

The Challenger

November 2005



From the Desk of the DOM

The 95th Annual Meeting of the Bryan Baptist Association went great! Deepest appreciation is expressed to the Utica Baptist church for graciously hosting the meeting. There was a wonderful spirit of unity and cooperation for which we praise the Lord. We have a fantastic Association. It is such a joy for all our churches to meet and renew relationships, strengthen fellowship, be updated on all the latest Associational activities and to be challenged afresh through the reports, testimonies, music and the Word.

I am so excited about our Covenant with the BGCO. (Please refer to pages 34-36 in the Annual Handbook to review). The Lord has given our Association a wide open door. It is unique indeed! I know we will rise to the challenge. Our Lord will equip and empower us. We can use the word PARTNER as an acrostic to discover what is required to reach our goals:

Prayer - Everything we do must be saturated in prayer. Gerald Kelly, our Associational Prayer Coordinator, will do an excellent job in leading us to do this.

Availability - There are many that have volunteered to help. However, more will be needed.

Resourcefulness - To do all we are planning, we need resourceful people of faith who will be creative, visionary, and hard working.

Togetherness - We can do far more together than we could ever do alone. Unified cooperation is so important when it comes to doing God's work. All our churches are challenged to join in and help.

Nourishment - May we ever nourish our souls in the vision to Lord has given us.

Distractions will inevitably come but we must stay the course and not be disobedient to the heavenly vision.

Equipping - There will be all sorts of training opportunities available, of which we trust many of our people take advantage.

Readiness - Kingdom work is top priority. We must not procrastinate. Let's get ready!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Let us serve you. Terrell Suggs



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September Financial Report

Achille, 1st -Bob McLean --- \$ 64.32	Cartwright - Ray Earley -----\$ 272.31	Kemp -Roger Spears ----- \$ 0	Streetman Rd ----- \$ 547.17
Albany - Jackie Robinson -- \$ 118.95	Community - Bob Stevens - ----- \$ 0	Kenefic -Hillary Dean ----- \$ 90.38	Utica --Jay Perry ----- \$ 297.43
Armstrong ----- \$ 73.14	Cobb - Bruce McLaughlin ----- \$ 0	Lake Point - Jared McIntire ----- \$ 42	Wade - Charles Williams ---- \$ 172.50
Bennington - Neil O'Donnell ----- \$ 0	Colbert - Les Roberts ----- \$ 398.48	Lee Heights -Harry Boydston ----- \$ 0	Western Meadows ----- \$ 256.47
Blue - Randy Lewis ----- \$ 61.38	Durant,1st-James Robinson \$ 985.86	Mead - Kerry Groce ----- \$ 277.27	Yuba -Joe Smith ----- \$ 241.32
Bokchito,1st - Preston Burns-\$ 430.80	Emmanuel - Charles Loyd ---\$ 191.31	Platter, 1st --Bruce Almy ----\$ 143.33	Account Balances as of Sept. 30:
Brown ----- \$ 104.12	Fairview - Darrell Edwards --\$ 539.26	Reynolds Chapel----- \$ 870.42	BBA Checking ----- \$ 7610.23
Bushnell - Kim McGehee --\$ 1182.80	Faith,Bokchito-Stephen Clark \$165.73	Roberta - Bud Jenkins ----- \$ 0	Falls Creek ----- \$ 988.00
Caddo -- Jim Baker ----- \$ 190.30	Grace - Anthony Williams ----- \$ 0	Robinson - Donald Ford ----- \$ 84.63	Disaster Relief ----- \$ 11347.70
Calera - Jacob Toews ----- \$ 262.19	Hendrix -John Max Cox ---- \$ 341.00	Silo -Buddy Johnson ----- \$ 493.95	Carrell Hooper Mission ---- \$ 1819.11
Calvary - Darel Bunch ----- \$ 631.03	Iglesia Bautista -Alejo Benito ----- \$ 0	Stone Creek -- Fred Resz ----- \$ 58.58	Sunset Cove ----- \$ 3767.54

