

January 1, 2017

Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, giving these instructions to the people: “When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, move out from your positions and follow them. Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you. ...Then Joshua told the people “purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you. (Joshua 3:2-5 NLT)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Dr. Anthony Jordan and his wife Polla. Dr. Jordan has been serving as the Executive Director-Treasurer for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) for the past 21 years. His office is in the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City, but he spends much of his time traveling the state visiting pastors, Directors of Missions, and preaching. Tremendous blessings have come to Oklahoma Baptists during his leadership. Falls Creek had a great year in 2016. It was announced at the February Board meeting at Falls Creek that the Phase I goal of \$4,762,142 had been reached and exceeded. The Thompson Family Lodge, Jordan Welcome Center, and Mathena Family Event Center were completed and dedicated. The Kannady Lodge was refurbished. The Downing Way Plaza and the Thompson Pavilion were completed. Falls Creek is one of the premier, if not the premier youth camp, and conference center in America. Dr. Jordan relates that one of the greatest joys he has is the opportunity to relate to and minister to pastors and staff across Oklahoma. Everything Dr. Jordan and the BGCO do is undergirded through the Cooperative Program. The expansion of the Gospel from the front door of the church to the ends of the earth is possible because of the faithful giving of Oklahoma Baptists.

Specific Prayer Requests for Anthony and Polla:

1. Wisdom for daily decisions that impact the work of the BGCO and the Kingdom.
2. For personal spiritual growth.
3. Keen insight into the truth of Scripture and the ability to communicate and apply as I preach.
4. Safety in travel and protection for my family.
5. Good health for me and my family.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Oklahoma City, Northwest and Quail Springs

Email: ajordan@bgco.org

January 8, 2017

“Don’t collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Don and Lori Williams and their daughter. Don is Chaplaincy Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. His ministry field is Oklahoma prisons and jails, health care facilities, corporations/industry, military and disaster areas. He seeks to provide excellency in training prospective chaplains and to show to Oklahoma Baptist the significant, positive impact chaplains can have through the local church. Don’s goal in 2017 is to see at least 50 churches begin using volunteer/part-time, full-time chaplains on their ministry team. He shares an interesting inspiring story of God at work in his ministry, “After being trained and endorsed, one of our chaplains visited a business down the street from his church. During the first visit, the chaplain listened as the store manager poured out her heart and hurts to him. The next week, he came back to find the manager had gone to church and rededicated her life to Christ. A conversation with an employee during the same visit resulted in the employee and her 9 year old son praying to receive Christ a short time later.” God shows up in ordinary places (local businesses) when His people take the time to show up, listen, and proclaim the Good News. The Cooperative Program supports Don being on the mission field in Oklahoma. It allows him to enlist, encourage, equip, and endorse chaplains as well as provide them with resources. Without the Cooperative Program, the chaplaincy ministry would not exist.

Specific Prayer Requests for Don and Lori:

1. That I will clearly hear and follow God’s call for my life.
2. That I will be bold in sharing my faith and discipling others.
3. That God will continue to draw volunteers to this life-transforming ministry.
4. That as chaplains serve, that Jesus’ ‘light will shine through them’.
5. That God will protect and lead my family.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Choctaw, Choctaw Road; Del City, First Southern; Nicoma Park, First

Email: dwilliams@bgco.org

January 15, 2017

Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law. There is only one God, and He makes people right with Himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. (Romans 3:27-28, 30 TLT)

Pray for Oklahoma missionaries Mike and Cindy Napier. Mike has been serving as the Personal Evangelism Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for the past two years. He is responsible to equip, encourage, and inspire the work of evangelism in approximately 1800 churches across the state. He is working diligently to provide the best tools and strategies to each church. In 2017, plans are in place to begin Evangelism Tune-Ups across Oklahoma as well as the building, coordination, and delivery of block party trailers to associations in need of one. Mike shares a recent experience in Drumright where he was training pastors at a restaurant to do personal evangelism using the Evange-Cube. A conversation about the church and spiritual matters was begun with the waitress. At the end of their meal the Holy Spirit opened the opportunity for Mike to share the Gospel with her using the Evange-Cube. Her response was “yes”. She repented of her sins and asked Jesus to become the Lord of her life right then in the restaurant. A pastor will follow up with her. Through the Cooperative Program, evangelism resources are purchased in bulk and the saving is passed on to the local church. Some are shared free with churches who cannot afford them. Also, some pastors of smaller in attendance churches, where the church cannot cover the pastor’s expenses, are provided a motel room, gas, and food to attend the State Evangelism Conference.

Specific Prayer Requests for Mike and Cindy:

1. Pray for each Oklahoma Southern Baptist Church to have an intentional, active, and ongoing evangelism strategy.
2. Pray for the Block Party Trailers to be completed and distributed and the associations trained in how to use them effectively and evangelistically.
3. Pray for Oklahoma Baptist to be unashamed and to boldly proclaim the Gospel.
4. Pray for the State Evangelism Conference to be used of God to equip, encourage, and inspire the work of evangelism.
5. For Mike’s personal safety, continued spiritual growth, and personal boldness in sharing the Gospel.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Broken Bow, First; Kellyville, First; Noble, First; Owasso, First; Perkins, First; Sapulpa, First

Email: mnapier@bgco.org

January 22, 2017

But the Lord reigns forever, executing judgment from His throne. He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness. The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Sing praise to the Lord who reigns in Jerusalem. Tell the world about His unforgettable deeds. (Psalms 9:7-9, 11 TLT)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Carl and Shelba Rudek. Carl serves as Director of Missions (DOM) for San Bois Baptist Association in Southeastern Oklahoma. Most of the churches are in Latimer County. Carl sees his responsibilities are to be an information source for associational churches; an encourager of pastors, staff and their families; a promoter of associational, state and national programs and activities that will grow and strengthen the local churches. He also leads the association in training meetings, helping with administration, starting new churches, and revitalizing struggling churches. San Bois Association is in a financially challenged area of the state and Cooperative Program gifts are very vital to the association's mission work. It has provided funds for starting new churches and restarting a church. It has also provided materials and training opportunities for the pastors to help them to be more effective in their ministry.

Specific Prayer Requests for Carl and Shelba:

1. For help and encouragement for some of our struggling churches.
2. For divine leadership as we restructure the foundation of the association and its function.
3. For the restarting of a couple of works in strategic areas.
4. For the strengthening of our churches in the area of Sunday School, Discipleship, Evangelism and the starting of a training program to equip lay leadership to fill pastoral positions in the association.
5. For our pastorless churches and for God to raise up people to fill these positions.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Chattanooga, First; Porter, First; Seiling First

Email: revrudy13@yahoo.com

January 29, 2017

“...A rich man’s land was very productive. He thought to himself, ‘what should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops? I will do this’, he said. ‘I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods there.’ Then I’ll say to myself, ‘you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink and enjoy yourself.’ But God said to him, ‘you fool: This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—where will they be? ‘That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasures for himself and is not rich toward God.’ (Luke 12:16-21 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Alan and Cindy Quigley. Alan is Team Leader for the Mobilization Team. He gives oversight and does strategic planning with the Specialists and Team Leaders in Disaster Relief, Partnership Missions, Church Planting, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Chaplaincy, Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministries, Hispanic Ministries, Native American, Evangelism and Women’s Mission and Ministry. This team has far reaching influence in enlarging and extending the Kingdom of God, touching people of every color, race, culture, gender, and language. Their goal is to assist Oklahoma churches in evangelizing and congregationalizing anyone and everyone from next door to the farthest nations in the world. The Cooperative Program specifically enables each of the Mobilization Ministries to provide ministry resources, evangelism, and mission opportunities for associations and churches in Oklahoma. It also provides salary and travel for each of the Mobilization Team Specialists.

Specific Prayer Requests for Alan and Cindy:

1. For wisdom as Alan leads his staff to be strategic about sharing the Gospel with those they come in contact daily.
2. For a growing burden for the lost.
3. For Oklahoma churches to sense the call to missions by partnering with one or more of the BGCO partnerships in Edmonton and Calgary, Canada and Latvia.
4. For protection and good health for Alan, his wife, and children.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Del City, First Southern; Oklahoma City, Central, Village; Weatherford, Emmanuel

Email: aquigley@bgco.org

February 5, 2017

*As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more once. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious than riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:15-16, 19 NLT)*

Pray for North American Missionaries Bob and Debbie Shelton. Bob serves as the Send City Missionary for Calgary/Edmonton, Canada. His responsibilities are numerous. He works with churches and church planters in the city to develop and implement a strategy to reach the thousands in Calgary and Edmonton, Canada for Christ. This includes discovering, developing and deploying church planters. He also seeks to discover partner churches who will pray, participate and provide for the church planters. Vision tours are hosted so potential partners can explore the city and discover where God is working and how they can join Him in His work. Bob's goal is to discover and provide leadership and seek support for the many church planters needed to reach the cities. Bob says "We are thankful for the Cooperative Program. Through the sacrificial giving of churches across North America we are able to serve as missionaries in two cities where only one out of every 20 have a personal relationship with Jesus. Two of our new church plants in Edmonton led by two bi-vocational church planters have baptized over 15 people. Calgary/Edmonton, Canada is part of the Partnership Missions for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Specific Prayer Requests for Bob and Debbie:

1. That Send Calgary/Edmonton will start churches in 12 new communities each year.
2. That God will raise-up church planters who will share the Gospel with wisdom and boldness.
3. For partners for our ethnic and indigenous churches and indigenous church planters.
4. That God will raise-up SENDING churches to walk alongside these church planters until they can stand on their own.
5. For a movement of God's Spirit across our cities that would bring conviction and openness to the Gospel.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Oklahoma City, Putnam City and Quail Springs

Email: bshelton@namb.net

February 12, 2017

But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? This is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news." (Romans 10:14-15 TLT)

Pray for International Missionaries Chad and Crystal Reynolds and their family. The Reynolds live in Mexico City, Mexico where Chad serves as Logistics Coordinator for all of Mexico. The Logistic Coordinator primarily handles the legal responsibilities such as rent contracts, visa documentation, vehicle management, housing maintenance, travel coordinating, and accounting financial tasks so the other missionaries can focus on their primary ministries of evangelism, church planting and discipleship. Additionally they serve as the local church planting team for church planting for Mexico City and as a part of the local church to help them reproduce. Pray for the Reynolds as they seek to lighten the load of the other missionaries and especially for Chad as he has opportunity to share the Gospel with lawyers, bankers, plumbers, mechanics, etc. Pray for the Reynolds family as they seek to lead their local church to reach out to their community and to plant other churches. The Reynolds and other missionaries are able to have a home, a vehicle, school for their children, tracts and Bibles to share with their neighbors and friends because of the Cooperative Program (CP). They are also able to go around the city and country encouraging existing churches and working in evangelistic efforts to start new Bible studies and churches.

Specific Prayer Requests for Chad and Crystal:

1. That they will get to know their neighbors and have the joy of sharing Jesus with them.
2. For wisdom in assisting the missionaries with their daily challenges and work.
3. For their children to adjust to a new city and school.
4. For their children to build deep friendships and have a desire to serve others.
5. For daily protection for the family.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Broken Arrow, First; Coweta, Community, First

Email: creynolds.mail@gmail.com

February 19, 2017

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19 TLT)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Denny and Elaine Freeman. Denny has served as Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director for 28 years serving at Poteau, Durant, Oklahoma City, Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa and Northern Oklahoma College, Enid. He presently works from the Baptist Building assisting BCM Directors and staff. Collegiate Ministries has a school year long orientation program for all new directors and staff which Denny does by meeting with them weekly either in person, over the phone, or by e-mail. He assists all locations with building upkeep, maintenance and equipment repair/replacement. Under the direction of Disaster Relief a collegiate disaster relief team was established a couple of years ago. Denny's responsibilities are to get students enlisted and trained each year. The overall goal of Collegiate Ministry is to evangelize college students and disciple them throughout their college days. Though Denny does not minister directly to college students, he ministers to the ministers of college students. Through the orientation of new BCM staff they become aware that they are not left alone to figure out collegiate ministry where they serve. They are connected to many collegiate ministers, who have tools with which to work, and will be building a network of those who will offer prayer, time and expertise. BCM's are completely Cooperative Program (CP) driven. Directors and some staff salaries come from CP. The goal is hundreds of student saved, disciple, and prepared for ministry.

