

The Challenger



December 2006

From the Desk of the DOM

During the Christmas season we usually turn to the opening chapters of Matthew and Luke for the traditional reading of the Christmas story. The story is so old, yet so fresh to us as we think of that night long ago when Jesus was born in a stable in the little town of Bethlehem. What a glorious message the angels announced that night when they burst forth saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." But I personally receive even a more wonderful blessing when I contemplate the truth of John 1:14: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." Here it is clearly stated that "the Word was God" (John 1:1). The second Person of the Trinity actually became a flesh and blood man. He was the God-Man, 100% God and 100% man, yet without sin. He lived a perfect life, something we could never do. He died a horrible death in the place of sinners. By His complete obedience to the holy law of God and His substitutionary atonement on the Cross, He provided the only way of eternal redemption for guilty sinners. The glorious good news of the gospel is that Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). This is what Christmas is all about. "Unless we see the CROSS overshadowing the CRADLE, we have missed the real meaning of the Christ's birth."

During this Christmas season, may the Lord Jesus flood your heart with the reality of Who He is and what He has done. People are more open to hear the gospel message at Christmas time. Be alert to take opportunities to share the greatest story ever told. Also, give a generous offering to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. It goes to help thousands of missionaries tell what Christmas really means.

May God Bless You and Yours this Christmas,

Terrell Suggs



October 2006 Financial Report

Achille:	Bushnell - Kim McGehee ----- \$ 0	Stone Creek -- Fred Resz ----- \$ 0	Silo -Buddy Johnson ----- \$ 811.27
Community -Bob Stevens----- \$ 0	Caddo - ----- \$ 54.18	Sunset View-Harry Boydston \$ 153.61	Utica --Jay Perry ----- \$ 301.16
First ----- \$ 0	Calera - Jacob Toews ----- \$ 0	W. Meadows-Darrell Edwards ---- \$ 0	Wade - Charles Williams ---- \$ 35.65
Albany:	Cartwright - Ray Earley ----- \$ 400.22	Hendrix - Roddy Arnold ----- \$ 89.14	Yuba -Joe Smith ----- \$ 239.70
Albany - Jackie Robinson - ---- \$ 82.41	Cobb - Bruce McLaughlin----- \$ 0	Kemp -Roger Speer ----- \$ 0	Account Balances as of June 30:
RRV Cowboy - George Toma -- \$ 6.80	Colbert - Tobey Clements---- \$ 423.21	Kenefic ----- \$ 0	BBA Checking ----- \$ 4640.83
Armstrong -Monty Wood ---- \$ 128.67	Durant:	Mead:	Falls Creek ----- \$ 2803.00
Bennington----- \$ 1,228.45	Calvary -Darel Bunch ----- \$ 257.15	Mead - Kerry Groce ----- \$ 508.55	Disaster Relief ----- \$ 3751.99
Blue - Randy Lewis ----- \$ 73.54	Fairview - Bill Ledbetter ----- \$ 602.00	Emmanuel ----- \$ 0	Carrell Hooper Mission ---- \$ 1171.32
Bokchito:	First -James Robinson----- \$ 0	Streetman Rd ----- \$ 170.79	Sunset Cove ----- \$ 681.87
Faith -Scott Melton----- \$ 0	Grace - Anthony Williams ----- \$ 0	Platter, 1st ----- \$ 0	Roadrunners ----- \$ 2417.58
First- Preston Burns----- \$ 285.00	Iglesia Bautista -Alejo Benito----- \$ 0	Roberta - Bud Jenkins ----- \$ 276.40	
ReynoldsChapel-Bob McLean-\$289.24	Lake Point - Jared McIntire--- \$ 288.00	Robinson - Donald Ford ----- \$ 0	
Brown -Dale Ballard ----- \$ 0			

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.



Inside this issue:

BBA Annual Leadership Appreciation Dinner	2
OCC Results	2
Church News	
Christmas Blessing Story	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Positions Needed	3
Roadrunners	3
Calendar of Events	4

Bryan Baptist Association Annual

Leadership Appreciation Banquet

We would be honored to have all leaders of the BBA and your spouse or date to join us in a time of thanking our Lord for your wonderful servanthood. We greatly appreciate all you do and would like to honor you with an evening of great food, entertainment and fellowship.

Dr. Ernie Perkins will be sharing his humor with us. Ernie Perkins has more than fifty years in the ministry. He served as a pastor before entering denominational work. As a humorous, he has entertained over 650 times. Ernie's wife, Wanda, a ventriloquist and prayer warrior, travels with him when possible.