A Report From Your Disaster Relief Team

The Bryan Baptist Association (BBA) Disaster Relief (DR) feeding unit team finally got its opportunity to go to Louisiana to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. A forty-five passenger bus from the Clinton, Oklahoma, Baptist Church is being used to shuttle DR teams back and forth to Belle Chasse, Louisiana. Belle Chasse is located just a little southeast of New Orleans. A team of nine men from the BBA met the bus in Hugo Saturday morning, October 22nd at 2:45 in the morning. Other members of the Southeast Zone feeding crew, of which we are a part, as well as members of the chainsaw crew, the shower unit crew, and the laundry crew were already on board. Some had been riding for 8 hours already. We were the last ones to get on the bus and our group filled the remaining seats. It was good to see some familiar faces from participation on other disasters. We said our hellos and then settled in for a long ride trying to sleep as much as possible. We stopped in Shreveport, Louisiana for fuel while it was still dark. We stopped again in Alexandria, Louisiana for a quick breakfast at McDonald's. While still on the bus, we were divided into teams according to the functions that are performed in the feeding unit. The feeding unit has five operating areas, cooking, line serving, maintenance, sanitation, and warehouse. Each area's function meshes with the others in a timely manner to make the entire feeding operation run smoothly. The BBA had two new volunteers that went along for on-the-job-training. They got a real opportunity to see how the entire feeding unit functions together. We began to see signs of damage from the hurricane as we neared New Orleans but we were to find that it was nothing compared to what was to come. We arrived in Belle Chasse at 1:15 in the afternoon. We spent a little transition time with the departing crew. Each man that had been placed in charge of a particular function sought out his counterpart on the departing crew to find out the particulars of the job we were facing. We got settled in to our sleeping quarters next. We stayed at the Belle Chasse Baptist church, sleeping on cots in various classrooms. The cooks were all placed in one room since they had to get up at 3:45 each morning. We cooked approximately 4500 meals for lunch each day and another 1200 meals for dinner. Each day was much the same varying only slightly in the number of meals that had to be prepared. Red Cross Emergency Relief Vehicles (ERVs) distributed meals prepared by the DR team to remote sights. A serving line was also distributing meals in the church parking lot. Each member of the DR team got an opportunity to go out with an ERV to assist in serving meals in the field. We saw mile after mile of destruction as we drove through neighborhoods and countryside searching for people that might need food. The ERV driver would honk the horn and use the bull horn to announce our arrival with food and water any time we came into an area that looked like there might be people around. Most of the neighborhoods looked like ghost towns. The houses are still standing but are totally destroyed for living purposes. People were few and far between but sometimes people would emerge from some of the buildings. We kept a lookout for anyone while the ERV made its way down the street. We fed everyone we could find. We came on to an animal rescue squad that was searching for any pets that had been abandoned. We fed them too as well as any other working crew we found. Every street was lined with piles of furniture and building material that had been stripped from inside the houses. The mold and water damage prevents repairing them. There is a possibility that some areas will be completely bulldozed. There is still no electricity in most of the areas and no clean water supplies. The stench from all the decay was enormous in places. New cars, pickups, and boats were hanging on fence posts, mailboxes, and wedged into ditches beside the road. It was a wasteland in the true sense of the word. Some areas had been covered with mud. There was virtually no color in the area except for tree tops. What had been lawns, flower beds, and green shrubs were just varying shades of gray like a black and white photograph. Other areas looked like a futuristic disaster movie set. Parking lots were filled with junk that had come from who knows where. Things seemed to be out of place. Once, we saw a cow standing in a deserted street with no other life signs around. We saw rows and rows of deserted businesses with cars in front of them but the cars had obviously arrived by other means than being driven. Some cars were standing on end against the buildings or just setting harum scarum in the parking lot. The levee that runs beside the Mississippi river had drift wood lining both sides from where the water had surged over the levee. Everyone we found along the way was extremely grateful for the food and drinks and thanked us over and over for helping them. We, of course, were wearing our Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief hats and shirts. The Red Cross workers made a point of telling the people that we Baptists were the ones preparing the food. Back in Belle Chasse, where things were returning to a somewhat normal setting, people were also eager to express thanks. Our Chaplain greeted cars as they came into the parking lot to get a hot meal. He was able to witness to people and to help them spiritually by talking with them and sometimes just by listening to them. Many of the men on the team were able to experience the same thing as they came into contact with people eager to tell their stories. The powerful hand of God was evident everywhere we looked. For those who believe, it is easy to see and makes one desire to draw closer to God. For the unbeliever, the tragedy must make life even darker. When Saturday, October 22nd rolled around we had ambivalent feelings about leaving. We were tired and ready to come home after preparing in excess of 35,000 meals during the week but at the same time we knew we would miss the wonderful fellowship and spiritual atmosphere that is always present in this ministry. The week was filled with work but was also filled with devotions, prayer, praise, and song. Each day was focused on God and on glorifying Him. On the way home, we stopped somewhere in Louisiana to have dinner. When we started to leave the bus would not start. After several attempts to repair it, we had to call a mechanic. Three shops were called before one was found open. He said it would take thirty to forty minutes for him to get there. We settled in for the wait. He arrived and got us started. When he saw who we were, he said there would be no charge, that it was the least he could do. We will be up for another cycle in about five weeks if the operation continues. We are always looking for more volunteers so if your heart leads you in that direction please contact Brother Terrell Suggs at 580-924-2351 or Clark Harp, Unit Director, at 580-847-2571