Specific Prayer Requests for Denny and Elaine:

1. That BCM Directors will get a vision of "Listening Evangelism" and pass that on to their students as they have conversations in classes and on campus.
2. That new BCM staff will not feel overwhelmed by the rush of new semesters, ministry tasks, and time in which to craft a successful ministry.
3. For balancing time, prayer and ministry.
4. For health and safety in travel.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Durant, First; Oklahoma City, Quail Springs; Poteau, First

Email: dfreeman@bgco.org

February 26, 2017

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from you Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity. I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give you gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything will reward you. (Matthew 6:1-4 TLT)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Bob and Tracy Mayfield. Bob is the Sunday School/Adult Discipleship Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) and has served in this position for the past 11 years. In 2017, a new yearlong effort is being launched to equip and engage new Ministers of Education to help develop Great Commission Sunday Schools. Bob is working with 20 new education ministers and their pastors with a goal to equip and train 20 first time ministers of education each year for the next five years for a total of 100 new leaders. In addition he is seeking to engage Oklahoma Baptists in sharing Christ with 300,000 lost friends and neighbors with a new “3x3 Evangelism Process”. Pray for success as 100,000 Oklahomans are asked to pray for three lost people; invite three lost people to Sunday School; and share Christ at least three times this year. First Baptist Church, Rosedale, a small rural church, equipped, and engaged their church in a Connect>Evangelism Campaign. After only four weeks, the church had 20 first time guests and five professions of faith. This can be repeated across Oklahoma many times in 2017. In 2016, through the voluntary contributions of Oklahoma Baptists to the Cooperative Program (CP), the Sunday School ministry has printed and shipped over one million pieces to support the Connect>1 Evangelism Campaign in Oklahoma. Because of the CP, these resources have been provided to local churches and associations free of charge. Thirteen other states have followed the Oklahoma model. We are seeing Sunday School leaders discover that the purpose of Sunday is to develop Biblical soul winners in every small group.

Specific Prayer Requests for Bob and Tracy:

1. Pray for Oklahoma Baptist to pray, invite, and share Christ with at least three friends and neighbors.
2. For an evangelistic awakening in every Sunday School class in Oklahoma.
3. For the personal health and continuing spiritual growth for us, and our two children.
4. That the beta Project for Ministers of Education bring clarity of vision and a passion to develop and lead Sunday Schools that make disciples and evangelize their communities.
5. For Sunday School and small group leaders in Oklahoma as they teach God’s Word and make disciples through their groups. (James 3:1)

Oklahoma Church Connections: Edmond, First and North Point; Oklahoma City, Northwest

Email: bmayfield@bgco.org

March 5, 2017

“But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After saying this, He was taken up to heaven as they watched Him, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as He went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said, “Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw Him go to heaven.” (Acts 1:8-11 TEV)

Pray for North American Missionaries Gibson and Julie Largent and their children. The Largents live in the Philadelphia suburb of Souderton where Gibson has been serving with the North American Mission Board for five years as a Church Planter. He planted the Ridgeline Community Church which celebrated its fourth anniversary in November 2016. They are located about 40 minutes north of Philadelphia. Gibson’s responsibilities as a church planter include preaching weekly, shepherding the people in the church, plus ministering to the people in the community who are not yet believers. He is involved weekly in outreach, evangelism, equipping believers, and overseeing the entire process of discipleship. God is showing Himself strong in Gibson’s ministry and that of the church. A woman named Brianna saw the church sign in the community announcing a service project. She and her extended family came to the church and in a short time Brianna and her father were saved. The two of them were baptized this past year. Brianna’s mother had been praying for her husband’s salvation for more than 30 years. Gibson says “my family could not be serving in Pennsylvania as church planters without the Cooperative Program gifts--30 percent of our budget last year came from the Cooperative Program.”

Specific Prayer Requests for Gibson and Julie:

1. For unity and endurance for our weary core team—church planting in the Northeast is not easy.
2. For continued financial provision as all our partnerships ended in 2016.
3. For growth and fruitfulness in our evangelistic efforts.
4. For revival and spiritual awakening for the Philadelphia metro and the Washington DC to Boston corridor. The lostness and worldliness makes Gospel ministry very slow, difficult and painful.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Norman, Trinity; Oklahoma City, Northwest and Village

Email: Gibson@ridgeline.cc

March 12, 2017

Now then, give the Israelites the message that I, the Sovereign Lord, have for them: what I am going to do is not for the sake of you Israelites, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have disgraced in every country where you have gone. When I demonstrate to the nations the holiness of my great name—the name you have disgraced among them—then they will know that I am the Lord (Ezekiel 36:22-23a TEV)

In this way I will show all the nations that I am great and that I am holy. They will know then that I am the Lord. (Ezekiel 38:23 TEV)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Keith and Jeanette Burkhart and their family. Keith is the Family and Men's Ministry Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. His office is in the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City and he serves on the Equipping Team. His position requires him to do many things and wear several hats. He plans and executes "Rewired" the state men's retreat. He helps churches reach and disciple men in their church and community. He equips churches in the area of marriage and family and planning marriage and family retreats. Oklahoma has a large senior adult population and so do our 1800 plus churches. He seeks to equip churches in the area of Senior Adult Ministry and planning the senior adult retreat, "Legacy". Keith has a heart for special needs persons and tries to help churches and families in the area of special needs ministry and plans the special needs camp "Camp Perfect Wings" for children and adults. Keith's goal is to see men across Oklahoma become spiritual leaders in their homes, churches and communities. The Cooperative Program undergirds everything Keith's office does in transforming the lives of men and their families.

Specific Prayer Requests for Keith and Jeanette:

1. That men in Oklahoma will become spiritual leaders in every aspect of their life.
2. That an environment will be created in our state where families can flourish.
3. Wisdom to know how to best serve in my area of ministry.
4. For the anointing of my ministry and protection for my marriage and family.
5. That I might model what it means to be a godly husband, father, and friend.

Oklahoma Church Connection: Del City, First Southern

Email: kburkhart@bgco.org

March 19, 2017

I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all. I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now. And so, I am sure that God who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6 TEV)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Chris and Shari Finley. Chris is Director of Chaplain Services for Baptist Village Communities, an affiliate of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He oversees the Chaplaincy Ministry of each of the nine Villages in Oklahoma. He coordinates the LINC ministry through training Oklahoma Baptist Churches in building and empowering ministry teams to provide quality Christ-centered spiritual ministry to residents living in senior living communities. He serves as a liaison in the volunteer efforts of churches to provide resident ministry teams to serve the spiritual needs of residents and their families. He also offers churches and families education in caring for their aging loved ones. Baptist Village has implemented an evangelistic effort to visit every resident in every room and apartment offering them assistance in sharing their salvation story and placing them on the BGCO website. This past year BVC, through its evangelistic efforts, has led 17 senior adults to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Baptist Village communities are proud to be a part of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the Cooperative Program. Through the Cooperative Program gifts, BVC is able to serve 2,500 senior adults every day through its many ministries.

Specific Prayer Requests for Chris and Shari:

1. For the intentional evangelistic emphasis at BVC that the visits will result in assurance of salvation or allow the opportunity to share Christ with that resident.
2. For each association to see the need of offering LINC ministry training for the churches in their association.
3. For the volunteers from local churches serving the spiritual needs of the residents living at one of the nine villages.
4. For Oklahoma Baptists to see the need and participate in the Adams Assistance Fund and the Mother's Day Offering.
5. That each Oklahoma Baptist church will provide ministry to residents in their local health centers, assisted living centers, or retirement communities.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Claremore, First; Mustang, Chisholm Heights; Spiro, First.

Email: cfinley@OKC.baptistvillage.org

March 26, 2017

The Lord says, “Come, everyone who is thirsty—here is water! Come, you that have no money—buy grain and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk—it will cost you nothing! Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry? Listen to me and do what I say, and you will enjoy the best food of all. “Listen now, my people, and come to me; come to me, and you will have life! I will make a lasting covenant with you and give you the blessings I promised to David.” ...This will be a sign that will last forever, a reminder of what I, the Lord, have done.” (Isaiah 55:1-3, 13b TEV)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Everando and Dania Borunda and their children. Everando is the associate Dean of the Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministries. Everando is also the Hispanic pastor at Rancho Village Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. From the beginning of his ministry 11 years ago, he has been serving as a Bi-Vocational pastor. He preaches and teaches in both Spanish and English on a weekly basis. He is also seeking to equip the church for a more effective evangelism. His goals for 2017 are to (1) organize and mobilize evangelism teams in and around the community; (2) train a handful of men to take on more ministry responsibilities; and (3) begin the process of planting a new church in south Oklahoma City. Everando was assisted by the Cooperative Program (CP) in planting the Hispanic congregation at Rancho Village with a portion of his salary. CP funds also help him with materials and training such as the State Hispanic Camp and Evangelism Conference. Everando has seen God at work in his ministry of planting and pastoring this congregation. He has seen people come to Christ and be baptized, marriages restored, and people with addictions rehabilitated.

Specific Prayer requests for Everando and Dania:

1. That I will keep a healthy balance of family, work, and ministry.
2. That I will be capable of training others to do ministry.
3. That I will make wise decisions concerning plans for future ministry.
4. That the Holy Spirit will light a fire in the church to become an evangelistic church.
5. That God will bring the increase in His church.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Oklahoma City, Exchange Avenue and Rancho Village.

Email: eborunda@bgco.org

April 2, 2017

“O God, in mercy bless us: let your face beam with joy as you look down at us. Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind. How everyone throughout the earth will praise the Lord! How glad the nations will be, singing for joy because you are their king and will give true justice to their people! Praise God, O world! May all the peoples of the earth give thanks to You.” (Psalms 67:1-5 LB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Kenny and Whitney Hindenburg. Kenny serves as lead Pastor and Church Planter of BeKnown Church at Catoosa. Catoosa is a growing area located east of Tulsa between Tulsa and Claremore. Kenny is seeking to plant this new church through serving the community including schools, families and the neighborhoods through large groups and small groups with an emphasis on the eternal word of God. Also, building the church by loving others, putting others needs first, and building relationships through laughter, tears, confrontation, prayer and vulnerability. His goals are to meet in a location that is convenient for the people they serve and fits the area where they are planting the church. They also want to have a Sunday morning format, as well as, small groups through the week for discipleship, fellowship and prayer. Through the Cooperative Program, Kenny has been able to dream big and serve their community by giving care packages for teachers, passing out candy with invitations to church and supporting a missionary in Latvia. They have also purchased sound equipment and many study resources. Praise God for the Cooperative Program and Oklahoma Baptists love for missions!

