

# THE BRYAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

# CHALLENGER

DECEMBER 2020

## From the Desk of the DOM

We sing it every Christmas season. It is, arguably, the most beloved of carols. It is *Joy to the World* and it brings out the best in those who participate in any vocal rendition of it. No doubt the text of this hymn is given to praise for our Lord Jesus. Yet it is only one of approximately 750 hymns written by English lyricist/composer, Isaac Watts.

One that seems particularly applicable to our social situation (define that term as you will) today is *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*. I can remember singing this as a boy. The tune, written by William Croft in 1708, and the text, based on Psalm 90 and written by Watts in 1708 as well, were married sometime later in the 18th century to become a well-known hymn of praise to God.

According to author Robert J. Morgan in *Then Sings My Soul, Special Edition*, "It was played on the radio by the BBC as soon as World War II was declared". In fact, the message of this hymn has offered comfort and hope in the face of trials for centuries; and no wonder with lyrics such as:

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.*

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.*

There are six more verses just as poignant as these! The lyrics in these verses have not changed. Psalm 90 has not changed and, therefore, the Biblical truth in the lyrics has not changed. Certainly Almighty God has not changed! There is, then, absolutely no reason this hymn cannot offer the same comfort and hope today.

**Merry Christmas, Tim**

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# 25 DAYS OF PRAYER

## MISSIONS ADVENT CALENDAR

The McMillans are one of the 3582 IMB (International Missions Board) missionaries that live and work among those around the world with little to no access to the Gospel. Add a star each day, as we (you, the McMillans, and churches around the USA) participate in this Advent Missions Prayer countdown to Christmas 2020.

- ❑ **Day 1- HOPE:** Pray that according to God's mercy, Germans would be born again to a LIVING HOPE (1 Peter 1:3)!
- ❑ **Day 2- 5 FAMILIES:** Pray for 5 families in our neighborhood to begin following Christ and studying the Bible. (We will be sharing specific families in our neighborhood to pray for throughout the month).
- ❑ **Day 3- Pray for the S-Family:** Pray that this entire family would believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved.
- ❑ **Day 4- Pray for Kiezkirche Rixdorf,** our local church in Berlin, as they reach out to their community during the Christmas Season.
- ❑ **Day 5- HEARTS OF GENEROSITY:** Pray for our family to be filled with generosity and compassion. Pray that we would be the hands and feet of Jesus to our city.
- ❑ **Day 6- PEACE:** Pray that Germans would find the peace that only God can give; peace that the world cannot give (John 14:27).
- ❑ **Day 7- Pray for the AC-Family:** Pray that they would embrace eternal life: that they may know HIM, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent (John 17:3).
- ❑ **Day 8- Pray that our Kellen, Mason, Lynley, and Ellis** would one day choose for themselves to follow Christ.
- ❑ **Day 9- Pray that during the season of Advent,** our family would intentionally focus on the true meaning of Christmas and not be overwhelmed by traditions and busyness.
- ❑ **Day 10- Happy Anniversary Ryan and Brea!** Pray that our marriage would remain strong and be protected from any attacks by the Evil One.
- ❑ **Day 11- Pray for the MA-Family:** Pray that we would have the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel. In the midst of every-day conversations with M and A. Pray that they would have ears to hear.
- ❑ **Day 12- Pray about how God would have you contribute financially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.** (<https://www.imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/>)
- ❑ **Day 13- LOVE:** Pray for Germans to hear the Christmas story and know that God loves them and has sent his son that they may have eternal life (John 3:16).
- ❑ **Day 14- Pray that Christians in Berlin** would be bold to proclaim the Gospel and talk about their hope in Christ.
- ❑ **Day 15- Pray for the K-Family:** Pray for God to give them a heart to know that he is the Lord, that they will repent and turn to God with their whole heart (Jeremiah 24:7).
- ❑ **Day 16- Pray that we would have opportunities to share why we celebrate Christmas** with families and workers at our kids' school and kindergarten.
- ❑ **Day 17- Pray for the Lichtenberg Lions.** Pray that Ryan would have many opportunities to share the Gospel with his teammates and for a Bible Study to be started.
- ❑ **Day 18- Pray for our families in the USA:** that they would be encouraged and filled with joy even though we cannot be together during the Christmas season.
- ❑ **Day 19- Pray for the D-Family:** Pray that God would draw D and D out of darkness and into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).
- ❑ **Day 20- JOY:** Pray that the God of hope will fill German Christians with all joy and peace as they trust in him, so that they may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).
- ❑ **Day 21- LANGUAGE:** God saves Germans through the proclaiming of the Gospel. Pray that our knowledge of German would continue to grow so that we can share the Gospel clearly.
- ❑ **Day 22- Pray for the EJ-Family:** Pray that conversations about our families and parenting would provide opportunities to share truth about our Heavenly Father.
- ❑ **Day 23- Pray for our teammates, the Stewart Family:** Pray they would not grow weary of doing good and that they will reap a BOUNTIFUL harvest at the proper time (Galatians 6:9).
- ❑ **Day 24- Pray for D:** We have been discipling D over the last year. Pray that she would continue to grow in obedience to God and would share her faith.
- ❑ **Day 25- Pray that Berliners will come to see the true gift that we have been given in Jesus Christ.**

