



# The Challenger July 2008

## From the desk of the DOM

### HOLINESS IN LIFE

In his book, "The Vanishing Conscience," John MacArthur says, "The church has been far too willing to embrace the fads of worldly opinion – particularly in the area of psychology and self-esteem. Christians often merely echo worldly thinking on the psychology of guilt and the importance of feeling good about oneself. The adverse effect on the life of the church can hardly be underestimated....Nowhere has the damage registered more than in the way professing Christians deal with their sin.....The church as a whole is growing less concerned with sin, and more obsessed with self-exoneration and self-esteem. Christians are rapidly losing sight of sin as the root of all human woes."

I John 2:29-3:6 gives us six arguments for holiness in life. This portion of Scripture gives God's people a resounding challenge to live above reproach when the church is rapidly losing its conscience.

- (1) "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone that practices righteousness is born of Him," (v.29) To be born of God is to have the nature, presence, and grace of Christ formed in us.
- (2) "Behold, what manner of love the father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God." (v.1) This is a privilege beyond all others to be the children of God. How can we serve sin and self when such love has been bestowed on us?
- (3) "Now we are the children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself; just as He is pure." (vv.2-3) The person that has such a hope in Him, who has a real desire to be like Christ, will make every effort to be like Him now. It is foolish to say "I want to be like Him someday but not now."
- (4) "Whoever commits (practices) sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." Whoever practices sin as a lifestyle is a transgressor of God's law. No true believer can be happy outside the will of God as revealed in His commandments. Every true believer will confess and stand against his sins.
- (5) "He was manifested to take away our sins." (v.5) He has taken away the curse and the penalty of sin. He is now taking away the power of sin as we are sanctified progressively in the energy of the Holy Spirit.
- (6) "Whoever abides in Him does not sin (does not habitually practice sin). They hate sin and love righteousness. They grieve over their sin and rejoice over their victories over sin.

Remember, holiness is not an option for the Christian. It is a command and a way of life. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14)

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## May 2008 Contributions

Albany - Jackie Robinson ----- \$ 127.77	Colbert - Norman Ford ----- \$ 476.43	Hendrix ----- \$ 109.80	Silo—Buddy Johnson ----- \$ 648.90
Bennington--Heath Murrah----- \$ 394.40	<b>Durant:</b>	Kenefic - Royce Couch -- \$ 148.15	
Blue—Tony Fields----- \$ 62.40	Calvary - Darel Bunch ----- \$ 660.33	<b>Mead:</b>	
Bokchito, Faith—Scott Melton — \$ 124.67	Fairview - Bill Ledbetter ----- \$ 614.00	Mead - Kerry Groce ----- \$ 384.67	
Bokchito, First— Preston Burns—\$ 839.31	First -James Robinson----- \$ 1,264.83	Emmanuel----- \$ 108.06	
Brown—Dale Ballard ----\$ 272.62	First Hispanic—Alejo Benito — \$ 280.00	Streetman Rd --Darren Wallace \$ 226.63	
Calera—Jacob Toews---\$ 539.69	Grace - Anthony Williams----- \$ 601.65	Platter—John Heath----- \$ 129.69	
Cartwright,First- Ray Earley---- \$ 381.78	Stonecreek, Fred Resz----- \$ 63.20	Red River Valley—George Toma - \$ 24.84	
Cobb—Bruce McLaughlin----- \$ 80.89		Robinson - Donald Ford ----- \$ 79.78	
			<b>Account Balances as of May 31, 2008:</b>
			BBA Checking ----- \$ 6,739.26
			Falls Creek ----- \$ 4,708.02
			Disaster Relief ----- \$ 4,132.46
			Carrell Hooper Mission \$ 4,605.24
			Sunset Cove ----- \$ 8,836.95
			Roadrunners ----- \$ 2,525.26
			Block Party ----- \$ 906.12
			On Mission ----- \$ 502.84

