



GENERAL
BAPTIST
MINISTRIES

TAKE THE LAND

2017 Report to Local Associations

2017 Report to Associations

Executive Director

Rev. Clint Cook

On behalf of each of the Departmental Directors here in Poplar Bluff, I want to say thank you to all of our General Baptist pastors, deacons, pastoral staff members, international missionaries, church planters and church members for your dedication and faithfulness to the work of the local church in fulfilling the Great Commission.

I also want to say how much I appreciate each and every General Baptist who may be attending a local association meeting. I understand that your attendance means taking time away from your family or even missing work to be at this meeting, but your presence and participation is vital to the health of our General Baptist network, and I thank you.

Let me also express my appreciation to the many people who serve on our two different Councils and subcommittees. The hours these folks donate to further the work of General Baptist is greatly appreciated and highly valued. Without their participation, the accountability and integrity of planning, budgeting and implementing the overall ministry objectives of General Baptists would certainly be hindered.

An additional thank you would be to all the wonderful people that volunteer to visit one of our ministry locations. Whether it is a medical team, construction team, Vacation Bible School teaching team, church building projects team, or Pastor training team, whether inside or outside the United States, what an incredible work these teams do each and every year. Only in Heaven will we truly be able to understand the full impact of that selfless and important work!

The work of General Baptists has always been important in the Kingdom. We have always stood without wavering on our Biblically-based doctrine and proudly proclaim that Christ tasted death for all mankind. How thankful we are for the General Baptist visionary leaders who sacrificed and worked tirelessly not only to plant churches and ministries all around the world, but also to teach, train and equip General Baptist people to further the Great Commission. What if every General Baptist member and church fully embraced our founding belief that Christ tasted death for every man, woman, boy and girl? What if that belief so inspired church leaders that a declining or plateau church was no longer an option? What if we pleaded with God to answer our prayers and pour out His blessings upon our communities and Big Day evangelism outreach events? Could General Baptist churches reach numbers of people never realized before?

Last year at the Summit, a brand new initiative called Turn Around 2020 was unveiled to challenge our General Baptist church leaders to pray and work to double the size of their churches by the year 2020. This five-year plan is designed to help every church reach its full redemptive potential. This renewed emphasis on evangelism will challenge our churches to remain focused on the Great Commission. Yes, it is an aggressive challenge; but if realized, it could lead General Baptist Churches to a greater witness to the power of the gospel to save and transform an individual, a family, a community, and ultimately the world! I believe in just five years the General Baptist movement could look completely different! Our creeks and baptisteries would once again be a well-known station for the public, outward expression that God still saves!

If you would like more information regarding Turn Around 2020, or would like to sign up for this challenge, please contact our General Baptist Ministries offices so we can forward you a resource packet to help get you and your church started!

Your General Baptist network is committed to training pastors, lay leaders and church members for a wide range of ministry and service opportunities. To accomplish that, each year we offer multiple settings to equip and inspire our churches and church leaders for a greater work in this world.

Join us by refreshing and encouraging your Pastors at our Minister's Retreat scheduled for May 30-June 1 on Kentucky Lake in Paducah, Kentucky. If you are looking for another step in Turnaround 2020, follow up with the Missions & Ministry Summit on July 17-19 in Evansville, Indiana. There is no other event quite like The Summit where we focus on Staying Connected, Staying Strong. Only at The Summit can you have direct access to International Missionaries, Nationals from foreign fields, and pastors and church leaders from California to Florida, to Michigan, and countless locations in between! Having a thousand General Baptists in one location praying, praising, and proclaiming God's power is an astonishing sight to see! I cannot begin to describe to you all the great ways you can connect, share and learn at the Summit, so take my word for it, The Summit is the "do not miss" event of the year.

Looking for a life-changing event for your youth? Don't miss our National Youth Conference set for June 16-18 in Carlinville, Illinois. Looking for enrichment for the women and Senior Adults of your congregations? Join us at the Women's Inside Out Conference and Camp Meeting Days Senior Adult Retreat, both in the month of September. For more information and to register for all of our conferences you can go to our website at <http://generalbaptist.com/events>.

What a privilege it is to be part of this thriving organization called General Baptist. Let's join as one in praying for our missionaries, for our partners in ministry, and for our work at General Baptist Ministries, as we labor together in fulfilling the Great Commission to accomplish more for His glory than we could ever do alone.

