone through the process of launching this new church, we have seen proof of this. Taylor and I have had several conversations with people who openly claimed they didn’t believe in Jesus, but found the Gospel I was preaching very interesting. I am so excited to see what the Lord does with these conversations and others we have had like them. Several of these people we have met have even asked to help us launch the new church and joined the launch team. God is at work transforming the spiritually broken in our city.”

For more information about the church planting and the Hidden Harvest survey of Oklahoma’s unchurched, contact the BGCO Church Multiplication Office at 405/942-3800 Ext. 4385. [m](#)





# Look who's speaking at 2019 Pastors' Conference Nov. 11

/// PREVIEWED ON COVER

>> by Chris Doyle  
MANAGING EDITOR

Six speakers have been chosen for the 2019 Oklahoma Baptist Pastors' Conference, which will meet in conjunction with this year's Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). The Pastors' Conference will be at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs on Monday, Nov. 11, featuring a morning session that begins at 9 a.m. and an afternoon session that begins at 1:30 p.m.

All six speakers will bring messages that align with the conference's theme "See the People." Chris Fields, president of this year's Pastors' Conference and pastor of Clinton, First, explains the theme in his article on page 12 of this edition of the *Baptist Messenger*.

## Here are the profiles of this year's Pastors' Conference speakers:

- 1

**ANTHONY JORDAN**  
Retired BGCO Executive Director-Treasurer  
🕒 **Speaking in morning session**  
**Info on Jordan:**
  - Retired in 2018 after serving 22 years as BGCO executive director-treasurer
  - His tenure stands as the longest of any to hold that role in Oklahoma
  - Served as pastor for more than 28 years in Oklahoma and other states
  - Served in numerous leadership roles in Missouri, Oklahoma and the Southern Baptist Convention
  - Graduate of Southwest Baptist University, where he gained bachelor of arts degree
  - Earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary
- 2

**DHATI LEWIS**  
Pastor, Atlanta, Ga., Blueprint  
Executive Director, NAMB Community Restoration  
🕒 **Speaking in afternoon session**  
**Info on Lewis:**
  - Completed his undergraduate studies from the University of North Texas (UNT)
  - Earned his doctorate of ministry at Southeastern Seminary
  - Served as a chaplain to UNT's football team, coached high-school football, became a college pastor and eventually planted a church in Texas
  - Moved to Atlanta in 2009, along with 25 others, with the goal to become the last generation of believers who have to leave the urban context in search of sound discipleship



- 3

**JASON PAREDES**  
Pastor, Arlington, Texas, Fielder  
🕒 **Speaking in afternoon session**  
**Info on Paredes:**
  - Joined Fielder in 2005 to lead the church's Hispanic ministry
  - The church made an intentional effort to connect with its diverse communities, instituting a service-focused, adopt-a-block strategy to get the congregation into the neighborhoods it wanted to reach
  - The church also opened a second campus in nearby Grand Prairie, Texas, where much diversity exists
  - Paredes became lead pastor at Fielder in 2016
- 4

**STEPHEN RUMMAGE**  
Pastor, Oklahoma City, Quail Springs  
🕒 **Speaking in afternoon session**  
**Info on Rummage:**
  - Became senior pastor of Oklahoma City, Quail Springs in March this year
  - Previously served as pastor of Tampa, Fla., Bell Shoals for nine and a half years
  - Delivered the annual sermon at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Birmingham, Ala
  - Served in key leadership positions with the SBC and the Florida Baptist State Convention
  - Served as associate professor of preaching and director of the doctor of ministry program at Southeastern Seminary
- 5

**CRAIG TOWERY**  
Pastor, Sentinel, First  
🕒 **Speaking in morning session**  
**Info on Towery:**
  - Serving as pastor of Sentinel, First since 2017
  - Previously served as pastor of Amber, First
  - Also served on staff at Piedmont, First...
  - Served in youth ministry for 17 years with five previous years as youth minister at Sentinel, First
- 6

**K. MARSHALL WILLIAMS**  
Pastor, Philadelphia, Pa., Nazarene  
🕒 **Speaking in morning session**  
**Info on Williams:**
  - Serving as pastor of Philadelphia, Pa., Nazarene for more than 35 years
  - Served as an adjunct chaplain and Bible expositor for the Philadelphia Phillies, Eagles and 76ers
  - Recipient of Oklahoma Baptist University's 2019 Hershel H Hobbs Award for Distinguished Service
  - Served as a missionary with Sports Ambassadors, a basketball evangelism ministry team, which toured the Philippines, Hong Kong, Tokyo and five countries in Africa

# Johnson new leader at Baptist Village of Hugo

>> by Jason Davis  
BVC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

HUGO—Billy Johnson is the new campus director at Baptist Village of Hugo. He began serving on Sept. 1.

"Billy is extremely experienced and has a servant's heart," said Bill Pierce, president of Baptist Village Communities (BVC). "He is an outstanding leader in our field. I have been blessed to call him friend for many years."

Johnson is a highly experienced healthcare administrators in southeast Oklahoma. He served nearly 20 years as CEO of Coal County General Hospital and Extended Care, which includes a skilled health center.

Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in counseling from Calvary Theological Seminary and is a longtime member and deacon at Coalgate, First. He and his wife, Nancy, have two children and two grandchildren.

"Billy Johnson is a perfect fit for Baptist Village of Hugo," said Steve Thomas, BVC vice president-operations. "He is a committed, servant leader, and I'm thrilled that God has called him to serve with us in the ministry of Baptist Village Communities."



Johnson shares enthusiasm for his new calling to Baptist Village.