**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.



What an amazing summer! Right now there are students from the Southeastern BCM all over the world! While campus slows down tremendously over the summer months, Kingdom work flourishes. I want you to know that we have over 20 students doing international/cross-cultural missions this summer and many many others in others types of full time summer ministry. In May we had a team of 10 in Venezuela who got to participate in over 100 people starting to follow Jesus with their lives! We had two students serving in Ecuador, teaching orphans. We have a student serving in Japan with the International Mission Board. We have students serving in Mexico. We have a young lady serving in Peru right now. We have a team of 7 heading to Peru for the month of July to do all types of ministries, including trekking the Andes mountains sharing the gospel and recording data for the IMB. We have another young man serving on the Mercy Ship Africa for the rest of the summer, just off the coast of Liberia. We have an African international student serving in Vermont for the summer with the North American Mission Board. We have many students serving at Falls Creek for the summer, and at Kanakuk, Kids Across America, FCA, and even working camps for children with special needs. Many students are serving in their local church as interns and youth and children's ministers. Still others are using their summer job or classes as a ministry point. God is at work through the Southeastern BCM literally all over the world this summer. We absolutely could not do any of this without the support of the churches of the Bryan Baptist Association! Thank you for entrusting me with this ministry! Colby and I are gearing up for a great fall semester, we look forward to hearing reports from all these students about what God will do this summer. I will be sure to pass the stories on to you in the coming issues of the Challenger.

Investing in LIVES.  
Brandon Brister, Director  
Southeastern BCM

## Church News



You are invited to come pray, meditate, and enjoy the beautiful Prayer Garden that Dolores White-Kiser has prepared to share with whomever may like to come enjoy it. It is located 1 1/2 miles north of Silo, 1/4 miles east on Quail Creek Rd.

Fairview Baptist Church of Durant invites you to the Ordination Service of **Jeff Arnold** on **Sunday, July 6, 2008** at 2:00pm.

*Fairview Baptist Church*



The ordained men will meet with the candidate at 1:15pm in the Rose Room (bottom floor of our 2-story building).

*The Church on the Hill with a Heart!*



Vacation Bible Schools are going on all over our association. Find one that fits your children's schedule and get them and yourself involved! If you need any help with your VBS, call the

Associational VBS Director, Karen Horn at 580-296-2926. She will be glad to help anyway she can.

**Fairview BC - June 29 - July 3**

**Colbert FBC - July 6 - 11**

**Armstrong BC - July 13 -18**

**Yuba BC - July 18 - 20**

**Bennington FBC—July 28—Aug 2**

The Bryan Baptist Association is continuously collecting pop cans to benefit the

**Carrel Hooper Mission Fund.** Please save yours and bring them to the BBA office anytime.



### Impact Oklahoma

Did you know that over 200,000 individuals have made decisions for Christ at Falls Creek? Thank you for giving through the Cooperative Program.

## Associational Children's Camp

At Falls Creek went GREAT!!

There was a record **7,173** in attendance

(**167** of which stayed in the BBA cabins)!

**855** decisions were made,

and **545** of those were for salvation!

**Praise God!!!**

Please pray that the decisions made at camp will be shared back home in the churches and lived out in the lives of the students.

# Election 101

## Legal Dos and Don'ts for Churches

Engage in voter registration activities that avoid promoting any one candidate or political party. YES

Sponsor petition drives supporting or opposing legislation. YES

Allow use of church facilities by political candidates (as long as all other candidates are invited). YES

Grant use of name to support a political candidate. NO

Discuss biblical instruction pertaining to moral and cultural issues such as abortion, marriage, etc. YES

Endorse or oppose a candidate in a church bulletin editorial. NO

Distribute candidate surveys and incumbent voting records (avoiding editorial opinions). YES

*More extensive lists are available at [www.ivotvalues.com](http://www.ivotvalues.com)*

## Have you had a **Block Party** lately?

### What is a Block Party Trailer?

An evangelistic tool to be used in community ministry. There are limitless ways to put a party trailer to work to glorify God. It can be used for block parties, enrollment activity for VBS or closing event for VBS. It can add to any gathering or outreach your church plans.