Specific Prayer Requests for Kenny and Whitney:

1. For people all over Catoosa to be saved.
2. For a meeting location that fits the needs of the church.
3. Opportunities to serve more people in the community.
4. Wisdom in handling the logistics in members and personal growth.
5. For God to be glorified in the faithful obedience of our church.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Tulsa, Memorial Heights; Verdigris, First

Email: Kenny@beknownchurch.com

April 9, 2017

“And He said to them, ‘Let’s go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come.’” (Mark 1:38 HCSB) Jesus told them, “Don’t you say, ‘There are still four more months, then comes the harvest?’ Listen to what I’m telling you: open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest.” (John 4:35 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Robert and Terri Wilson. Robert has been serving for the past seven years as Director of Missions for Enon Baptist Association. Enon Association serves the people and churches of South Central Oklahoma including all of Carter and Love Counties, one church from Jefferson County, and one from Stephens County, totaling 35 churches with one additional having applied for membership. Robert’s main areas of ministry are: (1) Blue Captain leader with the Disaster Relief chainsaw ministry, (2) director of Enon Center for Biblical Learning, a satellite center for Oklahoma Baptist University’s school of Christian Studies and Seminary Extension studies. Robert is the adjunct instructor in both programs; (3) supply preacher within the association and work with committees of pastorless churches; (4) administrator of all associational programs and resources including a block party trainer, a video training library, and a mission scholarship program which has enabled Enon to scholarship 45 individuals to 17 different countries in 2013; (5) The association has a major work ongoing in Malawi, Africa. In partnership with Ardmore, Trinity, they have assisted in starting 20 churches which in turn have started 13 additional churches. They are also involved in leadership training schools in Malawi; (6) Enon supports two works in Colorado and have formed a partnership with Mesa Verde Baptist Association in Durango, Colorado. Cooperative Program (CP) funds assist the association each year with their mission/ministry budget. CP funds also assisted in the planting of the Rawhide Cowboy Church of Carter County which has grown significantly and was one of the association’s leaders in baptisms and attendance last year.

Specific Prayer Requests for Robert and Terri Wilson:

1. Pray for the 2017 survey to determine additional church’s needs in the Enon area.
2. Pray for the Leadership Training School in Malawi for direction in curriculum and teaching aids.
3. Pray for our pastorless churches in their search for pastors.
4. Pray for enlarged involvement in our two theological education programs.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Ardmore, Mary Niblack Road, First; Jay, First; Marlow, First; Miami, Northeast; Wilson, Rexroat; Oklahoma City, Classen Blvd.

Email: enonadom@gmail.com

April 16, 2017

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus... The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what He told you back in Galilee"...Then they rushed back from the tomb to tell His eleven disciples—and everyone else---what had happened. (Luke 24:1-3, 5-6, 8-9 TLT)

Pray for North American Missionaries Antonio and Josefina Conchos. Antonio serves the entire State of Oklahoma as a Church Planting Strategist mostly seeking to start churches among Hispanics living in cities like Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Lawton. However, he does not neglect small towns where there is a large enough presence of Hispanics to start a new church. All people need to hear the Gospel, and when saved they need a church in their own language and culture. Antonio's goal for 2017 is to continue planting healthy, reproducing churches, and to continue to search for and train new planters for these future churches. The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma will be offering regional conferences exploring church planting needs and opportunities. These conferences will seek to guide Hispanic Baptist churches to become involved in planting new churches especially among second and third generation Hispanics. Antonio gives an example of a new church plant, the Southern Hills Hispanic Church of Oklahoma City. The pastor/church planter is Jesus Villa. It began in 2015 with only four people. In 2016 they baptized 24 new believers with a weekly attendance of 120 people in worship. Thanks to the Cooperative Program Antonio is able to spend his full time doing the work God called him to do—planting and developing new Southern Baptist churches in Oklahoma.

Specific Prayer Requests for Antonio and Josefina:

1. Pray for the Lord to send Church Planters to harvest souls and plant churches among the Hispanics.
2. Pray that the Lord will raise up churches willing to sponsor the planting of new churches among all groups of people in Oklahoma.
3. Pray for good health and safety in travel.
4. Pray for my wife and me as we serve the missionaries in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Pauls Valley, Primera Iglesias Bautista; Ponca City, Primera Iglesias; Shawnee, Rock Creek

Email: aconchos@bgco.org

April 23, 2017

And He personally gave some to the apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the word of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. Then we will no longer be little children tossed by the waves and blown by every wind of teaching by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit." (Ephesians 4:11-14 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Greg and Karen McNeece and their children. Greg is the new president of the Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children (OBHC). The ministry of OBHC predates Oklahoma statehood. Since 1903, Oklahoma Baptists have been on the leading edge of providing for the needs of children. Today that provision includes four residential campuses, five pregnancy centers, single mother and children programs, foster care ministry, as well as, in-school life coaching and teaching of good decision making skills. The impact of OBHC's ministry is illustrated through Helen's story. Helen never knew her mother. When she was born she was left at the hospital, and the mother did not even tell the father Helen was born. Her aunt gave her a glimmer of hope. She said, "God has a bigger plan for your life and the proof is that you were born in a hospital and not on the streets to be thrown in the trash like so many babies." Until the age of five she was shuffled from place to place and only saw her father on weekends. Helen moved to the Baptist Home for girls at Madill at age 12 where she found a loving home. They were a real comfort to her when her father died. She graduated from high school in 2012 excelling in public speaking. She is now working as a certified phlebotomist for the Oklahoma Blood Institute. The Cooperative Program is OBHC's link to over 1800 churches in Oklahoma, and they are blessed by the dependability of the Cooperative Program resources and the prayers of God's people.

Specific Prayer Requests for Greg and Karen:

1. Pray for the children and adults who are the recipients of this ministry to realize there is a different life for them to experience.
2. Pray that as the Gospel is shared, children and adults will be saved.
3. Pray God to call staff and volunteers to be missionaries to the children.
4. Pray for Greg and Karen as they begin this new ministry.
5. Give thanks to God for the Baptist churches, Board of Trustees, donors and volunteers who provide the resources to make this ministry possible.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Oklahoma City, Quail Springs and Southern Hills; Del City, First Southern

Email: gmcneese@obhc.org

April 30, 2017

Sitting across from the temple treasury, He watched how the crowd dropped money into the treasury. Many rich people were putting in large sums. And a poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. Summoning His disciples, He said to them, 'I assure you: This poor widow has put in more than all those giving to the temple treasury. For they all gave out their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she possessed—all she had to live on'. (Mark 12:41-44 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Bill and Pat White. Bill is the Warehouse Supervisor for Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief (DR) and has been involved for 11 years. He was introduced to DR following Hurricane Katrina when he spent a week at Falls Creek preparing for evacuees from New Orleans. He joined a “mud out” crew in New Orleans and found the mission field God had prepared for him. Following Hurricane Isaac, Bill and Ron Little were given the responsibility for the Disaster Relief Warehouse. The warehouse was originally at the Boys Ranch Town in Edmond but now has a new facility near Cashion. The “Barn” is home to the large kitchen and numerous vehicles and trailers used across the county to provide relief in declared disasters. The “barn” team is responsible for cleaning, repairing, and deploying a vast array of equipment and supplies for state teams. They make nearly weekly trips in support of Disaster Relief. They have deployed to Haiti, Brooklyn, New York, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina and every county of Oklahoma. Key members of the “Barn” team include Don Whitnah, Brad Bidy, Mike and Janet Webster, Steve Boone, Preston Wight, Larry Hulsey, Jim Garman, Larry Gilbert, and Larry Fordyce. Bill shares, “Each evening of every deployment the teams debrief and share what God is doing in the lives of those in need. I look forward daily to the reports of how many people hear the Gospel and receive salvation because a disaster team member or chaplain has prayed and spoken to them. Each team member takes the responsibility to pray for the new believers and their walk with the Lord.” The Cooperative Program provides funding for the DR director and staff, so they can do the ministry of disaster relief in our state and across our nation and the world.

Specific Prayer Requests for Bill and Pat:

1. Pray that the spirit of God would shine through us as we help those in need.
2. Pray we would anticipate and prepare the supplies, equipment and vehicles needed by the Disaster Relief teams as they deploy.
3. Pray we would boldly share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all in need of a Savior.
4. Pray we would be healthy and safe as we deploy to difficult disaster areas.
5. Pray we would invite and train others to be a part of Disaster Relief and join us on this vital mission field to reach the lost.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Oklahoma City, Quail Springs and Council Road; Ponca City, First; Edmond, Henderson Hills; Miami, First; Muskogee, First; Yukon, First; Stillwater, University Heights; Sand Springs, Broadway and Calvary.

Email: okwhitehut@gmail.com

May 7, 2017

And Jesus responded, “Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it, I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatsoever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:17-19 HCSB)

GoStudents seeks to help students embrace an on mission lifestyle. We desire that the GoStudent mission opportunities are not just a trip but a catalyst to begin a new way of life. We believe God is raising up a generation to complete the task of sharing Christ with a lost world. We know that it begins here in Oklahoma and North America and then around the world. During the summer of 2017 we'll be in... Portland, Oregon (July 6-12); Seattle, Washington (July 6-12); Edmonton, Canada (July 6-12); Portugal (June 29-July6); Seville, Spain (July 7-14); Madrid, Spain (June 23-30); Latvia (June 19-June27); and East Asia (July 16-28). Please pray for the students, project coordinators, ministry leaders, church planters, and missionaries that will be participating in these trips. Pray that that we would have tremendous impact in these cities that push the ministries of the church planters and missionaries forward. Also, pray that our students will have tremendous courage and opportunities to have Gospel conversations.

Specific Prayer Requests for Brian Baldwin and GoStudents.

1. Pray for the mission project in Portland, Oregon on July 6-12
2. Pray for the mission project in Seattle, Washington on July 6-12
3. Pray for the mission project in Edmonton, Canada on July 6-12
4. Pray for the mission project in Portugal o June 29-July 6
5. Pray for the mission project in Portugal on June 29-July 6
6. Pray for the mission projects in Madrid, Spain on June 23-30; Latvia on June 19-27; and East Asia on July 16-28
7. Pray for the students, project coordinators, ministry leaders, church planters and missionaries that will be participating in these projects.

Email: bbaldwin@bgco.org

May 14, 2017

The Peter answered and said to Him, “See we have left all and followed you. Therefore what shall we have?” So Jesus said to them “assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last and the last first.” (Matthew 19:27-30 NKJV)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Tim and Denice Green. Tim has been serving for the past 18 years as the Director of Missions for South Canadian Baptist Association. South Canadian Association includes the churches in Seminole and Hughes Counties. Tim feels that the association exists to help the churches in outreach and evangelism; to strengthen the church in Sunday school (small group Bible study), discipleship in mission awareness and involvement, and in church planting. He enjoys ministering to ministers but also building intentional relationships with church leaders for Kingdom purposes. The association provides an amazing variety of resources to and for the church. Tim also serves as the Business Manager for Associational Children’s Camp and Secretary/Treasurer for the Oklahoma Association of Directors of Missions. His 2017 goals are to become measurably more intentional and effective in Evangelism, discipleship and church planting. The Cooperative Program supports a large part of the association operating budget. Tim and the local church pastors, staff and lay leaders benefit greatly from the BGCO provided training. Tim shares an example of the way God is at work through him and the association’s ministry. A student at the Seminole State College was ministered to by the BCM Director, several local pastors and mentored by Tim. He is now pastor of the Green Valley Church in Putnam, Connecticut and one of the leading church planters in New England.

