



The ENCOURAGER

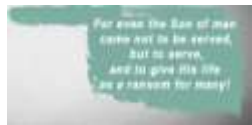
"...encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Vol. 17, No. 12

Pottawatomie-Lincoln Baptist Association, Shawnee, OK ~ Dr. Russell R. Cook, Director of Missions

December, 2013

EXECUTIVE BOARD
The next regular meeting will be February 10, 2014



State Evangelism Conference

January 27-28

First Baptist Church, Moore

For more information visit: www.bgco.org

Associational Office Closed

December 23-
January 2
The office will
reopen
January 6



Association Website
www.plba.org

Association Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.
Fairview Baptist Church, Earlsboro

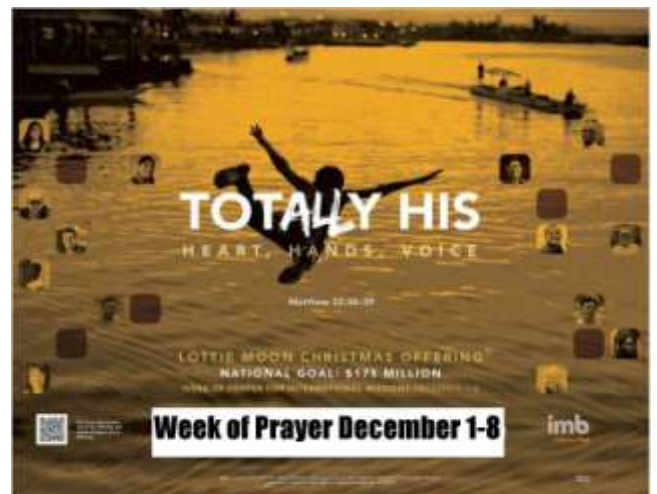
Dinner Catered by Honey Bear House
Entrees: Homemade Lasagna & Chicken Alfredo
Entertainment— Flight 8:36

\$10 per person
Retired Pastors & widows are free of charge

Must RSVP by Tuesday, November 26
Call 405-273-4558

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
State Goal \$5.5 Million

What will you give to help spread the gospel?



Church News

Please let us know of any upcoming events or news from your church!

FAITH had Matt and Seyan Watts, who are missionaries from China, in their services November 17. They are hosting a joint Thanksgiving service and fellowship with First Baptist on November 24. Dr. Doug Jones will bring the message. The sheetrock is up, textured and painted in their new Education Wing. The exterior has been completed with stone, brick and Drive-thru. They are hoping to have it all completed for their Christmas Celebration. *(Dan Campbell, Pastor)*

FOREST will be hosting their 3rd Annual Christmas Dinner, December 14, 4:00-7:00 p.m. This event is FREE to the public. Join them and bring a friend. *(Jeff Bruton, Pastor)*

MT. PLEASANT has called R.J Stokes as their pastor. We would like to welcome R.J, and his wife Krissi, to our association. *(R.J. Stokes, Pastor)*

ROMULUS will be having their Hanging of the Green service on December 1 at 6:00 p.m. They will also be having a Live Nativity on Friday, December 13 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the church. *(Tony Black, Pastor)*

SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH has called Eric Campbell of Flight 8:36 as their Staff Evangelist. Eric and Flight 8:36 are also available for revivals, concerts and other church functions. **Let's support Eric and Flight 8:36.** *(Clint Dawkins, Pastor)*

SON RISE had 19 rededications on October 13, and two new families join their church on October 27. God is doing a great work at Son Rise. *(Ron Cherry, Pastor)*

Staff Needed

Incorrect information... please call the Association office.

DALE is seeking a part-time pianist, blended worship service. They have decided to have a Second Sunday Night Singing Fellowship monthly, and are in need of someone to assist with that monthly service. They hope to have a college student or other church's musicians to help them by coming in occasionally. Contact Douglas Parker Jr., Search Committee, 405.401.9010. *(Doug Parker, Pastor)*

EARLSBORO INDIAN MISSION is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. Send resumes to Pulpit Committee, PO Box 239, Earlsboro, OK 74840.