"It is an honor and privilege to be part of Baptist Village of Hugo," he said. "God has blessed me with the opportunity to work with great providers and caregivers and be part of the Hugo community. I would like to thank everyone who has already

welcomed me to the Baptist Village family and to the community. I am looking forward to being part of the community and working together to provide the best services possible to the families who trust Baptist Village for their services."

To learn more about Baptist Village of Hugo, call 580/326-8383 or visit [baptistvillage.org](http://baptistvillage.org).



# Vudu's new filtered movie service leads October's family-friendly lineup

/// PREVIEWED ON COVER

>> by Michael Foust  
WORDSLINGERSOK.COM ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Editor's note: This monthly series, "4 Family-Friendly Things," spotlights five family-friendly entertainment choices on film, DVDs, streaming or television.

What if you could turn a PG-13 movie into a family-friendly film that even a 7-year-old child could watch?

Thanks to a new venture between Vudu, Walmart and Clearplay, you can.

The Walmart-owned Vudu launched in September a new section on its platform dubbed "Family Play," allowing families to filter out the rough language, sexuality and violence in more than 600 streaming movies, including action films like *Avengers: Endgame* and *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, and more family-centric flicks like *Incredibles 2*.

The result: family movie night without uncomfortable moments—and without the need to dive for the remote. Vudu's Family Play leads this month's list of 4 Family-Friendly Things.

As of now, the service is available on computer browsers, iOS and Android devices, and certain smart TVs, but Vudu says the list is growing.

I tested the new service by watching *Superman Returns* with my young children. I connected my laptop to my TV with an HDMI cord, and it worked flawlessly.

Most movies on Vudu can be rented or purchased, although some are available free, with ads.

It's the most exciting development for family entertainment since the launch of VidAngel, which has a similar service but lost a court case, limiting what can be streamed legally. (VidAngel is still in business and remains the better option if you're wanting to filter more mature content from Netflix or Amazon Prime.)

Tim Winter, president of the Parents Television Council, said Walmart took a "bold stance" in launching the service.

"They're saying, 'We know that parents want this. And we're going to try to find a way to make it hap-



>> PHOTO: HALLMARK  
New Hallmark series 'When Hope Calls' is now streaming on 'Hallmark Movies Now.'

pen.' I'm absolutely thrilled," Winter told me. "We hope other streaming platforms beyond just Vudu will seek to adopt something like it."

The new service also incorporates information from Common Sense Media, the popular website with parental reviews.

Learn more: [WatchVudu.com/familyfeatures](http://WatchVudu.com/familyfeatures).

Also worth watching this month:

**'When Hope Calls'**—If you're a fan of Hallmark's series *When Calls The Heart*—or just Hallmark movies in general—then you'll love *When Hope Calls*. Set in 1916, it tells the story of sisters Lillian and Grace, who open an orphanage in the Canadian town of Brookfield. The series has the same feel and look of *When Calls The Heart*, but with an entirely different plot. It is currently streaming on *Hallmark Movies Now*, Hallmark's on-demand streaming service.


**'Toy Story 4'/'The Lion King'**—This pair of Disney films are two of the most

family-friendly movies of 2019. In *Toy Story 4*, Sheriff Woody has a new owner and a new hilarious friend: Forky. *The Lion King*, of course, is a live-action remake of the animated classic. (Parents may want to be prepared to discuss the film's "circle of life" worldview.) I gave both films high marks. The Disney/Pixar film *Toy Story 4* became available on digital platforms Oct. 1 and on DVD/Blu-ray Oct. 8. *The Lion King* debuts on digital platforms Oct. 11, followed by DVD/Blu-ray Oct. 22.

**'One on One with Kirk Cameron'**—The well-known Christian actor interviews celebrities such as Phil Robertson and ends each show with a game or stunt with his guest. It's enlightening and entertaining. The series airs Thursday nights on TBN, which has undergone a transformation and now features a primetime lineup with the goal of reaching a new generation. The Thursday night lineup also includes *Drive Thru History* and *Jesus the Game Changer*. [m](#)




## MISSIONARY PRAYER GUIDE




Pray for Oklahoma Missionary **Will Wright**

As BGCO information technology (IT) director, Will directs the operation of the IT office, supervises staff and function and oversees budget control and oversight.



Pray for Oklahoma Missionary **Monty Hale**

Monty is director of missions in Washington-Osage Association. The association coordinates the work of the 38 churches in northeast Oklahoma. Pray that God would begin a revival in this area.



For Powerpoint slides of Prayer Guide, visit [www.bgco.org/cp](http://www.bgco.org/cp)

## WORD SEARCH

**Note:** The word clues for the Word Search are chosen by the Messenger staff, while the puzzles and letters surrounding the clues are computer-generated at random.

