

THE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST CHRONICLE

Marlin Hawkins, Editor
3800 North May
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
mhawkins@bgco.org

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"Looking to the Future Through the Eyes of the Past"

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DEDICATION

This issue of
THE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST CHRONICLE
is dedicated to
Hugo Lindquist
(1924-2007)

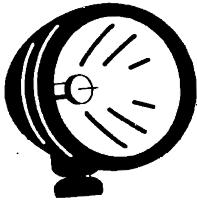


Hugo Lindquist was a man who accomplished much. He was an example to all by pastoring Bethel in Oklahoma City for over 45 years. He was every pastor's friend, had a quick smile, and enjoyed life. He was a patriot who served in WW II in the 313th Bomber Wing in the Pacific. Hugo was on many associational, state, and SBC committees including chairman of the 1973 89ers Crusade, Baptists for Life, Birthright of Oklahoma City, Right to Life of Oklahoma, and for 13 years as trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. As a friend and fellow member of the Baptist Historical Society it is an honor to dedicate this Chronicle to him.

Eli Sheldon, Chairman
Church History Committee

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Spotlight on the Cooperative Program

Daniel Caceres, Specialist on the Church Planting Group of the BGCO Church Outreach Team has reported that in 2006 Oklahoma Baptist Hispanic Churches gave \$47,262 to the Cooperative Program. These gifts came from 40 individual churches. The Hispanic churches also counted 149 baptisms during 2006.

We rejoice with and thank our Hispanic brethren for their involvement in the work of both Oklahoma Baptists and through their gifts are helping extend the Gospel to Oklahoma, to the United States, and to the ends of the earth. This is an encouragement to all Oklahoma Southern Baptists.

Exciting news for the Gaskin Archives

Marlin Hawkins
Editor

Every month I receive a monthly update entitled “Then & Now” from Jerry Windsor, Secretary Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Historical Society. I was very happy to read an item Brother Jerry included in his March, 2007 issue.

I called him and asked his permission to include this paragraph from that issue.

“Hot off the press!”

“In the February 5, 2007 issue of *New Yorker* magazine it was announced that Google intends to ‘scan every book ever published’ (p. 30). World Cat claims that there have been 32 million books catalogued and Google plans to ‘organize the world’s information’ at no charge to the general public. There are 10,000 Google employees and they are making every text searchable. This impacts us here at the Florida Baptist Historical Society (FBHS) in a wonderful way.

“There are thousands of Baptist sources that we could not afford and did not have access to that will now be available online in a form that can be photocopied. This is the most astounding breakthrough in research in the six years I have been with FBHS. In coming months we will update you on how you can use this exploding source from your personal computer.”

I am so thankful that Brother Jerry found this almost unbelievable news. I, like him, can hardly fathom the ramifications this can have on the Gaskin Archives, here in the Baptist Building. When he shares further information, I will in turn share it with you our Oklahoma Baptist family.

FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS

By T. B. Lackey

(Since we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Baptist General Convention of the State of Oklahoma [BGCO] in 2006, I thought it appropriate to print excerpts from Dr. T. B. Lackey's Golden Jubilee speech delivered to the BGCO in annual session at First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Nov. 9, 1955, and printed in the Golden Jubilee Anniversary edition of the *Baptist Messenger*, dated August 9, 1956. Dr. Lackey was Executive Director-Treasurer 1951 to 1971. I have inserted notes referencing some of the progress and changes we have made in the fifty years since 1956. The Editor)

Almost 50 years ago now—Nov. 9, 1906—the final unification of Baptist forces in Oklahoma took place in Shawnee.

Messengers from the Oklahoma Baptist State Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Indian Territory marched from their respective meeting places to the opera house where the Baptist General Convention of the State of Oklahoma was organized.

J. A. Scott was elected president, W. P. Blake, recording secretary, and J. C. Stalcup, corresponding secretary.

The organization of the Baptist General Convention was by no means the beginning of Baptists. Baptists began with the Master. With them there is no founder this side of Jesus Christ. Their service began when Jesus and John the Baptist stood together, waist-deep, in the Jordan, with the current of that river swirling about them and bearing out on its floods the seeds of Baptist ideas that were to turn the world upside down. The Baptist movement was started by John as recorded in Matthew 3. "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand....Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him." Not only did he baptize Jesus, but the apostles who made up the membership of the organization which our Lord called, "My Church."

Since the day Jesus said "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."—until this good hour—there have been faithful disciples carrying out His commands.

The organization of the Baptist General Convention in 1906 was not the beginning of Baptist work in Oklahoma. Seventy-five years before there were Baptist missionaries in this area. The first Baptist church in Indian Territory was organized Sept. 9, 1832. There were six members, a white man, his wife, a Creek Indian, and three Negro slaves. John Davis, the Indian was ordained and became the first pastor. Davis, according to L. W. Marks, "proved a worthy fore-runner of all preachers, red, white, and black, that have been ordained in Oklahoma since that eventful day."

