



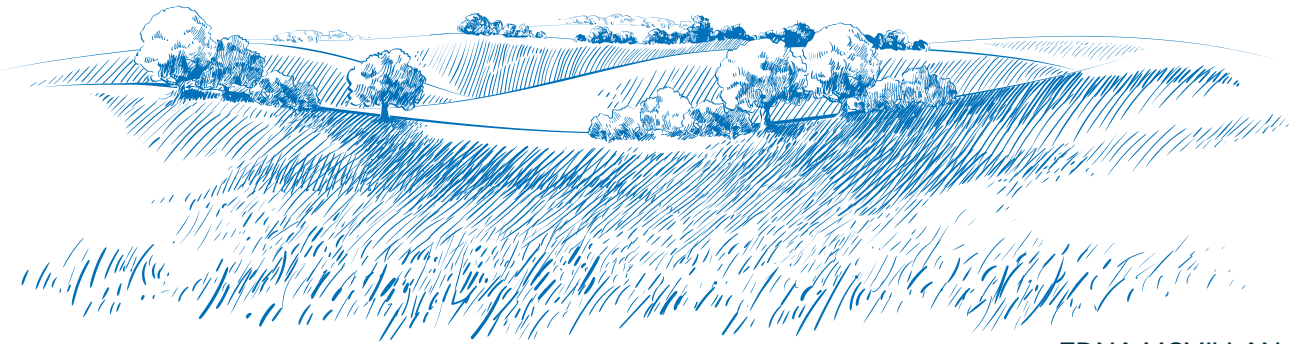
THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

DIGITAL EDITION | AUGUST 21, 2024



Blessed to Give

'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'



EDNA MCMILLAN
**State Missions
Offering**



**2024 State Missions
Offering Preview**

by Jacob King



**Fullers Honored for 40
Years of Service**

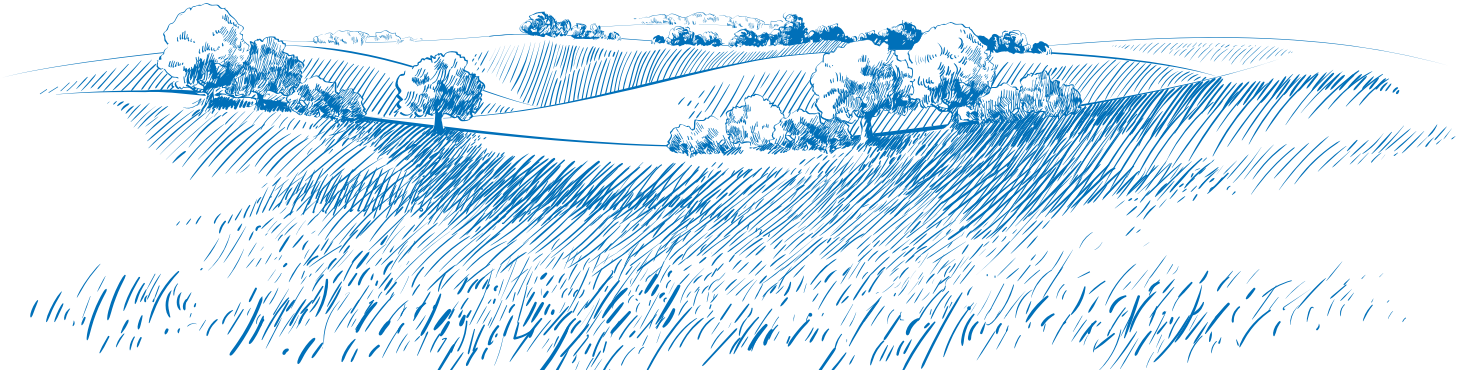
by Bob Nigh



Church News

Blessed to Give

‘IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.’



2024 STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

by Jacob King

September is almost here, and for most Oklahomans that means school is back in session and the football season is in full swing. For Oklahoma Baptists, September marks an important time of promoting and supporting the Edna McMillan State Missions Offering (SMO).

To kick off the month, there will be a week of prayer from Sept. 1–8. This year’s giving goal is \$1.2 million. Downloadable resources, church materials, mission education activities for children and Sunday School classes are available and offered on the website oklahomabaptists.org/smo.