G	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G	R	U	A	X	J	K	P	Y	E	V	E	S	F	J	C	C
B	S	C	M	A	L	E	U	I	H	V	S	B	W	Z	Z	M	O	J	M	N	F	W	F	G
J	A	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	S	O	A	N	J	X	O	T	M	W	D	W	V	N
G	S	O	Q	Q	E	K	S	L	Z	N	O	T	N	P	Y	H	N	S	A	B	E	T	H	L
Y	C	B	Z	A	J	O	G	R	A	D	C	S	W	N	T	A	A	E	U	R	H	M	C	T
W	E	W	N	M	S	S	F	O	W	R	I	Y	G	I	L	I	R	V	Y	H	C	N	H	B
G	N	I	K	O	K	W	S	A	E	W	A	Z	S	P	S	V	S	S	X	S	A	I	U	F
L	T	Y	W	H	R	V	R	H	T	O	T	D	V	U	T	W	C	M	H	N	E	P	R	E
A	T	U	Y	A	G	D	O	H	E	T	I	I	H	H	L	R	N	G	I	K	R	J	C	E
G	A	W	V	L	D	L	Z	Q	R	V	O	T	V	A	Q	R	O	T	S	A	P	D	H	G
B	V	I	V	K	X	N	G	R	N	I	N	R	M	R	B	X	P	W	C	R	D	Y	C	C
J	I	K	Q	O	T	X	U	M	I	E	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	L	P	I	T	L	U	M
B	A	P	T	I	S	T	H	C	T	H	N	K	C	O	N	G	R	E	G	A	T	I	O	N
M	F	A	R	L	E	Y	J	M	Y	R	J	U	K	D	E	H	C	R	U	H	C	N	U	G
X	B	L	N	I	N	A	U	G	U	R	A	L	P	H	C	N	U	A	L	E	N	Z	Z	X
S	K	E	I	G	J	B	R	O	K	E	N	S	W	O	Y	C	G	W	H	S	L	B	S	K
N	W	D	N	I	K	V	B	K	I	N	N	A	I	R	D	E	M	O	H	W	Y	O	N	Q

Ascent	Church	Eternity	Launch	Pastor
Association	Community	Farley	Multiplication	Plant
Baptism	Congregation	Home	New	Reached
Baptist	Elam	Inaugural	Offering	Unchurched
Broken	Enthusiasm	Kinnaird	Oklahoma	Woodward



# Eight suggestions for planning an annual preaching schedule

/// PREVIEWED ON COVER

>> by Chuck Lawless  
SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY DEAN OF  
DOCTORAL STUDIES, CHUCKLAWLESS.COM

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was previously featured on chucklawless.com.

If I'm honest, I did far too little regular planning of my sermons when I was a young pastor. No one had disciplined me about scheduling a sermon series, and I was too unorganized at the time to think far beyond the next Sunday.

Now, though, I believe that strategic sermon planning is on target. I'd love to hear your thoughts and reflections in response to these suggestions below:

## 1. Pray. And then pray some more about the direction you'll take.

I fear that too many of us decide where we want to go with our preaching, prepare the sermons, and then ask God to bless them. We turn to Him more after our prep is finished than before.

**2. Plan and prepare out of your "alone time" with God.** "Let your preaching come from the overflow of your life with God" is more than a spiritual slogan; it's a life-giving goal. Spend time with the Father as you consider what your preaching schedule might be.

**3. Welcome the input of others who walk with Him.** Sometimes we get so focused on our immediate thinking that we miss things others might recognize. For example, they might see that I've preached the same general material three years in a row, or that my plan seems to forget the church's commitment to be more globally focused. More sets of spiritual eyes are helpful.

**4. Think wisely as you plan long sermon series.** Here, I admit my bias, and I welcome your input. Given that we often don't have dozens of years to invest in others through our


preaching, I debate within myself the wisdom of taking years to preach through one book of the Bible. I'm concerned that while our hearers may learn that book really well, we'll have missed an opportunity to introduce them to other books in that same amount of time.

**5. Preach the Word, but be open to various approaches.** I believe strongly that we must exposit the Word, but I'm not convinced that approach means we can only preach through entire books. While I do think book-by-book preaching is the best overall approach, I'm open to occasional topical sermons that are clearly driven by and derived from the text.

**6. Plan to preach books from both testaments of the Bible.** You would think this is a given, but most of us have a preference for a particular testament or particular books. It's easy to get out of balance if you don't intentionally plan for preaching both the Old and New Testaments.

**7. Plan for regular events that will likely influence your preaching choice.** As you plan your preaching for the year, factor in the holidays that require some attention (e.g., Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.). Consider any special emphases the church annually plans (e.g., a homecoming service, a Global Impact Conference). Pay attention to the liturgical calendar if your church follows it.

**8. Be flexible.** When 9/11 happened eighteen years ago, most of us adjusted our sermon the next Sunday to address the national crisis. Sometimes things like a local disaster, an unexpected death of a church leader, or a moral crisis/discussion in the news require us to make a change. Again, though, prayer can move us as needed in our sermon prep.

What are your thoughts about planning a preaching schedule? 



## BGCO RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT



### PRE-REGISTER FOR ANNUAL MEETING BGCO EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The BGCO Annual Meeting consists of church members who are elected as messengers to represent their local church body. Pre-register at the site below:

[annualmeeting.okbaptist.com/registration](http://annualmeeting.okbaptist.com/registration)



### OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS' E-MAIL NEWSLETTER BGCO COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Stay up to date with all the latest happenings and news related to all things Oklahoma Baptist. Subscribe to the E-Newsletter:

[www.bgco.org/enews](http://www.bgco.org/enews)

Check back with the highlight every issue to learn more about the resources available to every SBC church!

## ONLINE ARTICLE

### Not Reformed, But Transformed

>> MONA ADKISSON

Incarceration and prison reform have become hot topics in Oklahoma over the past few years, but not one that I had affected me personally. That changed dramatically when I met Sara (not her real name).

She began attending our church and joined a "Step Study" in our newly formed Celebrate Recovery ministry. There was just something about Sara that drew me to her. We were total opposites! She was a tall Native American woman, and I'm a short, white grandmother. But, as God would have it, we became friends.

Not long after we met, Sara's life began a downward spiral. She was already in a court-directed drug program and had been in several drug rehabilitation facilities. She had been in mental institutions and had attempted suicide more than once. As I slowly gained her trust, I learned that she had been sexually abused and neglected all of her young life.

Due to her need for love and approval, Sara made some choices that were not healthy, and she began to use methamphetamines again. I found out later that she was terrified that she was going to be sentenced to 15 years in prison for hitting a police officer years ago. She began to fail drug tests and was evading the law.