Other churches were organized, mission schools started, associations formed. The work progressed slowly, under trying circumstances and, often, serious persecution.

The churches were not united on methods of work. At one time there were four conventions, with resulting duplication and confusion. Gradually, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Baptists came together in one convention.

In the first meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, there were 400 messengers representing the few striving churches with a combined membership of only 30,000. The year preceding, total mission receipts were \$9,000. There was no Unified Budget or Cooperative Program in those days.

(In 2006, we had 1,009 messengers to the convention, we have 1,735 churches, and Cooperative Program receipts were \$24,875,309.73.)

LEADERSHIP

J. C. Stalcup served as executive or corresponding secretary until 1916. Dr. J. B. Gambrell said of him, "No matter who comes or goes, the future histories of the Baptist of Oklahoma will record the fact that J. C. Stalcup laid the foundations of a sound denominational life in wisdom." He was succeeded by F. M. McConnell in 1916.

In its 45 years prior to my election in 1951 the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma elected only four executive secretaries—Dr. J. C. Stalcup, 1906; Dr F. M. McConnell, 1916; Dr. J. B. Rounds, 1922, and Dr. Andrew Potter, 1933.

(Dr. T. B. Lackey, elected in 1951 and title changed to Executive Director-Treasurer; Dr. Joe L. Ingram, 1971; Dr. William G. Tanner, 1986; and the current Executive Director-Treasurer, Dr. Anthony L. Jordan in 1996.)

INSTITUTIONS

From its beginning Baptist denominational leaders had the conviction that if they were to build and maintain a great denominational spirit they must have benevolent and educational institutions.

BAPTIST ORPHANS' HOME

The first permanent institution to be established was the Baptist Orphan's Home in Oklahoma City. The home was formally opened in a little rented house, March 15, 1903, by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Scott.

First permanent matron was Miss Winnie Mitchell who served for \$3 per week. After a short time she was elected superintendent and her salary was increased to \$5 per week. In June, 1906, Dr. E. D. Jeter was elected superintendent and two years later W. A. McKinney came as leader. It was a struggle to keep the home open. In 1915 the home was placed under the convention, with the executive secretary, J. C. Stalcup, superintendent. At that time there was an indebtedness of \$16,000, with a lawsuit threatened unless the obligation was met promptly. Dr. F. M. McConnell succeeded Dr. Stalcup as secretary and superintendent of the home. Dr. J. B. Rounds followed McConnell in 1922. At that time assets were \$95,000 and indebtedness \$61,000.

E. A. Howard became superintendent in 1924 and served until 1935 when he was followed by Dr. Andrew Potter, executive secretary. In January, 1935, H. Truman Maxey became resident manager, which position he held until 1949, when he was made Superintendent. Under the able leadership of Truman Maxey these 21 years the home has been rebuilt and reorganized. Property valuation now exceeds one million dollars. More than 1,700 children have been blessed with a home. With the two buildings recently completed we have facilities for 225 children. Today the home is one of the beauty spots in the heart of northwest Oklahoma City.

(1953 Boys Ranch Town established, Judson Cook, Superintendent; 1956

Baptist Children's Home and Boys Ranch Town combined to become the Department of Child Care, Truman Maxey, Executive Director 1956-1969; 1969 -1985 Lowell Milburn, Executive Director; 1973 Owasso campus established; 1976 Madill campus established; 1982 Oklahoma City Children's home property at 63rd and Pennsylvania sold and construction started on a new campus at 16301 South Western; 1985 Departments of Child Care and Adult Care combined as Special Care Ministries with Lowell Milburn, Executive Director, 1985-1987; Sam Garner, Executive Director, 1987-1993; 1993 BGCO separately incorporates children's work as Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children; Ron Argo, President OBHC 1993-1996; V. K. Curtis, Interim President, OBHC, 1996-1997; 1997-present, Tony Kennedy, President; OBHC now consists of four campuses [OKC, Boys Ranch Town, Owasso, and Madill] and three Hope Pregnancy Centers [OKC North, OKC South, and Tulsa]).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The earliest missionaries recognized the need of an educational institution. Many attempts were made to establish Baptist schools. In 1910 Oklahoma Baptist University was established in Shawnee with Dr. J. M. Carroll president. In 1911 there were

Four struggling Baptist schools. Soon thereafter, all were closed for lack of funds. On January 1, 1915, Dr. F.M. Masters was elected president of OBU and a campaign for funds was launched, and the school reopened in September of that year.

At the first faculty meeting Dr. Masters said, "Gentlemen, we are about to make Baptist history. You are assembled by the will and wish of the Baptists of Oklahoma and our heavenly Father. We are charged with the challenging task of building a university on the ash heap of dead schools. We simply cannot afford to make a mistake. . . I suggest that we go down upon our knees and ask almighty God to give us guidance and wisdom, without which we cannot perfect the organization of this institution properly."

They all knelt about the table and each prayed when it came his turn. Thus, OBU was reborn in a prayer meeting.