FIRST, MCLLOUD is seeking a part-time Choir Director. Send resumes to the church, PO Box 180, McCloud, 74851. Taking applications for a paid nursery worker (must be 18 years or older). Applications can be picked up at the church or call 964-3344. *(Matt Halsted, Pastor)*

FIRST, SPARKS is receiving resumes for bi-vocational pastor. Send resumes to Earl Hall, markwellhall@yahoo.com or 349117 E 980 Rd., Sparks, OK 74869.

MACOMB is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resumes to Macomb Baptist Church, Steve Dilbeck, Pulpit Committee Chairman, PO Box 130, Macomb, OK 74852.

TEMPLE, SHAWNEE is receiving resumes for a part-time Music Minister. If interested, please send resumes to Temple Baptist Church, PO Box 3277, Shawnee, Oklahoma, 74802 At: Music Minister Search Committee, tbcshawnee.com or call 405-275-0937. *(Mike Craig, Pastor)*

A Word of Encouragement

The Bible says "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). I am trying to consciously live in a spirit of gratitude. It isn't always easy. When our insurance goes up 27%, I must give thanks that I still have insurance. Many don't. When gasoline goes over \$3 per gallon, I must give thanks that I actually have gas available to me and a car to drive. When utilities raise their rates and my bills are higher, I must thank God that I have a cool house in the summer and warmth in the winter.

More important than tangible things, however, are the spiritual things for which I am very grateful. I am thankful that the Lord saved my soul when I was a naive 13 year old farm boy in northeast Missouri. I am thankful that He protected me through my teen years and especially my time in the military. I could have lost my life more than once, but He preserved my life. I am so thankful. And to think that He would somehow "consider me faithful, putting me into service" (1 Timothy 1:12) simply blows my mind. But I am thankful.

How can I say thanks enough for the work God has done and is doing in my life; I am lost for words. This time of year reminds me again...I am so blessed. I wish that same blessing and even more for the Pastors, staffs and churches of PLBA. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

It Might Preach!

"THE DIFFERENCE CHRISTMAS MAKES"

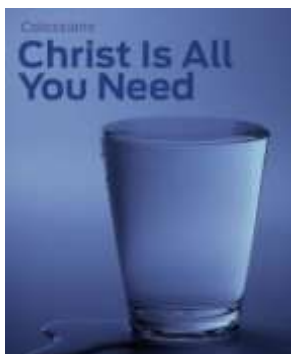
MATTHEW 2:11-12

In the several days following the birth of Jesus there were Magi (kings) or wise men, from the east who were directed by "His star" to Jerusalem. Notice what happened when they met Jesus, and consider WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU MEET JESUS.

- I. They SAW JESUS (v. 11a)
 - They had seen the star...now they saw the SAVIOR!
 - A. They saw a HUMAN CHILD
 - This identifies Him as the SON OF MAN— i.e. HUMAN
 - B. They saw a HOLY CHILD
 - This identifies Him as the SON OF GOD— i.e. DIVINE
 - C. They saw a MUCH LOVED CHILD ("with His mother")
 1. Luke 2:19
 2. Luke 2:51
- II. They WORSHIPPED JESUS (v. 11b)
 - A. They PLANNED their worship (v.2)
 - Do you come to church planning to "see and worship" Him?
 1. The "king of Judea" (Herod) lied about his plan (v.8)
 2. The "kings of the East" were sincere about their plan (v.2)
 - B. They PICTURED their worship (v. 11b)
 - What response does Jesus receive from you when you come into His presence?
 1. Consider the example of SIMEON, a priest (Luke 2:23-35)
 2. Consider the example of ANNA, a prophetess (Luke 2:30-38)
- III. They PRESENTED OFFERINGS TO JESUS (v. 11c)
 - Do you come to worship to get (feel good) or to give (of yourself & your means?)
 - A. They came PREPARED TO GIVE (v.11c)
 - We can bring our TIME, TALENTS and TREASURES and present them to God.
 - This takes forethought, commitment and financial allocation.
 - B. They came with PURPOSE IN GIVING (v.11c)
 1. GOLD= the DIETY of the child.
 2. FANKINCENSE= the PURITY of the child
 3. Myrrh= the DEATH of the child

They were CHANGED BY JESUS. (v.12 "And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the Magi left for their own country by another way.) - We LEAVE BY ANOTHER WAY...to LIVE ANOTHER WAY! When we come to see and worship Jesus and PRESENT OURSELVES and OUR OFFERINGS TO HIM, we will leave FOREVER CHANGED.

