

CBA News



As you may have heard, I am retiring as of March 18, 2021. I will have completed 10 years as Associational Missionary/Treasurer for Capital Baptist Association. It has been an amazing 10 years working with the wonderful pastors, church leaders and members of the 165 churches who are part of CBA. Churches have been planted and strengthened. Some churches have disbanded, but others have risen in their communities to continue a heritage of gospel ministry. And almost one-third of our congregations are of a language or ethnicity other than English-speaking Anglo.

It was not an easy decision. We are still trying to find our way through the Covid pandemic and churches are struggling with new realities of ministry. Plus, the church-culture is changing in America and even in the Bible Belt and Oklahoma. The churches of CBA need strong, passionate leadership with a clear vision. God has given me great energy and heart, but has not given the vision. I have struggled for the last few years with the “what’s next” for our association. As churches and ministry change, so must the methods of associational ministry change. I have concluded that it is not for me to lead that transition.

Although I may not have a clear vision for associational ministry, I do have a clear vision for my “what’s next.” My wife and I have a vision to serve in international missions (right after I paint the house). I want to invest my remaining energy and health working short-term (6-12 months at a time) alongside a missionary family or local pastor overseas. This has been the “desire of my heart” for many years and I believe this is the time to retire and embark on one more big adventure.

The CBA Personnel Committee presented several recommendations at the December Executive Board Meeting, all of which were unanimously approved. As a result, a Search Committee will be elected at the Executive Board Meeting on February 9 and a 14-member Transitional Work Group will be established.

Over the past ten years Oklahoma City has become our home and we plan to stay here in retirement. We plan to keep our membership at Portland Avenue Baptist Church and look forward to being more involved than just Wednesday nights and 3-4 times a year on Sunday. I am on OKC’s MAPS 4 Citizens Advisory Board and look forward to greater civic involvement through that long-term responsibility. I hope God will continue to give me opportunities to be involved in racial reconciliation and criminal justice reform, about which I am passionate. And I will finally be able to be more involved in Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief. So you see, we are not walking away from something old so much as walking toward something new. We will still be around and available, just working very hard to not get in the way of the amazing future that is in store for Capital Baptist Association.

On Mission Together – Always,

Bro. Harry

Pray for Pastorless Churches:

Please pray for the following churches and their search committees, as they seek God’s direction in calling a new pastor:

- Jones, First
- OKC, Bethel
- OKC, Cherokee Hills
- OKC, Crestview
- OKC, Iglesia Bautista Jesus es el Camino
- OKC, Kentucky Avenue
- OKC, Northwest Mandarin
- OKC, Olivet
- OKC, Rancho Village
- Yukon, Canadian Valley

For more information on events listed here, visit

www.cbaokc.net or
 Follow us on the Capital Baptist Association
 Facebook page

Finding the Right Soil

William had a troubled childhood. He was born into an abusive family and had little encouragement in his formative years. As he put it, *“Being put down, and learning how to put others down, was a normal way of life growing up. Nothing was ever my fault. When something went wrong, it was normal to blame others, or throw someone else under the bus. If that didn’t work, then I was the victim. The responsibility was always on someone else’s shoulder.”*

When he was 10, his life took a hard left turn. He lost both of his parents to a car accident. Never knowing how to process his grief, he was sent to live with his older brother. His brother’s method of managing his anger was to be twice as verbally abusive to William as his parents was.

Essentially, William became an indentured servant to his brother and his family.

Continually being kicked to the curb and belittled turned William into an introvert that drank alcohol as a coping mechanism. Over the years, it came to control him more than he controlled it.

At about age 25 it all came to a head. On an alcohol fueled, stress filled afternoon, quiet William exploded and said all the things he wanted to say for the last 10-15 years. All of the repressed emotions and bitterness welled up and over flowed. Once it started, he couldn’t stop it until it all came out. Thirty minutes later, kicked out of his brother’s home, he was walking down the street pulling his suitcase, with all his worldly possessions behind him.

Weeks later, utterly depressed and miserable, he made his way to City Rescue. From there he was sent to the Crisis Center. One of their staff recommended Grace Rescue Mission to him and he made his way to our door.

Upon arrival, he met with a Senior Supervisor at the mission. He saw in William a little bit of himself when he first darkened our doorstep. So, he decided to take William under his wing and help him on his journey to recovery. This supervisor never knows a stranger. Even if he just met you, he will fill your life with encouragement as though you were lifelong friends. In the two years William has been with us, he has come out of his shell. He’s learned a new way to live. He still has bouts with the negativity, but he chooses to not dwell on it long. He has responded to the positive encouragement from the men at the mission, and has shown flashes of a deeply hidden sense of humor that is



BAPTIST MISSION CENTER

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sharp and funny. He has accepted Jesus as his Savior, and is counseled weekly by one of our CBA Pastors. He loves this pastor and looks forward to their meetings. I have no doubt that the feeling of friendship is reciprocated.

It has taken time, but the relationship with his brother and family has steadily improved. William accepts responsibility and accountability for his actions, past and present. He can now stand without the weight of depression, negativity, or the opinions of others that would love to see him stumble.

Just as in the Parable of the sower casting his seed in the planting season, I am eternally grateful that the seed of William’s life finally made its way to fertile soil at Grace Rescue Mission. Please lift William up in prayer as he hopes to be a witness to his family.

It does my heart good to see this ministry meeting individual’s needs now and for eternity, but also going beyond the primary level and reaching the families too.

I Love This Ministry!
 Bro Scott

It's our month to bring food for the Food Pantry at the Baptist Mission Center!

January	February
Bright City	Beverly Hills
Capitol Hill	Britton
Country Estates	BridgePoint
Exchange Avenue	Bryant Avenue
Grace and Truth	Chisholm Creek
Grove Community	First Indian
Macedonia	La Villa
Mayridge	Mission OKC
New Hope	Rios de Agua Viva
New Life Mission	Soldier Creek
Spring Creek	Sooner
Springdale	Southern Hills
Tulakes	Southern Temple
Wilmont Place	Yukon, First

For more information, please contact the Baptist Mission Center @ 235-6162



Church Development

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*“Do not remember the past events;
pay no attention to things of old.
Look, I am about to do something new;
even now it is coming. Do you not see it?
Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness,
rivers^l in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19*

I found this verse encouraging as we look back on 2020 and forward to 2021. The past nine months have been very challenging, but I have been so impressed with the way Capital Baptist Association’s churches have responded to the challenge of ministering during a global pandemic.

In the January newsletter we usually list dates for upcoming events. Right now, we don’t know when or how events will happen for the next several weeks. We do know, however, that God is in control and that we can trust Him to “make a way.”

Happy New Year!



Mission Needs:

Sleeping bags, canned meat, wash cloths

CBA Executive Board Meeting

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, February 9th at 11:00 a.m., at the Association Office. We will follow Covid19 safety guidelines. We will also be on Facebook Live for those not able to attend in person.

Upcoming Events

Important dates for 2021:

Executive Board Meetings:
February 9
May 11
September 7
December 7

Mission Ignition:
March 6
First Southern, Del City

W.A.C.K.:
TBA

C.O.M.E.:
TBA

Annual Meeting:
October 12

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*An Oklahoma Baptists
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Capital Baptist Association is a network of Baptist churches who fulfill the Great Commission locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally through missions, evangelism, ministry, fellowship, and discipleship. We hope the information and resources available here will be helpful. To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

Happy New Year!
from your CBA Staff



*Harry Black
Keith Jordan
Scott Allen
Julie Irwin
Lynn Jordan
Kay Coone*