OBU grew steadily under the leadership of President Masters until 1919. Dr. J. A. Tolmon was president until 1922, at which time Dr. J. B. Lawrence came to lead the school from a crushing debt to a stable

and permanent state. He was followed in 1926 by Dr. W. W. Phelan who served until 1930. Dr. W. C. Boone came in 1930 and Hale V. Davis in 1932.

A red-letter day in the history of OBU came May 22, 1934, when Dr. John W. Raley was elected president. Dr. Raley made a wonderful inaugural address. He interpreted his task as it occurred to him in terms of the need of the hour for OBU. When Dr. Raley came, school assets were \$628,000 and the indebtedness almost \$200,000. There were about 750 students that year. Many stalwart men and women have given their lives to OBU. Professor W. T. Short who taught from 1915 until his death, 1947, said, "I have had two outstanding desires. One was to raise a good Christian family and the other was to help grow a great university for the Baptists of Oklahoma. Humbly, I can say that God has granted both desires."

The late Dr. Jent made the following statement in his Founders' Day address, 1936, "Twenty-five years ago OBU was only a dream, a vision and a hope in the hearts of some Baptist builders, pioneering in the denominational life of a new state. Today the university is a reality, recognized and respected by the educational world; loved by the loyal Baptists of the state, and appreciated by the general public."

This year's enrolment at OBU was 1,363, with 35 state and six foreign countries represented. Total valuation of university land, buildings and equipment is almost \$5 million. We need not fear for the future of OBU. We may face our task with confidence. Our cause will continue to enlarge and our purpose will be accomplished with even greater speed as these young people complete their schooling and enter place of leadership as pastors and Baptist workers.

(Total enrollment in 2006 was 1,606 with students from 49 states and 18 foreign countries. The current value of land, buildings, and equipment is \$36,567,000. For the 13th straight year, OBU is the state's highest rated comprehensive college in the U.S. News & World Report annual rankings of "America's Best Colleges." OBU has made the news magazines "top 10" in its category for 15 consecutive years.)

FALLS CREEK

Oklahoma Baptists owe much to Falls Creek Assembly, which was founded by Dr. J. B. Rounds, and Dr. W. D. Moorer 38 years ago.

A tent was rented for the initial assembly. Dr. Rounds and his two sons built the first road with a pick, shovel, wheelbarrow and crow bar. There were less than 300 registered the first year.

Registration for the 1955 Assembly totaled 21,561 persons. There were 2,134 total decisions for Christ including 164 professions of faith.

Falls Creek today offers the advantages of a modern city—good roads, water, electricity, post office, grocery store and cafeterias, office building, and many church cabins. Tom Carter is assembly manager.

(For the 7-week assembly in 2006, total registration was 44,002, with 5,243 total decisions of which 2,090 were profession of faith. In 2007, we will go to 8 weeks and will meet in the new, 7,253 seat, air-conditioned tabernacle. Opening and dedication of this wonderful new facility is scheduled May 26th, with the first camp starting the following day.)

BAPTIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Considerable interest has been shown in a proposed home for aging. The convention voted last year to authorize the Board of Directors to appoint a committee to further study the need, location and operation of such institution, with a view of making it a reality as funds become available.

One out of 12 persons in the United States is 65 years of age or older. The number is increasing by 400,000 per year. People in this age group have increased from 3 million, or 4 per cent, of the population in 1900 to almost 12 million, or more than 8 per cent in 1950. Since the turn of the century our population has doubled, but the number of person over 65 has quadrupled. It is estimated that by 1980 the number in this age bracket will more than double again. Winston Churchill said, "You can measure the civilization of the people by the way they treat their old folks."

(The first adult care facility was the Hugo Nursing Home dedicated in 1958 with an initial occupancy of 20. The Baptist Village Retirement Communities of Oklahoma (BVRC) now ministers to 2,000 senior adults a day at Baptist Villages in Oklahoma City, Owasso, Broken Arrow, Cleve-

land, Ada, Hugo, Lake Texoma, and Okmulgee. The need for these facilities is illustrated by changes in our population. The fastest growing age group in Oklahoma are those 85 and older and in the last 20 years, the number of people in the over 65 group has doubled. This growth shows the ministry needs being met by the BVRC.)

BAPTIST MESSENGER

The first paper of any kind produced in Indian Territory was the *Cherokee Messenger*, published first in 1844. When the Missionary and Educational Convention met in 1884, a resolution was adopted which led to the founding of the *Indian Missionary*. This paper merged with the *Baptist Watchman*, and publication was suspended in 1894.

In 1912 the publication of the *Baptist Messenger* was begun by C. P. Stealey. The ownership of the *Messenger* was transferred to the BGCO in 1919. The *Messenger*, under the capable leadership of Editor Jack Gritz, continues to give the Baptist message to more than 75,000 weekly.

(Dr. Gritz was editor 1949-1979; Dick McCartney, 1979-1987; Glenn Brown, 1987-1997; John Yeats, 1997-2006; and since 2006 Ray Sanders, Executive Editor and Bob Nigh, Managing Editor. Circulation is now at 80,000.)