Monty Wright, the new music minister of Calvary Baptist Church will provide the music

We look forward to seeing you at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry Building (BCM) on the Southeastern State University grounds on Friday, December 1, 2006 at 6:30pm

. Please RSVP at the BBA office (580-924-2351) as soon as possible, so we will know how many to plan for.

Terrell Suggs

Church News



Friday, December 1 is the date for the Annual Association



Christmas/Leadership Appreciation Banquet. All leaders in the association be sure to mark your calendars for this special event. Please RSVP if you haven't already to the BBA office.

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!



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

For great gospel listening go to 88.3 FM. The Gospel Station also has a great website which is www.thegospelstation.com. Check it out!!

The Challenger



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all that were a part of **Operation Christmas Child** this year or any year! **1063 shoeboxes** were delivered to the Dallas collection site!! We took 676 last year which was wonderful, but 1063 is amazing!! There are so many people that shared their love in so many ways, from one lady's efforts to bring in 150 boxes, to the many people who coordinated an effort at their church, to the many, many who brought in one, and everyone in-between. Every single shoebox will be a huge blessing to the child somewhere in the world that receives it. The one that receives yours may be the one that learns about Jesus for the first time and it changes their life forever! God only knows! He or she may become the greatest preacher to ever live!! Our goal next year is 1500! Start gathering stuff early and let's blow that goal out of the water!! If you do not know what Operation Christmas Child is, come by or call the BBA office and I will be happy to share.

Page 2

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry. to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on Dec 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On Dec 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth "The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job. What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary !!

Birthdays

- 12/3 - Jim Baker
- 12/5 - Gene Jackson
- 12/7 - Clint Whitehurst
- 12/8 - Donald Ford
- 12/10 - Charles Williams
- 12/11 - Vicki McLarry
- 12/17 - Vesta Baker
- 12/21 - Darel Bunch
- 12/21 - Janice Roberts
- 12/21 - Adine Stevens
- 12/22 - Amy Earley
- 12/30 - Joe Springer
- 12/31 - Quinton McLarry



Wedding Anniversaries

- 12/22/92 - Monty & Tammy Wood
- 12/23 - Gerald & Iva Kelly
- 12/26/55 - Andy & Dorothy Anderson
- 12/27 - Jared & Michelle McIntire
- 12/28/73 - Tommy & Brenda Rowland
- 12/28/03 - Clint & Bethany Whitehurst

Ministry Anniversaries

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

Upcoming Senior Events

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

- December 14 - Holiday Lights at Loy Lake Park and eat at Huck's
- January 19 - Kingston to BG's Catch
- February 16 - Coleman to Maw& Paw's

Luncheons:

- December 13 - Yuba
- January 10 - Achille
- February 7 - Calera



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

December 18. 580-924-2351



Positions Needed

Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches: Achille First , Streetman Rd, Emmanuel, , Kenefic, Bennington, Platter.

Music Ministers Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mead, OK - For their traditional Sunday services and to work with their adult choir. Please send resume to P.O. Box 235 Mead, OK 73449.

Fairview Baptist Church is searching for a Music Minister. Please send your resume to 1200 W. University Blvd, Durant, OK 74701

Faith Baptist Church - part-time - Please call 580-295-3488.

Youth Ministers Cartwright FBC - part-time - Send resume to the church C/O Larry Hall, PO Box 264, Cartwright, OK 74731

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.

Bryan Baptist Association



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1925 West Main
 Durant, OK 74701

«AddressBlock»

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 Website: bryanbaptistassociation.com

Director of Missions-----Terrell Suggs
 Moderator-----Ray Earley
 Vice 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



**Bryan Baptist
 Association Annual
 Leadership
 Appreciation Banquet
 December 1**

December 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>Have a wonderful time remembering and sharing the reason for the season!</i>				1 BBA Leadership Banquet @ BCM 6:30	2
3	4 Pastor/Staff Conference	5	6	7	8 Open House at The Helm 8th & 9th	9 RA Racers @ 9am Mead BC
Week of Prayer /Mission Study for International Missions and Lottie Moon Offering						
10 Week of Prayer /Mission Study for International Missions & Lottie Moon Offering	11 Pastor/Staff Conference	12	13 Senior Luncheon Yuba Baptist	14 Roadrunners Trip Christmas lights in Denison	15	16
17	18 Pastor/Staff Conference	19	20 FFF Meeting @ 10:00	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	BBA Office Closed 25th and 26th					