Merry Christmas from the McMillan Family! We hope you are filled with joy this Advent season as you pray for international missions and give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering which enables missionaries, like the McMillans, to live among the unreached peoples they serve.

## Ministry Opportunities

**Grace Baptist** is seeking a Bi-Vo Youth Pastor. Send resumes to [lifeplus@simplynet.net](mailto:lifeplus@simplynet.net)

Please pray for Hannahbeth and the people of South Asia

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"  
Isaiah 6:8



IN HIM WAS LIFE,  
AND THE LIFE WAS  
THE LIGHT OF MEN.  
THE LIGHT SHINES  
IN THE DARKNESS,  
AND THE DARKNESS  
HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.  
— JOHN 1:4-5



Please pray for our  
pastorless churches:  
Achille Community, Blue



## “HATE MAIL” 2 Kings 19:14-19

Letters can be wonderful, notes of encouragement, birth announcements, wedding invitations, or they can be devastating, like a notice of the passing of a loved one or a termination letter. I remember my mother telling me about finding out that her father had died three months after the fact because she was serving in the jungles of Venezuela.

In this passage we are looking at today, Hezekiah received hate mail from Sennacherib in the form of a letter demanding complete surrender. Let's look at a couple points that need to be made:

### I. HEZEKIAH RECEIVED THE LETTER AFTER DOING THE RIGHT THING

He had reestablished the temple worship and the Passover among other things and yet hate mail. The bible says ALL who live godly SHALL suffer persecution. Here is where it gets good: the devil can't keep us out of heaven but he CAN keep us discouraged and thereby useless to God.

So he sends us hate mail in the form of lies, such as you can't be forgiven, or things will never change, or prayer is useless, or you're not good enough, or God is not good, or there is no one to help you. Jesus said about Satan: *“When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of liars.”*

Joshua challenged the people in his day with these words: *“...choose for yourselves today the one you will worship... As for me and my family, we will worship Yahweh.”* Joshua 24:15

### II. AFTER RECEIVING THE LETTER, HEZEKIAH PRESENTED IT TO GOD

*“Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers, read it, then went up to the LORD's temple, and spread it out before the LORD.”* 2 Kings 19:14

Every one of the lies Satan tells us, need to be brought to the throne of grace so that we may find help in time of need. Ask yourself, what does God's Word say about this?

He prayed a powerful prayer to the Lord.