Sara became homeless and was prostituting herself for drugs. She would call me late at night to ask if I still cared about her.

TO READ THE REST OF THIS STORY, VISIT  
[WWW.BAPTISTMESSENGER.COM/ADKISSON](http://WWW.BAPTISTMESSENGER.COM/ADKISSON)

## DAVE SAYS



### THE PARTNERSHIP, NOT THE FAMILY, IS THE PROBLEM

Dear Dave,

My two brothers-in-law and I have been thinking about going into business together as a side project in the real estate world. One of them is an architect and licensed general contractor, one has a successful painting business, and I'm a chief financial officer with a CPA background. Plus, I had a lot of construction experience as a young man. I know you're not a big fan of business partnerships, but how do you feel about a family business like this?

—Dan

Dear Dan,

Going into business with family isn't my big concern here. I've said many times that partnerships are the only ships that won't sail, and I'm a firm believer in that philosophy. I would encourage you guys to set up a situation where one of you is the owner, then figure out a plan where the other guys get paid off the bottom line—as if they were owners. Trust me, anything with three heads is going to end up being a monster at some point.

Here's the thing about family businesses. When everyone understands their role and has the best interest of the company in mind, family businesses can be a lot more fun and more successful than non-family businesses. Statistics show the average family business lasts 60 years, while the average publicly-traded company lasts about 15 years.

So, there's nothing inherently wrong with the family part of the equation. It's the partnership aspect I'd stay away from.

—Dave

The views expressed by Dave Ramsey do not necessarily reflect those of the Baptist Messenger and do not constitute legal financial advice.



## PEOPLE & CHURCH NEWS



>> PHOTO: GLENDA NIGH

### Geary, First celebrates 125 years

Geary, First celebrated its 125th anniversary Sept. 15 with a special worship service, followed by a fellowship lunch. Certificates to commemorate the occasion were presented by Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Historical Secretary Bob Nigh. Shown, from left, are Pastor Mike Price, deacon chairman Willie Dromgoole, church matriarch Shirley Monroe, Nigh and Carl Carrick, deacon and son of the church's eldest and longest-standing member, Hazel Carrick, who was unable to attend the event. [m](#)

### Norman, Trinity hosts pro-life banquet Oct. 22

NORMAN—Norman, Trinity, 801 N. Peters Avenue, will host the Life For All International Banquet, 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 22. This is a free event for those who would be interested in knowing more about the Life For All International ministry which has as its mission: "Mobilizing the global church to share Christ through pro-life ministry." To find out more about the banquet or about Life For All International, contact Blake Lindley at 405/546-8860 or [blake@lifeforallinternational.com](mailto:blake@lifeforallinternational.com). [m](#)

## CHURCH NEWS

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



**HAMBRICK DEATH.** Fred Hambrick, 84, died Aug. 5. Funeral services were Aug. 9 at Midwest City, Crest. He pastored numerous churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas and was recently the pastor at Midwest City, Crest. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lola; four children, Margaret Hambrick, Greta Beaver, Wade Hambrick and Allen Hambrick; and two grandchildren.

**ORDINATION.** Caleb Hein was ordained to the Gospel ministry at Cushing, Park Place on Sept. 8.

### CHURCH STAFF CHANGES

**James Easley** is pastor at Clayton, First.

### CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

**NEW CONGREGATION.** Lawton, Credence is now meeting. Brady Sharp is pastor.

**NEW AFFILIATE.** Edmond, Gideon is now a BGCO affiliated church. Gregory Rogers, Sr. is pastor.

### COMING EVENTS

**OCT 6.** Bartlesville, First is hosting "Great Hymns of the Faith" at 6 p.m., featuring combined choirs of Bartlesville, First; Bartlesville, Southern; Bartlesville, Highland Park and Oklahoma Wesleyan University Chorale. For more information call 918/977-0004.

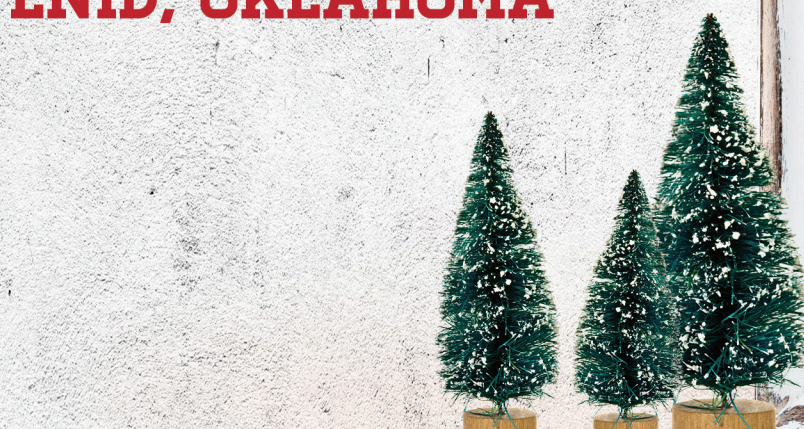
**OCT 12.** Cherokee Association is having a 150th anniversary celebration at Cherokee Baptist Assembly, 23847 Hwy. 51 East, in Tahlequah. Dinner served at 4:30 p.m., celebration service at 6 p.m. RSVP by Oct 8 at 918/506-5482 or [cba\\_tahlequah@yahoo.com](mailto:cba_tahlequah@yahoo.com).

