



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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 OKLAHOMA
BAPTISTS

WILLING MISSIONS CONFERENCE APRIL 5-6

DESIGNED TO
*'FULFILL THE
GREAT COMMISSION'*



**Is it time to outsource
your church
accounting?**

>> SARAH BARHAM



**Pauls Valley, Beaty
sees spiritual results
working with BVC's
Pierce Institute**

>> CHURCH NEWS



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Missions Conference, April 5-6, designed to 'fulfill the Great Commission'

>> by Chris Doyle
MANAGING EDITOR

Mike Wall said he was "invited to the party." That was how he described attending a previous GoStudents training event. It opened his eyes to working with Brian Baldwin and the GoStudents Network and forming the Oklahoma Baptists Missions Conference, April 5-6 at Oklahoma City, Emmaus.

As Oklahoma Baptists global missions ministry partner, Wall envisioned applying similar training aspects that are implemented in GoStudents training to all mission work that is done through Oklahoma Baptist churches.

"We have been doing a GoStudents retreat for a long time," said Baldwin, who serves as youth missions and evangelism ministry partner for Oklahoma Baptists. "We now have opened it up to everyone, but we don't want to think it's just a 'student thing.' We are hoping people will come because they are inspired to be equipped to do missions."

The International Mission Board (IMB) is partnering with Oklahoma Baptists to do this Missions Conference. IMB President Paul Chitwood recorded a video with Baldwin and Wall, encouraging church leaders and those interested in mission work to attend the conference.

"This event is designed to inspire, equip and mobilize Oklahomans of all ages to wholeheartedly fulfill the Great Commission," Chitwood said in the video.

The theme of the Missions Conference is "Willing," based on Isa. 6:8.

Baldwin said the April 5 session will be dedicated to empowering short-term mission trip leaders, providing training that will help them lead effectively. IMB mission experts will be involved in the April 5 session, and church leaders will gain practical instruction on leading a mission trip.



>> PHOTO: SCREEN SHOT

From left, Mike Wall, Paul Chitwood and Brian Baldwin invite Oklahoma Baptists to attend the Missions Conference on April 5-6 at Oklahoma City, Emmaus. This video can be viewed by visiting oklahomabaptists.org/missionsconference.

Bryant Wright, president of Send Relief, will be speaking during the April 6 session of the Missions Conference. This session, Baldwin said, will be geared for everyone who has a deep passion for missions, or just getting started. There will be other speakers and breakout sessions, and Cody Dunbar of Yukon, Together-We will be leading times of worship through music.

During the April 6 session, IMB leaders will address issues such as job placement and going over to start a business to do missions. It will also be an opportunity to prepare and encourage those who are doing short-term mission projects. Those involved in GoStudents Network will have the opportunity to meet their team members and missionaries from the locations where students will be traveling to serve.

"Students tend to be the greatest 'goers' out of every age demographic," Baldwin said. "They come to Christ quicker and spread the Gospel faster."


Those who are 18 and older attending the April 6 session will receive guidance on how to answer God's call to be a missionary. They will also learn new ways to do mission work.

"The mission world is changing, especially when we are trying to get

into hard-to-reach places," Wall said. "We have to do things differently, and we *are* doing things differently. What is really exciting for us as Oklahoma Baptists is we are working with these specific IMB leaders to put our people in opportunities that are not traditional. We are still sending traditionally, but we are also sending people who will do new things."

Both Baldwin and Wall emphasized how the Missions Conference will be "tangible in communicating how churches can send their people to do mission work." The event will cover how to get people on the field, and it will be broad-based with all the ways and means churches can be involved in missions.

"When you look at CrossTimbers, Falls Creek, GoStudents, BCMs taking people (to do mission work)," Wall said, "now we have the ability to take that incredible pipeline, take those kids and say to them 'Let's go full-time. Who is ready to go full-time?' We have an avenue now for these kids who have been well trained to pursue more opportunities as adults."

To see the video featuring Chitwood, Baldwin and Wall and to register and receive more information about the Missions Conference, visit oklahomabaptists.org/missionsconference. 

Is it time to outsource your church accounting?

>> by Sarah Barham

**VICE PRESIDENT OF MINISTRY
ACCOUNTING AT WATSEEDGE
MINISTRY SERVICES**

Managing church finances can be daunting, even under the most favorable circumstances. Factor in complex tax reports, bank reconciliations and ever-changing IRS and state guidelines, and you can guarantee church staff is overspending valuable time on processes that could be streamlined with help from a third-party.

By outsourcing your payroll, bookkeeping or a combination of services to a trusted third party, you can gain the freedom to focus on ministry, while saving time and money. Experienced providers can handle everything from basic accounting to payroll and contribution tracking, financial reporting, accounts payable, bank reconciliations and internal safeguards — all designed to lift the financial burden off church leaders' shoulders. Here are some advantages to consider:

Increased security and privacy

Outsourcing provides an added layer of privacy and protection—not only for the church, but for donors, too. With multiple personnel assigned to manage your congregation's day-to-day financial operations, outsourced accounting firms provide layered levels of review, creating the separation of responsibilities necessary to deter fraud and safeguard donor confidentiality. This separation is often difficult for churches to provide for themselves, as it can be hard to justify hiring multiple staff financial roles.