MISSIONS

Missions is the chief task of every New Testament church. Baptists believe in following the Bible plan of missions. Their plan of organized missions has been based on "from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." On this basis they have divided missions into local, associational, state, home and foreign. Well organized departments exist for each division. This program is the most effective purely co-operative organization in the world.

LOCAL MISSIONS

Oklahoma Baptist churches have been performing excellent service in local missionary endeavor. Many have from one to six or eight missions. Several find churches are flourishing now because some church started a mission a few years ago. In every instance the

church had direct control, sponsoring the work as a department of the church.

STATE MISSIONS

Beginning in 1948 the state mission program was promoted through the association on the theory that if a good program is carried on in each association the state as a whole will have a good mission program. Sam W. Scantlan, who has served so efficiently as superintendent of missions since 1944 reports 38 missionaries now serving in the associations.

(Oklahoma now has 42 Directors of Missions, not counting several associates. Dr. Lackey talked at length about the various state "departments" which were active in his time. BGCO has made many adjustments and changes through the years, always with an eye of doing our work better and more efficiently. Currently our organization is by teams as follows: In addition to the Executive Director, Senior Associate Director, and Associate Director, the other teams include Finance, Church and Family Equipping, Communications, and Church Outreach.)

SEE THAT YE ABOUND

The message of Paul to the church at Corinth is my message to Oklahoma Baptists for the Golden Jubilee year.

In II Corinthians 6:13 he said: "I speak as unto my children, be ye also enlarged." In II Corinthians 8:7, "See that ye abound."

Everything worthwhile waits upon abounding, growing Christians. The Lord and his work must have abounding leaders, regenerated membership, unbroken fellowship and an enlarged stewardship.

See that you abound as individual Christians. Our Lord had much to say about the abundant life. He referred to going "the second mile." He asked the piercing question, "What do ye more than others?"

Everything worthwhile waits upon abounding, growing Christians. The Lord and his work must have abounding leaders, regenerated membership, unbroken fellowship and an enlarged stewardship.

See that ye abound “as a denomination.” The denomination is the combined efforts of individuals and churches. There are many things we can do together that we cannot do so well separately.

Our benevolent work, institutions of healing, education, our missionaries around the world....all depend upon our combined efforts.

If we are to abound we must serve a big God, have a world vision and bear the burdens of others.

As we move forward let us learn the words of Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (I Cor. 15:58).

(The above remarks ended Dr. T. B. Lackey’s remarks on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the BGCO. 2006 marked the 50th anniversary of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society. Dr. Anthony L. Jordan gave the 50th anniversary address to the Society’s historical meeting held in Stubblefield Chapel at OBU.

Dr. Jordan called attention to “Our Historical Strengths,” “Our Challenges for the Future,” and “Our Great Opportunities that Lie Before Us.”

Jordan said, “Our historical strengths are what I call our commitments.” Those commitments included: commitment to the infallible and inerrant word of God, commitment to missions and evangelism, commitment to cooperation through the Cooperative Program, and commitment to seeking the vision of God and fulfilling it.

He listed four “Challenges for the Future;” (1) Challenge of maintaining our doctrinal and denominational distinctives, (2) Challenge to hold on to our cherished cooperative approach to missions through the Cooperative Program, (3) Challenge of like Peter, to be willing to again cast our nets in the water after fishing all night, to do something unconventional, something that was out of the ordinary, and something that was out of the box, and (4) “Challenge that we as Oklahoma Baptist would prepare and expect a spiritual awakening that would transform us and that would transcend denominations.

Our great opportunities as listed by Jordan are; (1) Planting new churches

that will reach every people group in Oklahoma, (2) Expansion of Falls Creek, (3) Focus our churches on evangelism, and (4) an Acts 1:8 mindset in the heart of every believer and every church in Oklahoma.

The complete text of Dr. Jordan's message was printed in the Autumn 2006, 50th anniversary Celebration Issue of *The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*.

In January, 2007, during the Baptist Building staff's at home staff planning days, Dr. Jordan emphasized The Missional Person, The Missional Church, and The Missional Convention.

The Missional Christian filters all life's choices through God's mission to seek and to save that which was lost. The Missional Church prepares and involves missional people to cooperatively engage in God's mission to seek and save the lost, and The Missional Convention encourages [i.e. to come along side] and assists pastors and churches to operate as missionaries as they engage God's mission to seek and save the lost.

It is my hope that the remarks and challenges of Dr. Lackey and those of Dr. Jordan will inspire you and me in our personal walk and witness for the Lord Jesus Christ!)

Marlin Hawkins, Editor

Historical Society Meetings

March 25, 2006

Stubblefield Chapel on OBU Campus

8:30 a.m. - Noon

MINUTES

The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society was held in Shawnee for the purpose of reenacting the joining of the two conventions in Oklahoma to form the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Curtis Dixon, vice president of the Society, presided. Dr. Gaskin gave opening comments.