**TO SHARE NEWS, PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFO TO [BAPTISTMESSENGER@OKBAPTIST.NET](mailto:BAPTISTMESSENGER@OKBAPTIST.NET)**

# CHRISTMAS

WITH *The Isaacs*

**DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**7:00 PM**  
**ENID, OKLAHOMA**



**PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY AT:**  
**855-TIX-ENID OR [BFOK.ORG/ISAACSCHRISTMAS](http://BFOK.ORG/ISAACSCHRISTMAS)**



THE BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION  
OF OKLAHOMA



CLASSIFIEDS

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CLASSIFIEDS COLOR KEY:  
PASTOR | JOB LISTING  
YOUTH | VEHICLE  
MUSIC | MISC.

EMPLOYMENT

>> **BI/VO YOUTH MINISTER:** Mayridge Baptist Church in OKC, OK is seeking BI/VO Youth Minister. Send resumes to: [mayridgebaptist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mayridgebaptist@sbcglobal.net).

>> **BI/VO PASTOR:** Living Hope Baptist Church is accepting applications for a BI/VO Pastor. Send resumes to LHBC, PO Box 123, Welch, OK, 74369 or email to: [lek-cwright@ruralinet.net](mailto:lek-cwright@ruralinet.net).

>> **BI/VO PASTOR:** FBC Shidler, OK is prayerfully seeking a traditional BI/VO Southern Baptist pastor for a small, rural church. Send resumes to: [mom\\_sharp@yahoo.com](mailto:mom_sharp@yahoo.com) or FBC Search Committee, PO Box 53, Shidler, OK 74652.

>> **BI/VO MUSIC MINSTER:** Erin Springs Baptist Church in Lindsay, OK is seeking a BI/VO Music Minister. We have a blended worship approach to our services. You may contact the church by phone at (405) 756-2653 or Pastor Clay Hicks at (405) 756-6777.

INDIA JEWELRY SALE

Quail Springs Baptist Church  
14613 N. May Ave, OKC  
Nov. 3, 2018 (10am-3pm) | All jewelry \$1-\$12  
Validates India Missionary Family Visa  
All profit to International Missionary Work  
Contact: Mary Sue Counts  
405/388-1840  
[GoodNewsHandicrafts@gmail.com](mailto:GoodNewsHandicrafts@gmail.com)

>> **F/T YOUTH/CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Erin Springs Baptist Church in Lindsay OK, is seeking a F/T Youth/Children's Minister. You may contact the church by phone at (405) 756-2653 or Pastor Clay Hicks at (405) 756-6777.

>> **P/T YOUTH DIRECTOR:** Play basketball? We are a small congregation in north Oklahoma City with a big opportunity. Send resumes to: [search@classenblvd.org](mailto:search@classenblvd.org).

>> **BI/VO WORSHIP/YOUTH PASTOR:** The Church at Wards Chapel is seeking a BI/VO Pastor of Worship/Youth. If interested, please send resume to: [chancedodd@gmail.com](mailto:chancedodd@gmail.com).

>> **P/T CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** Eastern Hills Baptist Church is a growing church in Claremore, OK & we have a P/T opportunity for a Children's Ministry Director. This flexible position is open to the person who loves kids & loves to see them & their parents grow in Christ. We are seeking someone who is highly organized, great at recruiting, scheduling, selecting curriculum & working with volunteers. Please send resumes to: [kmacken@kamopower.com](mailto:kmacken@kamopower.com).

>> **F/T MINISTER OF MUSIC/EDUCATION:** Calvary Baptist in Durant is accepting resumes for a F/T Minister of Music & Education. Submit resumes to: Calvary Baptist Church, C/O Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 1028, Durant, OK 74702-1028.

>> **F/T ASSOCIATE PASTOR MUSIC/FAMILY MINISTRY:** First Baptist West of Lawton is seeking a F/T Associate Pastor of Music/Family Ministry. Prospects should be able to conduct a choir as well as lead a praise team. Email resumes or questions to: [harold.gaches@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harold.gaches@sbcglobal.net).

>> **BI/VO PASTOR:** A BI/VO Pastor is needed at the El Reno Indian Baptist Church. Please send resumes to: Search Committee, El Reno Indian Baptist Church, 109 E. Arapaho St., El Reno, OK 73036.

>> **DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS:** The East Central Baptist Association is searching for a Director of Missions. Applicants must have some pastoral experience & be committed to the doctrines of the Baptist Faith and Message. Please send resumes to: [buddy@fbctah.org](mailto:buddy@fbctah.org).

>> **F/T PASTOR:** First Southern Baptist Church, Cherryvale, KS is prayerfully seeking a F/T Pastor. Please send resumes to: Search Committee, 717 East 6th, Cherryvale, KS 67335 or email to: [fsbjanet@gmail.com](mailto:fsbjanet@gmail.com).

>> **F/T PASTOR:** Resumes are now being accepted for the position of Senior Pastor at Gateway Community Church in Edmond, OK. This position involves administrative leadership of the staff & all ministries of the church. For more information or to apply go to: [Gatewaycc.tv/pastor-search](http://Gatewaycc.tv/pastor-search). Resumes will be accepted until October 7, 2019.

>> **F/T STUDENT MINSTER:** First Baptist Church, Big Spring, Texas, is seeking a F/T Student Minister. Resumes will be accepted through September 8, 2019. A full job description may be viewed at: [www.fbcbigspring.org](http://www.fbcbigspring.org). Please submit resumes to: [fbcstudentminister@gmail.com](mailto:fbcstudentminister@gmail.com).

>> **F/T STUDENT PASTOR:** FBC Haysville, Kansas, seeking a F/T Student Pastor. Send resume to: [firstbaptisthaysville@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptisthaysville@gmail.com).

>> **F/T PASTOR:** Southside Baptist, Stillwater, OK is prayerfully seeking a F/T Pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, 1223 South Perkins Road, Stillwater, OK 74074.