International Missions

Rev. Mark Powell

Missionaries

The Yeomans family arrived in the Philippines at the beginning of 2017. They will live in Davao City and are tasked with mobilizing the Filipino church for Muslim outreach and evangelism.

The Weatherfords, former missionaries to the Philippines, have volunteered to serve at the Matigsalug Bible Institute for one year. Their task will be to re-engage the Bible Institute with both American and Filipino churches.

The Stead family continue to serve General Baptist ministries in Mexico.

Christina Massey had a very busy year at Faith Home Honduras. Faith Home received 33 children in 2016. Of these, 13 were returned to willing family members upon the completion of the family services of Honduras investigation, and 20 children remained with us at Faith Home. Number of children increased, Christina managed to reduce spending, and increase sponsorship.

The Walls family are involved in church and health development in Honduras. They have initiated several new programs which are seeing good success.

The Slater family serves in the role of pastoral family at the Saipan Community Church.

The Vemula family continues to serve in India. This year will be an exciting year for Jessey and Brittany as they welcome a new member of their family and continue to faithfully serve the Indian people.

Offerings

LAUNCH Give offering – LAUNCH Give will incorporate the VBS offering and a new youth program called "Day of Poverty." LAUNCH is designed to 'launch General Baptist children and youth in missions awareness and involvement.' LAUNCH Give will help educate our children and youth and involve them in missions by helping GBIM raise money for a special project each year. This year the LAUNCH Give offering will go to Faith Home for new and improved housing considering the number of new children we have there. The goal is \$20,000. Learn more at www.gblaunchgive.com.

Ed Stevens Offering – will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Ed Stevens birth. We have set an ambitious goal of \$100,000 to help with missionary support. We hope to re-educate our General Baptist people about the significant contribution Ed Stevens made during his short life.

LAUNCH Ministry Development Program

The purpose of the Launch Ministry Development Program is to recruit, find and assist older teenagers and young adults in discovering and fulfilling their God-given calling as vocational ministers/missionaries. This is phase two of the LAUNCH program: LAUNCH Go

1. Participants are self-referred or referred by Pastor/Youth Pastor to the Launch Program. Participants will also be recruited through NYC, Summit, Association Meetings, Mission Team involvement and other student/young adult gatherings.
2. Participants will complete an assessment that evaluates the participant's personality, leadership skills, and spiritual gifts.
3. Participants will have their assessments evaluation by the Assessment coordinator.
4. Participants will be referred for internship and mentoring based on the results of the assessment. NOTE: The three main categories of referral will be International Ministries, National Missions (Church Plants), and Established Church Ministries.
5. Upon completion of the internship, the participant will again meet with the Assessment coordinator to determine next steps for ministry involvement including but not limited to additional internship, short term mission assignment, or staff ministry involvement.
6. Included in the mentoring aspect of the program will be the participant's involvement in ministry training which could include, LAMP, CTI, and /or formal education.

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World

GBIM is launching a major thrust, with the appointment of the Yeomans family, in Muslim outreach and evangelism. We hope that the current political situation will not dissuade General Baptist people from our firm belief that Jesus died for all people. To fulfill the great commission, we must reach all the THUMB (tribal, Hindu, unreached, Muslim, Buddhists) people of the world. We are challenging all our churches and people to earnestly pray for the salvation of the world and Muslim people during the month of Ramadan which is May 27-June 25, 2017. Learn more at www.30daysprayer.com.

New Developments in Mexico

General Baptist are seeing rapid development of ministry in the Baja California area of Mexico. We currently have several new churches in the Tijuana and Tecate area of Baja California and Bible Institutes with more than 40 students located in each city.

Mission One Teams

Mission One sent 19 teams in 2016 with 29 teams schedule in 2017. Teams will be sent to Honduras, Mexico, Philippines, India, Saipan, Jamaica and potentially teams to Niger, West Africa. In addition, we currently have two state side mission trips scheduled. Teams will focus on Faith Home, outreach, leadership development, medical, and construction. Contact Dr. Jim Pratt in the Mission One department to learn more about how you can be involved.

Congregational Ministries

Dr. Franklin Dumond

As our departmental ministry develops in 2017 it will do so as a response system to our churches by providing meaningful conference experiences, Turnaround2020 resources and regular communication through print and social media.