Specific Prayer Requests for Tim and Denice:

1. Pray for the churches in South Canadian Association to become measurably more intentional and effective in evangelism, discipleship and church planting.
2. For several opportunities to plant new churches including “churches without walls”.
3. For BCM Directors Geoff Wood and Gary Canfield as they minister on the campus of Seminole State College.
4. For Mollie Wood (Tim’s assistant) and other support staff to continue to reflect Christ in their service to His Kingdom.
5. For Tim and Denice to give Glory to God as they continue to care for their brain-injured son, Matt.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Calvin, First; Earlsboro, First; Mustang, First

Email: scbadom@yahoo.com

May 21, 2017

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.” (Romans 3:21-22 TLT)

Pray for International Missionary Elisabeth. Elisabeth is serving her first year as a Journeyman in Northern Africa and among the Middle Eastern People. She is serving with Muslim women. From October 1, 2016 through March 1, 2017 she is in language school learning Arabic. After that she will be in another city helping with church planting where there are no known local believers. She will build relationship with Muslim women and help lead English Clubs among university students. This will hopefully open doors to share the Gospel with many who need to hear it. She will be working alongside another girl her age who is also a Journeyman. The Cooperative Program has made it possible for all the IMB personnel to share the Gospel. It has also helped them get their training including, language training and visas. This is to name only a few of the blessing of the Cooperative Program. Elisabeth is excited to see what God has in store for her in this exciting journey of faith and faithfulness.

Specific Prayer Requests for Elisabeth:

1. For language acquisition that I will be outgoing and willing to make mistakes when I talk with the locals.
2. For the people I will come into contact with and befriend that God will already be working in their lives and drawing them to Himself.
3. For unity among my team. For me to get along well with my partner and that we will be sensitive to each other needs and culture shock.
4. For me to adjust to the climate and weather of my area and that I will find things to love about it.
5. That I will be bold in sharing the Gospel and that I will stay strong against any spiritual warfare.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Enid, Garland Road; Fairfax, First Osage; Oklahoma City, Village

Email: elisatravel@mailboxw12.com

May 28, 2017

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God sowed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation." (Romans 5:6-9 TLT)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionary Glenn Barber, CrossTimbers Program Director and for the CrossTimbers Mission Adventure Camp. The camp's theme for 2017 is "Kingdom Calling" based on Matthew 6:33, "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you*". The focus will be on Christ and His Kingdom with a strong mission emphasis on Latvia, its culture and the work being done in that county, as well as, the Cooperative Program, its value and importance in spreading the Gospel.

Please pray for the following requests:

1. Pray for strength and endurance for all of the CrossTimbers staff.
2. Pray for the families of leadership while they are away from each other through the summer.
3. Pray that the lives of both campers and leaders will be impacted for Christ during all 11 sessions of camp.
4. Pray that God will anoint and speak through the camp pastor each session.
5. Pray for the health and safety of leadership and campers while they are at camp.

CrossTimbers Weeks:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Session 1:	June 5-8	Will Wilson
Session 2:	June 9-12	David Skinner
Session 3:	June 14-17	Rusty McMullen
Session 4:	June 20-23	Scott Watkins
Session 5:	June 26-29	Scott Pace
Session 6:	July 3-6	Barry Williams
Session 7:	July 10-13	Walter Bradley
Session 8:	July 14-17	Nick Atyia,
Session 9:	July 19-22	Glenn Barber
Session 10:	July 25-28	Shane Hall
Session 11:	July 31-August 4	Blake Gideon

June 4, 2017

May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere may the nations praise you, O God. Yes may all nations praise you. Then the earth will yield its harvests and God will bless us, and people all over the world will fear you. (Psalms 67:2, 5-7 TLT)

Pray for Andy Harrison, Todd Sanders, and Brian Baldwin as they lead the eight weeks of Falls Creek Youth Camp. Falls Creek is the largest youth encampment in the world. The theme for this year is REMNANT based on Jesus' words in Matthew 7:14, *"For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."* The theme verse for camp is Psalm 33:12, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance."* Falls Creek began in 1917 with less than 300 campers attending the first encampment and in 2017 it will average over 5,000 campers and church leaders for each of the eight weeks of youth camp with between 4,000 and 5,000 total decisions for Christ. Oklahoma Baptists put hundreds of thousands of mission dollars into the camp each year. Much of it through the Cooperative Program.

Please pray for the following requests:

1. Pray for students who are unsaved to come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.
2. Pray for believers to answer God's call to Christian service.
3. Pray for each of the speakers for the eight weeks.
4. Pray for the safety of campers and workers.
5. Pray that the celebration of 100 years will cause us to give praise and glory to God and that it will propel us into the next 100 years.

2017 Camps

<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Speakers</u>
1	June 5-9	Dr. Anthony Jordan
2	June 12-16	Sammy Lopez
3	June 19-23	Wade Morris
4	June 26-30	Matt Roberson
5	July 3-7	Zane Black
6	July 10-14	Ed Newton
7	July 17-21	Chip Luter
8	July 24-28	Wade Morris

June 11, 2017

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’ (Matthew 25: 37-40 TLT)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Andy and Kim Harrison. Andy is Falls Creek Program Director and Student Ministry Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). He offices in the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City and spends August through May preparing for the eight youth weeks at Falls Creek each summer. He then moves to Falls Creek where he oversees the programming for the youth weeks. He also serves as a Student Ministry Specialist helping churches in Oklahoma in all areas of youth ministry through training events, conferences, supply preaching and various youth ministry initiatives. He provides online content for youth leaders through the state youth ministry website Skopos.org. Andy tells of a recent event while getting the oil changed in his car. “The young man who helped me was named Austin. He asked if I was associated with Falls Creek. I said yes and asked him why he asked. He immediately answered, “It was June 9, 2009 when I give my life to Christ at Falls Creek and you were there leading. Thanks so much for what you do and please, keep at it.” The Cooperative Program (CP) funds Andy’s salary, travel and program materials and provides programming at Falls Creek. Andy is able to provide an excellent camp experience for a significantly reduced cost because of CP contributions.

Specific Prayer Requests for Andy and Kim:

1. Falls Creek celebrates its 100th birthday this year. Pray that God will shine the spotlight on what He has done at and through Falls Creek.
2. Kim and Andy are now empty nesters. Pray for them and their children as they work and serve the Lord.
3. For our churches to catch a vision for excellent Youth Ministry. Our youth in Oklahoma are growing up biblically illiterate.
4. For our students and parents in our local churches who weekly meet to grow in fellowship and Bible Study.
5. For our homes in Oklahoma that are under attack to have God’s protection.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Claremore, First; Durant, First; Holdenville, First; Oklahoma City, Emmaus and Quail Springs; Piedmont, First; Tulsa, Parkview

Email: aharrison@bgco.org

June 18, 2017

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Preston and Jan Collins. Preston has served for the past 20 years as the Executive Director/Treasurer for the Union Baptist Association (UBA). Union Association is made up of 80 churches, most of which are located in Cleveland and McClain counties. They enjoy the diversity of city, small town, ethnic, and country churches all serving together. They are on mission with God to strengthen the member churches, plant new healthy churches, facilitate mission involvement, and practice good stewardship of all the resources entrusted to them. Preston works to equip church leaders for ministry, serves as coach for church planters, and provides mentoring to pastors and leaders. UBA is currently involved in partnership missions in Southeast Asia, Alberta, Canada, and Latvia. The UBA Disaster Relief Ministry partners with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the North America Mission Board Disaster Relief ministries all over the North American continent. Preston administrates the budget approved at the annual meeting of the association. The UBA Mission Builders built a bedroom onto the home of Bryce Scott, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church. It is a bedroom for the pastor’s daughter, Rachel, who is battling Leukemia. The pastor writes, “Rachel really loves her rom, and because of you and the Mission Builders team, much of the difficulty of living with Leukemia has been made easier.” UBA receives many benefits from the Cooperative Program through a monthly allocation, conferences, training events and special mission projects.

Specific Prayer Requests for Preston and Jan:

1. Pray for our churches as they disciple.
2. Pray for us as we train believers in the work of ministry.
3. Pray for God to raise up workers for the harvest.
4. Pray for our churches as we share the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
5. Pray for us that we will be faithful stewards of God’s resources.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Alva, First; Arapaho; Lone Grove, Cheek; Graham; Norman, Hilltop and Northeast; Sallisaw, Eastside.

Email: preston@unionbaptist.net

June 25, 2017

But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Philip for example went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. After testifying and preaching the word of the Lord in Samaria, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem. And they stopped in many Samaritan Villages along the way to preach the Good News. (Acts 8:4-6, 25 TLT)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Brian and Candace Baldwin and their children. Brian serves as the Youth Evangelism and Mission Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). He heads up GoStudents, which is the state mission sending organization for students. In 2016, 118 students and leaders were sent on mission trips to Europe, Asia, and North America. Brian does all the promotion and logistical planning for the trips. GoStudents is a strategy of the BGCO that helps churches equip students with the task of sharing Jesus with unreached, unengaged people. In its brief history, GoStudents has been successful sending young people around the world. There were 46 churches represented in the 2016 GoStudents projects. GoStudents would not exist without the Cooperative Program. It has especially made an impact on our smaller in-attendance churches that aren't able to organize and send an entire mission team but can send one or two students to join other students.

Specific Prayer Requests for Brian and Candace:

1. For Brian's family as they transition from Tulsa to Oklahoma City.
2. For Brian's health issues.
3. For the Mission Projects in 2017.
4. For God's direction to put the right people in the right places, at the right time.
5. For the students to earn or be provided the money for them to go.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Idabel, Trinity; Newcastle, Woodland Hills; Tulsa, South Tulsa

Email: bbaldwin@bgco.org

July 2, 2017

So those who accepted His message were baptized and that day about 3,000 people were added to them. And they devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved. (Acts 2:41, 42, 46-47 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Mike and Brenda Hand. Mike is Partnership Mission Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). Mike came to Oklahoma and the BGCO after having served in a similar position with the International Mission Board as the Church Missional Strategist for the western half of the United States. Partnership missions exists to assist Oklahoma Baptists to be on mission with God wherever and however He is working both domestically and internationally. The theme of Partnership Missions says “It’s not the size of the church that makes a difference. It is the size of the heart of the church.” The BGCO has three partnerships. We have 14 churches in what is our longest continuing partnership located in Guerrero, Mexico. For over twelve years, Oklahoma Baptists have labored in partnership with the Guerrero Regional Baptist Convention (GRBC) and the Seminario Teologico Bautista Del Sur. One of our new partnerships is in Edmonton, AB Canada where we are pointing our churches to partner with 12 newly established church plants. Edmonton has more than 1.2 million residents. Our newest partnership is in Latvia with the 88 churches of the Baptist Union of Latvia. Latvians have only experienced a democracy since 1991 after having been under German and Russian rule. Many of the pastors experienced persecution and endured even time in prison. The churches are excited about our partnership. The Cooperative Program makes our office possible and undergirds all of our mission and ministry work.

Specific Prayer Requests for Mike and Brenda:

1. Pray for Edmonton and the financial needs of 12 church planters, more permanent meeting places for 11 of the church planters and partnering churches to come along side of them.
2. Pray for Guerrero – Pray for more church planters. There is presently one Baptist church for every 120,000 people! Pray for partners to work with the church planters.
3. Pray for the Seminario Teologico Bautista Del Sur that more national leaders might be trained.
4. Pray for the salvation of the Latvian people
5. Pray for encouragement and power for the 88 Baptist churches in the Baptist Union.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Del City, First Southern; Oklahoma City, Southern Hills

Email: mhand@bgco.org

July 9, 2017

We must always thank God for you brothers. This is right, since your faith is flourishing and the love each one of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast about you among God's churches—about your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions you endure. It is clear evidence of God's righteous judgment that you will be counted worthy of God's judgment.... (2 Thessalonians 1:3-5A HCSB)

Pray for North American Missionary Mark Elliott. Mark serves as Director of Missions for Heartland Church Network, a Southern Baptist association of 55 diverse Southern Baptist churches and missions: Anglo, African, American, Burmese (Karen and Zomi), Native American, Sudanese, Latino, Chinese, and Haitian. He serves churches in a 200 by 200 square mile area of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa with offices in Omaha, Nebraska. The purpose of their Network is to connect, support, and start churches passionate about changing the world. For 25 of Mark's 30 years of ministry in Iowa and Nebraska, the Cooperative Program (CP) provided a portion of this support. Presently he is fully supported by the association; however, CP dollars provide support for church planting in the area. Without the CP funding for a full-time Church Planting Catalyst and for assistance with church planters, it would be difficult and almost impossible to continue their rich history of church planting that their association has established.