-He mentioned God's POWER *“You made the heavens and the earth.”*

-He mentioned the PROBLEM *“Hear the words that Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God.”*

-He mentioned his POSITION *“...LORD our God, please save us from his hand.”*

-He mentioned God's PURPOSE *“...all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God—You alone.”*

The bible reminds us to *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your care on Him, because He cares about you.”* 1Peter 5:6&7

When Hezekiah sought the Lord, God answered in a mighty way through the prophet Isaiah:

*“Therefore, this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or build up an assault ramp against it. He will go back on the road that he came and he will not enter this city.”* 2 Kings 19:32, 33

When we seek the Lord, He will answer us, too!

## BBA Prayer Ministry

I am sure if you are like me, we have so much on our minds these days. An unusual Thanksgiving has past us, I say unusual because of the warnings about this COVID situation. Many cancelled their Harvest Dinner. Christmas is upon us, celebrating the birth of our Savior and the giving and receiving of gifts. Your most precious gift is the gift of salvation. PTL. We have been through the election cycle and beyond. Although we trust in the Lord, many of our association members have been touched with this virus or are concerned that we might get it. There are differences of opinion on wearing the mask or not to wear the mask. There are differences in opinion from experts on staying open or closing down. There is a lack of trust in our government officials and I ask You, who can we trust the news? I know one thing! We can trust the Word of God, that is for sure! Many have been touched with the loss of a loved one or a dear friend. Even though we grieve our losses, we rejoice in the eternal home prepared for those who are in Christ. Many are concerned about the future of our nation, as we should be with the deep divisions, riots, and disrespect for life in general. My dear fellow member, what is the answer, what is the key to recovery? JESUS! Jesus, our deliverer, our healer, our salvation. Where can we go but to the Lord? I urge you to pray and fast and pray for our nation, for each other, for peace and that you will be a peace maker for you serve the peace giver.

**In His Grip, Bro. Anthony**



*Happy Holidays*



**1914 E. Hwy 70**

(Formerly Potter's Sausage Admin. Building)

**A FREE Pharmacy and Medical Clinic**

For anyone in need of medical care and/or medications.

sponsored by

**The Bryan Baptist Association**



**Pharmacy Schedule**

**Every Thursday**

**5:00 p.m.**



**Clinic Schedule**

**Tuesdays by Appointment Only**

You must have an appointment. We do not see walk-ins.

Call leaving your name, number & a brief reason why you need to see a doctor. Please repeat the number at the end. Someone will call you back to set your appointment.

We only see those who have no insurance or are underinsured.

No narcotics (controlled drugs) will be prescribed.

**Call: 580-924-1MED (580-924-1633)**

Please pray with us that God will supply the medicines, medical supplies and volunteers as needed for this ministry. Please also pray for Him to fill the physical and spiritual needs of our community.

## Operation Christmas Child

What an incredible Collection Week we had this year! In spite of the pandemic, our location collected 3,022 shoeboxes! We had churches from Madill to Hugo and everywhere in between donate. We were encouraged by all the donors and their willingness to participate this year.

This was our first year to do a curbside drop-off model, and it was very successful. Our aim to be more organized was accomplished and we will be continuing with this method in the future.

We had some great volunteers help us throughout collection week as well! Thank you to those who were able to help with unloading vehicles and packing cartons. If you haven't volunteered with us, but are interested, consider signing up for next year!

**God bless! Chloe Richards**



Christmas greetings from LTBRM. It is an exciting time of the year as we focus on the Christ child and the hope that He brought for all who will trust Him. With COVID and political unrest, this Christmas may look different than Christmases past, but we are thankful for the promise we find in Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." We are in the process of decorating our cabins as we prepare for our December guests. We would welcome the donation of a large artificial tree for the main meeting area of our largest cabin, The Helm. Contact Monty at 580-916-8579 or Tammy at 580-775-8889.

## Lake Life



Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

**The Wood Family.**

Pictured is a cub scout pack from Frisco, Texas who camped out in November at our lakefront area.