The meeting began in the Student Center of the Geiger Building where two groups were formed for the processional to Stubblefield Chapel. Marlin Hawkins led one group and Commission Chairman Michael Dershem led the second group. The groups joined near the Oval and marched two by two to the Chapel. Near the Chapel, Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Gaskin joined the group and led them into the Chapel for the morning meeting.

The group sang "Blest Be The Tie," which was sung during the original joining of the two entities in 1906.

Marlin Hawkins gave a brief monograph on Clyde Clayton and nominated him into the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame, 2006.

Wayne Lane gave a brief monograph on Porter Routh and nominated him into the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame, 2006.

The Society voted to approve the induction of these two new members.

Marlin Hawkins played a video of his interview with J. M. Gaskin on the history of Oklahoma Baptists.

Anthony Jordan spoke on yesterday and tomorrow for the Baptist work in Oklahoma.

After a few closing remarks from Dr. Gaskin, the meeting closed with prayer.

Following the meeting, autographed copies of the newly published book *Hall of Fame, Vol. 1* was distributed to those present who were book advocates. This book, as well as *The Two Became One* by Robert Ross, were offered for sale to those interested.

ATTENDEES FOR THE REINACTMENT WALK

Allen, Del
Ball, Lemuel
Baumgartner, Eula Mae
Clayton, Evanna
Dershem, Michael
Dixon, Curtis & Betty
Ellenbrook, Charles & Carolyn
Fannin, Ron
Garlow, Lyle
Gaskin, J.M. & Helen
Hawkins, Marlin
Jennings, Al
Jordan, Anthony
Lane, Wayne & Bettielou

Malaby, Rhonda
Malaby, Martin
McCord, Al & Rosemary
McWilliams, Warren
Newport, Russell
Palmer, T. Monroe
Perry, Eugene
Ross, Bob
Sheldon, Eli & Freida
Terry, Tom
Wagnon, Paul & Ramona
Walker, Jerry
Wiggins, Carol C.

Interesting side note about Stubblefield Chapel---the windows are from Durant FBC and the bell is from Old Philadelphia Baptist Church, now defunct.

Respectfully submitted,

Freida Sheldon
Secretary, Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society

October 1, 2006

Osage Indian Baptist Church
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

MINUTES

1. Call to order, Mary Harmon
2. Plan discussed to place a marker for the Philadelphia Baptist Church (Choctaw Indian church no longer in existence) east of Durant, Oklahoma. Motion to approve, Del Allen; Second, Eli Sheldon. Motion carried.
3. Nomination of Wayne Lane to be Vice President of the Society for 2007. Motion by Lemuel Ball; Second Bettielou Lane. Lane was elected.
4. Co-winners of the 2005 Church History award was presented as follows:
The Rural Hospital Ministry of Oklahoma Baptists by W. Eugene Baxter, Dr.P.H.
The Pottawatomie-Lincoln Baptist Association 1930-2005 by John C. Burns
5. Honorable mention for 2005 History Award
To God be the Glory; 75 Years with Northwest Baptist Church by Jean Stover
6. Marlin Hawkins presented Mary Harmon with a certificate of appreciation for serving two terms 2005-2006 (by special exception related to the book *Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame, Vol. 1*).
7. Closing prayer by newly elected Society Vice President, Wayne Lane. (Note: Special thanks to Michael Dershem making notes that helped prepare these minutes.)
8. Dedication service for Historical Marker. Dedication Program attached.

Marlin Hawkins
Acting Secretary in absence of Freida Sheldon

A History of Baptist Village Communities

Author: Corky Eshelman, Vice President

Contributor: Bill Pierce, President

(Editor's Apology: Last November, I was giving the proof copy of the Autumn 2006 "Celebration Issue" of *The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* a final quick review. The page headings and page numbers were already in place, and it was ready for printing when I discovered an inadvertent, but grievous omission. In my interview with Dr. J. M. Gaskin under the heading of "The History of Oklahoma Baptist History" I failed to ask him about the history of nursing home and retirement center ministries.

This was particularly disappointing and embarrassing to me for several reasons. As Controller in the years up through 2000, I had served on behalf of the convention's Executive Director-Treasurer, as an advisor to the Board of Directors for this ministry. I had watched and appreciated the excellent leadership of Bill Pierce, who in 1993 became President of Baptist Retirement Centers of Oklahoma (BRCO), now called Baptist Village Retirement Communities of Oklahoma (BVRC). The long term indebtedness at that time was in excess of \$20 million dollars. Under his careful management and supervision, that original indebtedness has been reduced to \$3.3 million, which in and of itself is no small feat!

A second reason for my embarrassment was that I had hired a sharp and capable young CPA named Curtis Hale in 1987. Curtis from the very beginning efficiently and effectively handled the accounting for our retirement centers. Later, when this ministry was separately incorporated, he was named Chief Financial Officer and continues at this time giving careful financial accounting oversight to their operations.

A final reason I so regretted my omission of this organization, is that Jerry Unruh, BVRC Senior Vice-President, is also the teacher and effective leader of the largest class in the senior adult Sunday School department in which I serve as Director at Council Road Baptist Church.