### What to do to use the Block Party Trailer?

1. Contact Amanda Richards, Block Party Trailer Consultant at 580-916-1582.
2. Amanda will lead you through reserving the trailer and planning your event.
3. Pick up the trailer at the arranged time and have a great time sharing the gospel with children and the adults they bring to your neighborhood!

## Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary !!

### Birthdays

8/5—Vickie Jordan  
 8/6—James Robinson  
 8/7—Nikki Wallace  
 8/9—Kathy Holmes  
 8/11—Dennis Pena  
 8/12—Nancy Ballard  
 8/13—Alejo Benito  
 8/15—Daniel Wesley  
 8/16—Royce Couch  
 8/17—Kathy Murrah  
 8/18—Maudell Williams  
 8/20—Karen Horn  
 8/21—Trvor Riddle  
 8/21—Joey Gosnell  
 8/23—Sonya Geiger  
 8/27—Marsha McCain  
 8/29—Diane Toma



### Wedding Anniversaries

8/3/57—Norman & Peggy Ford  
 8/3/96—Ashley & Quentin McLarry  
 8/13/83—Buddy & Nancy Johnson  
 8/13—Bruce & Reba McLaughlin  
 8/15 80—Karen & Bill Horn  
 8/18/61—Norma & Robert Fullen  
 8/23/03—Corey & Lindsey Tennell  
 8/24/91—Darren & Nikki Wallace  
 8/24/63—Beverly & James Serner

### Ministry Anniversaries

8/1/91—Brenda Rowland—Emmanuel  
 8/1/05—Brandon Brister—BCM  
 8/5/07—Heath Murrah—Bennington  
 8/7/77—Ruth Ann Marlin—Calvary  
 8/21/01—Anthony Williams—Grace



**Thank a soldier  
 (past or present)  
 for your  
 freedom !**

## Positions Available

### Please pray for our pastorless churches:

Colbert, Emmanuel, Hendrix, 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.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR – MINISTER OF YOUTH:** Our mission church seeks a shepherd to oversee and continue to develop a growing ministry to children, youth, and university students. Seeking fulltime or bi-vocational Individual who is able to build relationships and gifted to teach. Some musical talent is helpful but not necessary. Send resume to **Fairview Baptist Church**, 1200 W University Blvd., Durant, OK 74701 or [durant\\_fairview@sbcglobal.net](mailto:durant_fairview@sbcglobal.net).

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR – MINISTER OF MUSIC:** Our mission church seeks a shepherd to develop a blossoming program of music and worship. Prefer someone who can serve as a Minister of Education also, but not necessary. Seeking fulltime or bi-vocational. Send resume to **Fairview Baptist Church**, 1200 W University Blvd, Durant, OK 74701 or [durant\\_fairview@sbcglobal.net](mailto:durant_fairview@sbcglobal.net).

## Upcoming Senior Events

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

July 25—"Taste of China" in Sherman  
 August 15—Fish Fry at Madill Children's Home

### Luncheons:

July 9 - TBA  
 August 13—Grace  
 Sept. 10—Stonecreek



Please come  
 join us!!

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

**July 18th. 580-924-2351**





*Happy Fourth of July!!!*

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



**July 2008**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>INDEPENDENCE Day!!</b> <b>BBA Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b>
	Falls Creek Youth Camp Week 1—Associational Week 5					
<b>6</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Roadrunners Luncheon at	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	Falls Creek Youth Camp Week 2—Associational Week 6					
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
	Falls Creek Youth Camp Week 7					
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Roadrunners Taste of China in Sherman	<b>26</b>
	Falls Creek Youth Camp Week 8					
	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
	Indian Falls Creek					
					Falls Creek 2008 Theme:	