1. 2017 Conferences.

- The Minister's Conference will be held May 30—June 1 at Kentucky Village State Park near Gilbertsville, KY. Promotional materials are sent every winter/spring to all known pastors and to all General Baptist churches. This annual retreat provides a period of personal withdrawal that allows pastors to recharge for another round of busy ministry.
- The National Youth Conference will be held June 16-18 at Lake Williamson Retreat Center at Carlinville, IL. Every year hundreds of teens and their sponsors find this to be an important disciple-making event. This year special partnerships are being developed with International Missions and the Go Project to allow more hands-on connection with national and international church planting/culture changing ministries as well as the introduction of a new internship
- The Mission & Ministry Summit will be held in Evansville, IN July 17-19 with a full line-up of worship, workshops and missionary challenges that will prepare us to "Take The Land". The Summit has become THE place to be to network with fellow General Baptists who travel from across the country and around the world to attend. Among other emphases this year we will have some special resources and special guests to address Turnaround2020.
- Camp Meeting Days (Senior Adult Retreat) will be held in Branson at The Radisson Hotel September 5-7.

Conference registration is available on-line, by mail or by phone.

2. Turnaround 2020.



www.turnaround2020.net

Maximizing Kingdom impact by planting, equipping and inspiring local churches to accomplish the Great Commission

Turnaround 2020 addresses three important areas of turnaround found in numeric decline, the lack of evangelism and ministry ineffectiveness.

These will be addressed through a plan book produced annually to provide assistance with assessment, systems development and leadership training. A storyboard of real life turnaround efforts reported by a variety of churches will also be developed as a companion piece and included on the website. The plan book will be freely distributed by download and made available to all who request it.

In addition to the plan book, Turnaround 2020 will organize regional and virtual coaching experiences for those who will commit to participation. These coaching experiences will be designed to meet the needs of those churches grouped together by common factors such as location, church size or associational membership. Coaching sessions will generally be scheduled quarterly for fall, winter and spring sessions. Additional sessions will be arranged on an as-needed basis.

3. Communication through print and social media.

Congregational Ministries also provides oversight of The General Baptist Messenger by guiding the development and publication of three editions of this communication piece annually. In the winter/spring edition a focus will be found on International Missions. The summer edition profiles The Summit and becomes a program guide for that very significant event. The fall edition includes a feature section dealing with Turnaround2020 and other church growth issues.

Social media components are included with each of our conferences. In addition a weekly blog posts relevant items from The Messenger, The Capsule and other sources into this digital communication.

4. In our departmental activity, time is also reserved for pastor placement, LAMP, data management and routine or specialized consultations with our churches.

Women's Ministries

Patti Thornton

Executive Director

We enter a new year of dreaming, planning, and implementing events and ideas that encourage women who are "connected for strength, enthralled by Jesus, and compelled outward." 2016 pivotal events in which we were most involved, The Mission & Ministry Summit in Bowling Green, Kentucky and Inside Out in Henryville, Indiana, are now part of our past. With a note of celebration, I can say without hesitation that every session, every day of these two events in which Women's Ministries was so highly involved was satisfactorily - if not extremely - successful.

Thank you to all who were involved in anything Women's Ministries promoted in this past year through attendance, contributions, planning, or prayer. YOU are the fuel of this ministry.

Our display area at Summit was outstanding and drew shoppers and visitors; exactly its purpose! It seemed that August and September passed by in a flash as we focused our efforts on Inside Out final preparations once Summit was behind us. Adding significantly to the weekend was the attendance of four of our missionaries and their informational displays. The symbolic refugee tent, constructed by Becky Coomer, was an especially impactful representation of current world suffering and of crisis that demand out attention in prayer and provision. Our abundant offering of \$3,170 witnessed the display's effectiveness. We were once again amazed at how God works through generous, tender hearts of compassionate women!

The speakers, musicians, and venue hosts of *Inside Out: Be You, Bravely* were all exemplary, and set an even higher standard for this annual event. A crowded venue challenged the Women's Ministries Event Coordinator, Board of Directors, and staff to come up with new ideas for expansion. We were faced with the dilemma of squelching growth in order to keep a cozy retreat setting, or to find a way to make the event available to more women. Since we cannot imagine a scenario in which Jesus would want us to say "no" to any woman who desires to draw closer to him in an atmosphere of support, we chose the latter.