## Financial Reports

### BBA Income October 2020

<b>Achille, Community</b>		<b>Durant, First</b>	1,672.73
<b>Achille, First</b>		<b>Durant, Grace</b>	466.19
<b>Albany</b>		<b>Durant, Lakepoint</b>	
<b>Albany, RRVCC</b>	30.00	<b>Durant, Stonecreek</b>	246.40
<b>Armstrong</b>	395.70	<b>Durant, Sunset View</b>	
<b>Bennington</b>	289.00	<b>Durant, Western Meadows</b>	772.26
<b>Blue</b>	145.60	<b>Hendrix</b>	61.10
<b>Bokchito, Faith</b>	380.94	<b>Kemp</b>	
<b>Bokchito, First</b>		<b>Kenefic</b>	254.46
<b>Bokchito, Reynolds Chapel</b>	175.44	<b>Mead</b>	
<b>Brown</b>	72.90	<b>Mead, Emmanuel</b>	339.00
<b>Bushnell</b>	536.00	<b>Mead, Streetman Road</b>	
<b>Caddo, Blue River Fellowship</b>	1,185.47	<b>Platter</b>	44.92
<b>Caddo, First</b>	121.00	<b>Roberta</b>	215.00
<b>Calera</b>	317.89	<b>Robinson</b>	
<b>Cartwright</b>		<b>Silo</b>	400.83
<b>Cobb</b>		<b>Utica</b>	285.41
<b>Colbert</b>		<b>Wade</b>	
<b>Durant, Calvary</b>		<b>Yuba</b>	
<b>Durant, Fairview</b>	572.23	<b>Other Income</b>	256.67
<b>Total October Income</b>			9,237.14
<b>Monthly Budget Needs</b>			10,146.67

### Other Accounts Income October 2020

<b>Block Party Trailer</b>	100.00	<b>Great Physician's Pharm.</b>	515.00
<b>Carrell Hooper Missions</b>	530.18	<b>Senior Adult Roadrunners</b>	0.00
<b>Disaster Relief Trailer</b>	0.00	<b>Vacation Bible School</b>	0.00
<b>Falls Creek</b>	3,650.00		

These totals reflect amounts received Oct. 1-31, 2020. Monies received after the 31st will be shown in the November 2020 totals.

*merry  
christmas!*



from the Bryan Baptist Association

Jack Adams (member, Calvary Baptist Church) has created a t-shirt that he hopes will be useful in sharing the Gospel. Shirts read "Ask Me About Jesus" and come in a variety of colors and styles. These shirts are available for purchase through Texoma Engraving.

If you are interested in ordering, contact Susan Chalk.



**texomaengraving@gmail.com**  
**580-775-7333**

Short Sleeve - \$8    Long Sleeve - \$11  
Sweatshirt - \$13    Hoodie - \$19  
Caps \$13

## Ministry Anniversaries

Ken Bartholomew	12/01/03
Roddy Arnold	12—/18

## Wedding Anniversaries

Sherman & Shanna Hall	12/07/—
Ryan & Brea McMillan	12/10/11
Monty & Tammy Wood	12/22/92
Philip & Laura Stephens	12/28/85
Garry & Heather McNeill	12/28/02

## Birthdays

Dusty Rhodes	Dec. 01
Donald Ford	Dec. 08
J.T. Welch	Dec. 10
Vicki McLarry	Dec. 11
Charles Williams	Dec. 12
Darel Bunch	Dec. 21
Adine Stephens	Dec. 21
Amy Earley	Dec. 22
Wayland Shirey	Dec. 27
Sherri Whisenhunt	Dec. 28

## This Month in BBA History

**The Umbrella** (310 W Main, Durant) will be having a book signing on **December 2 from 10am-12pm**. Local authors which will be present with new books are: Laura Clark, Sherrie Burleson and our own **Dolores White Kiser**. All the money from the sale of Dolores's books this year goes to the Lottie Moon Offering.



**Reynolds Chapel** will be having a **Dedication Service** for their new building on **December 3rd at 2pm**. Lunch will be served at 12:30 with the dedication following.

Everyone is invited!