Access to professionals

Teaming up with an accounting firm also ensures only qualified experts are assigned to handle your church's finances. It provides access to highly trained accountants, attorneys and other relevant professionals that many ministries simply don't have the resources to retain full-time.

Real-time financial information

Outsourced accounting guarantees



error-free reporting through advanced online bookkeeping and payroll software. This puts real-time information about your church's finances at your fingertips, ensuring church leaders always have access to the information they need to make decisions.

Affordable and customizable

When hiring a full-time or even part-time employee, there are many expenses to consider. Payroll tax costs can include an employer's share of FICA, federal and state unemployment taxes, workers' compensation, health insurance, retirement plans, onboarding costs, training, and providing office space and equipment. When you outsource accounting responsibilities, you only pay for the services you need. What once might have been a full-time job can often be reduced to a part-time administrative position, cutting 30-40 hours of work per week down to 4-10 hours, depending on church size. Some accounting firms even provide customizable service options, enabling church leaders to pick and choose which services best fit their ministries.

Ready to start? Here's what to look for

While outsourced accounting comes with many advantages, there are a few things to consider when selecting a provider for your church.

Ministry experience: Finding a provider with both accounting experience and an understanding of how churches work is imperative. While there are likely several excellent accounting firms in your state, it's critical to

find one who has knowledge of ministerial operations and requirements while understanding the importance of internal controls and accountability. Some accounting firms cater specifically to churches and ministries, and a few even operate as nonprofits, which often means additional savings over traditional, for-profit accounting firms.

Customer service: Choose a provider who has the time and resources to make your church a priority. Often, for-profit accounting firms will bump pro bono or discounted clients to the backburner during tax season or at other times when staffing or availability is limited. Make sure your provider can give your church their full attention on your schedule — not theirs.

Don't worry about location: COVID has pushed many accounting firms to become adept with the technology required to maintain long-distance clientele. The ability to use audio or video conferencing software not only enables ease of service but provides access to a larger and more qualified pool of providers for your ministry to choose from.

Though the idea of moving their church's accounting to a third-party provider might be difficult for some church leaders, remember outsourcing is all about balance and outcomes. Juggling the spiritual and business sides of ministry is a daily struggle. Outsourced accounting can alleviate an administrative burden, providing confidence and peace of mind that your church's day-to-day financial activities are being cared for by professionals. You should focus on your calling — not crunching numbers. [m](#)

Church news



PAULS VALLEY, BEATY SEES SPIRITUAL RESULTS WORKING WITH BVC'S PIERCE INSTITUTE. Pastor Glenn Alley of Pauls Valley, Beaty said the church has been working with Baptist Village Communities' (BVC) Pierce Institute and the LINC (Loving, Inspiring, Nurturing, Caring) ministry, which trains church leaders to connect with nearby senior adult communities. Through this BVC relationship and recent revival meetings at Beaty, the church observed five adults, all over the age of 75, follow the ordinance of believers baptism. 1) Pastor Alley, second left, along with Greg McNee of BVC's Pierce Institute, left, counsels the baptism candidates before the March 10 worship service; 2) Chris Finley, chaplain at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City, top left, leads at LINC training, similar to the one that members of Beaty attended to learn about ministering to senior adults. [m](#)

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

Baptist Village Communities:

- Ada—Tracy Scheer – 580/332-6004
- Broken Arrow—Monty Baggett – 918/355-0099
- Cleveland—Danna Ellis – 918/358-2575
- Cordell—Alicia Holt-580/832-5831
- Elk City—Cathy Henderson-580/225-5555
- Enid—Ricky Coleman-580/249-2600
- Grove (Honey Creek)—Gary Mishler-918/786-2223
- Madill (Lake Texoma)—Alandra Needham -580/564-3776
- Miami—Shane McGhee-918/542-7124
- OKC—Chris Finley – 405/470-8915
- Okmulgee—Matthew Wood – 918/756-5377
- Owasso—Steven Walkingstick – 918/272-2281 ext 102
- Entrusted Hearts (Home Health Care)—Shannon Ryan – 405/942-3000 ext 4685

DISASTER RELIEF

Training:

April 11-12—Assisting Individuals in Crisis (CISM)

9 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – \$50 **

Baptist Building, 3800 N. May Ave.

To register, email pjones@oklahombaptists.org

(Continuing education for those who have completed Chaplain Manual and OSFA)

** For endorsed chaplains only

Coming event

MARCH 23. Bethany, Tulakes, 6715 Northwest 50th Street, is hosting a gospel music concert at 5 p.m., featuring Singing Bones and Mark Huitt. For more information call 405/324-2144. [m](#)

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