Specific Prayer Requests for Mark:

1. For strength and wisdom to serve a large area in the upper Midwest that has been reduced from four DOMs to one – myself.
2. For pastors in Nebraska and Iowa.
3. For our churches that we will be great disciple makers.
4. For protection as I drive over a two state area assisting the churches.
5. For me as I model missions and passionate soul winning.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Narcissa; Vinita, First

Email: mark@heartlandchurchnetwork.org

July 16, 2017

I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in defense and establishment of the gospel. (Philippians 1:3-7 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Jim and Sandy Wideman. Jim has been serving as Director of Missions for Salt Fork Baptist Association since January 2016. The association is comprised of eight churches and one mission in northwest Oklahoma. Seven of the nine churches have bi-vocational pastors. Jim serves in a part-time role having retired as Executive Director of the Baptist Convention of New England in 2015. He advises, coaches, and encourages pastors. He directs the ministries of the association. Even though Salt Fork is a very small association, they conduct an annual children's camp, provide Vacation Bible School training for the churches and strongly supports the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) at Northwest Oklahoma State University. They have begun a new partnership with a church plant in southwest, Kansas. Two of their churches will be facing major transitions in 2017. Both are positive, but transitions are always difficult. Jim will be assisting these churches with the transition. The Cooperative Program (CP) assists Salt Fork with its entire ministry. Jim says, "The Cooperative Program has impacted my whole ministry. I attended a Southern Baptist college and seminary, and received CP help with tuition. As Executive Director of the New England Convention, my whole salary was provided through the CP. My son serves with the IMB and is paid through CP and the Lottie Moon Offering. My daughter served as a collegiate minister in Boston and received CP funds." The Cooperative Program is so vital to all our mission work in North America and internationally.

Specific Prayer Requests for Jim and Sandy:

1. Pray for our partner church plant in Spearville, Kansas. This new church is the first evangelical church in this community.
2. Pray for our ministry in Northwest Oklahoma State University where we have an ongoing ministry to approximately 50 students from East Asia in addition to the Oklahoma students.
3. Pray for two of our churches facing major transitions this year.
4. Pray for good health and safety for Jim and Sandy.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Enid, First; Helena, First; Oklahoma City, Trinity

Email: jimwideman46@gmail.com

July 23, 2017

We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves, but that was good for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for He can even raise the dead. And He did help us, and saved us from a terrible death; Yes, and we expect Him to do it again and again. But you must help us too, by praying for us. For much thanks and praise will go to God from you who see His wonderful answers to your prayers for our safety!
(2 Corinthians 1: 9-11 LB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Jason and Jenni Langley and their children. Jason is the Director of Conference Centers for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). The Conference Centers, Falls Creek and CrossTimbers are an incredible mission opportunity. Groups are coming year around to experience the life changing grace of Jesus Christ. They have the opportunity to share the Gospel with approximately 70,000 children, students, families and adults at camps, marriage retreats, staff retreats and other events each year. In 2017, 100 years of ministry work at Falls Creek will be celebrated. The Cooperative Program (CP) supports Falls Creek Conference Center and Cross Timbers Mission Adventure Camp throughout the year. It also supports the Youth Evangelism Conference, Men's Rewired Retreat, Women's Retreat and many other events that meet at Falls Creek and CrossTimbers. A freshman girl came to the Youth Evangelism Conference and asked how she might purchase tracts to use in outreach at school. She was told the tracts are free because of the CP. She asked for 100 to give to everyone in her lunch group. This is only an example of the powerful life transforming outreach of the Cooperative Program.

Specific Prayer Requests for Jason and Jenni:

1. For me as I set the tone for the next 100 years of ministry.
2. For wisdom as we learn to service new facilities in a more demanding year-round way.
3. For greater spiritual investment in the 250 college students that minister as summer staff at the conference centers each summer.
4. For the 20 plus full-time and part-time staff that selflessly serve behind the scenes.
5. For my ability to serve well, while also serving and loving my wife and children.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Davis, First; Mannford, Lakeside; Wilson, First

Email: jlandley@bgco.org.

July 30, 2017

Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples “the harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:35-38 HCSB)

Pray for Indian Falls Creek Baptist Assembly, Emerson Falls and the 50 officers that serve on their Board of Directors. Indian Falls Creek is a camp for the entire family. It is widely anticipated each year becoming a tradition for many churches and their members. Campers representing 25-40 tribes and over 250 churches as well as non-native people come to Indian Falls Creek from all over the nation. Indian Falls Creek could well be the largest Native Christian encampment in North America. Beginning in 1947 with an attendance of 333, the camp's largest registration peaked to 3,064 in 1996. Thirty years prior to the establishment of the camp, J. B. Rounds and W. D. Moorer founded the Falls Creek Assembly. It was the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention that led the work to begin Indian Falls Creek. Organizing the first years' program were Mrs. John Daois, Mrs. T. W. Stevens, Mrs. Bertha K. Spooner, Mrs. Homer Grimmett and Aaron Hancock. The constitution for Indian Falls Creek was drafted by Victor Kanoubbe, Lewis Hancock, and Louise Hendricks. Article II states: “The objective of this assembly in its annual meeting shall be to foster and promote Christian training, inspiration, fellowship, evangelism, and missionary zeal among the Indians in their Baptist life.” Today over 800 children participate in the camp's Vacation Bible School, while over 800 attend the daily children's church service which began in 1980. Over 1,000 youth and young adults fill the tabernacle each morning. Hundreds of adults attend Bible and Skill classes. Each year campers are involved in many opportunities for Christian fellowship. The 2017 camp is scheduled for July 30-August 4.

Email: efalls@bgco.org

August 6, 20173

Then He told them, "These are the words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He also said to them, "This is what is written, the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witness of these things. And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high." (Luke 24:44-49 HCSB)

Pray for North American Missionaries Randy and Paula Adams. Randy pastored churches in Oklahoma and was the Team Leader of the Outreach (now Mobilization) Team for the BGCO before going to the Northwest Baptist Convention (NWBC) four years ago as their Executive Director/Treasurer. The NWBC includes 466 churches in Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho. Their focus is church planting, evangelism, leadership development and missions. They start about 25 new churches each year. More than 100 of their pastors are involved in some form of NWBC training each year with their basic method being monthly Pastor Clusters that meet in multiple locations. About 1,000 are trained in VBS, evangelism, missions, small groups, and worship leadership each year. 140 of the churches worship in one of 25 non-English churches, with 37 Korean, about 30 Spanish, and 14 Russian. More than 30,000 worship in their churches each week. Only four percent of Northwesterners worship in Christian churches each week. Major metropolitan areas include Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Eugene, Medford, and Redmond Bend. They are also engaged in a partnership with East Asia with dozens of their churches being involved. The Cooperative Program is vital to all the work in the Northwest. It provides the great majority of the funding for all of their ministries.

Specific Prayer Requests for Randy and Paula:

1. Continued unity in the Cooperative Mission efforts of our churches.
2. Evangelistic fervor and engagement to grow in our churches.
3. More Godly and gifted pastors to be called to serve in the Northwest. Their greatest need is for more church planters and pastors.
4. For the partnership with East Asia to continue growing.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Claremore, First; Eufaula, Northside; Edmond, Waterloo Road; McAlester, First; Muskogee, Southwest; Newalla, First; Oklahoma City, Village; Tulsa, South

Email: radams@nwbaptist.org

August 13, 2017

This will be written for a later generation, and a newly created people will praise the Lord; He looked down from His holy heights—the Lord gazed out from heaven to earth—to hear a prisoner’s groaning, to set free those condemned to die, so that they might declare the name of the Lord in Zion and His praise in Jerusalem, when people and Kingdoms are assembled to serve the Lord. (Psalms 102:18-22 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Brian and Jennifer Hobbs and their children. Brian is Editor and Communications Director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). He serves as Editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, the statewide news journal of Oklahoma Baptists. He provides direction for the *Messenger’s* weekly print edition, the *Messenger’s* audio podcast program, the “word slingers” blog and other publications. In addition to his role with the *Messenger*, Hobbs serves as communications director for the BGCO where he is responsible for public relations and leading the BGCO Communications Group. Hobbs also serves as liaison to the BGCO Ethics and Religious Liberty Committee, which monitors social and moral issues, and hosts the annual Rose Day prolife rally. In addition to revenue from advertising and subscriptions, the Cooperative Program (CP) helps underwrite activities related to the *Baptist Messenger*. It also makes it possible to send additional free copies of the *Messenger* to all of the corrections facilities across the state. Correspondence has been received many times from inmates sharing they had come to Christ during their time of incarceration and thanking the *Messenger* for providing godly reading material. Thanks to the CP and Oklahoma Baptists because the Communications Group would not be able to share God’s story among Oklahoma Baptists nor would the ministries of our state be effectively shared and promoted.

Specific Prayer Request for Brian and Jennifer:

1. Pray that the *Baptist Messenger’s* print and digital publication will continue to flourish.
2. Pray that the new Messenger Go smartphone app will be a positive resource for people.
3. Pray for the wellbeing of the *Messenger* staff.
4. Pray that the various outreach publications and efforts of the Messenger will reach people with the Gospel.
5. Pray for my family and God’s help daily in serving Him faithfully.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Bartlesville, First; Oklahoma City, Quail Springs

Email: bhobbs@bgco.org

August 20, 2017

He told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore, go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you, and be sure of this---that I am with you always, even to the end of the world." (Matthew 28:18-20 LB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Otis and Janice Cayton. Otis has been serving for the past 17 years as the Director of Missions in extreme Southeast Oklahoma in Frisco Baptist Association. This association is made up of Southern Baptist churches in Pushmataha, Choctaw and McCurtain counties. Otis' main focus is assisting pastors and the churches. The association provides meetings, rallies, and various training conferences to provide the very latest and best equipping for pastors, staff and lay leadership. The annual meeting is a great time each year in celebrating what God has done in, through, and with the churches the past year and praying and planning for the coming year. They also support and participate in children and youth camps each year at Kiamichi Baptist Assembly where they own a large modern two story cabin with separate dining/kitchen facilities. They have a well-trained Disaster Relief Team that is ready to respond to disasters in the association as well as in the state and in North America. The Cooperative Program provides a monthly allotment to Frisco for ongoing mission projects and other special evangelism and church planting projects. Otis says, "The Cooperative Program is the glue that holds us together and keeps us focused on obedience to the Great Commission of going into all the world."

Specific Prayer Requests for Otis and Janice:

1. For wisdom in leading our churches
2. That we would have humble hearts.
3. That we would have compassion for those who are in need.
4. That we would have a passion to see lost people saved.
5. Pray that our focus will be on Kingdom work.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Grant, First; Hugo, oak Grove; Valliant, Trinity

Email: ojcayton@gmail.com

August 27, 2017

Devote yourselves to prayers; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah—for which I am in prison—so that I may reveal it as I am required to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person. (Colossians 1:2-6 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Chris and Patti Jensen. Chris is Head Football Coach at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU). The football program at OBU is new, and Chris has the responsibility of developing a program that meets or exceeds several objectives: (1) to develop a football program that represents OBU in a manner that fits the mission and Christian reputation of the University as well as facilitates a sense of community within the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; (2) to encourage the spiritual growth of the football players through a plan of student development that emphasizes Christian leadership and ethical development, spiritual formation, and academic engagement by using Biblical Christian principles and the Bison Way; (3) Provide facilities equipment and staffing that will develop the football team into a national championship contender, thereby increasing the marketing potential of the University; (4) Recruit and maintain a team of 110 players; (5) Identify and develop appropriate missions service projects to engage the Shawnee Community, to aid in the ethical development of our athletes, and to create and enforce an attitude of selflessness within the football program. The Cooperative Program provides regular assistance to the University which also assists OBU in their football program. The churches of Pottawatomie-Lincoln Baptist Association provide meals and prayer support to the team. Todd Fisher, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Shawnee conducts a weekly Bible Study for the entire football staff. Chris says, “We are grateful for the financial support through the Cooperative Program.”