Upcoming Senior Events

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

Nov. 12 - Eat at Beef & Bean

Dec. 8 - Chickasha, OK - Christmas Light Display

Jan. 20 - BBQ Pit in Madill

Luncheons:

Nov. 9 - Silo

Dec. 14 - First Baptist,

Bennington



Women's Missions & Ministries

"In His Name" is the theme for this year's Missions and Ministries celebration held in conjunction with the BGCO's State Convention at Henderson Hills Baptist Church in Edmond. Jim and Janna Griffin, missionaries in Leon, Mexico will be the featured speakers. Linda Dorrough, our State WMU President, will bring her annual report as well. There is information available at the BBA for the convention. It is time to plan for the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The Missions Study is on India, the second most un-reached nation in the world. As we pray, give, and study mis-



sions around the world during this season of International emphasis, listen for the Holy Spirit's calling for you to be involved in a hands-on mission trip. May we in this month of November be especially mindful of all God's blessings He so richly bestows on us. Our prayers, Betty and Ethel WM&M

Co-Directors

The Challenger

Sunset Cove

Isn't God wonderful!! God is always there for us - right on time. There were a few of us on the committee becoming just a little discouraged with how slow things were moving at the cove. Then WOW! We have our 95th Annual Bryan Baptist Association Meeting. The members were informed of BBA's Strategic Focus for the next 3 years. We knew right then, that God had great plans for Sunset Cove! Just the place for Joe Black and his brotherhood ministry to be a shining witness for Jesus Christ, helping to build a soccer field at Sunset Cove. Can't you just see the youth and young adults that we would have the opportunity to reach? Jim Baker could be looking at 15 new units over the next three years in Sunday School and Discipleship Training! When we have the RV sites ready, the snowbirds can stop right here and fellowship with BBA churches. Can't you imagine the fishing boats pulled up on the bank, where they will receive the word of God? There is not a more beautiful place where you can go have a prayer walk with the Lord than Sunset Cove. Sound like a dream? It is - but a dream God has given us - and we know that with God all things are possible. The only things you need to do is: pray, offer your physical help and of course your money. Remember, when our Father God has a plan, there are no giants, just grasshoppers.

Mexico Mission Trip Dates Changed

The dates for the associational mission trip to Guanajuato, Mexico have been changed from June 23 - July 2 to **August 4 - 12**. If you would like to go or have questions, please call BBA office.

