

# CBA News

The Coronavirus restrictions are loosening and people are exploring a return to normalcy. But what will post-pandemic normalcy look like? Most congregations have not been able to gather for more than a month and even those who are starting to meet physically are doing so under strong restrictions. So what will “church” look like? What SHOULD it look like?

Before church-life paused due to the pandemic, many churches were unquestionably plateaued or declining. **The Great Evangelical Recession**, written by John S. Dickerson, is a disturbing examination of factors influencing the future of the evangelical church in America. Here are a few factors I observe in CBA churches as well: fewer people receiving Christ as Savior and Lord (as reflected by the continuing decline in baptisms); the shrinking number of people participating in small-group Bible study (reflecting a lack of discipleship), a lack of involvement by students and young adults, the aging and overcommitment of church leaders (including fewer people doing more things), and financial strain brought on by fewer members tithing and those who do generally being the oldest members. This is certainly not a comprehensive list of the reasons for the decline of the church in America (or the OKC Metro), but my guess is that you recognize some or all of these factors in the church you attend.

Many in roles of denominational and broader spiritual leadership are encouraging churches to consider a careful and thoughtful examination of what we do and who we are as we reopen our gathered worship. Words like “reset,” “reboot,” and “restart” are being used to describe what may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to recreate the church to be more effective, relevant, and biblical.

In a recent Zoom meeting of Oklahoma Directors of Missions, Oklahoma Baptists Executive Director, Hance Dilbeck, referred to this moment in history as an opportunity for pruning the church. The definition of pruning is to “remove superfluous [unnecessary] or unwanted parts especially to increase fruitfulness and growth.” This is an opportunity to identify what is most biblical and relevant for the church and to recreate her to fulfill that purpose and mission.

I write these things with the deepest respect for each church and pastor. It is the local leadership that must determine what their church should do and be going forward. Context and calling must certainly influence whatever changes are made emerging from the pandemic and into the future. But I do have a few suggestions for church leaders and members: 1<sup>st</sup>, reread the book of Acts to see what was most important to the early church as they sought to engage a pre-Christian culture; 2<sup>nd</sup>, consider reading or rereading **Simple Church** by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger (it’s not a one-size-fits-all solution and I don’t particularly care for the second half, but it is a great challenge to the busyness that “church” has become), and 3<sup>rd</sup>, take this opportunity to make prayer a priority in public worship rather than an add on or formality. I, and the CBA staff, are here to help in any way we can. Let us know.

On Mission Together,

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:

- Edmond, Waterloo Road
- OKC, Bethel
- OKC, Crestview
- OKC, Iglesia Bautista Jesus es el Camino
- OKC, Kentucky Avenue
- OKC, Northwest Mandarin
- OKC, Olivet
- Wheatland, First
- Yukon, Canadian Valley

For more information on events listed here, visit

[www.cbaokc.net](http://www.cbaokc.net) or  
 Follow us on the Capital Baptist Association Facebook page

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## Grace Rescue Mission/ Baptist Mission Center/ Homeless Alternative Care Site/ Sharon Project

Let’s dive right in:

- **GRM:** Social Distancing and PPE is a natural way of life these days. We had a scare a week or so back with a guest running a sudden fever. After 4 days of “LOCKDOWN” we were relieved to get a negative Covid19 result. Life got back to the new normal routine. We are continually giving God the praise that our mission, so far, has not had any (positive) issues to deal with. Please join me in praying for a hedge of protection around the mission as we take the first steps toward reopening.

- **BMC:** The BMC has been closed through most of this Covid19 event. Our Medical Director, Pharmacist in Charge, and Charge Nurse all agreed to close till the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and reevaluate the plan near the end of May.

- **ACHS:** The gym at the BMC has been converted to a 33 bed shelter for people who are “at risk” for COVID-19 but have no home to shelter-in-place. We made the preparations to the facility, and expanded our capabilities to include showers (Huge SHOUT-OUT to FBC Nicoma Park) with the disaster relief shower trailer. [As of now, we are waiting to see if there will even be a need to open this up. Statistics are holding steady in OKC within the homeless population. PTL, our numbers/needs are flat lined compared to the national average, or projections - so again, PTL!]

- **Sharon Baptist Church:** (A small inner city church – under renovation) The Covid19 disruption and the Building Permit process seriously hampered our ongoing progress. Nevertheless, we have continued to slowly move along, and now we are seeing significant progress. We are still working at Sharon, Tuesdays – Saturdays 9:00 to noon, most days.

### Yes!!! We could use your help!!!

Call or stop by. Bring a hammer and paint brush. We have a variety of projects that you can help with. We absolutely would not be as far along in the renovations of this church without volunteers like you that have given their time and energy to this project. (Big Shout



## BAPTIST MISSION CENTER

Rev. Scott Allen, Director  
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out to Pastor Larry Factor at Victory Baptist and his men, who have been a **tremendous** help.) Come join us and be a vital part of ministry in the heart of OKC.

I Love This Ministry!

Bro. Scott

## Mission Needs:

Foot Powder, Baby Powder, Deodorant, Bar Soap, Hand Sanitizer!!!