Therefore, in an effort to make it up to these friends and to this fine organization, I have elected to include in the Spring 2007 issue of the *Chronicle* the following expanded BVRC history. I know you will enjoy becoming better acquainted with the depth and expanse of their ministries. Marlin Hawkins)

In the early 1950s, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) began researching the need for providing housing and health care to older adults. By 1955, they had budgeted \$10,000 for this type of ministry and included it in a special offering. The offering produced about \$1,600, and the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma added \$1,800 more. In 1956, the BGCO included \$10,000 in the budget once again, and they were well on their way to launching a new ministry.

Northwest Oklahoma City was the proposed site for the first location; however, Will and Nora Baskett of Hugo agreed to donate sixty-eight acres of land on the west side of Hugo if the convention would agree to build a retirement village. Working with the city of Hugo, the convention agreed to accept the gift and contribute \$35,000 to the project if the people of Hugo would raise \$65,000.

Over the next 12 months, the city of Hugo had met its obligation, and by June of 1957, construction was underway on the Hugo Golden Age Home (now Baptist Village of Hugo). Sixteen residents were able to move into the new village during November of 1958. A little more than a year later, the second phase of construction on the village was completed, and there was room for 33 residents. In 1964, phase three was completed, which nearly doubled the number of residents that could live at the village to 61. The most recent addition to the Baptist Village of Hugo was completed in May of 2001 which added a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility for twenty residents with memory care needs.

In 1960, twenty acres of land, located near the intersection of Northwest Expressway and Council Road, was given to the BGCO. The land, given by Pat Henderson of Trinity Baptist Church, was to be used for the Oklahoma City campus. Seventeen additional acres were purchased, thanks to a gift from the T G and Y Foundation.

Financing, building and operating the Baptist Village of Oklahoma City was turned over to the Baptist Laymen's Corporation in 1962. Three years later, in February of 1965, the 61-unit Lackey Manor nursing center was opened and named after the executive secretary of the BGCO, T. B. Lackey. By July of

the same year, 21 independent living apartments were completed. The early seventies saw another 112 independent living units being built.

The next decade saw considerable growth on the Oklahoma City campus with administrative offices and a dining area, thirty-five assisted living units, as well as twenty-nine duplex and fourplex units. By the mid-eighties, Baptist Village of Oklahoma City was the largest continuing-care retirement community in the state with just over 410 residents. Today, that number has climbed to almost 500. Baptist Village of Oklahoma City was the first ever licensed continuum of care community by the Oklahoma State Department of Health in May of 1999.

While all the activity was taking place in Oklahoma City, Ray and Ola Smith of Tulsa had a vision to bring the same type of ministry to their area. In 1977, the Smiths gave 136 acres of land to the convention for the Baptist Village of Owasso. Construction soon began on 96 independent living apartments, all of which upon completion were rented. Construction then began on duplex and fourplex units, followed by Redbud dining room, an activity center and Mimosa Assisted Living in 1983. Evergreen Care Center was completed in October 1986, which would serve 120 residents.

Looking to the future, in August of 2000, the ministry, which was now called Baptist Village Retirement Communities purchased an additional 23 acres of land from the Owasso Children's Home for construction of a patio home community named Bradford Park. With duplex and fourplex units on beautiful, tree-lined streets, it has quickly become a great addition to the village.

Baptist Village of Owasso, with over 500 residents, is now the largest not-for-profit retirement community in the state and has the potential to more than double in size when fully developed.

From 1980 to 1984, four smaller villages were constructed in Ada, Cleveland, Madill and Okmulgee. All four villages provide approximately 50 independent living apartments. In the late nineties, Ada and Okmulgee added 16-unit

residential care centers for residents who need additional assistance.

In 1985, the ministries of the BGCO to both senior adults and children were combined to form Special Care Ministries. Lowell Milburn was appointed the first director of Special Care Ministries after eighteen years as the director of Child Care. After three years, the name was changed to Family Care Ministries.

The BGCO board of directors was presented with a proposal in September of 1993 that suggested forming Baptist Retirement Centers of Oklahoma, Inc. (BRCO) with articles of incorporation and bylaws. Bill Pierce, who was director of adult care programs in Family Care Ministries, was named interim president until a board of directors could be established and elect a permanent president. He was elected president by the new board, and Baptist Retirement Centers of Oklahoma was off and running.

Pierce, who has a degree in economics and business administration, is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, and a licensed nursing home administrator, was the perfect fit for BRCO. He immediately set the idea into motion that in order for BRCO to not only survive but for it to thrive and become a leader in the field of aging services, the board, staff and residents would have to embrace change.

Change is exactly what he brought to the ministry! New areas of ministry in Home Health, medical equipment, adult day care, and a new name in 2003, Baptist Village Retirement Communities of Oklahoma. 2003 also saw the beginning of Baptist Village of Broken Arrow, village number eight, which is currently a patio home community with future plans for congregate housing and a community center. Located in one of the fastest growing areas around Tulsa, Baptist Village of Broken Arrow may soon become one of the state's most sought-after retirement locations.