**Reynolds Chapel** also has a **"Singing" every 3rd Friday at 7pm**. Please feel free to join in!

**Lee Roy and Barbara Decker** are inviting everyone to come to an **Open House at The Helm** on **Friday, December 8th from 4 - 8 pm &**

**Saturday, December 9th from 2 - 8 pm**. If you have never been to The Helm, this is a perfect time to come. If

you haven't been since the Decker's have been here, you need to come check it out!

Featured Product  
Holiday Bears Welcome Sign



[Shop Now >](#)



**Hendrix Baptist Church** will be having a **"Watch Night Service"** beginning at **8pm on Sunday, December 31st**. They will be singing in the New Year! Everyone is welcome

From the Dec. 2006 BBA Challenger





## December Emphasis

# imb

## LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

### Day 1



Sunday, November 29

The Naivasha Children's Shelter in Naivasha, Kenya, provides a safe place for boys who would otherwise be living on the dangerous streets. The shelter workers seek to reunite them with their families.

### Day 2



Monday, November 30

In an area of Croatia with 250,000 people and only one Baptist church, Eric Maroney works with a team to broadcast an evangelistic program, which airs twice a week and reaches more than 40,000 people.

### Day 3



Tuesday, December 1

Doug Derbyshire has been faithfully visiting Baan Po as a medical missionary for the last six years. After trying every evangelism technique he knew, there was still no church in Baan Po. His last visit in January 2020 sparked new hope as three patients made decisions of faith.

### Day 4



Wednesday, December 2

Farmers harvest fish from a pond built to provide a sustainable livelihood for 11 indigenous missionary families. IMB missionary Joe Brewster and his team partner with indigenous missionaries in Peru to engage unreached tribes with the gospel.

### Day 5



Thursday, December 3

Throughout their 175-year history, Southern Baptists have maintained an uninterrupted witness among the nations, in spite of famine, war and civil unrest. This commitment has not come without sacrifice.

### Day 6



Friday, December 4

Working alongside Italian and US partners, the Worthys bring the gospel to areas of Italy with little to no evangelical witness by strategically placing partnering groups in areas of Italy where churches do not exist.

### Day 7



Saturday, December 5

For 20 years, the IMB worked to maintain a gospel presence among the Khaleela, a Muslim people group in South Asia. After years of setbacks, Luciano and Sofia Serrano moved to the region and are now discipling a woman from the Khaleela who decided to follow Christ.

### Day 8



Sunday, December 6

IMB missionaries say thank you to Southern Baptists who give generously so that the gospel spreads to all nations.

A Great Multitude + You  
Rev. 7:9

**Lottie Moon  
Christmas  
Offering  
Week of  
Prayer is  
Nov. 29 -  
Dec. 6,  
2020.**



Phone: 580-924-2351  
 Tim@bbaok.com office@bbaok.com  
 Website: bbaok.com  
 Mailing: P.O. Box 970 Durant, OK 74702

Director of Missions----- Tim Bowen  
 Admin. Assistant ----- Chloe Richards  
 Moderator----- Monty Wood  
 Vice-Moderator----- Michael Moody  
 Clerk----- Jessie Hopkins  
 Treasurer----- Dianne Horton  
 Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 - 4:30

We love to have your church's events in the Challenger. If your church has any announcements or news you would like to be included in the Challenger, please contact the BBA office before the 20th of the month.

## December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Week of Prayer: Nov. 29-Dec.6</b>		1 Pastor/Staff Conf. (Randy Hurt / Ken Bartholomew)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Pastor/Staff Conf. (Wayne Bailey / Acra Turner)	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Pastor/Staff Conf. (Mike Wingfield / Gary McLarry)	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 No Clinic Tonight	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<b>The BBA Offices &amp; GPP will be closed Dec. 24– Jan. 1</b>  <b>Merry Christmas &amp; Happy New Year!</b>	



### Senior Adult Luncheons

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Roadrunners' Luncheons have been postponed until further notice. Stay Safe!**