Letter from Jacob Toews and family;

I am home to stay now and I wanted to personally thank you for all the prayers and the love offerings you gave us. It was greatly appreciated. I'm doing great with my new liver! You have meant so much to me over the years. I love you guys so much! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Do you or your group have events going on that would be of interest to the rest of the association? Would you like to have your event on the annual handbook calendar? Be sure to call the BBA office **BEFORE November 21. 580-924-2351**



Ordination Service

Donald Ford, new pastor of Robinson Baptist Church will be ordained on November 6, 2005. The ordination counsel will be held at Platter First Baptist at 2:00PM with the ordination service following at 3:00PM. All ordained ministers are encouraged to be a part of the counsel.

Fairview Baptist Church voted to call Jim Coleman as their new part time youth minister. Jim is a long time member of Fairview and is always stepping up to the need, whatever it may be. Thanks Jim!

Streetman Road Baptist Church has a new interim pastor. Bill Pace will be serving the Lord in this capacity. Welcome Bill!

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary !!

Birthdays:

11/6 - Randy Lewis
11/13 - Kevin Gibby
11/17 - Barbara Hearon
11/18 - Norma Fuller
11/24 - Betty Garrard

Wedding Anniversaries

11/1/82 - Elaine & Daniel Lashley
11/2/74 - DeeDee & Dennis Pena
11/16 - Gene & Gail Jackson

Ministry Anniversaries

11-1 - Buddy Johnson - Silo
11/2/02 - Les Roberts - Colbert
11/11/98 - Sherri Whisenhunt - Caddo
11/24 - Gerald Kelly - Fairview



Positions Needed

Pastors are needed at the following churches: Armstrong Baptist, Brown, Reynolds Chapel, Streetman Road, Western Meadows

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

Streetman Road Baptist Church - part time - Contact Dan Baskin after 4:30 at 580-924-5451, Jolene Reid at 580-924-8567 or Gayle Kinnett at 580-434-7702.

Calvary Baptist - interim - Just call the church at 580-924-0862.
Caddo First Baptist - part time - Contact Pastor Jim Baker at 580-367-2235.

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.

Faith Baptist Church is looking for a youth/music minister. Please call 580-295-3488.

Secretary/Treasurer - Caddo First Baptist - part time - Contact Pastor Jim Baker at 580-367-2235.



It is time to start collecting shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child. The Samaritan's Purse collects shoe boxes filled with goodies and decorated as a gift, to send to needy children. The BBA office will be a Relay Center again this year. We will take your decorated filled boxes or if you have several empty shoe boxes we also need them to give to people that want to fill them.

- Supplies Needed for Disaster Relief Ministry**
- Gallon Cans of:**
 - Stew, Soup, Chili, Vegetables (peas, beans, corn, carrots) Fruits (peaches, pears, etc.)
- Other Supplies Needed:**
 - Paper Plates, Cups, Bowls, Saucers, Napkins, Plastic Utensils, Bleach, Paper Towels, Trash Bags, etc.
- Please do not bring perishable items.**

Return Service Requested

1925 West Main
 Durant, OK 74701

Phone: 580-924-2351
 Fax: 580-924-2357
 Email: bbadom@sbcglobal.net
 dpenabba@sbcglobal.net

Director of Missions-----Terrell Suggs
 Moderator-----Darrell Edwards
 Vice Moderator-----Ray Earley
 Clerk-----Gerald Kelly
 Treasurer-----Ron Bennett
 Administrative Assistant ---DeeDee Pena
 Office Hours - Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 - 4:30
 Fri. 8:30 - 1:00

Check out the Challenger plus lots of other things on our new website
www.bryanbaptistassociation.com

November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Don Ford Ordination at Platter	Pastor/Staff Conference, Fairview 10:30 7 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer	8	9 Senior Luncheon at Silo Baptist	10 OK Youth Ministry Forum Ministers of Childhood Education	11	12 Roadrunner Trip to Beef & Bean to Eat
13 Statewide Day of Prayer for Revival & Spiritual Awakening	14-15 BGO Annual Session & Pastor's Conference at Henderson Hills Baptist Church, in Edmond		16 VBS Jumpstart	17	18	19
20	21 Pastor/Staff Conference, Fairview	22	23		25 BBA Office Closed 24 - 25	26
27	28 Pastor/Staff Conference, Fairview 10:30	29	30			
<h1>Give Thanks to our Lord!!!</h1>						