— rrc



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

"COLOSSIANS"

Order now at

www.lifeway.com

PLBA WOMEN

Budget Receipts



Do you make New Year's resolutions? Is one of them becoming healthier? How about becoming a healthier leader? Vitamin E is known for its many benefits—from antioxidant to healing scars. Attend this year's Embrace Retreat and see what it means to include "E" in your ministry! You'll spend a weekend networking with other leaders and leave energized to face the new ministry year head on!

January 17-18, 2014
Sullivant Retreat Center
Norman, OK
www.bgco.org

Don't wait to sign up because only the first 50 get in!

There is no cost for you to attend this event, but a \$50 deposit will hold your reservation. The deposit will be returned to you at the event to ensure your attendance.

A NUGGET FROM MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

It is always encouraging to hear of those who are faithfully carrying out a ministry. That has been the case for me in recent days, as I have received word from those who continue to meet needs through our BLANKET THE STATE MINISTRIES! As you probably know, these blankets have a specially-designed sew-on label which carries a message of life and love and are accompanied by a Gift Card, which carries the message of the Gospel of salvation! These assure that these are blankets with a message—not "just" blankets!

A friend of mine recently hand-delivered 2 baby blankets to new moms in Moore who had lost their homes in the May 20 tornado. They were thrilled. Caddo Association ladies just hand-delivered 60 blankets to the Day Spring Villa, a home for abused women and children. I handed 2 blankets to James Bond, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist in McLoud, who says *they need a LOT of baby and teen/adult blankets quickly for the tornado victims from the May 19 tornado in their area who are now facing winter weather. [By the way, they also need new space heaters to give away.]* The Acteens at Hillside Baptist Church have made and delivered 12 blankets to others in need.

Caddo Association secretary, Sandy Basham, just sent me an excited email not long after they delivered those 60 blankets to Day Spring Villa. Let me share with you her email...

"...Wanted to report what one of our ladies said to me today. When she was buying the fleece for her blankets, the clerk that was cutting the fabric overheard her say what she was doing and responded with *'I wish someone would have given me a blanket when I was in a shelter like that!'* Our lady was so touched that she bought more fabric & made more blankets than originally planned because it was suddenly so personal! Isn't that great!

Also, my church youth group is going to send 25 blankets to some soldiers we know in Afghanistan for Christmas [NOTE: they sent 64 over there a couple of years ago] and I have 6 blankets ready for our Pregnancy Center and 4 ready for a family I know that was in the Shawnee tornado. So I need 35 labels & cards already! Thanks!"

WE NEED YOUR HELP! As winter sets in, so many of the tornado victims are going to need things they didn't need earlier. Homeless will be out in the cold. Babies continue to be born. Children, teens, adults, elderly...all need the comforting touch of those soft, fleece blankets! PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP! Call Marsha Cook at 405-275-2088 or go to www.plba.org, BLANKET THE STATE. I encourage YOU to get involved and stay involved with this great need!

*Lord, when did we see You hungry...thirsty...
in need of shelter...without clothes [for a blanket]...
sick...in prison...in need of a visit???????*

Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these...you have done it unto ME!

