

CBA News



Almost three years ago Chris Forbes, Oklahoma Baptists staff, wrote an article about how to reach Millennials, but it was really about how to reach anyone. I was so impressed with the article that I printed it and kept it on my credenza, occasionally glancing at it for inspiration. In my final CBA newsletter article as your Associational Missionary, I find that Chris' insights express exactly what I want to convey. The future of the church is, in Chris' words, "to learn to think and act like a missionary." Please read on, knowing this is my heart and that it contains great wisdom:¹

"Here are some things missionaries do that would help your church reach [people]. I know it will work because it is how missionaries reach any people group.

• **Missionaries pray for open doors and receptive people.** A missionary recruits others to join them in fervent prayer, asking God to specifically send them a receptive person who can help them open doors and cross barriers they cannot cross themselves. Ask God to send you a person of peace to help you. You have not because you ask not.

• **Missionaries change themselves to reach people.** A missionary doesn't expect people to adapt to them or their preferences. When Lottie Moon went to Pingtu, China, she was rejected and avoided by the people there until she learned to live like a Chinese person. When Lottie showed that she truly respected Chinese culture, they became open to her witness. [People] respect authentic, honest people. It could be that merely being more vulnerable and open with them would be what opens them up to you.

• **Missionaries work to understand the people they want to reach.** A missionary is willing to study hard to learn as much as possible about the people. This takes more effort than reading a couple of books or doing a few Google searches for articles. For the missionary, it becomes their holy obsession to look for the bridges and barriers to the Gospel...

• **Missionaries learn the language and culture of the people they want to reach.** A missionary has to learn to speak a new language. It takes work to learn how to communicate the Gospel to people who think differently than we do. There is no simple way to make the Gospel understandable to [others]; you have to put in the work to learn how to talk to them.

• **Missionaries quickly put the ministry into the hands of the disciples they make.** A missionary is on a disciple-making mission. They Model, Assist, Watch and Leave. Many churches would experience more effective outreach if they would decide that their most important role is to mentor new disciples and put ministry fully into the hands of [them] to lead."

These principles work on the International mission fields every day. And in case you haven't noticed, the American culture IS a mission field in our generation. Let's stop longing for a return to "the way it was" for the American church and get busy doing the missionary work of reaching and discipling lost people.

And we are still On Mission Together,
Bro. Harry

¹Article used with Permission

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, Crestview
- OKC, Kentucky Avenue
- OKC, Knob Hill
- 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

Been DEAD for over 30 years...

Mike Matarese (condensed, and shared with permission)

As Mike would describe, he was raised in a very stereotypical, short-tempered, Italian Catholic family. They had very strong emotions to life, and love. They were also a devout Catholic family.

As a young adult, someone shared the Gospel with Mike. He accepted Jesus as his personal Savior. Sharing this decision with his parents had the kind of bombastic effect you'd expect in a Hollywood movie. His mother cried. His father exploded and tried to get Mike to renounce his decision. When Mike stood his ground on his Faith in Christ, his father pronounced him dead to the family. They literally had a funeral, casket, and burial site.

Being cast out, Mike bounced from town to town doing what he loved most (cooking). Unfortunately, no location lasted long. Mike had brought with him the one thing he should have left behind: Anger Issues. Eventually, 17 years ago, he darkened the doorstep of Grace Rescue Mission (GRM).

Mike got on our S.A.F.E. Addictions Recovery Program. The Anger Management portion of the program seemed perfectly suited to Mike's needs. While working through this year long program, he rose in service to be the Kitchen Supervisor.

He helped us 13 years ago to renovate and reorganize the kitchen. This made it cleaner and safer for Guests and the community that came here to eat. The City/County Health Department called us the best turn around site in the city. For the last 17 years GRM has not received a critical write up from any inspection. This is largely in part to Mike's leadership in the kitchen.

Over the years we've had many conversations about his past, and his family. About a year ago he was able to get in touch with his sister. She brought him up to date on the family news, and of his mother's passing.

Apparently, losing his wife has softened his dad's heart towards Mike. The regrets that came as a result of his own anger issues made him willing to reach out to his son.

After so many years of silence, they were able to talk on the phone just before Thanksgiving. That carried on for a while. Then, out of the blue, Mike's sister and Dad



BAPTIST MISSION CENTER

Rev. Scott Allen, Director
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showed up at the Mission! Mike found a family at Grace, but God has a better family for Mike ahead.

Mike has turned in his 2-month notice. He is returning to Virginia to live with his dad. There is a bigger smile on Mike's face, and more spring in his step. **He looks pretty good for being dead for 30 years.**

I've never been happier to see someone leave the Mission as I am my friend, Mike Matarese.

Please keep him in your prayers for a smooth transition, and healing that is long overdue.

I LOVE THIS MINISTRY!!!

Bro Scott

Mission Needs:

Shampoo, Shaving Cream,
Pillows & Pillow Cases

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

March

- Branches
- Cherokee Hills
- Circle of Life Native Fell.
- Dickson
- OKC, Chinese
- OKC, First Hispanic
- Olivet
- El Olivar
- Henderson Hills Farsi
- Plainview
- Putnam City
- Rancho Village
- Solomon Temple

April

- Bethany, First
- Calvary Missionary
- Central
- Chisholm Heights
- Grand Blvd.
- Newalla, First
- NewChurch
- Prospect
- Roca Fuerte
- Shields Blvd
- Victory
- Wheatland, First
- Yukon, First

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



Church Development

Keith Jordan, Director
2233 W. I-44 Service Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 942-0244

On behalf of the associational staff, I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Brother Harry and Ivetta for their friendship to us and service to the churches of Capital Baptist Association. We have enjoyed serving alongside them during these past 10 years, and are grateful God led them to our association. Although we are sad to let them go, we are also excited about their new ministry opportunities in retirement and will be praying for them.

Upcoming things you need to know for 2021:

- Associational VBS Training – Online; details will be coming soon
- Associational Bible Drill @ Quail Springs, April 25
- State Bible drill @ Southern Hills, May 1
- Faith and Family Night @ the Bricktown Ball Park – July 24
- Worship Arts Camp – July 26 – 28, First Southern, Del City
- Central Oklahoma Ministry Enrichment (COME) – August 21
- Annual Meeting CBA – October 12
- ETCH Family Ministry Conference, Nashville, October 18 – 20

As we know all too well, things are subject to change. Please call the Associational Office 924-0244, or email lynn@cbaokc.net, or keith@cbaokc.net for information or questions.

It is a joy serving you!

Bro. Keith



Pastor Kick-Off Luncheon March 25, 2021 | 11:30 AM Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark

We are so excited to announce that the Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association is partnering with the OKC Dodgers and the OKC faith family for *Faith and Family Night* at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark on July 24, 2021!

Faith and Family night is a fun and entertaining event to bring families together to celebrate America's favorite pastime and share the message of the Gospel, The Greatest Story ever told!

Pastors: Join Scott for a complimentary lunch where he will share his heart for OKC's 2021 Faith and Family Night and the importance of safely gathering together to lift up the name of Jesus.

OKC's 2021 Faith and Family Night will feature Crowder and a message of hope from Scott himself!

Space is limited so make sure you RSVP Today! [Click here](#) or call (405) 942-0244 to reserve.

Upcoming Events

March:

4 10:00 a.m.
Evangelism/Prayer Team Meeting
Association Office

April:

26 10:00 a.m.
Community Ministries Team Meeting
Association Office

29 9:00 a.m.
Finance Committee Meeting
Association Office

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*An Oklahoma Baptists
Affiliated Association*



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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!

Church News:

Congratulations to Jon and Andrea Johnston, pastor of OKC, Exchange Avenue, on the birth of their first son, Jackson Robert, on February 22nd. Mother and baby are doing well.

We express Christian sympathy to OKC, Knob Hill in the passing of their pastor, Rick Goodman.

We express Christian sympathy to Midwest City, Sooner, in the passing of their associate pastor, Bill Ballinger.