We are excited...and a bit daunted...to change up our Inside Out gathering surroundings this year. We have been blessed with a supportive pastor who has offered his brand new church as a place for us to meet. Lance Johnson understands our vision and has been extremely supportive of our new venture. We will meet at Skyline Church in O'Fallon, Illinois, just East of St. Louis, Missouri September 29-30! Skyline's talented worship ensemble will even help us out with the worship atmosphere we enthralled women crave, and we will join with them for worship on Sunday morning, October 1. Win-Win! A lodging list of local hotels will be provided. For more information, email wmoFc@generalbaptist.com and watch our Facebook page www.facebook.com/gbwomens.

Going back to the year's successes, we celebrate the obvious benefits of workshops and exhibits during Summit *and* Inside Out days. We were trained, inspired, assisted, and connected in ways we miss when we don't spend time in fellowship together. But there are other recent efforts that should not be overlooked when we consider ministry activity over the past several months. Instead of focusing on the "lesser" numbers that appear on financial statements over a number of years, let's breathe some fresh affirmation and celebrate some wins!

1. As part of our fundraising efforts, we have featured **t-shirt, jewelry and accessory sales** at several venues: The M & M Summit in Bowling Green, KY; the "Hootin' and Hollerin" Craft Fair in Gainesville, MO; Inside Out in Henryville, IN; and Women Aware in Poplar Bluff, MO. Retail sales netted approximately \$3,500.
2. The "**Dimes for Missions**" collections - 25 bottles – netted \$2,522 and will be given to selected mission projects.
3. **Special Offerings** have helped us offer financial assistance benefitting these ministries:
 - a. Summit Offering, "Freedom Link" Total Offering: \$6,323
 - i. International Missions – \$3500 to oppression-fighting ministries focused on women
 1. India (Siddipet/Vemula) \$700
 2. India (Kakinada/Prakash) \$700

3. Mexico Women's Ministries \$700
4. Philippines Women's Ministries \$700
5. Honduras Women's Ministries \$700
- ii. NABWU Day of Prayer (confronting worldwide injustice in the area of women's issues) \$823.22
- iii. Women's Ministries for local ministries \$2,000
- b. Inside Out Offering – Refugee Crisis (Middle East) Total Offering: \$3,170
 - i. ELIC Education Projects, Lebanon \$1,000
 - ii. Becky Coomer, Teaching in Refugee Camps, Lebanon \$2,170
4. **End of year Love Gift disbursements** – which can only be given when our expenses have not outweighed our income – benefitted these ministries:
 - a. Compassionate Care \$200
 - b. NABWU Day of Prayer \$300
 - c. International Women's Conferences (six countries) \$1,200
 - d. International Missions \$2,500
 - e. National Missions \$2,500
5. **ABC** through December 31 to India Ministries \$3,123

I think over \$19,000 in ministry gifts is something to celebrate!

Another spark we have delighted in recently is that “unexpected” young ladies have felt an urgency to move forward in ministry leadership roles and have expressed an interest in doing so with Women's Ministries. Also, new groups are connecting because of their experiences at Inside Out.

Today, we praise God for sustaining this ministry; not because it is “our baby,” or because it is our history, but because we are encouraging leadership among General Baptist women and providing support and tools of evangelism and compassion for missionaries and lay women. *We are moving forward in leading women to be enthralled by Jesus, connected for strength, and moving out with the Gospel. Praise God!*

At Summit, during Inside Out, and in blogs I have shared my heart about the importance of our memories in relation to our courage. Our strength, personally and organizationally, is based on our remembrances not of our shortcomings, but of our God's INABILITY to come up short.

In the coming year, you will see a JOY theme highlighted over and over again, beginning with the 2017 Summit. As we move into a state of joy, let's go there together bravely – not fearing our heart's call as if He had no idea of its cost.

If you have leaders in your church who are interested in organizing a Women's Ministries group, please put them in contact with us.

Please, whenever possible, support women who are stepping out bravely to plan events, organize a “Go for the Green” 5K for Missions, or promote a special Women's Ministries offering. They are trusting in you to see their hearts.