Specific Prayer Requests for Chris and Patti:

1. That the coaches and Chris will walk so close to the Lord that through successes and failures on the football field they will reveal Christ every day.
2. For the wives and children of the coaches during the demanding schedule of the football season.
3. That the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth of God’s Word to the players.
4. That God will grant wisdom and discernment to Chris as he makes decisions for the program.
5. That others will see Christ in the members of our team individually and that it will impact the Kingdom.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Durant, First; Oklahoma City, Emmaus; Shawnee, Immanuel

Email: chris.jensen@okbu.edu

September 3, 2017

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But you,” He asked them, “who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!” And Jesus responded, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven, and I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:13-19 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Grant and Cynthia Bivens and their children. Grant is Web Developer and works with the Communication Group for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). He is responsible for managing all the web and social media assets for the BGCO. The convention has over three dozen individual websites or web applications, which keep him very busy continually maintaining, redesigning and enhancing them. He also provides a support role for all the ministry areas with the BGCO assisting them when needed. Without the Cooperative Program the BGCO would not be able to use the internet as a tool to reach thousands of people around the world. From sharing the gospel through video testimonies, to training bi-vocational pastors online, setting up a platform for the Haskins School, to providing an easier way for churches to remit their Cooperative Program gifts quicker so that it can get to the mission field sooner, to maintaining a system for registering 50,000 plus campers at Falls Creek every year, web development of the BGCO is a vital tool of ministry.

Specific Prayer Requests for Grant and Cynthia:

1. For God to continue to bless our family with health, safety and wisdom.
2. For the Communication Group as we continue to assist other department in Kingdom work.
3. For my church to continue to grow and reach our community in South Oklahoma City/Moore.
4. For God to continue to increase my faith and to be bolder to share Jesus.

Oklahoma Church Connection: Oklahoma City, Eagle Heights; Stillwater, Henderson Hills, Eagle Heights; Seminole, First and Harvey Road

Email: gbivens@bgco.org

September 10, 2017

Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them “Rulers of the people and elders; if we are being examined today about a good deed done to a disabled man—by what means he was healed—let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing here before you healthy. This Jesus is—“the stone despised by you builders, who has become the cornerstone.” “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:8-12 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Sam and Sheryl Porter. Sam is the Volunteer Missions and Disaster Relief Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). Partnership Missions connects the formal Partnership relations of the BGCO with partnering states and/or countries. Then the ministry is to connect BGCO churches and assist them in making partnerships with churches in the partnership organizations. Sam is best known for his involvement in Disaster Relief. His office coordinates Oklahoma Baptist churches and associations responses to disasters in Oklahoma and throughout the world. The entire work of the BGCO Disaster Relief Teams is made up of volunteers who respond in incredible ways. Every volunteer team member is a member of an Oklahoma Southern Baptist Church. It gives local churches and local church members opportunities to connect with meaningful and tangible personal mission ministries. This ministry touches thousands of families in crises following disasters. Cooperative Program gifts have helped open the door to allow pastors to make connections in our three BGCO partnerships which in turn gives opportunities to lead individuals to the Lord as well as to assist in planting new churches in various parts of the world.

For instance in the past 10 years Guerrero Mexico has 79 new churches because of our Cooperative Program funds helping to plant these churches. Before the BGCO Partnership there, Guerrero only had a total of 43 Baptist churches in the entire state.

Specific Prayer Requests for Sam and Sheryl:

1. For transition into the new Disaster Relief Team Center from Boys Ranch Town.
2. For Disaster Relief volunteers to be open to go on a moment’s notice to serve in disaster areas.
3. For safety and protection for all Disaster Relief volunteers.
4. Pray for scores of BGCO churches to make Partnership connections in Latvia, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and Guerrero, Mexico.

Oklahoma Church Connection: Bartlesville, Southern; Eakly, First; Edmond, Henderson Hills; Sapulpa, First

Email: sporter@bgco.org

September 17, 2017

...”What does it say? The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. This is the message of faith that we proclaim; If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, You will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation. Now the Scriptures says, no one who believes in Him will be put to shame, For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, since the same Lord of all is rich to all who call up Him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:8-13 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries James and Julie Swain. James is the Equipping Team Leader for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). The Equipping Team partners with Oklahoma Baptist Churches in the key areas of Sunday School (Small Groups), Church Music, Discipleship, Leadership Development, Youth, Children, Family and Men’s Ministry. They program, “the best in the Nation”, high quality events like Falls Creek Youth Camps, Cross Timbers Children’s Mission Adventure Camps, Rewired Men’s Retreat, Special Needs Retreat, Priority of Preaching Conference, concerts by Singing Churchmen and Church Women and Oklahoma Children’s Chorus. They also produce high quality resources for Reconnect Sunday School and Connect I Evangelism. They provide Transitional Pastor Training, State Bible Conference and other special events to train pastors and lay leaders through the generous support of Oklahoma Baptist Churches through the Cooperative Program resources will continue to be provided for the life changing ministries the Equipping Team provides. Thank you Oklahoma Baptist for your loving, missionary spirit and generosity.

Specific Prayer Requests for James and Julie:

1. For the youth camp at Falls Creek as we celebrate 100 years of God’s Faithfulness. Pray for lost youth to be saved and young believers to be strengthened.
2. For the children who attend the Cross Timbers Adventure Camp to hear God speaking and calling them.
3. For Vacation Bible Schools in the local churches this summer and the children and workers—for salvation—for encouragement.
4. For the Rewired Men’s Retreat to continue to make an impact on Men to be saved and to be Godly men in their homes, work and community.

Oklahoma Church Connection: Davis, Chickasaw Trail; Geronimo, First; Chickasha, College Heights; Kingfisher, First; Medford, First; Sulphur, Calvary; Oklahoma City, Southern Hills

Email: jswain@bgco.org

September 24, 2017

“Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for three years I did not stop warning each one of you with tears. And now I commit you to God and to the message of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified. ...In every way I’ve shown you that by laboring like this, it is necessary to help the weak and to keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, for He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive. ‘After He said this, He knelt down and prayed with all of them.” (Acts 20:31, 32, 35, 36 HCSB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Scott and Patty Conrad. Scott has been with the Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children for the past 17 years and had has been serving as the administrator of the Oklahoma City campus for the past three years. He oversees the entire campus operations in Oklahoma City, where they have anywhere from 80-100 residents they serve. They have two cottages that serve children in their residential programs and six cottages that serve the Children’s Hope Program for single moms and their children. Their mission statement is to demonstrate God’s love through empowering children and their families to follow Christ. Scott says he wants their campus to be a place of refuge for those who find themselves in a crisis. He has three purposes for their campuses: (1) to be a safe place; (2) to be an environment that is conducive to learning; and (3) to be established on the Word of God.

One child, a 7 year old girl, said as she went to bed to sleep one night at the Children’s Home, “I get to sleep in a cozy bed.” Your Cooperative Program dollars provide “a cozy bed” in a safe place. It helps provide food, shelter, and clothing for many needy children and pregnant single women in our state.

Specific Prayer Requests for Scott and Patty:

1. Pray for lives to be changed.
2. Pray for a hedge of protection over each child.
3. Pray that the kids and single moms in our care to have their heart and mind open to hear and accept the Gospel.
4. Pray for our staff as they minister to the people God brings to our campuses.
5. Pray for God to continually give us wisdom and direction as we do the work He has called us to do.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Edmond, Henderson Hills; Oklahoma City, Emmaus.

Email: sconrad@obhc.org

October 1, 2017

“You are like salt for all mankind. But if salt loses its saltiness there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it. You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16 TEV)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Randy and Susan Lind. Randy is the Worship & Music Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). His specific role is to partner with churches across the state for training and support for the local worship and music ministries including providing practical and mission training opportunities for children, students, and adults. The BGCO Worship offers worship and music skill development. He also supports and manages the Oklahoma Baptist Children’s Chorus (OBCC), Singing ChurchWomen of Oklahoma (SCW) , Oklahoma Baptist Symphony (OBS), and the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma (SCM). These groups represent Oklahoma Baptists around the state and around the world through their music and mission endeavors. In 2016 the Singing ChurchWomen of Oklahoma were able to visit the Baltic States and spend several days in Latvia, one of the partnership mission destinations for Oklahoma Baptists. The SCW and Oklahoma Baptists had significant impact across Latvia as they sang and ministered in churches, orphanages, retirement homes, concert halls and street corners. Randy says, “During this trip, and especially after we returned, I was reminded of the common need we have for the uncommon message of the Gospel. The take away message for me is that all people everywhere, whether in Latvia or Oklahoma, have a need for community and to connect with God’s love.” The Cooperative Program has allowed BGCO Worship to offer training and development to all churches across the state by providing financial aid and support. Churches with large and small memberships, plus metro and rural churches, benefit from training such as the State Keyboard Festival, Resonate, and Resound – that encourages and equips students to be involved in music & worship leadership in the local church. BGCO Worship is able to offer support and training for churches that are struggling with staffing issues or staff replacement.

Specific Prayer Requests for Randy and Susan:

1. Pray for worship and music leaders in the local church as they disciple all generations in worship.
2. Pray for the SCM, SCW, OBS, and OBCC as they sing and share the Gospel in Oklahoma churches. Also, each of the groups has recording projects this year so pray that the music and message will reach thousands of people.
3. Pray for the Falls Creek Centennial Reunion Choir as singers from across Oklahoma share the story of how God has worked in their lives

Oklahoma Church Connections: OKC, Southern Hills; Woodward, First; Ada, First;
Midwest City, First

Email: rlind@bgco.org

October 8, 2017

Even before the world was made God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before Him. Because of His love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us His sons—this was His pleasure and purpose. Let us praise God for His glorious grace, for the free gift He gave us in His dear Son! For by the death of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God, which He gave to us in such large measure. (Ephesians 1:4-8 TEV)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Tim and Mary Gentry. Tim serves as the Executive Chaplain for Oklahoma Jail & Prison Ministries (OJPM) which provides site chaplains and volunteer chaplains to seven county facilities in Oklahoma. The facilities are: Oklahoma County jail, Oklahoma County juvenile detention center, Cleveland County jail, Canadian County jail, Muskogee County jail, Rogers County jail and Garfield County jail. On average, each month OJPM chaplains visit face-to-face with 1,500 inmates with 200 making commitments to follow Christ. OJPM provided 13,908 volunteer hours in in the Oklahoma County jail. The volunteers made 10,571 inmate visits with 1,770 commitments to follow Christ and 704 rededications of commitment to follow Christ. The prayers of many heartbroken moms and dads are answered regularly when OJPM volunteers share the gospel and pray with inmates. OJPM volunteers' lives are impacted as much as the inmates' lives. Crossing multiple cultural, physical, spiritual and geographical barriers are the components to a transformational mission trip. These same barriers are crossed when a person enters a county jail in the name of Jesus. Tim says his ministry assistant came to a recommitment of her life to the Lord through the sharing of the gospel by one of our chaplains. Our chaplain was able to share the gospel with her and follow up and disciple her through weekly visits. Upon her release after a year of incarceration, she did community service in our office. After two months she was given a full-time job. God is working through my ministry assistant to not only serve OJPM but to reach and minister to her own extended family. Oklahoma Baptists fund approximately 10 percent of OJPM's annual budget. With our use of volunteers, Cooperative Program funds are multiplied for significant evangelistic impact in county jails across the state.

