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LET'S GO. SENDING CONFERENCE

Let's Go. Sending Conference helps Oklahoma Baptists do global missions



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Let's Go. Sending Conference helps Oklahoma Baptists do global missions

>> by Chris Doyle
MANAGING EDITOR

Mike Wall knows how to get churches involved in global missions. And he has scheduled meetings to share what he knows.

As the global missions ministry partner for Oklahoma Baptists, Wall and his global missions team are prepared to connect with pastors and church leaders and provide guidance and opportunities for Oklahoma Baptist churches to begin a "journey in reaching the nations."

"Let's Go. Sending Conference" had its first meeting, Dec. 9 at Oklahoma City, Northwest, but more meetings are happening soon.

"I'm so excited that, as we begin this journey, that God is already at work around the world for us to have divine encounters and to see people come to know Him all over the world," Wall said at the beginning of the Dec. 9 event. "You're going to leave here with some really good information to get you started on that journey, but what is really important for us is that we build relationships and that we walk together."

More than 30 people attended the workshop-style conference on Dec. 9, and the topics that were covered included Biblical Reasons for Missions, Developing a Team, Choosing a Location, Prepare to Get There, The Mission Work, Post Trip & Turn Around.

Wall also introduced some of the members of the global missions team. Jase Hargrove, pastor of Carter, First; Kennedy Lehew, director of missions at Oklahoma City, Emmaus; and Matt Spann, missions strategist in Cherokee Strip Association, were in attendance. Keith Davis, missions pastor at Owasso, First, and Randy Hurt, director of missions in Atoka Coal Association, are also members of the team.

Rob Lindley, pastor of Oklahoma City, Northwest, led a discussion



>> PHOTOS: CHRIS DOYLE

1) Jase Hargrove speaks on what is needed to be involved in mission work during the Dec. 9 Let's Go. Sending Conference; 2) Rob Lindley leads a discussion on why churches should do mission work.

time of "Why Missions," as participants shared why Oklahoma Baptist churches should be involved in mission work. He then spoke on biblical reasons, which focus on God's purpose to share the Gospel with the world.

"All of these are good reasons," Lindley said about the responses, "but it's God plan, and He chooses to use us.

"God will accomplish His plans," Lindley continued. "You are either with God and His plans and His movement, or you are against God and His plans and His movement."

Hargrove spoke on what is needed to be involved in mission work and what all missionaries need the most.

"The number one thing I hear from a missionary is they need prayer," Hargrove said. "We need to be in prayer for who you select to be on your team. As leaders, as we pick a team, find people who have servants' hearts. God picked a whole realm of people to go do ministry. We can't be focused when picking a team on trying to pick the 'very best' or the most educated... take people God will use. Pray, and have God reveal who you should take."

Spann has led many church groups to do global mission work. He told the *Messenger* why he thought the Let's Go. Sending Conference can be helpful for all Oklahoma Baptist churches.

"A lot of pastors want to be able to send people from their church on mission, but they are not sure how to go about it," Spann said. "There's a barrier


on how to figure out where to go, how to put a team together and how do you get there and what do you do on the ground. This conference is a very practical workshop on step-by-step instructions—here's how to do it and here's some people who can provide resources. It answers a lot of these questions."

Spann praised the work Wall is doing through Oklahoma Baptists' global missions ministry and encouraged pastors and church leaders to take advantage of the upcoming Let's Go. Sending Conference sessions.

"Mike and his crew have a good handle on what opportunities are available for churches," Spann said. "They are planning trips that are good for starters and to use as launching pads to go further out later. What I appreciate about Mike is his heart is focused on doing whatever we can to share the Gospel and advance the Kingdom."

Two "Let's Go" meetings are scheduled in January, with sessions happening Jan. 7 at Carter, First and Jan. 21 at Hollis, First. Another scheduled meeting will be Feb. 11 at Clinton, First.

"The ones coming up will be more regionally based," Spann said. "They will be closer to where people are."