General Baptist Investment Fund, Inc. (GBIF)

Stephen Naff

President and CEO

In spite of financial difficulties experienced by our organization due to disposal of some inventory of properties collected over the past years, GBIF has managed another successful year of operations. We were able to close out 2016 with \$149k profit and a capitalized rate of 7.3%. This is the strongest capitalization rate in our history. Serving General Baptists has been the ministry of this entity as a savings and loan since its inception in 1974.

Total certificates of deposit at year-end 2016 were \$35,313,366. This is an increase of approximately \$1,302,000 over year-end 2015 and an increase of \$14.288M since 2010. GBIF paid interest in the amount of \$949,894 to individuals and General Baptist entities in the year 2016.

We serviced eighteen new loans for a total of \$9,564,640, by far our greatest year of supporting GB churches in GBIF history. GBIF as now loaned to General Baptist churches over forty-two (42) years a total of \$64,476,500! It is magnificent how God has blessed GB churches in this manner. We do now have some non-GB churches in our loan portfolio due to them picking up a property that we had in our inventory.

I am always interested in the churches that have loans with GBIF as to how they are making an impact on their community and the Kingdom of God. As important as the loans and interest paid to GB entities and individuals, the ministry of the churches we serve is significant. I know these churches that GBIF has assisted with loans to expand or improve their ministry, have been successful in presenting the Gospel to their communities and lives are being changed.

We thank everyone that has chosen to deposit their funds with GBIF. Some depositors have been faithful throughout the years and we are truly grateful for their support. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for 2017. As of this report date, we are accepting new deposits and additions to our Demand CD paying 2.50%. We are currently capable of funding current loan requests in 2017. Should we have an unanticipated loan demand, we may be offering a Term CD. However, that will depend on money being required for those new loans.

We certainly welcome new requests for church loans. Feel free to contact Steve Naff or Barbara Williams for questions about loan or CD interest rates (573) 785-7746.

Note: the numbers for 2016 are from the pre-audited statements.

Stinson Press, Inc.

Dwayne C. Foster
President and CEO, Stinson Press

In 2013 Stinson Press, Inc., did have employee issues and turnovers. I am pleased to let you know that we now have very low turn-over and our current staff continue to grow in their positions through experience and education.

Last year (2016) we re-introduced the book store to the Summit attendees and it was accepted well. However, this year (2017) due to lack of space for vendors, and the inability to maintain around the clock security for our merchandise we must once again scale down greatly for the event. We apologize for the inconvenience to you.

However, myself, and two staff members plan to attend this coming Summit to help you with any questions or needs that you might have relating to literature or printing at our table.

We also want you to know that the ABC Adult Bible class, Journey teen magazine and Reality young adult magazine are all up for awards at this year's Evangelical Press Associations (EPA).

We are currently running a two-in-one magazine for young adults called Reality, and a two-in-one magazine for teens called Journey. These are teacher and student books all in one. They have been designed for the busy teacher and class in mind.

If you would like a sample of one of these issues call or e-mail us your request and we will take care of you. We have also added a NIV translation/Version to the Adult Bible Class. We have had several of our General Baptist Churches request this service and since printing these, they have been ordering them well.

Of course, we still have the King James Translation/Version as well. The Reality and Journey magazines have current interest topics and the writers can use King James or NIV or both in their writings of their stories.

We have continued to upgrade our printing and publishing capabilities. This machine helps us to better maintain our prices even while paper and ink prices may rise. We still have glitches from time to time, but the manufactures of the machines as well as us at the press are doing everything that we can do limit these glitches.

It is our honor to be the printing arm of the General Baptist. Please note that we are not just printers for the denomination, but, we can print for you personally or your church as well. Often, we can do the job for you including shipping at what you might pay for it in your local region. We will match any printed bid when at all possible.

We ask for your prayers for the work that we do and for the lives that we touch. We are indeed a blessed denomination and we have much to look forward to in the years ahead as we press on, "doing together what we cannot do apart." I hope to see you at the Summit.

If you need a sample of any age groups for literature, please call us at 800-521-0354 and ask for a sample. Thank you for letting us serve you.

