

Bryan Baptist Association

The Challenger- December 2007

From The Desk Of The DOM:

Jan and I have two sons. Our oldest is a builder. Ever since he was a little boy he has loved to build things. Often he would come to me with his blocks and very emphatically say, "Daddy, let's build somepin!" I would gladly respond by helping him build things.

Right now in our Association there is a tremendous need to build something. What should we build? Bridges! What kind of bridges? Bridges of unity, brotherhood and cooperation - bridges of communication, love and understanding - bridges of prayer, forgiveness and trust.

Lately in the BBA, some walls of division have been built. They must be torn down. Satan loves to divide. In-house fighting among the people of God is his delight. Becoming preoccupied with internal battles diverts us from our great task of winning souls to Christ.

Though I am a fallible and sinful person, with all my heart, I will seek God's strength to stay true to the following things, in order to "endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph.4:3) in the BBA:

1. First and foremost, I will stand firm on God's inerrant Word. It is our ultimate and final authority (II Timothy 3:16-17). Instead of allowing this to be a time of dividing or taking sides, let it be a time of digging deeper into the Word and into who we are as Southern Baptists.

2. I will wholeheartedly and without reservation embrace the Baptist Faith and Message as our generally agreed upon statement of faith as Southern Baptists and, more particularly, Bryan County Baptists. This is our common denominator and an umbrella under which we all may walk in unity, particularly because there is much diversity among us (Acts 15).

3. I will not let disagreement over secondary or negotiable issues tear down bridges to relationships with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As much as it depends on me, I will live peaceably with all men (Rom.12:18).

4. I will seek to be as cooperative and helpful as possible with our churches in accomplishing our common purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission and maintaining the health of the local church (II Corinthians 6:1).

5. I will seek God's will in concerted prayer, Bible study and godly counsel as I fulfill my responsibilities as Director of Missions (Proverbs 3:5-6, 11:14; Matthew 6:33).

6. I will seek to remove the plank in my own eye before trying to remove the splinter in another's eye (Matthew 7:3-5).

7. I will seek to follow Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-17 and encourage others to do the same in solving conflicts. Honest, humble, open, truthful communication is essential. Let us avoid spreading rumors, misinformation and assumptions.

8. I will not crumble under the weight of opposition, especially when there are unresolved issues and problems that must be dealt with in which I play a key role (I Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9).

9. I will seek to maintain a worthy walk in keeping with my calling, in all humility, meekness, patience and forbearance in love (Ephesians 4:1-3).

10. I will keep my eyes on the Lord and stay fervent in prayer. He has pledged to fight our battles if we do things His way (II Chronicles 20).

I would encourage all our people to make similar commitments. The Lord is putting us through a huge time of testing. Will we demonstrate the character of Christ to those looking on? May the Lord not only restore our much needed unity but grant to us a mighty spiritual awakening.

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October 2007 Contributions

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Achille: | Bushnell - Kim McGehee ----\$ 1075.92 | Stone Creek -- Fred Resz ----- \$62.40 | Silo -Buddy Johnson -----\$ 605.97 |
| Community -Bob Stevens-----\$ 0 | Caddo - Charles Loyd ----- \$ 0 | Sunset View-Harry Boydston -\$ 134.08 | Utica --Jay Perry ----- \$ 0 |
| First -Larry Metts ----- \$ 0 | Calera - Jacob Toew----- \$ 631.99 | W. Meadows-Darrell Edwards\$ 630.62 | Wade - Charles Williams ----- \$ 64.75 |
| Albany: | Cartwright - Ray Earley ----- \$ 703.77 | Hendrix - ----- \$ 124.85 | Yuba ----- \$ 389.08 |
| Albany - Jackie Robinson ---- \$ 114.40 | Cobb - Bruce McLaughlin----- \$ 44.10 | Kemp -Roger Speer ----- \$0 | Account Balances as of |
| RRV Cowboy - George Toma --\$ 29.00 | Colbert - ----- \$ 674.80 | Kenefic - Royce Couch ----- \$ 442.40 | October 31, 2007: |
| Armstrong -Monty Wood ---- \$ 142.02 | Durant: | Mead: | BBA Checking ----- \$ 12360.19 |
| Bennington--Heath Murrah--- \$ 445.19 | Calvary -Darel Bunch ----- \$ 375.30 | Mead - Kerry Groce ----- \$ 219.06 | Falls Creek ----- \$ 5354.62 |
| Blue - ----- \$ 117.75 | Fairview - Bill Ledbetter ----- \$ 714.00 | Emmanuel-James Wigginton-\$ 214.35 | Disaster Relief ----- \$ 4388.03 |
| Bokchito: | First -James Robinson----- \$ 1540.34 | Streetman Rd-Darren Wallace-\$ 304.67 | Carrell Hooper Mission ---- \$ 4835.83 |
| Faith -Scott Melton----- \$ 325.57 | Grace - Anthony Williams---- \$ 1540.34 | Platter, John Heath----- \$ 159.62 | Sunset Cove ----- \$ 6646.68 |
| First- Preston Burns----- \$ 356.40 | Iglesia Bautista -Alejo Benito-\$400.000 | Roberta - Bud Jenkins ----- \$ 150.50 | Roadrunners ----- \$ 2332.91 |
| ReynoldsChapel-Bob McLean----- \$ 0 | Lake Point - Jared McIntire----- \$ 0 | Robinson - Donald Ford ----- \$ 111.94 | |
| Brown -Dale Ballard ----- \$ 336.60 | | | |