## CBA Executive Board Meeting

The next Executive Board Meeting for May has been moved to Tuesday, June 9th at 11:00 a.m., either at the Association Office or by Zoom.

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

May	June
Bethel	Arcadia, First Southern
Brookwood	Camille Ave
Council Road	Church at the Village
Henderson Hills	Crosstown
Jesus es el Camino	International Community
Korean Lighthouse	Northwest
Legacy	Nueva Vida
New Bethel	Portland Avenue
Oakdale	Rockwood
Trinity OKC	Sharon
Trinity OKC Chinese	Vietnamese Community
Trinity OKC Laotian	Village
IB el Camino	Vision Community
Western Avenue	Woodcrest

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



## Church Development

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



There are challenges to our summer activities, but we want to partner with you to make 2020 VBS the best it can be for your church and community. Let me share some of the resources you may want to be aware of:

- **You can still order your VBS materials through CBA.** Just place an on-line order at the LifeWay website, then forward a copy of the confirmation e-mail to [Lynn@cbaokc.net](mailto:Lynn@cbaokc.net). CBA gets a commission on every sale registered in this way and we use those funds to purchase resources all of our churches can share. This year LifeWay has graciously extended that order deadline to July 15<sup>th</sup> to allow churches who may have delayed their VBS to still be able to participate.
- **CBA has Concrete & Cranes Die Cuts.** Every year we order die cuts for the current VBS theme. Your church is welcome to come by with your paper, foam or vinyl and use the die cut machine. Check the CBA website for a complete list of dies that are available. The 2020 VBS Die Cuts are listed below.
- **We want to pray for your VBS.** Please send us your dates so that we can publicize your VBS and pray for your church during your VBS. We know that some of you have had to change your VBS dates. Be sure that we have the corrected version.
- **VBS Training Videos are on-line.** We have asked each of our great VBS team to make a video. Whatever you are teaching you can see the video that addresses that area. Check the CBA Website for the link. Feel free to suggest this to others who may be teaching with you. CBA Churches who register their VBS with CBA by May 31 will be placed in a drawing for VBS door prizes.
- **CBA can make banners.** CBA Churches who watch any of the training videos can order a 3-by-6 foot VBS banner for \$25.00.

### 2020 VBS Die Cuts Available for use:

Crane (Jumbo)  
Cement Mixer (Jumbo)  
Bulldozer #1 (Jumbo)  
Bulldozer #2  
Hammer (Large)  
Hart Hat (Large)  
Saw (Large)



Dump Truck (Jumbo)  
Power Shovel (Jumbo)  
Luggage (for toolbox) (Jumbo)  
Dump Truck #2  
Drill (Large)  
Wrench #2 (Large)

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**\*\* Jumbo** uses a full sheet of paper,  
**Large** will fit on a quarter sheet.

Bring your own paper or foam and use any of these dies. **The CBA office is open by appointment only during the "Shelter At Home" order.**

## Upcoming Events

### May

**14 1:00 p.m.**  
**Church Planting Team Meeting**  
Zoom Meeting

**25 Memorial Day**  
Office Closed

**26 11:00 a.m.**  
**Pastors' Conference**  
Speaker Sam Watkins,  
Pastor of MWC,  
Branches  
Zoom Meeting

### June

**4 10:00 a.m.**  
**ERLC Team Meeting**  
Associational Office

**9 11:00 a.m.**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
Associational Office or  
Zoom; watch for details  
(postponed from May 12)

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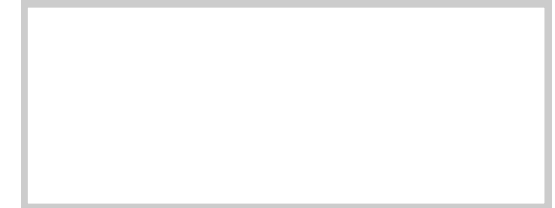
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An Oklahoma Baptists  
Affiliated Association



Capital Baptist 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!



The Skit Guys have teamed up with Provident Films (WAR ROOM, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE) and KLOVE/WTA (RUN THE RACE) to produce their first feature film titled FAMILY CAMP. Filming will be this Spring for release in theaters nationwide in 2021! FAMILY CAMP is a faith-based buddy comedy starring Tommy Woodard and Eddie James, the Skit Guys, and it will be shot in the Guthrie, Oklahoma, area.

We Need Your Help! This movie will reach hundreds of thousands with the message of new life in Christ. We need volunteers! They can serve one day or as many as they want. We believe that God does great things when the Church joins arms in prayer and ministry.

If you or your church can help out or you have questions, contact Brian Frank (our Volunteer Coordinator) via phone: 405-888-1392 or email: [dabfrank@gmail.com](mailto:dabfrank@gmail.com). Our prayer is that this movie will cast a vision of how families all over the nation can be drawn to God. We want to point back at this time together and proclaim "Only God could have done all this!"

Faith and Family Night at Bricktown Ballpark originally scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2020 has been postponed to July 31st. Tickets start at \$12 per person and include the postgame concert by Crowder, a Dodgers Hat, and program.

To book, contact Taylor Hicks at (405) 218-2112 or [taylor.hicks@okcdodgers.com](mailto:taylor.hicks@okcdodgers.com).