Oakland City University (OCU)

Ray G. Barber, D. Min.
President

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." - I Corinthians 3:10-11

Dear Local Association:

The foundation of Oakland City University is laid upon Jesus Christ. As we build towards a bright future, let me assure our General Baptist friends that our focus will remain on Jesus Christ. OCU students, educated in a Christian environment, are sent forth across the nation and world sharing the Gospel with others. In this year's report, we will highlight various stories of students and alumni who exemplify servant leadership. OCU alumni can be found serving God in a vast array of vocations and callings. In fact, as you will read in this report, several of our graduates are serving throughout General Baptist ministries. As President, I would like to share just a few examples of Christ shining through the work of Oakland City University:

Anne Pamu – India

Anne Pamu came to OCU from Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India. Anne's parents, Prakash and Jemima Pamu currently serve as General Baptist missionaries in India. Anne's grandfather, Suvarna Pamu started the General Baptist ministry in India several decades ago. Her strong family ties to General Baptists are an important part of her story and journey to Oakland City University.

Anne passed the IELTS exam and gained admission in an agricultural school in India. However, her desire was to study the sciences in the United States with the goal of enrolling into medical school. Anne's career aspirations are to become a Dermatologist. During the 2016 Summit, Prakash and Jemima met with several OCU Board of Trustee members to discuss the possibility of Anne studying at OCU. It was decided that she would attend Oakland City University through various scholarships and donor support. Many generous donors have sent gifts in support of Anne's education making her dreams become reality.

Anne believes that "everything happened for a reason and it is all to the Glory of God." She had never left her home country of India until coming to OCU. Anne realizes that God opened the door for her to study in the United States. Her heart is grateful for this opportunity and wishes to thank everyone who has supported her journey. Any individual, church, Sunday school class, or organization wishing to send a gift of support, may send checks payable to Oakland City University and write "Anne Pamu Fund".

Dess Amanu – Ethiopia

Dess Amanu was born and raised in Ethiopia. He and his wife reside in Newburgh, Indiana. Dess enrolled in the Doctorate of Ministry degree program in the fall of 2016. Dess completed his Master's degree at Liberty University and along with his wife developed their own ministry of reconciliation and hope in southwestern Indiana. Dess says "Our work is about restoration and instilling hope and trust in fellow neighbors. Through the love of Christ, and His abundance of Grace we are restoring people." At times, life can be difficult for Dess and his wife, especially given that they have children in Ethiopia. However, he knows that their ministry has been ordained by God. He also appreciates the opportunity to continue his education at Chapman Seminary. Dess believes that OCU has excellent professors who are well equipped and competent. For information about enrolling in Chapman Seminary, please contact the Dean, Dr. Danny Dunivan at 812-749-1386.

Bridgette Condon

A common phrase of the Indiana Department of Corrections staff is, "Even if we help just one person, it will all have been worth it." Bridgette Condon is an outstanding example of one incarcerated OCU student, now living a productive life in society and helping others. A former Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) resident, Bridgette was released in September of 2016. She immediately contacted her Hoosier Initiative for Re-Entry (HIRE) coordinator, a program introduced to her while training through Oakland City University's WorkINdiana program at RCF. After attending an interview workshop, she was offered a sales position at Kirby Vacuum the very next day. Bridgette quickly rose through the ranks, being offered a promotion after only 30 days of employment. She is now a Department Product Specialist for Kirby, performing tasks such as hiring, recruiting, advertising, human resources, and new employee orientation and training.

Bridgette gives credit for her success to the programming she participated in while at RCF. "The PLUS program taught me how to interact with others, and how to be an effective communicator. I learned how to bring structure to my personal life, where before, it was inconsistent and chaotic." Bridgette also participated in Oakland City University's vocational Business Technology and Building Maintenance classes while at RCF. "Business Tech taught me how to maneuver around a computer with confidence, and gave me skills that I use in the office every day." Bridgette also works as a foreman for a construction company on the weekends. "I enjoy the job because it gives me the opportunity to help others who need a hand up. I can give them a job and that can make all of the difference in the world to them."

Through our Prison educational programs, Bridgette Condon received a second chance at life. As believers, we understand that God is the God of the second chance. Oakland City University is proud to serve thousands of incarcerated students showing them the love of Christ. It is the stories of students, like Bridgette, which show our partnership with the Indiana Department of Corrections not only rehabilitates inmates but impacts the lives of others.