Over the last two years, BVRC has launched a new ministry program called LINC (Loving, Inspiring, Nurturing, Caring). LINC is designed to work with local churches and retirement communities or nursing centers in their neighborhood

linking them together for ministry. BVRC provides training to church members who feel God's call to join the LINC ministry team and equips them to share God's love. In 2006, 12 churches were linked in the Oklahoma City area. There are already over 600 people being ministered to every week. The LINC program is being expanded to Tulsa in 2007 and has virtually unlimited growth potential over the next few years.

At the close of 2006, BVRC was ministering to over 2000 senior adults every day. BVRC has become the largest affiliate ministry of the BGCO in terms of the number of employees with over 600.

Today BVRC is leading the way in Oklahoma and the nation in shaping the future of aging services. The BVRC mission is to "Honor God by providing quality living and compassionate health care in a Christian environment."

NECROLOGY

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

Angell, Warren M. died May 6. He was dean emeritus of Oklahoma Baptist University's Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts. He began serving at OBU in 1936 as dean of the College of Fine Arts and professor of piano, organ, and theory. He was a respected teacher, a noted composer and arranger, a widely recognized pianist, and well-known choral conductor. He retired from OBU in 1973. In 2005, Angel was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame.

Audd, Martha, former secretary in the executive office of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died January 3 in Oklahoma City. Funeral services were January 7 at Oklahoma City, Northwest, where she served for many years as librarian. Audd was the wife of Robert Audd, retired BGCO director of Church Training.

Audd, Robert Y., died December 18. Funeral services were December 21 at Oklahoma City, Northwest. Born in Muskogee, he graduated from OBU, attended Southwestern Seminary and was ordained to the ministry by Tulsa, First. He served as pastor or minister of education in several Oklahoma churches and was a Director of Missions and a BSU director before joining the religious education department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He also served as secretary of the State Historical Commission.

Ball, Margie Lou, wife of Lemuel Ball, former president of the Oklahoma Historical Society, died April 7. Funeral services were April 11 at Claremore, First, with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery. Ball was a school teacher in Claremore and Okmulgee.

Burrows, Claudledean – 75, wife of long-time Oklahoma pastor J.W. Burrows, died March 7 in an Ada hospital. Funeral services were March 10 at Ada, Oak Avenue, where she was a member. She and Burrows were married in 1951. Her husband was also the first full-time business manager of Kiamichi Assembly near Talihina.

Cheves, George "Fuzzy" Sr. – 65, died July 29. Funeral services were at Ardmore, Southwest. He served several Oklahoma churches as pastor.

Cox, Florence Sybil – 81, who served in the religious education department of the BGCO from 1978-1990, died January 19. Services were January 28 at Edmond, First. Her husband, Luther Cox, was an Oklahoma pastor.

Criswell, Bessie "Betty" Marie – 93, widow of legendary preacher and former Southern Baptist Convention President W.A. Criswell, died Au-

gust 2 in Dallas. Mrs. Criswell taught a Sunday School class for more than 70 years, most of those at First Baptist Church in Dallas, and 30 years of those were aired by KCBI-FM. Dr. Criswell's first pastorate was in Chickasha, Oklahoma, at First Baptist Church. He preceded her in death in 2002.

Crow, William F. – 90, died September 1 in Shawnee. A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, his first pastorate was at Pleasant Run Church, where he grew up and was licensed to preach. In retirement after 1978, he served 31 different interim pastorates through central Oklahoma. He was honored in 2005 at the 75th anniversary of Pottawatomie-Lincoln Association as "The Patriarch of Pastors."

Dixon, Hale Alexander, died January 27 in Ft. Gibson. Funeral services were February 1 at Pauls Valley, First, with burial at Mt. Olive Cemetery. Dixon was an Oklahoma pastor and served as recording secretary for the BGCO for 16 years and as assistant recording secretary for 14 years, and was a trustee for Oklahoma Baptist University.

Dorrough, Linda – 43, died January 12, after a nine-year struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease.) Funeral services were January 16 at Waurika, First, with burial in the Waurika Cemetery. Dorrough was in her fourth term as state WMU president for Oklahoma Baptists and was recognized nationally as she served as vice-president for National WMU. Diagnosed in 1996 and told she had 1-5 years to live, she persevered and even took a 10-day mission trip to Peru to work with the nationals.

Emanuel, Beverly Paul "Bill" – 81, died July 30. Memorial services were at Oklahoma City, Highland Hills. A native of Oklahoma, he served as a missionary to Japan from 1950 until his retirement in 1986.

Finley, O. Dewayne, died September 28. A Navy veteran and graduate of Southwestern Seminary, he served as pastor of Atoka, First; Ada, Trinity and Muldrow, First.

Gilliam, Mildred – 92, who served 29 years as a housemother at the Baptist Children's Home in Oklahoma City, died April 21 in Mena, Arkansas, with burial at Pinecrest Memorial Park.