>> **P/T WORSHIP PASTOR:** Lake Center Baptist Church, a growing & vibrant church with top-of-the-line facilities & equipment, on beautiful Grand Lake, is accepting resumes for a P/T Worship Pastor. Please send resumes to: [office@lakecenter.church](mailto:office@lakecenter.church).

>> **BI/VO PASTOR:** Countryside Baptist Church is a small rural church in Eastern Oklahoma 3.5 mi N. of Council Hill, seeking a BI/VO Pastor. Questions call (918) 855-7931. Mail Resumes to: PO Box 144 Council Hill, OK 74428. Email to: [sallyada@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyada@yahoo.com).

>> **BI/VO OR P/T WORSHIP MINISTER:** Seeking God's candidate for our next BI/VO or P/T Worship Minister for blended services. The position involves planning & leading worship services, as well as working with choir, instrumentalists & media/technology. Candidate will work closely with the pastor & other staff members. Resumes, along with a cover letter, may be sent to: [cbcbamusic@gmail.com](mailto:cbcbamusic@gmail.com) or Clearview Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 140892, Broken Arrow, OK 74014.

>> **F/T PASTOR:** Bethel Baptist Church in Anadarko, is prayerfully seeking a F/T Pastor. Please e-mail resumes to: [scot.gpglass@att.net](mailto:scot.gpglass@att.net) or mail to: Bethel Baptist 501 W. Florida, Anadarko, OK 73005.

>> **F/T CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Leadership Team Opening - First Baptist Church Wagoner is accepting resumes for F/T Children's Minister. Please send resume to: [mark@fbcwagoner.com](mailto:mark@fbcwagoner.com) or mail to: First Baptist Church Search Team, 401 NE 2nd Street, Wagoner, OK 74467.

>> **BI/VO PASTOR:** Small, country church seeks a BI/VO Pastor. Please mail resumes to: Dupree Community Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1100, Vinita, OK 74301.

>> **MEDIA MARKETING/IT COORDINATOR:** (24 hrs/wk) Responsibilities include (but not limited to): designing & printing the bulletin, event marketing posters, social media management, managing the church website & managing the schedule & publishing of church-related media and marketing material. To apply, send a resume with examples of your work to: [jobs@arrowheights.org](mailto:jobs@arrowheights.org).

>> **P/T WORSHIP LEADER:** Ranch Acres Baptist Church is seeking a P/T Worship Leader to plan, coordinate & direct our Sunday morning service & various music activities.

Applicant should have experience leading congregational hymns & praise music and are able to motivate others in using their gift of music in service to the Lord. Must be self-motivated, organized & enjoy working with a variety of people. Email your resume to: [personnel@ranchacres.org](mailto:personnel@ranchacres.org).

>> **BI/VO OR P/T YOUTH MINISTER:** Faith Baptist Church of Harrah is seeking a relational, called-to-youth Minister with a passionate heart for students. Email resumes to: Dr. Dan Campbell: [fbcbrodan@gmail.com](mailto:fbcbrodan@gmail.com).

>> **F/T PASTOR:** First Baptist Church Webbers Falls is prayerfully seeking a F/T Pastor. Very nice parsonage available. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 156, Webbers Falls, OK 74470 or to: [thomas\\_hedge@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas_hedge@yahoo.com).

>> **F/T PASTOR:** FBC Chattanooga, OK is seeking a F/T Pastor. Please send resume to: [fbcchatty@pdi.net](mailto:fbcchatty@pdi.net) or to: Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 219, Chattanooga, OK 73528.

>> **DIRECTOR CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER:** Accepting applications for the position of Director for the Child Development Center at First Baptist Church. Applicant needs to have Early Child Development certification & experience. Please send resume to: [application@firstduncan.org](mailto:application@firstduncan.org).

>> **TEACHER CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER:** Accepting applications for teacher position at First Baptist Church in the Child Development Center. Must be able to provide TLC & work well with children in a Christian environment. Please send resume to: [application@firstduncan.org](mailto:application@firstduncan.org).

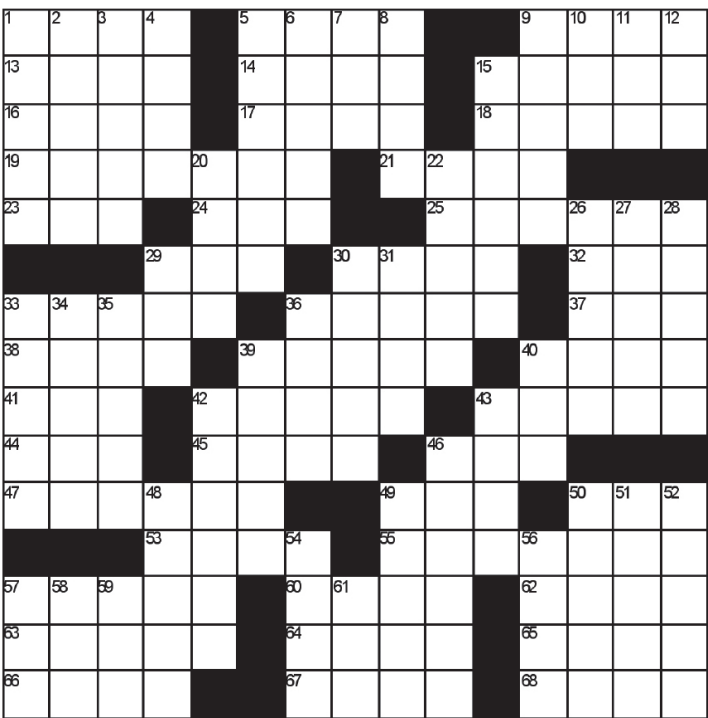
>> **P/T MINISTER TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:** Emmanuel Baptist Church in Weatherford, OK is accepting resumes for a paid, P/T Minister to Families with Children position. Send resumes to: [clint@ebcweatherford.com](mailto:clint@ebcweatherford.com).