OCU Alumni

There are numerous stories of Oakland City University alumni serving throughout ministry and missions. Perhaps, some of our greatest success stories come from within the reaches of General Baptist Ministries. In Indiana, you will find servant leaders such as: Alec Hensley, Senior Pastor at First General Baptist Church in Oakland City, and Rodney Sloan, Senior Pastor at Main Street General Baptist Church – 5 Point in Boonville. Across the nation, OCU graduates have gone forth to serve such as: Preston Owens, Associate Pastor of Youth and Administration at Liberty Hill General Baptist Church in Dexter, Missouri, and Joshua Carpenter, Pastor of Grace United in Paragould, Arkansas and Chairman of the Council of Associations. Throughout the world our graduates can be found serving the Lord. For example, Dr. Joyce Porcadilla serves as President of General Baptist Bible College in the Philippines. In fact, various missionaries and missions workers such as: Glenn Jenkins, Rodney Walls, Becky Coomer, Josh Slater, Dr. Jim Pratt, Mark Powell, GBIM Director, and Dr. Franklin Dumond, Director of Congregational Ministries are graduates of Oakland City University. As an institution of higher learning, we are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and how God has used them to advance His Kingdom.

Moreover, here a few ways Oakland City University honors our ties to General Baptists and fulfills its Christian mission:

- All OCU undergraduate students are required to complete courses in New Testament. We want our students to be exposed to the truth of God's word and faith in His son.
- Weekly Chapel services are provided and open to all in our community. Each Wednesday night, OCU students also conduct a student-led worship service called the "812". This service is a campus outreach to those who know and do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. In its history, the "812" has seen several OCU students give their lives to Christ.
- OCU students and student organization can be found regularly conducting Bible studies on campus and participate in servant evangelism and community outreach.
- Earthlight and The Great Command minister to General Baptist churches throughout the year in music ministry. For bookings, please contact Mr. Andrew Goldman at 812-749-1636.
- OCU students and staff participate in an annual missions trip to Faith Home in Honduras. This year, OCU will join forces with Spurgeon General Baptist Church by sending a joint-missions team to Faith Home.
- Oakland City University continues to support General Baptist students through the GB scholarship/grant. In addition, OCU holds several endowment scholarships which are designated for General Baptist students. Several scholarships are focused on specific geographic regions, churches, and/or associations. For more information, please contact the Office of Advancement at 812-749-1228.
- Chapman Seminary will conduct a Ministry Institute in the summer of 2017 for high school students and young adults. The Ministry Institute will allow those interested in any ministry vocation (missions, worship, youth, pastoral, etc.) an opportunity to spend a few days discussing their calling and exploring ways to further that calling.

Oakland City University, through its foundation on Jesus Christ, progresses forward in the following ways:

- LIVING OUR MISSION – EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS – Through the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative, Oakland City University is embarking on the next phase of campus expansion and community revitalization. OCU received a \$3 million matching grant for this campaign which includes: a new student housing complex, an Alumni Lodge and retail space for businesses. The new student housing complex encompasses 30,000 square feet of suite-style living space housing approximately 100 new beds. The Alumni Lodge will be constructed with approximately 13,000 square feet to foster the involvement of alumni on campus. The retail space will create approximately 6,400 square feet for entrepreneurial ventures.
- OCU's Online, Graduate, and Adult & Professional Studies continue to grow and expand course offerings and programs. For more information, please visit our newly updated website at: www.oak.edu.
- Oakland City University was ranked as the #33 Best Regional Liberal Arts College in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report for 2017. For the rankings list, please visit: www.usnews.com/colleges.
- Oakland City University's Correctional ministry program has provided offender students educational opportunities in nine adult correctional facilities and one female juvenile correctional facility for four years in Southern Indiana and continues to be a leader in correctional education for Indiana. On January 1, 2017, Oakland City University entered into new contract with the Indiana Department of Corrections to provide education services to all State of Indiana Adult Correctional Facilities and the Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility. This expands the services that OCU has been offering only in the southern half of the state. The

Education Director, Mr. Ted Pearson, is excited to expand OCU's mission providing education across the state and work with the Northern correctional facilities.

As we continue building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, your partnership will be critical to our success. Oakland City University's focus will remain on preparing students for a life of Christian service. On behalf of our students, thank you for offering prayers, encouraging words, and financial support of our ministry.

May the Lord richly bless you and your family in 2017.