Attention: This report reflects only what was received by the BBA during the reported month. Churches contribute however they choose: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.

SUNSET COVE

God is blessing Sunset Cove. We have a group willing to help get our first building up. If the Lord wills, we will have a building with bathrooms before Freedom Day 2008! Please continue to pray for God's direction and blessings on this very worthy project.

Consider coming (individuals or groups) to the Cove anytime to enjoy the beautiful view and to share Jesus with those who happen by.

Merry Christmas
and May God Bless You Abundantly!
Dennis Pena, Chairman



Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

May you all have a blessed Christmas by making sure your family celebrates the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ above all other celebration.

Please let us know if there is any way we can be of assistance to your women's groups.
In His service, Ethel Gray and Betty Stout

TELL ME!
the story of Jesus

National Goal: \$165 million
2007 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

Give, so they can hear

It's a simple story, yet the most **powerful ever told:** the story of Jesus. Do you remember the first time you heard - and believed? Now, imagine no one ever told you. How would your life be different? It's an eternal reality for the world's 1.6 billion souls with little or no access to the Gospel.



Church News



The pantries ACROSS Durant are VERY, VERY low. I am starting a **food drive** for our community. The food will be distributed through all the non-profits in the area (Victory Life, Loaves & Fishes, St. Catherine's Pantry, FFF, Joshua House, crisis center, senior centers, et. Cetra). The pantries need food for Christmas. I have drop off locations at Larry Dyson Motors and Nichols Dollar Saver. I am praying that Choctaw Nation, Southeastern and the local churches will participate in this drive.

Please pass this along to everyone you know.

I can be reached at 775-0015 for questions or to pick up food.

Thank you so much, Ticia Burkhalter

Western Meadows Baptist Church will have a "Candlelight Christmas" on **December 9th at 10:00 am.**

First Baptist Church of Bokchito will have their **Children's Christmas Program on December 9th @ 6:00pm.**



Impact Oklahoma

- Did you know that the 39 Baptist Collegiate Ministries in Oklahoma make up the largest BCM ministry in the nation? Thanks for your gifts through the Cooperative Program.
- Did you know you helped plant 63 new churches across Oklahoma in 2005 and 332 since 2000? Since 2004 1,200 people have been baptized through new church starts and 5,442 people have participated in Sunday worship services at new Southern Baptist churches. Thanks for giving through the Cooperative Program.
- Did you know that over 200,000 individuals have made decisions for Christ at Falls Creek? Thank you for giving through the Cooperative Program.

**Miracles Still Happen
or
The Holy Spirit Was There**



I'm so excited that I wanted to share my news with everyone!

I went to Atoka to hear the Singing Church Women of Oklahoma (my first time) and they (Dr. Green) invited me to sing with the choir; now those of you who have heard me sing are wondering how this came about. That's not important. What is, is the fact that I went to hear these ladies sing and they were really great. However, seeing them sing was even a more rewarding experience. The Holy Spirit could be seen in their shining eyes and radiant smiles. I truly believe seeing these ladies faces as they sang was a message as to what one looks like when God our Father is living within.

If you have never experienced their performance, do yourself a favor and go. You will definitely receive a blessing.