Marsha Cook, Director

Churches listed in red are Pastorless

PASTORS	CHURCH	Oct. '13	YTD
Roger Shaw	Agra FBC	457.98	3,812.87
Mat Riddle	Asher FBC	252.51	2,253.83
	Blackburn Chapel	139.95	2,717.83
Mark Davis	Carney FBC	.00	2,080.23
Rick Blackwell	Chandler, FBC	921.76	8,133.72
Keith Henley	Chandler Southern	159.16	1,211.05
Doug Parker	Dale	47.85	262.02
Mike Mitchell	Davenport FBC	599.45	4,140.06
Mike Haines	Deer Creek	237.18	2,482.62
Mark Streetman	Earlsboro FBC	.00	300.00
	Earlsboro Indian Mission	115.03	992.42
Wayne Knight	Fairview	304.19	1,500.54
Dan Campbell	Faith	376.76	3,081.67
Jeff Bruton	Forest	.00	431.84
Lee Witt	Hazel Dell	602.04	4,910.95
Tuney Ropp	Hillside	1,316.90	9,294.90
Gary Nickerson	Hilltop	854.82	4,364.11
Bryan Cook	Hopewell	78.15	756.44
Don Jones, Int.	Macomb	136.42	1,329.43
Mike Hazelwood	Mammoth	340.00	3,005.00
Bobby Shatto	Maud FBC	.00	140.88
	Maud Trinity	241.84	2,701.37
James Bond	McLoud Emmanuel	1,327.87	8,757.59
Jerry Gray	McLoud Emmaus	157.52	884.79
Matt Halsted	McLoud FBC	565.67	4,806.98
Ron Cherry	McLoud Son Rises	.00	1,162.79
Joe Jones	Meeker FBC	271.69	2,502.25
Jerry Jackson	Morning Star	.00	2,651.47
R.J. Stokes	Mt. Pleasant	.00	584.60
Mark Patterson	Newalla New Life	628.82	6,764.42
Ed Moore	Newalla Pecan Valley	85.35	893.22
Mike Collyer	Pink	290.95	2,483.79
Jim Morningstar	Pioneer	.00	320.82
Nathan Howard	Pleasant Home	140.52	1,307.54
Tim Emmons	Prague FBC	927.53	4,800.72
Richard Zimmer	Rock Creek	724.54	8,578.41
Gaspar Reyes	Rock Creek Spanish	24.56	215.56
Tony Black	Romulus	220.71	1,940.19
Monte Dean	Sh-Aydelotte	810.62	3,363.24
David Henry	Sh-Calvary	.00	187.50
Ray Miller	Sh-First	359.95	3,698.79
Spencer Davis, Int.	Sh-First Indian	233.05	1,295.24
Anthony Rhone	Sh-Galilee	50.00	300.00
Bob Dawson	Sh-Good Shepherd Chapel	.00	538.98
Jay Sampson	Sh-Heritage	.00	3,343.77
Todd Fisher	Sh-Immanuel	2,182.57	19,457.38
Rendon Falls	Sh-Karis	.00	.00
Tom Hall	Sh-New Life	25.00	250.50
John York	Sh-Oakland Chapel	.00	157.45
Ben Little	Sh-Sallateeska	.00	807.00
Mike Craig	Sh-Temple	1,229.57	10,598.66
Larry Norris	Sh-Trinity	207.22	1,844.46
Steve Dominy	Sh-University	388.41	4,005.76
Butch Bradley	Sh-Wallace Ave.	375.20	2,208.41
	Sparks FBC	120.47	854.09
Glenn Peck	St. Louis FBC	323.95	3,160.45
Russell Cook, Int.	Stroud FBC	485.24	4,830.35
Don Tiger	Stroud Sac & Fox	9.69	191.38
Tony Peak	Tecumseh FBC	879.04	9,309.23
Will Wilson	Tecumseh New Hope	50.00	400.00
Clint Dawkins	Tecumseh Sharon	1,540.87	9,286.37
Bob Fowler	Tryon FBC	201.44	1,879.57
Britt Lesley	Wanette FBC	.00	1,981.18
Bill Howse	Wanette, Victory Pointe	10.00	30.00
Russ Houser	Wellston Cornerstone	.00	367.30
Darrell Sullivan	Wellston FBC	.00	2,906.08
Lane Buckley	Wellston Trinity	110.00	1,100.00
TOTAL		\$22,140.01	\$196,962.06

TOTAL CHECKING AND SAVINGS TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR

	Beginning Bal. 10-1-13	Income	Expense	Ending Bal. 10-31-13
Budget	\$45,997.48	22,140.01	22,990.73	\$45,146.76
Designated	169,134.63			171,456.70
Total Monies	\$215,132.11			\$216,603.46

Association Website — www.plba.org

December

Birthdays

- 3 Rev. Bill Mitchell
20622 Hwy 102
Tecumseh, OK 74873
Retired Pastor
- 3 Mrs. Barbara (Paul) Calmes
2000 N Broadway
Shawnee, OK 74804
Retired Pastor's Wife
- 4 Rev. Bill Howse, III
38714 Okay Rd.
Wanette, OK 74878
Pastor, Victory Pointe
- 7 Rev. Lane Buckley
331288 E Hwy 66
Wellston, OK 74881
Pastor, Trinity, Wellston
- 9 Mrs. Janice Maynard
1934 N. Broadway
Shawnee, OK 74804
PLBA Office Manager/Secretary
- 14 Mrs. Marsha (Russell) Cook
1313 Castle Creek Street
Shawnee, OK 74804
Director of Mission's Wife, PLBA
- 15 Mrs. Connie (Glenn) Peck
18 Comanche Circle
Shawnee, OK 74801
Pastor's Wife, First, St. Louis
- 16 Mrs. Elsie (Ben) Little
128 North High Street
Shawnee, OK 74804
Pastor's Wife, Sallateeska
- 17 Mrs. Tina (Gary) Nickerson
36720 Moccasin Trail
Shawnee, OK 74804
Pastor's Wife, Hilltop
- 18 Mrs. Sally (Mike) Stock
3901 N. Leo
Shawnee, OK 74804
Former Pastor's Wife
- 24 Mrs. Mae (Bill) Mitchell
20622 Hwy 102
Tecumseh, OK 74873
Retired Pastor's Wife

- 29 Rev. Lee Witt
39208 Moccasin Trail
Shawnee, OK 74804
Pastor, Hazel Dell

Anniversaries

- 3 Rev. & Mrs. Tuney Ropp
33892 E. 1040 Rd.
McLoud, OK 74851
Pastor, Hillside
- 18 Rev. & Mrs. Mike Mitchell
PO Box 376
Davenport, OK 74026
Pastor, First, Davenport
- 19 Dr. & Mrs. Russell Cook
1313 Castle Creek Street
Shawnee, OK 74804
Director of Missions, PLBA
- 19 Rev. & Mrs. Mark Streetman
830 Denison Drive
Norman, OK 73069
Pastor, First, Earlsboro
- 21 Rev. & Mrs. Mark Davis
PO Box 596
Carney, OK 74832
Pastor, First, Carney
- 23 Rev. & Mrs. Jerry Gray
17770 Cedar Brake
Choctaw, OK 73020
Pastor, Emmaus
- 29 Rev. & Mrs. Nathan Howard
2322 N Pottenger Ave.
Shawnee, OK 74804
Pastor, Pleasant Home



DECEMBER 2013

- 1-8 Lottie Moon IMB Week of Prayer
- 4 OBU Christmas Chapel~10:00 a.m.
- 5 PLBA Christmas Dinner,
Fairview Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Church Planting Missionaries Christmas Banquet
- 7 OBU Hanging of the Green
- 13 OBU Winter Commencement
- 23-January 2 Association Office Closed



The ENCOURAGER (USPS 043260) is published monthly at the POTTAWATOMIE-LINCOLN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Office. *Postmaster:* Send address changes to **The ENCOURAGER, 3800 N. Market, Shawnee, OK 74804. Phone: 405.273.4558 / Fax: 405.273.8478. Email: plba@shcglobal.net Editors:** Dr. Russell Cook, Director of Missions; Janice Maynard and Tanya Bruton.

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"...enabling each church to fulfill its unique mission for Christ and providing channels for cooperative ministry."

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID
SHAWNEE, OK 74804

*May your Christmas be blessed with peace and joy.
 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
 From your PLBA Staff
 Bro. Russell Janice
 Janice Jeff*