For more information on Let's Go. Sending Conference or for general information on global missions, visit oklahomabaptists.org/global-missions. 

Golden Oaks is now Baptist Village Enid



>> by Enid News & Eagle

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was originally published in the Enid News & Eagle on Dec. 1.

ENID—Baptist Village Communities (BVC) officially has taken over operations at the former Golden Oaks Village, 5801 N. Oakwood, with plans to continue services in the senior housing service and rehabilitation areas.

"We are thankful that God led us to Enid. Our mission is to enhance lives by serving God and one another. We look forward to being a part of this wonderful community," said Bill Pierce, BVC president.

Baptist Village Enid is the 12th community in the state, according to Baptist Village Communities, which bills itself as Oklahoma's largest not-for-profit provider of senior housing and services.

The Enid campus, approximately 97 acres, is a continuing care lifestyle community, with 189 independent living apartments, cottages and townhomes, as well as 33 assisted living apartments and a 90-bed long-

term care, skilled nursing and physical rehabilitation neighborhood, according to a BVC press release.

Ricky Coleman, Enid campus director, said he is grateful for the opportunity to oversee the local facility.

"Baptist Village is focused on the full resident experience, and the benefit this location brings to northwest Oklahoma is immeasurable," he said in the release. "We look forward to providing an enriching lifestyle experience for our residents as we support them to live the lives they want and deserve."

Robin Barby, who has been director of health services for Golden Oaks since December 2020, will serve as associate campus director.

"Robin is a remarkable asset to Baptist Village of Enid. She brings with her valuable knowledge about the residents, the team members, and the Enid community," Coleman said.

Baptist Village of Enid, like all BVC campuses, is open to residents of all denominations. Services offered are available to everyone who qualifies.

Additionally, Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village, the home care and medical equipment division of BVC, will begin offering services to an additional 11 counties in Northwest Oklahoma. Entrusted Hearts reaches more than 58 percent of Oklahoma's population through offices in Oklahoma City, Owasso, Lawton, and now Enid. [m](#)



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Rite of passage: Christmas surprise

>> by Walker Moore
AUTHOR AND MESSENGER
COLUMNIST FROM 1998-2023

EDITOR'S NOTE: Walker Moore passed away June 26, but the Baptist Messenger has continued to publish his cherished previous columns this year. The following was first published December 2020.

My personality holds one particularly amusing paradox: I think it's funny to scare someone, but I don't like being scared. I have never figured that one out. Many years ago, my family bought me a Christmas gift that I had been wanting, as my grandsons would say, "all my life."

I wouldn't buy it for myself; I thought our family needed many other things before I should indulge in something I wanted. For several years I had been looking through catalogues and browsing through stores, looking at stereo speakers. I picked out the exact ones I wanted to hook up to my television.

My family decided to do something "extra special" for Dad that Christmas. They made their plans obvious by wanting to be educated on what made those speakers so special. What was the model number, and what would be the best place to purchase them? I am a little dense sometimes, but not that dense. I knew they were going to get me those speakers.

On Christmas Eve my family got extremely giddy, especially the boys. I could tell they couldn't wait to give their dad his special gift. I tried my best to appear calm. The more I tried to delay opening it until Christmas morning, the more frustrated they got. I had just recently read in Eph. 6:4, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children," and it came to my mind at that moment. Since I didn't want any of us to sin on Christmas Eve, I knew I should open the box. "Give us a minute!" they yelled and left the room. "OK, Dad, you can come on in," they yelled next.



I walked into the next room and saw that only the glow of the Christmas tree lights brightened it. In the middle of the floor sat a huge box. My heart raced, and I struggled to fight back the tears. "What a wonderful family I have; they have sacrificed so much to get me this gift." At first, I didn't want to touch the box, beautifully wrapped with a golden bow. But again, Eph. 6:4 came to my mind, so I untied the bow, reached into the darkness—and something came flying out of the box and grabbed me.

I screamed like a madman, panicking. My heart hung in my throat, arms flailing, feet bouncing as my lungs belted out their fright. My mind couldn't operate fast enough to process what was happening. In the box was not my stereo speakers, but my youngest son, Caleb.