>> **P/T WORSHIP MINISTER:** Emmanuel Baptist Church in Weatherford, OK is accepting resumes for a paid, P/T Minister of Worship. Must be able to lead from an instrument. Send resumes to: [clint@ebcweatherford.com](mailto:clint@ebcweatherford.com).

>> **P/T CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** First Baptist Church of Tuttle, OK is seeking a P/T Children's Minister. We are looking to upgrade & expand our children's ministry. Please send resumes to: ATTN: Children's Search, P.O. Box 300, Tuttle, OK 73089.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Bug spray brand  
5 Opposed to (dial.)  
9 "Be \_\_\_ with sandals" (Mark 6:9)  
13 Teen woe  
14 Christmas carol has one  
15 Jesus' tomb closure  
16 Make calm, as Mary might her Baby

- 17 Prong  
18 "He that reapeth receiveth \_\_\_" (John 4:36)  
19 What heavenly host sang  
21 Pull along  
23 Manger mattress, according to song  
24 Bethlehem to Jericho (dir.)  
25 First Christmas singers

- 29 Joseph to Jesus, humanly speaking  
30 Good fortune  
32 Pie \_\_\_ mode (2 words)  
33 Ride for 36 Down  
36 Saunter  
37 Auto fuel  
38 Not many (2 words)  
39 What Jesus does  
40 Temple priest's robe adornments  
41 Store treasures that will not do this  
42 \_\_\_ of Scripture, where His Word is found  
43 Tropical eel  
44 36 Down gold, e.g.  
45 Same cite as previous (Latin)  
46 At Christmas, be glad, not \_\_\_!  
47 Tax collector Matthew may have kept one  
49 Easter mo., often (Abbr.)  
50 Kansas City hour at Christmas (Abbr.)  
53 Summer tea choice  
55 King of kings, e.g.  
57 Bloop  
60 Asian ruler  
62 Fisherman's need  
63 Revises  
64 36 Down origin, with "the"  
65 Holy Child, e.g.  
66 Jesus and playmates, once  
67 "Lions roar after their \_\_\_" (Ps. 104:21)  
68 What 36 Down saw

DOWN

- 1 Honeymooner's fellow  
2 Sporty car brand  
3 Decorative design, sometimes  
4 Cafe'  
5 Christians \_\_\_ church on Christmas  
6 Christ came in the \_\_\_ of a little child  
7 There was no room for them there  
8 God knows your every one  
9 Canned chili brand  
10 One fed by Prodigal Son  
11 "Voice of \_\_\_ crying in the wilderness" (Matt. 3:3)  
12 \_\_\_ Moines  
15 Deluxe  
20 Make airtight  
22 Speed contests  
26 Kids are this on Christmas morning  
27 33 Across relative  
28 Mouthy  
29 When this settled, manna appeared  
30 "God so \_\_\_ the world"  
31 Wields  
33 Christmas song  
34 Christ was "promised \_\_\_ by his prophets" (Rom. 1:2)  
35 God "\_\_\_ out heaven with the span" (Isa. 40:12)  
36 Travelers to Bethlehem  
39 Blade  
40 Jesus, fully human and fully \_\_\_

- 42 Parts  
43 Jesus' mom  
46 Fancy  
48 36 Down brought some  
49 "\_\_\_, and take the young child and his mother" (Matt. 2:13)  
50 Sports shoe feature  
51 Stone  
52 Mary \_\_\_ Moore  
54 "Who shall descend into the \_\_\_?" (Rom. 10:7)  
56 Swords of the Spirit, e.g.  
57 "\_\_\_ thee hence, Satan" (Matt. 4:10)  
58 Hubbub, as on Christmas morning  
59 Jesus makes us \_\_\_ to serve others  
61 Scratch



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



2019 Pastors' Conference challenges to 'See the People'

/// PREVIEWED ON COVER

>> by Chris Fields  
PASTOR OF CLINTON, FIRST  
PRESIDENT OF 2019 OKLAHOMA PASTORS' CONFERENCE

One of the most important events that we as Oklahoma Baptists have each year is the Oklahoma Pastors' Conference. When I was elected last year to serve as the president of this year's pastors' conference, I was humbled. The challenge was great, and my desire was to develop a conference that would not only be enjoyable but a conference that would inspire our pastors to think about those things that we are called to do as pastors.

At the beginning of the 2018 Annual Meeting, Hance Dilbeck spoke to the issue of engaging brokenness in our communities with the Gospel. God began to stir my heart about the conference, and I was at peace with the direction that I felt the Lord was leading for the 2019 Pastors Conference. As Dr. Dilbeck continued to share, I felt impressed that Matt. 9:35-36 would be the foundation of the 2019 Pastors Conference.

In Matt. 9:35-36 we see Jesus going through all the cities and villages, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. I thought about Jesus doing what Jesus came to do: proclaim the Gospel wherever, whenever and however He could and, along the way, heal the sick and diseased.

Then in verse 36, it was as if the Holy Spirit spoke to my spirit and said, "Pay close attention here, Chris Fields. This is where something incredible is about to take place." I continued to read, and there it was: "Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them because they were distressed

and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd."

Jesus saw the people! This wasn't just some casual glance. This was a look past the outward exterior. This was a deep penetrating look into the heart.