Ministries supported by the SMO include Affinity Ministries, Camp Perfect Wings and Hunger Funds. Edna McMillan, who the SMO is named after, was an effective communicator and consistently challenged Oklahoma Baptists to give generously to state missions. In 1932, she said, “A rich man is one who has enough for himself and enough left over to help others. Though he be possessed of millions, a man is poor, who has only enough for himself.”

McMillan held many positions in the Oklahoma Woman’s Missionary Union, even serving as state WMU president for 11 years from 1927 to 1938. The board met in 1939 in Muskogee and unanimously voted to name the State Mission Offering in McMillan’s honor.

Oklahoma Baptists Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Fisher emphasizes the importance of the SMO and how it is used to advance the Gospel.

“The SMO enables us as churches and individuals to be part of something much bigger than ourselves. When you give to the SMO, you are making a deep and wide-ranging impact for the advancement of the Gospel here in our state and across the globe.”

On the website, more information about the SMO and the ministries it funds is available. This includes four videos which detail Affinity Ministry, Camp Perfect Wings, Hunger Funds and the SMO as a whole. These videos are available for download in various lengths to be shown during a worship service or gather time. To view or download these videos, visit oklahomabaptists.org/smo.

AFFINITY MINISTRY

Every church is unique, and every church has its own unique needs. In this video, four different churches explain what needs they have and how Affinity Ministries assisted them.

To advance the Gospel, regional evangelism conferences and training events are hosted for African American, Native American and Hispanic communities. These events are designed to equip, encourage and inspire evangelism within these groups. By addressing their unique cultural contexts and spiritual needs, the goal is to foster confident and passionate evangelists who can effectively share their faith and strengthen the Gospel’s impact throughout the state.

CAMP PERFECT WINGS

Every kid should have the opportunity to enjoy summer camp. Camp Perfect Wings gives both children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities that opportunity with activities and sermons designed with them in mind.

This weekend camp for children and adults, ages 8 and up, includes tailored games, activities, worship and Bible teachings. Each camper is paired with a buddy to help them fully participate. Camp Perfect Wings creates an

environment where campers experience the love of Christ. Funds are used to keep the camp affordable for campers and their families and to cover the camp fees for the buddies who make the camp possible.

HUNGER FUNDS

Funded by the State Missions Offering, Haskell, First prepares hot meals for families in its community who see the church as a place they can go to in times of need.

All across Oklahoma, struggling families and hungry people are in need of help with food supplies. Hunger Funds provides resources for local churches to establish a ministry

for those in need. Through this ministry, churches can meet physical needs, creating an opportunity to address spiritual needs and advance the Gospel in their communities. This initiative helps to support and develop opportunities to minister to those facing food insecurity. Oklahoma Baptists partner together to fight hunger and share the Gospel through food pantries and food serving lines across Oklahoma.

See the impact of your giving at oklahomabaptists.org/smo



2024 GOAL: 1.2 MILLION



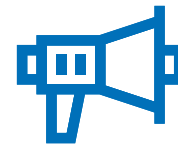
PRAY

BROKENNESS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOSPEL ADVANCE. PRAY FOR THE BROKENNESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. ASK THE LORD WHAT ROLE YOU CAN HAVE IN REACHING OTHERS FOR JESUS.



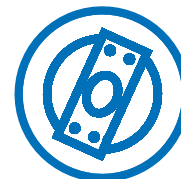
PLAN

WHILE EVERY CHURCH CANNOT MEET EVERY NEED, EVERY CHURCH CAN MEET A NEED. THROUGH THE OFFERING, GOD HAS AN OPEN DOOR FOR US TO ENTER, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL. SET A GOAL TO GIVE AS WE EMBRACE BROKENNESS IN OUR STATE.



SHARE

TOGETHER, WE CAN INCREASE AWARENESS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL. A POWERFUL WAY TO COMMUNICATE THE WORK OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS ARE DOING AROUND OUR STATE IS BY SHARING MISSION VIDEOS DURING CHURCH GATHERINGS AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



SUPPORT

100% OF YOUR GIFT ADVANCES THE GOSPEL IN OKLAHOMA. GIVE TO THE EDNA MCMILLAN STATE MISSIONS OFFERING THROUGH YOUR CHURCH.