Jolene Reid



**Singing Church Women of OK
2007-2008 Concert Schedule**

- January 31, 2008 - EAST, Tahlequah, First Baptist Church
- February 19, 2008 - EAST, Blackwell, Blackwell High School
- March 6, 2008 - Bartlesville, First Baptist Church
- April 3, 2008 - Small Group Concerts Hammon, First Baptist Church Hollis, First Baptist Church Ponca City, Sunset Baptist Church Stillwater, Hillcrest Baptist Church Yukon, First Baptist Church
- May 6, 2008 - Joint Concert with the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Baptist Symphony Moore, First Baptist Church
- October 23, 2008 - Broken Arrow, The Church at Battle Creek

**Singing Churchmen of OK
2007-2008 Concert Schedule**

All Concerts begin at 7:00pm.

- January 17, 2008 - Tulsa, Olivet Baptist Church
- February 21, 2008 Haskell, First Baptist Church Anadarko, First Baptist Church Ada, Oak Avenue Baptist Church Pawnee, First Baptist Church
- March 27, 2008 - Ardmore, Heritage Hall Civic Auditorium
- April 17, 2008 - Skiatook, Multi-Activity Center
- May 6, 2008 - Moore, First Joint Concert with Singing Church Women of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Baptist Symphony

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary !!

Birthdays

- 12/5 - Gene Jackson
- 12/7 - Clint Whitehurst
- 12/8 - Donald Ford
- 12/10 - Charles Williams
- 12/11 - Vicki McLarry
- 12/21 - Darel Bunch
- 12/21 Janice Roberts
- 12/21 - Adine Stevens
- 12/22 - Amy Earley
- 12/28 - Sherri Whisenhunt
- 12/31 - Quniton McLarry



Wedding Anniversaries

- 12/23 - Gerald & Iva Kelly
- 12/27 - Jared & Michelle McIntire
- 12/22/92 -Monty & Tammy Wood
- 12/28/02 - Garry & Heather McNeil
- 12/28/73 - Brenda & Tommy Rowland
- 12/28/03 - Clint & Bethany Whitehurst

Ministry Anniversaries

- 12/1 03 - Ken Bartholomew - Durant First
- 12/1/97 - Bill Goodin - Colbert
- 12/18/05 Monty Wood - Armstrong
- 12/30/03 - Karen Horn - Colbert

Upcoming Senior Events

Trips: (Please call the BBA office to reserve your place on the bus, leave your name and phone number.)

- Dec - 7 - Lights in Ardmore (Leaving at 4:00pm from Fairview BC parking lot. Bus fee \$4.00)
- Jan 18 - BG's in Kingston

Luncheons:

- Dec 12 - BBA office
- Jan 9 - Achille Community
- Feb 13 - Armstrong



If you or your church has any announcements or news you would like to be in next month's Challenger, please call the BBA office before

Dec. 14th. 580-924-2351



Positions Needed

Please pray for our pastorless churches:

Colbert, Blue, Hendrix and Yuba

Youth/Music Ministers Albany Baptist Church is searching for someone that could possibly do **music and/or youth**. Please send your resume to Albany Baptist church, PO Box 97, Albany, OK 74721.

Music Ministers Faith Bokchito is searching for a **part-time music minister**. Contact Scott Melton at 580-295-3488.

Kitchen Manager needed **part-time**. Must be able to cook as needed for 125-300 people. Clean kitchen on nightly basis, assist in food orders, pickup and menus. Assist in various food service areas as the need arises. 580-775-0015

Bryan Baptist Association

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Director of Missions-----Terrell Suggs
Moderator-----Bill Ledbetter
Clerk-----Gerald Kelly
Treasurer-----J.C. Curtis
Administrative Assistant ---DeeDee Pena
Office Hours - Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 - 4:30
Fri. 8:30 - 1:00



December 2007

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------|--|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | 3 Pastor/Staff Conference 10:30 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 BBA Leadership Banquet | 8 RA Racers @ Mead BC |
| Week of Prayer/Mission Study for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering | | | | | | |
| 9 Week of Prayer/Mission Study for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering | 10 | 11 | 12 Roadrunners Luncheon at Bennington FBC | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Pastor/Staff Conference 10:30 Fairview | 18 | 19 FFF Meeting @ 10:00 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | BBA Office Closed | | | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |