



CHEROKEE STRIP BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PO Box 5287

Enid, OK 73702

January 2018 580-234-2512

cherokee.baptist@sbcglobal.net



Encouragement for the New Year

In Colossians 4:3-5 Paul said, *“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”* Not too many of you are in prison like Paul was (at least as far as I know!), but you’re going to have opportunities in the next few days to **faithfully proclaim Christ**. As most of us know, there are people who will show up at your church services just this one time of year (plus maybe Easter). Let me encourage you to make the most of these opportunities, clearly and boldly proclaiming Christ.

1. Be faithful to proclaim Him because your presence matters. During the Christmas season, we try to come up with creative ways to communicate the wonder of the incarnation, God becoming man to “tabernacle” among us and to redeem us from our sins. As a missionary, I always felt that part of my job was to “incarnate” the Gospel in another culture. However, that’s not just the missionaries’ job—it’s what each of you are doing in the context where you serve, no matter how big or small the setting.

Some people think your presence isn’t as necessary as it used to be—any American who so desires can hear the Gospel on the radio, watch and hear it on TV, or read about it in numerous publications. But your presence does matter, and your obedience to minister where you are is having an eternal impact in the lives of those you’re serving! As the Imperials’ song said, “You’re the only Jesus some will ever see.” May the light of Christ shine brightly through your life and ministry as you proclaim the “indescribable gift” we celebrate at Christmas.

2. Be faithful to proclaim Him even if you don’t see immediate results. A couple of days ago a man in Florida got in touch with me via Facebook who I hadn’t seen in 28 years. He posted a fuzzy picture of his wedding and asked if I was the officiating pastor barely visible in the background. When I saw the picture, I remembered who he was and that I had performed his wedding, but didn’t remember much more. I wrote back to him and said, “Yes, it’s me!” Turns out he was tracking me down because his wife from that marriage all those years ago passed away this October, and he had heard that I’d lost a wife as well. He was seeking comfort and encouragement from me, knowing I’d been through what he’s dealing with.

As we talked, he reminded me of his story...Turns out this man had become a believer because people working with my first church plant in the Orlando, Florida, area had come knocking on his door and led him to Christ. He had gotten involved in the new church while I was pastoring it, and said that my preaching the Gospel had helped him grow in his faith. He said I’d even taught him how to pray. After I left, he had gone on to serve as a Navy chapel preacher and now was Principal of a Christian school. How rewarding to hear this man’s story, and to know how the Lord has worked in his life through the years! God works through the faithful proclamation of His Word, but you may not see the results till years afterwards.

3. Be faithful to proclaim Him because He is worthy. Part of why we struggle to communicate the mystery of the incarnation is that it’s incredible almost beyond our comprehension. Maybe that’s why a wordsmith like the apostle Paul described it as “indescribable (2 Corinthians 9:15)!” Regardless, there is plenty that we can proclaim about our Lord and His worthiness. Isaiah 9:6 is only one of literally hundreds of passages that describe Who He is—*“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Last year’s Lottie Moon missions offering theme for why we do missions was “Because of Who He Is.” How can we ever exhaust the subject of how incredible He is! Give it your all as you preach the wonders of our God, that He will receive the glory He deserves!

Preacher, Teacher, Church Leader:

Here’s my prayer for you during this season...That you will **proclaim Christ boldly and clearly**, as you should!

Matt Spann,

Director of Missions

January

- 9 Ministers' Conference
- 16 Ministers' Conference
- 25 Executive Board meeting-6 p.m.
- 29-30 State Evangelism Conference

- 30 NO Ministers' Conference

February

- 3 BGCO Keyboard Festival,
FBC- Enid
- 6 Ministers' Conference
- 13 Ministers' Conference
- 16 State Associational VBS Clinic,
So. Hills
- 20 Ministers' Conference
- 26-27 Priority of Preaching Conference

Pray for the Church of the Month

Covington Baptist Church
Phillip Gregg, pastor

Pray for our Pastorless Churches

First Indian Church
Kaw Street Chapel, Perry

Welcome

Jesse Johnson, new pastor Trinity Baptist, Enid
Tommy Mosher, FBC Waukomis

January Birthday's/Anniversaries

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----|------------------|
| 11 Saulo/Blance Flores | P | Iglesia Bautista |
| 13 Amanda Frable | PW | Ringwood |
| 20 Willa Jean Chitwood | Sec | Ringwood |
| 28 Rachelle Burleson | PW | Emmanuel Enid |
| 30 Dusti Washnock | PW | Pond Creek |

Giving Report 2017

Church	%	November	Year to Date
Ames	-	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,033.00
Bethlehem	10%	\$ -	\$ 5,844.30
Billings	6%	\$ -	\$ 3,555.31
Cherokee	4%	\$ 1,908.92	\$ 17,235.71
Covington	3%	\$ 196.02	\$ 2,608.16
Calvary	1%	\$ 69.18	\$ 1,017.88
CT Cowboy	-	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Emmanuel	-	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Emanuel Ig.	3.0%	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Enid FBC	3%	\$ -	\$ 25,981.85
1st. Indian	5%	\$ -	\$ -
Garland Rd.	2.5%	\$ 354.00	\$ 5,901.00
Graceway		\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Liberty S.	5%	\$ 281.26	\$ 3,296.81
Trinity	3%	\$ -	\$ 1,236.55
Y.F.C.	3%	\$ 455.82	\$ 2,366.30
Fairview FBC	2%	\$ 218.34	\$ 2,945.26
Garber FBC	4%	\$ 277.48	\$ 3,353.80
Hunter	3%	\$ 38.10	\$ 193.35
Int. Ch. Grace	-	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Marshall	6%	\$ 136.25	\$ 2,020.03
Medford	4%	\$ 267.42	\$ 3,288.31
Perry FBC	3.00%	\$ 1,778.90	\$ 12,272.21
Perry Kaw St.	4.00%	\$ -	\$ -
Pond Creek	5.00%	\$ 253.75	\$ 2,912.78
Ringwood	7.00%	\$ 1,400.78	\$ 10,273.51
Ridin'4 Him	1.00%	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00
Sumner	4.00%	\$ -	\$ 528.90
Waukomis	2.00%	\$ 7.01	\$ 127.29
BGCO		\$ 230.83	\$ 2,769.96
Misc. Receipts		\$ -	\$ 1,631.61
Total Income		\$ 11,330.17	\$ 142,403.66
Expenses		\$ 11,202.99	\$ 136,681.99
Net Income		\$ 127.18	\$ 5,721.67

Monthly Req. \$16,583