Specific Prayer Requests for Time and Mary:

1. Open doors and favor with county sheriffs and jail administrators. These gatekeepers determine whether OJPM chaplains can respond to inmate's requests for spiritual counseling.
2. Daily anointing of OJPM chaplains to clearly and boldly share the gospel one-on-one with inmates.
3. Safety for OJPM chaplains as they work daily in difficult conditions.
4. Continued financial support of OJPM that provides the framework for so many volunteers to share the gospel in the mission field in our backyard.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Ada, First; Pauls Valley, Trinity; Piedmont, First

Email: tgentry@ojpm.org

October 15, 2017

Behold, my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen One in whom my soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations—a bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick, He will not extinguish;—thus says the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk in it. “I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness—as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. (Isaiah 42:1, 3, 5, 6, 7 NASB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Heath and Jill Thomas. Heath is the Dean of the Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry, Associate Vice President for Church Relations and Professor of Old Testament at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU). Heath works in the context of 18-22 year olds preparing for mission and ministry in Oklahoma churches as well as for leadership in North America. Oklahoma Baptist University has a large number of graduates serving overseas as IMB missionaries and Bible translators. Some goals for this year: 1. Develop an advisory board for Hobbs College; 2. Assess curriculum; and 3. Develop relationships with pastors, ministers, and mission agencies to hear the needs of the day and see how OBU/Hobbs can partner to meet some of those needs. Heath says, “Just today, I received word of a non-believing student who has become vitally open to the gospel due to an assigned research on a project in his Old Testament class on “What is the Gospel?” His words are powerful in that he says that he was once not interested in Christianity, but after researching Jesus and the Gospel, he is now more open than ever to the truth of the claims of Christ.” Heath says, “The Cooperative Program giving into OBU provides needed help for operations of OBU. We are grateful for the partnership.”

Specific Prayer Requests for Heath and Jill:

1. Pray for Godly wisdom for missional leadership of both faculty and students.
2. Pray for the well-being of the students we serve.
3. Pray for God’s favor on the Hobbs College and for OBU in general.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Bethany, Council Road; Tecumseh, New Hope

Email: heath.thomas@okbu.edu

October 22, 2017

The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted; the Lord of host is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come behold the works of the Lord, who has wrought desolation in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot with fire. "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalms 46:6-10 NASB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Wes and Jean Johnson. Wes serves as the Incident Command Director for Oklahoma Baptist Disaster relief. As the Incident Management Team (IMT) leader he provides leadership, friendship, relationship, and mentorship to volunteers who come to a disaster area. The teams come first to serve and obey Christ, then are helped to provide healing and hope. Wes' goals are to develop a team that works first to serve Christ and be the leaders in operations, logistics, administration, and planning. Wes says, "In Boulder, Colorado we were privileged to be able to contact helpless and hopeless. In Louisiana, we shared the Gospel and experienced 21 salvations. We are blessed with a new laundry unit and excellent leaders to serve those in need at disaster sites. In every event we have seen God's hand working in spiritual, physical, and emotional areas." The Cooperative Program supports the leadership of Disaster Relief and provides Bibles, operating supplies and equipment.

Specific Prayer requests for Wes and Jean:

1. Pray that God would provide volunteers with attitudes to serve Him and then others.
2. Pray there will be no disasters.
3. Pray we will be bold for Christ and available when He calls.
4. Pray for teams and their safety.
5. Pray for the salvation of many.

Oklahoma Church Connection: Chandler, First

Email: fourjfarm@gmail.com

October 29, 2017

God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us---that thy way maybe known on the earth, Thy salvation among all nations—Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You wilt judge the people with uprightness. And guide the nations on the earth. Let the people praise Thee, O God; Let all people praise Thee. God bless us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him. (Psalms 67:1, 2, 4, 5, 7 NASB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Rod and Donna Phillips. Rod is currently the Vice President of Operations and Programs for Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children (OBHC) and has served in different responsibilities with OBHC for 31 years. Rod provides oversight to four campus programs: South OKC, East Edmond, Madill, and Owasso. These sites have cottages for eight children that would be similar, in circumstances, to foster children. These displaced children live in a Christian home setting with married house parents while they go to public school and attend local Southern Baptist churches. The house parents model a Christian family as they involve the kids in extracurricular activities, church youth events, Falls Creek, and other fun things. Our primary goal is for them to understand and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. OBHC also has a significant Independent Living Program called Transitional Living on all four sites: a single mother and child program at the Oklahoma City campus, an adolescent maternity program at Owasso, and animal training programs at Edmond and Madill. Hope Pregnancy Centers are located in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Ardmore, and the newest in Edmond. These centers provide pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, extensive training to help parents care for their children, as well as, post abortion Forgiven and Set Free classes. OBHC does not accept any state or federal funding for our services. This is a ministry of our Lord and He provides the funds through the Cooperative Program (CP) and other generous donors. Rod says, “To us the receipt of CP dollars represents another connection to the local Southern Baptist church as an extension of the ministry of the Body of Christ. We are just one of the ministries through the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.”

Specific prayer Requests for Rod and Donna:

1. That I can continue to encourage, empower, and give Godly advice to those who work with me in providing these critical services to children and families. Not merely as their leader, but as their co-worker in the ministry
2. That in our works in accounting, finances, policy, and procedures, that the love and light of our Lord be evident as we serve as a support team for those doing the work of ministry.
3. That God allow me the energy and joy of this work to pervade the workplace.
4. That my path to follow our Lord not be affected by the negativity, entitlement and apathy that is clearly around us.
5. That we can make a significant positive impact on the children and families that come to us for help.

Oklahoma Church Connection: OKC, Southern Hills

Email: rod.phillips@obhc.org

November 5, 2017

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than you ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts, "For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ...My word--- shall not return to me empty---" (Isaiah 55:6-11 NAS)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Dan and Gigi Lewis. Dan has served as the Director of Missions for Craig-Mayes Baptist Association since June of 2015. Craig-Mayes Association is in northeast Oklahoma serving Craig and Mayes counties. They currently have two crucial ministries. One is the Northeast Oklahoma Hope Pregnancy Center. The goal in 2017 is to double the number of clients served in the pregnancy center. The center has been operating for three years and the Lord is blessing. The second is the Green Country Baptist Assembly which has been a vital part of the association from the founding. We continually strive to serve the churches of Craig-Mayes and Rogers Associations and to extend our reach into our neighboring counties. The association is seeking the Lord's leadership in partnership missions and will intentionally take their pastors on mission, likely to one of the NAMB Send Cities. Dan recently looked back over his time in ministry and took great delight that the Lord has influenced the lives of many men and women who are now faithfully serving Him and His church in vocational ministry. Dan says he is appreciative of the Cooperative Program (CP) for making his seminary training possible. Dan recently visited with one of our IMB missionaries while on furlough. Dan says, "Simply knowing that through the support of the Cooperative Program, he and his family are powerfully and boldly serving the Lord in a difficult corner of the world has reinvigorated and motivated me in my daily work." Cooperative Program monies help fund the ministries of the associations in Oklahoma.

Specific Prayer Requests for Dan and Gigi:

1. Pray the Lord will kindle a spirit of evangelism across Craig Mayes Association.
2. Pray the Lord will create a unique sense of unity among our churches that results in effective shared ministry to our communities.
3. We, like many other associations, have several churches that are on the brink of closing their doors. Pray the Lord will see fit to revitalize these churches by placing a passion for the lost within their members.
4. Pray for the continued ministry of the Northeast Oklahoma Hope Pregnancy Center.
5. Pray for the continued outreach of the Green Country Baptist Assembly.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Adair, First; Chouteau, First; Shawnee, First

Email: dan@craigmayes.org

November 12, 2017

In our work together with God, then, we beg you who have received God's grace not to let it be wasted. Hear what God says: "When the time came for me to show you favor, I heard you; when the day arrived for me to save you, I helped you." Listen! This is the hour to receive God's favor, today is the day to be saved! We do not want anyone to find fault with our work, so we try not to put obstacles in anyone's way. (2 Corinthians 6:1-3 TEV)

Partnership Missions is a strategic ministry of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). Mike Hand is currently serving as the Partnership Missions Strategist. Their statement is "The heart of the church makes a difference around the world!" The partners in 2017 include:

Edmonton, Canada - Edmonton has a population of 1.2 million people and is a cultural, governmental and educational center. It also houses ten post-secondary institutions with more than 170,000 students. Less than 6% of the population profess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The fastest growing religion is "no religion." There are only 17 Canadian National Baptist churches in Edmonton. Ministry opportunities include: children's camps, block parties, teaching English as a second language, community outreach, construction, medical, concert, personal evangelism, sports camps and church planting. Please pray for the Gospel to reach the eyes of the hearts of the people in Edmonton.

Guerrero, Mexico - Historic Guerrero site on the Pacific Ocean in Southwestern Mexico. Guerrero has more than six million people who are predominately Roman Catholic. Baptist churches are one for every 120,000 people with no International Mission Board missionaries currently serving. The BGCO began the partnership with Guerrero in 2004. The Seminario Teologico Bautista Del Sur has seen many church plants started and hundreds of people have received training that, without the generosity of Oklahoma Baptists, would not be possible. Congregations have a place to meet because people in Oklahoma gave their time and talents to construct buildings. The jail ministry in Guerrero has seen doors open and God has done phenomenal work. Ministry opportunities include: Chaplaincy, prison ministry, water well construction, children's camps, block parties, teaching English as a second language, community outreach, construction, concerts, personal evangelism, sports camps, church plants and medical.

Latvia - Latvia is located on the Baltic Sea and has a population of 2.2 million people. These statistics illustrate the Latvian's peoples deep need for a personal relationship with the Lord: only 5% attend church regularly, 6% believe in astrology, 42% believe in witchcraft and sorcery, 44% of babies are born out of wedlock, and it has the tenth highest suicide rate in the world. The overall goal of this partnership is to see Oklahoma Baptists unite with the Latvian Baptist Union of Churches to preach the Gospel, disciple the believers, and plant strong evangelistic churches. There are only 88 Baptist churches in the country. Ministry opportunities include: Vacation Bible School, youth ministry camps, sports camps, festivals, community outreach, English as a second language, block parties, construction, medical and orphan ministry.

Email: mhand@bgco.org

November 19, 2017

My brothers, how I wish with all my heart that my own people might be saved! How I pray to God for them! I can assure you that they are deeply devoted to God; but their devotion is not based on true knowledge. They have not known the way in which God puts people right with Himself, and instead, they have tried to set up their own way; and so they did not submit themselves to God's way of putting people right. For Christ has brought the Law to an end, so that everyone who believes is put right with God. (Romans 10:1-4 TEV)

Pray for International Missionaries Adam and Jessica Huser. The Husers live in Zamora, Ecuador but travel out to a Shuar Indian village for ministry. Zamora and Shakay, the Shuar villages, are both considered upper jungle, which means that everyday life is a constant adventure. When they began to work with the Shuar four years ago, they had to drive three to four hours to the Nangaritza River and then travel two to six hours by boat up to the village of Shakay. Once arriving they feed the villagers, teach them and watch their children play with the Shuar children. Adam says, "The Lord is constantly moving and working in their hearts and lives, usually in ways we can't see or understand, but He is there and He is moving." Today there is a road out to the village and the Shuar consider them family. Five have accepted Christ. Adam says, "We have trudged through mud so deep you lose your boots, hand washed other peoples dirty laundry, dealt with bugs, mice and snakes, ripped the skin off our hands trying to machete through the jungle, but in all of this there is joy. We consider it a privilege that we get to continue to minister and share life with them because it is who we are and exactly where we want to be." Adam shares that Estevan, the man of peace in the village of Shakay. He has been open to listen to the Gospel and they have made quite a bond with him and his family. In a dream he felt that the Lord was telling him to stop being a witch doctor. Estevan is becoming the man the Lord desires him to be and the man he needs to be for his family. The Cooperative Program has provide safe and affordable transportation to reach their village and a home for them to live.