FULLERS HONORED FOR 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

by Bob Nigh

ADA—Pastor Rusty Fuller and his wife, LuAnn, were honored with special surprise day of recognition in both morning worship services at Ada, Trinity in late June to commemorate their 40 years of ministry at the church.

“We surprised them with a pause in our normal schedule to honor them for their commitment to the church and Rusty’s faithful leadership over the past four decades,” said Associate Pastor David Gray.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary, Fuller came to Ada, Trinity as lead pastor from Savannah in June 1984.

Gray and a few others shared testimonies about Fuller’s tenure at the church and hosted a reception in the Connection Center after both services to provide time church members to communicate their appreciation to the Fullers.

“I’ve been here with him for all 40 of those years; 20 years on staff,” Gray said. “He has served the church as lead pastor longer than anyone else. In addition to the receptions, we collected a love offering for the family.”

“We have two services, and, in the first service, I was standing up to preach and they pulled me back and told me they had a change of plans for the day,” Fuller said. “We had our time of worship and then they had some folks speak. My son is on staff here and he shared from a family perspective. And I have one brother, Dave. He was here and shared some embarrassing moments of our childhood and one of the guys in the church spoke from the congregation’s perspective. Then, David Gray wrapped everything up. It was a neat day and they provided lunch for our family in our fellowship building.”

Sharing the Gospel and conducting baptisms have been a focal point of Fuller’s ministry. That was highlighted on Aug. 3, 2014, when 26 people were baptized, beyond what the staff was expecting.

“It was a day when we felt led by the Lord to focus on baptism, and we had several people who were ready to be baptized,” Fuller said. “The service began with the observance of six baptisms, and as the service continued, God just continued to work and move, and we would think we were about done and then we had others come and say they needed to be baptized or get their baptism in order. We would sing a song and baptize some more, and I think it was past 1 p.m. before we finished that service.”

“That was definitely one of the highlights of my 40 years in ministry, just to see how God worked in all of that.”

TRINITY ALSO HAS A WIDE OUTREACH AND MINISTRY TO THE ADA AREA.

“Every Christmas, our church hosts a dinner and party for foster children in Pontotoc County,” Fuller said. “Department of Human Services (DHS) caseworkers provide a list of children and a wish list from each. Ornaments are made for each child and placed on a tree. Members of the church family pick an ornament and shop for the child. The church then invites the foster children, their foster parents, and siblings to a dinner and a visit from Santa where they receive their gifts. Each child receives two gifts. That’s one of the things in which God has really made an impact in our community.”

ABOUT 12 YEARS AGO TRINITY STARTED A HISPANIC MISSION.

"They met in one of our buildings for some time and then a few years ago, we acquired a building for them," Fuller said. "The Sunday night before Thanksgiving we go to the mission and do what we call The Big Feed," Fuller said. "We fix them a hot meal, get some canvas bags and a shopping list and the members of the church take the bags and fill them up and the church puts a ham with it. Then on that Sunday night we go door to door and invite those people in the west side of town to come to church. We share the Gospel with them and eat dinner together and then we give them the food bags to take home for Thanksgiving."

Fuller said he believes the church must be intentional with the message of Acts 1:8 in serving its Jerusalem.

"That includes really trying to be intent on serving our community," he said. "On summer nights we do what we call Mission Ada. We go to apartment complexes and trailer parks and do backyard Bible clubs, play games with them, read a Bible story and do crafts with the kids. Then we also go the west side of town and do what we call Easter Eve on that Saturday night. There's an old school there that is kind of a community center and we invite the community to come, and we feed them all, share the Gospel and have a big Easter hunt. It's extremely impactful; people come from all over to participate. It's a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel and see some people come to know the Lord."

MISSIONS ISN'T JUST A LOCAL EMPHASIS.

"Beyond that missionally, we have several partnerships in place," Fuller said. "My wife and I have been involved for the past 12 years in mission trips to Nicaragua. We go for two weeks, and separate groups of our members join us for one of the weeks. We do medical missions there. We took six doctors from our church this year and in two weeks, we saw about 1,500 patients and had a lot of people come to the Lord.

"That's been one of the things that has kept us centered as a church; keeping the main thing the main thing and focusing on the Gospel and not getting caught up in other side issues that can be divisive. I have the privilege of pastoring a great church and probably most of the credit goes to them than to me.