As I tried to calm my pounding heart, the rest of my family lay on the floor, rolling with side-splitting laughter. "Did you see Dad? Did you see how high he jumped?" And then another round of laughter would break out.

Even to this day, when this incident comes up, my family laughs hysterically. I can't seem to find the humor in it. I did get the stereo speakers the next morning, but I don't know if getting the worst scare of my life was worth it.

I think of that scare every time I read Luke 2:8-12, "and they were terrified." I think I might know how they felt.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"

I think the shepherds' surprise was a little different than mine. The shepherds were surprised by the glory of the Lord, and I was surprised by—I'd rather not say.

It's understandable to be surprised when our kids pop out of a present on Christmas Eve, but why is it always a surprise when God shows up? Has He not said over and over that He would send us a Savior? He promised to send Jesus, the One who turns back the curse of sin and gives us eternal life. But when God shows up with the gift of His Son, we, like the shepherds, seem surprised.

Of all the presents we receive on Christmas, Jesus is the one gift most people don't ask for. Even though He's as close to us as my son is to me, He can still show up in unexpected places. May God surprise you and your family this Christmas!

Now, I need to find myself a really big box ... [m](#)

People in the news



OKC, Southern Hills Hispanic Ministry celebrates seminary graduates. On Dec. 3, the Hispanic Ministry at Oklahoma City, Southern Hills recognized four women involved in the ministry who graduated from Southeastern Seminary. From left, Elvira Reyes, Mak Tarpley, Silvia Duran and Almendra Chacon received their Certificates in Ministry to Women. Reyes serves as the Hispanic Ministry assistant, and Tarpley serves as the children's ministry associate. [m](#)

Coming events

OKLAHOMA CITY DECEMBER 17
5PM-6:30PM
Southern Hills Baptist Church
8601 South Pennsylvania
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

TULSA DECEMBER 18
6PM-7:30PM
Evergreen Church
10301 East 111th Street S.
Bixby, OK 74008

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
with **Wes Hampton**
of the Gaither Vocal Band

DEC 17-18. Oklahoma City, Southern Hills and Tulsa, Evergreen will be hosting Christmas Concert with Wes Hampton of the Gaither Vocal Band. Southern Hills will host Sunday, Dec. 17, 5-6:30 p.m., and Evergreen will host Monday, Dec. 18, 6-7:30 p.m. Both concerts are free. [m](#)

DEC. 20. Yukon, Trinity is hosting a worship night from 6-8 p.m. Cody Dunbar will lead a time of worship through music, Ed Newton will provide a message and Jeremy and Caleb Freeman will be sharing a testimony. [m](#)

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6PM-8PM
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
650 N CEMETERY RD
YUKON, OK 73099

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, OKC and Community

Food Bank of Eastern OK, Tulsa – both locations, call 405/972-1111 (Not a Baptist ministry, but many Oklahoma Baptist churches receive food from them for local food pantries.)

Arms Around Broken Arrow – food pantry, clothes closet - 918/258-7714 or bryan@armsaroundba.org

Lake Texoma Baptist Resort Ministry Monty & Tammy Wood, Directors, 580/916-2181 or thehelm2034@gmail.com

Cherokee Baptist Assembly, Cherokee – 918/506-5482 or cba_tahlequah@yahoo.com

Campers on Mission – 405-509-0396 or paul.l.day@att.net

Camp Gibson, Hardesty – 580/338-6259 or pbaok221@gmail.com

Families Feeding Families Meal Center, Durant—580/230-9142 or visit familiesfeedingfamilies.org

Hope Pregnancy Centers - South OKC 405/688-8700, North OKC 405/755-5433, Edmond 405/330-0200, Ardmore 580/223-7232, Tulsa 918/622-3325

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children Campuses

Oklahoma City – 405/691-7781
Edmond – 405/341-3606
Madill – 580/564-2218
Owasso – 918/272-2233

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