Specific Prayer Requests for Adam and Jessica:

1. Jessica is hoping to start a Bible study just for the Shuar women. So far one women is interested and she will be starting it this next week. She will be telling the stories of different women in the Bible to help encourage and teach them how to be mothers, wives and daughters.
2. We are homeschooling our children Sophia and Samuel. Adam does Math and Jessica the rest. They also attend a school here in Zamora for a couple of hours every day to interact with other children and to learn Spanish. Pray for us as we teach them and pray that Sophia and Samuel can make friends and learn Spanish.
3. Adam has a great ministry among men here in Zamora and in Shakay. Please pray for continued growth and wisdom in regards to discipleship.
4. Of all the villages along the Nangaritza River, Shakay is the only one we are allowed in at this time. There are two we would really like to begin work in; San Carlos and Mariposa. Please pray for doors to be open in these two villages (or in others we don't know of or have access too)!

Oklahoma Church Connections: Oklahoma City, Village and Southern Hills

Email: huserfamily@gmail.com

November 26, 2017

As Jesus was passing through Jericho, a man named Zacchaeus, one of the most influential Jews in the Roman tax-collecting business (and of course a very rich man) ---Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said "Sir, from now on I will give half of my wealth to the poor and if I find I have overcharged anyone on his taxes, I will penalize myself by giving him back four times as much! Jesus told him, "This shows that salvation has come to his home today---I, the Son of mankind, have come to search for and to save such souls as his." (Luke 19:1, 8, 9, 10 LB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries David and Carol Karr. David serves as a volunteer in Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief (DR). He offices at the Baptist Building and is responsible for scheduling state training for Disaster Relief. He also coordinates state DR deployments making sure DR volunteers go where they are needed in coordination with the North American Mission Board on national deployments. He also works closely with the state DR director, Sam Porter, to coordinate activities in Oklahoma. David shared that a DR volunteer was given the opportunity to pray with a couple one afternoon. The following morning the couple returned and told our volunteer that because he prayed with them it kept them from going home and committing suicide that night. DR volunteers are the Lord's touch in times of disasters. The Cooperative Program provides funding for the DR director and staff, so they can do the ministry of disaster relief in our state and across our nation and the world.

Specific Prayer Requests for David and Carol:

1. Pray we can properly train and equip to meet the ever increasing need of people in need through disaster.
2. Pray for an open attitude to be aware of any opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for a boldness to take advantage of opportunities to share the good news.
4. Pray for a humble spirit to give all glory and honor to God as we fulfill those responsibilities.
5. Pray for a true attitude of service.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Noble, 12 Corners; Norman, Bethel

Email: ckarr39@aol.com

December 3, 2017

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them---for thou shalt break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, at the battle of Midian—for a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 4, 6 NASB)

Pray for International Missionaries Randy and Joan Bell. They have been working as church planters for 21 years with the International Mission Board. They served in Thailand, Serbia, Bosnia and now Slovenia. They moved to Velenje a few months ago and are involved in two new church plants, one in Velenje and the other in Lendava. They have been indirectly or directly involved in eight church plants, six of them being in Slovenia. Joan and Randy also serve as mentors for young national and international church planters/families/missionaries. They also lead a discipleship group, a marriage enrichment group and a Bible study group in Valenje. Randy tells of a lady by the name of Jolanda who was saved and baptized in their last church plant. Her husband, Marjan, an atheist, started coming to church with her out of respect. Randy asked him if they could start a Bible study in their home and he said yes. Eventually he began tithing and singing in the church choir. He came to a point where he recognized his sin, repented, and was baptized. He now serves as a leader/deacon in Maribor church. Because of the Cooperative Program the Bells are able to live and serve in Slovenia. “The food we eat, the house we live in, and the car we drive are provisions from the Cooperative Program. Our girls were assisted with great support to attend college. We have also been able to purchase Bibles and other materials for our ministry” says Randy and Joan.

Specific Prayer Requests for Randy and Joan:

1. For the church plant in Maribor and Slovenj Gradec as they are led by Slovene pastors.
2. For the new church plants in Velenje and Lendava as they form, grow, and become beacons of light in their communities.
3. For three new Christians who have been baptized recently in Velenje. Pray for Vera, Mijo, Franc and Petra who have professed Christ and need to follow up in baptism.
4. For our numerous volunteer teams who come from the states.
5. For our 3 daughters who are all in the states.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Lawton, Emmanuel; Weatherford, First

Email: Randy.Bell@amis.net

December 10, 2017

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked, also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.

(Isaiah 11:1-5 NASB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Chris and Karen Doyle

Chris is the Associate Editor for the *Baptist Messenger*, the state paper of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, working closely with Brian Hobbs, Editor and Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Communications Group leader. The communications group serves BGCO ministries with print, audio/video and web productions and provides sources that help churches know what God is doing around the world through the Cooperative Program global missions. The *Baptist Messenger* shares news and events of Baptist life in Oklahoma. Chris enjoys connecting with churches and ministries and sharing their inspiring stories with *Messenger* readers. “The *Baptist Messenger* is a valuable communication tool for Oklahoma Baptists,” Chris said. “The more informed a church member is about Baptist work in our state and beyond, the more likely they will be involved in serving and supporting Cooperative Program missions.” The *Baptist Messenger* and all BGCO communications sources would not be possible without the support provided through the Cooperative Program.

Specific Prayer Requests for Chris and Karen:

1. For the *Baptist Messenger* to receive strong support from churches and subscribers
2. For all Communications Group members who work diligently to support and communicate BGCO ministries
3. For WordSlingers, an online outreach affiliated with the *Baptist Messenger*, designed to reach young adults and other readers with a Christian perspective on timely topics
4. For the families of the Communications group

Oklahoma Church Connection: Oklahoma City, Springs

Email: cdoyle@bgco.org

December 17, 2017

“Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; for the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous than the sons of the married woman,” says the Lord. “Enlarge the place of your tent; stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your pegs, for you will spread abroad to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations, and they will resettle desolate cities.” (Isaiah 54:1-5 NASB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Randy and Anita Jordan. The Jordans live and serve in the Philippines. They have served a total of 25 years in International Missions, 13 years in South Korea and the past 12 in the Philippines. Randy is Team Strategy Leader for Manila Urban Student Team. Manila is a city of between 14 and 16 million people. It is a modern city with many skyscrapers, lots of traffic, huge shopping malls, ancient Catholic churches, and modern houses/apartment buildings, slums/shanty areas with squatters, Christian churches and lots of universities/students. They are tasked with going to the university campuses to tell the students about Jesus and how to have a personal relationship with Him. They also tell them how to be healthy growing disciples. Then they train them as to how to make disciples of others and to be missionaries on their campuses and in the world.

Many of the students they encounter know about Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit but they don't know what it means to really KNOW Jesus in a personal way. Many students from affluent families aren't interested in following Jesus. They want to make a lot of money, have expensive houses and cars and a great family. A huge percentage of students come from middle class families struggling just to get by in the Mega City. The bottom line is that all need a Savior and that is why the Jordans are in Manila. The Cooperative Program (CP) provides a salary, living expenses, health insurance, housing, and transportation plus program expense to provide meals and transportation for the many students they have in their home to learn about Jesus and to train them to be effective reproducing disciples. Without the Cooperative Program, the Jordans could not be witnesses in the Philippines.

Specific Prayer Requests for Randy and Anita:

1. To have boldness in consistently sharing Christ with University students.
2. To actively disciple University students and train them to disciple others.
3. For student leaders to continually emerge and take on tasks of evangelism and discipleship on campus.
4. For one of the large Christian churches they are partnering with to catch the vision of university students making an impact in world missions and train and deploy them to other countries for short term mission trips.
5. For good health and safety for Anita and myself in the Philippines and our kids in the United States.

Oklahoma Church Connections: Arkoma, First; Pawhuska, First; Tulsa, First

Email: ramhjordan@yahoo.com

December 24, 2017

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the City of Nazareth, to Judea to the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first born son, and she wrapped Him in clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:4-7 NASB)

Pray for Oklahoma Missionaries Eddie and Barbara Jones. Eddie is a Church Planter /Pastor with the Church Planting program of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). He started a new mission church two years ago on the Northwest side of Oklahoma City. The church name is BridgePoint Community Church. The church's theme and vision statement is "Ministering Together With a Purpose". Eddie is responsible for planting and developing a new congregation to reach this community. He leads, teaches, reaches, and develops new believers in order to grow a healthy church of disciples. Eddie says, "We are trying to reach many apartment complexes in this area through Bible studies, outreach, bus ministry, and personal contacts. We are trying to balance our efforts by reaching both apartments and homeowners in order to develop a strong balanced congregation." Eddie drives a school bus for a local school district where he is reaching young people and adults. He is developing a puppet ministry, choirs, and ministries for youth, children, and adults. He is working with Council Road Baptist Church with their food and clothing pantries to reach the community. BridgePoint receives funding from the BGCO church planting ministry through Cooperative Program gifts.

Specific Prayer requests for Eddie and Barbara:

1. Pray for the hurting and sick people in our church and in our church community.
2. Pray for our leadership team so that they be an effective tool in developing our church.
3. Pray for our outreach team as we go forward to reach lost people.
4. Pray that we will have the resources to sustain our church both with growth and financial means.

Oklahoma Church Connection: OKC, New Bethel and Western Avenue

Email: eddiejones1955@att.net

December 31, 2017

And it came about that when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this king that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph and the baby as He lay in the manger. And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the Shepherds. But many treasured all these things pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. (Luke 2:15-20 NASB)

Pray for International Missionaries Robert and Elaine

They serve among European People Groups and have been serving there for seven years. Robert serves on the Tech Solution Team providing technical services to International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries across Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East. He assists missionaries in keeping secure in this electronic age providing encryption technologies, private networking, secure email and other computing resources. Elaine maintains the home and is beginning to assist with student ministries at a local Baptist church in London. They are currently between ministries and seeking God's direction as to where their skills and gifts can best be used. They are starting to work with students in London but are unsure as to whether this is where God wants them to serve long term. They tell of a recent experience of seeing God at work in a young man, Druvh, and his mother, Prem. They witnessed to them in their home and at church about Jesus. Prem recently received Jesus as Savior. Due to their Hindu background, Prem attends Bible studies but has not told her family about her decision. Druvh is very interested but says, "Right now I must honor my father and his religion." Without the Cooperative Program this missionary family could not be on this international mission field and their children's education would not be funded.

Specific Prayer Requests for Robert and Elaine:

- For our son, Nathan, as he chooses a university in the United States for the Fall of 2017
- For our family with a son in a boarding school in Germany and a son in a university in the USA that our family will remain strongly committed to Jesus
- For the organizational changes in the IMB that effects our job status with the IMB
- For ministry opportunities to open with the students in London
- For Druvh as he seeks truth despite his family religion

Oklahoma Church Connections: Norman, Immanuel; Midwest City, Country Estates; Oklahoma City, Brookwood and Portland Avenue

Email: Not available due to security