Asked what the secret is to long successful ministry, he concluded, "A lot of it is just depending on the Lord. I have tried to do my best to follow the Great Commandment and just try to love people, be present for them and do life together."



CHURCH NEWS

HEARTLAND EVANGELISM CONFERENCE SEPT. 6-7

East Central Association will host the Heartland Evangelism Conference, Sept. 6-7 in the Tenkiller Baptist Assembly tabernacle. The event is hosted by the Oklahoma Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, with special guest speaker Tavoris Uzoigwe, "Coach Tee," Oklahoma Baptists' Evangelism Partner. Other scheduled speakers /singers are Richard Baily, Steve Cody, Craig Hobbs, Mike Russell, The Branches, Becky Wright, Wendell Davis, Bobby and Jeanette Smith and Wayne and Noritake Testerman. The schedule is Sept. 6: fellowship dinner at 5:30 p.m., service beginning at 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 7 Conference begins at 9 a.m., followed by a fish fry dinner hosted by Cookson, First at Noon.

27 ATTEND LITERACY MISSIONS WORKSHOPS

Oklahoma Baptists Literacy Missions held two workshops this summer, training 27 people. A Tutoring Children and Youth Workshop was held on June 28-29 at Mustang, First and an English as a Second Language Workshop was held on July 26-27 at Bethany, Council Road. Those who completed the 12 hours of training are now ready to share the Gospel as they meet the practical literacy needs of their students!



Attending the English as a Second Language Workshop were, back row, Martha Wilson, leader; Glenda Fournier, Tony Fournier, Steve Pelphrey, Diana Fine, Jean Peterson, Heather Blackburn, Rhonda Malahy, Deidre Hopkins, Rhonda Boyce, Becky Horrigan, LaDayne Hardage, Terry Hardage and Xavier Robles; front row, Deb Chamberlain, Heather Murr, Fay Tilley, Beth Corcoran, Anita Charlson, Valerie Haynes and Marissa Crowson. Not pictured is Stacy Neuschaefer, leader.

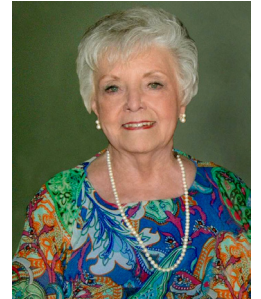
BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED IN COMANCHE

On Sat. Aug., 10, Comanche, First and Comanche, Patterson Ave. partnered with the local chamber of commerce to provide school supplies and backpacks to the students of Comanche Schools. Some of the backpacks were provided by the SEND Network. More than 100 backpacks filled with various school supplies were distributed.



TRIBUTES

Carol Cox, 89, died June 29. She was a former executive secretary for the women's ministry of the state convention, and the wife of Perry Cox, pastor of Tulsa, Skelly Drive.



Vickie Pittman, 67, died Aug. 5. She was the wife of Terry Pittman, pastor at Paden, First.



Attending the Tutoring Children and Youth Workshop, from left, were Cheryl Wilkinson, leader; Beth Coppoc, Afrika Pruitt, JoNell Haden, John Ryan, Janelle Breiding; and Barbara Marlett, leader.

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Families Feeding Families Meal Center, Durant

580-230-9142

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

Shawnee 405-585-0693

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children Campuses

Oklahoma City 405-691-7781

Edmond 405-341-3606

Madill 580-564-2218

Owasso 918-272-2233

UPCOMING DR EVENTS/ INFORMATION

Orientation/Credentialing Aug. 23-24

Kiamichi Assembly, Talihina

Register online at Orientation & Credentialing

okdisasterhelp.org

Chaplain Manual/OSFA Training Sept. 12-14

Naomi Paget, Instructor

Tulsa, South Tulsa

10310 S. Sheridan, Tulsa.

Cost is \$60

To register, email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org.

Assisting Individuals in Crisis (CISM) Oct. 24-25

For endorsed chaplains only

9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Cost \$50.

Tulsa, South Tulsa.

To register, email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org.

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

Orientation/Credentialing Oct. 25-26

Grand Lake Assembly, Grove

Register online at Orientation & Credentialing

okdisasterhelp.org

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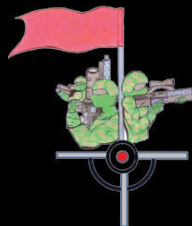
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