What Christ saw in the heart of the people was a hopelessness, weighed down with the difficulties of life. He saw within the heart of the people a desperate need for a touch from the Good Shepherd. This touch was one that only He could give because He was and is today the Good Shepherd.

Jesus knew that the only remedy to the condition of mankind was the life-changing power of His Gospel. So, what was Jesus' response? He revealed to the disciples the potential harvest that awaits. He challenged the disciples to pray, asking the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers. While the times may have changed, the Harvest and the heart of mankind has not.

As Nick Atyia, Chris Gordon, and I met to begin planning the 2019 Pastors Conference, the theme became clear: "See the People." This statement is not only the theme; it also provokes a question. The question that I am compelled to ask myself is simple: Do I see the people as Christ sees the people?

The question is the same for all of us. Do we see the people as Christ sees the people? As we began to pray for those whom we might ask to come and share with our pastors, God led us to some incredible men who are doing incredible work engaging the lost world with the unchanging message of hope,



the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

My prayer for the 2019 Pastors' Conference is simple, "Lord open my eyes, open my heart and open my life that I may see the brokenness of the people and embrace it to the extent that you have embraced me and my brokenness."

Would you join me in praying for the 2019 Pastors' Conference as well as praying that God would cultivate within each of us a vision to "See the People"? I pray that you will make every effort to be in attendance at the 2019 Pastors' Conference. We will begin 9 a.m., Mon. Nov. 11 at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs. [m](#)

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED

CLASSIFIEDS COLOR KEY:  
PASTOR | JOB LISTING  
YOUTH | VEHICLE  
MUSIC | MISC.

EMPLOYMENT

>> **STUDENT MINISTER:** New Life BC, located in rural eastern Oklahoma County, is seeking God's will for a Student Pastor. We are flexible as it relates to P/T-F/T. Please send cover letter, resume & references to: [newlifebaptist@mccloudteleco.com](mailto:newlifebaptist@mccloudteleco.com).

>> **BI/VO MUSIC MINISTER:** Lakeview Baptist Church is seeking a Minister of Music to plan & lead congregational worship with hymns & praise songs. Experience in working with choir & others for special music is preferred & will work closely with Pastor & accompanists. Please send resume to: Attn: Music Selection Committee, Lakeview Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1179, Guthrie, OK 73044.

>> **F/T YOUTH/EDUCATION:** First Baptist Church, Tecumseh, OK is taking applications for the F/T position of Youth/Education. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, 301 S. Broadway, Tecumseh, OK 74873.

>> **F/T STUDENTS/FAMILIES PASTOR:** First Baptist Church of Hollis is prayerfully seeking a F/T Pastor of Students & Families. Must have a heart for outreach & for serving our community's youth & their families. Please send resumes to: [fbchollis@pldi.net](mailto:fbchollis@pldi.net) or FBC, P.O. Box 589, Hollis, OK 73350.

>> **BI/VO PASTOR:** Galey Baptist Church in Ada is seeking a BI/VO Pastor. Please send resume to: Bill Dixon, 11190 CR 1500, Ada, OK 74820.

>> **BI/VO YOUTH MINISTER:** Big Cabin Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a BI/VO Youth Minister. Please send resume to: [teels@tds.net](mailto:teels@tds.net) or mail to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 176, Big Cabin, OK 74332.

>> **SENIOR PASTOR:** Resumes are now being accept-

ed for the position of Senior Pastor at Del Norte Baptist Church, Albuquerque, NM, USA. Interested parties may email their resumes to: [psc@dnbc.org](mailto:psc@dnbc.org).

>> **BI/VO PASTOR:** FBC in Lamar, OK is a small, rural church in search of a BI/VO Pastor. Send resumes to: Jackie Mills, 8879 E 132 Rd., Lamar, Okla. 74850.

>> **ASSOCIATE PASTOR/WORSHIP MINISTER:** Midway Baptist Church is searching for an Associate Pastor/Worship Minister. Midway is a Southern Baptist Church in West Texas. The position involves planning & leading worship services, as well as the other music ministries of the church. They will work closely with the Pastor & other staff members. Send resume & cover letter to: Search Committee, 6200 S. Service Rd., Big Spring, TX, 79720 or [resumes@midwaybaptistchurchbigspring.com](mailto:resumes@midwaybaptistchurchbigspring.com).

>> **BI/VO YOUTH MINISTER:** Eastside Baptist Church in Collinsville, is seeking a BI/VO Youth Minister to assist the church in leading our students to grow in the knowledge of God's word & to grow in faith & daily walk. Email resumes to: [office@ebchurch.org](mailto:office@ebchurch.org).

MISCELLANEOUS

>> **FOR SALE:** Colorful & Fun Indoor Play apparatus. 20' x 16' x 10' tall with a double racing slide, fast curved slide, squeezes, punching bags, bubble look-out sphere, ball room on three levels. \$25,000 OBO. In excellent condition! (918) 457-7025.

>> **BIBLE REPAIR:** McSpadden Book Bindery specializes in restoration of bibles. Hand sewn, fine leather. [www.mcspaddenbookbindery.com](http://www.mcspaddenbookbindery.com) 911 West Benedict, Shawnee, OK 74801 (405)275-7788.

>> **CHURCH VAN FOR SALE:** 2006 Ford Church Van for sale, mileage is 66,330. Asking \$7,500.00. Direct inquiries to: Paul Coker at (918) 869-7020.

>> **VANS:** 2016 Chevrolet 3500 15 passenger express van 1LT, 6.0 V8, 20K miles \$24,900.00. Call 918/967-3394. Williams Chevrolet Inc. 1100 E Main St. Stigler, OK 74462.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County	523	626
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