Goodson, Perry died in April. He was former Education Director at Frederick, First.

Graves, Charles – 75, pastor of Oklahoma City, Nichols Hills/Quail Springs, for 32 years, died May 5. Memorial services were May 11. Graves served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Okla-

homa for three terms, served four terms on the Oklahoma Baptist University board of trustees, and on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. He received an honorary doctorate from OBU in 1988, and was honored by Southwestern Seminary as a 1998 distinguished alumnus.

Graves, Frieda Mae – 93, wife of the late Harold K. Graves, former Oklahoma pastor and long-time president of Golden Gate Seminary, died July 20 in Santa Rosa, California. Interment was at Valley Memorial Park, Novato, California. Her husband pastored Chickasha, First, and Bartlesville, First, and served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and of the Oklahoma Baptist University board of trustees.

Hedrick, Jerry, longtime music director in state churches, died February 8. He retired from Duncan, Parkview in 2002. He served in the Army in the 1950s, and led music in military chapels in Germany and France. During the Vietnam conflict, Hedrick worked with the MagV Chaplain's' Corp leading worship services across the country.

Herndon, Joe – 86, charter member at Duncan, Highland Park and state Royal Ambassadors coordinator for many years, died September 3. He was RA director for Mullins Association and served as a trustee of the former Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was named deacon emeritus at Highland Park on his 80th birthday. Herndon participated in many Lay Renewal Revivals across Oklahoma and other states. After his retirement from Halliburton, he and his wife, Wilma, served in volunteer missions. And were trained as Mission Service Corps members in 1984.

Hopper, Mary Edna – 85, who was WMU president for Oklahoma from 1989-1993, died November 1 in Norman. She was born in Bonham, Texas, the daughter of a Texas Baptist pastor and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University. Her husband, Richard, preceded her in death in June. She served as Oklahoma WMU Centennial chairman in 1988 and on the BGCO Board of Directors.

Hopper, Richard, died June 2. Funeral services were held June 7 at Norman, First. Hopper graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University with a bachelor's degree in 1946, and received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from OBU in 1958. He served several Oklahoma churches as pastor, the last being Ardmore, First for 31 years. He was BGCO president in 1965-66 and served as a trustee for OBU and Southern Seminary and as a director for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma and the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

Jones, Brad – 57, died January 9 following cardiac arrest. Funeral

services were January 14 at Crestwood. A graduate of Baylor and Southwestern Seminary, he also held an honorary doctor's degree from Brainerd Theological Seminary in Greenville, SC. He was founder of Church Renewal International which served churches in the US, Philippines, India, Southeast Asia and Haiti.

Knight, Carlos, former pastor at Fort Gibson, First Baptist, died.

Maxey, Alice – 96, who for 21 years was mother to hundreds of orphans, died April 18 in Oklahoma City. Funeral services were April 21 at Oklahoma City, Trinity International, where she was a long-time member. Maxey was the widow of H. Truman Maxey (deceased 1998) who served as superintendent of the Oklahoma City Baptist Children's Home from 1935-56, and then was Oklahoma Baptists' first director of Child Care.

Melton, Roscoe Owen – 82, father of Oklahoma City, Southern Hills' pastor, Doug Melton, died January 18. Funeral services were January 21 at Southern Hills. Melton ran the family business, Melco Drilling & Production Company until his retirement in 1988. He was inducted into the Seminole Oilman's Hall of Fame in 2002, and was a long-time member of Seminole, First, where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, and sang in the choir.

Owens, Howard – 90, father of Tom Owens, director of missions for Cimarron Association, died February 6. Funeral services were February 8 at Cushing, First. The elder Owens worked in the oil support service until his retirement in 1985.

Prevost, Rob, died April 8 in Fresno, California. Funeral services were April 18. Prevost was licensed to the ministry at Oklahoma City, Nichols Hills (now Quail Springs) and ordained at Oklahoma City, Cherokee Hills. He pastored several churches in Oklahoma before moving to California.

Prince, Valton L. "Val" – 87, an Oklahoma native and minister of education at Oklahoma City, Crown Heights in the mid-to-late 1950s, died July 22. Funeral services were July 30 at NorthPointe Community Church in Fresno, California. He retired in 1981 after 16 years as director of training union ministries for the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Pybas, Garth L. – 91, died November 20 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Funeral services were November 24 at Oklahoma City, Southern Hills. A native of Washington, he was ordained to the gospel ministry by W. A. Criswell at Chickasha, First. He served as a chaplain in the South Pacific during World War II and was the first American to preach in a Japanese church after the war. He pastored in Oklahoma and served

as director of evangelism and Brotherhood for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention. He was on the 1962-63 Baptist Faith and Message Committee, participated in the World Congress on Evangelism in West Berlin with Billy Graham in 1967, and was part of the Asian Crusade in 1970 holding revivals in the Philippines.

Reed, Tim – 42, died January 16. Reed was the son of former Oklahoma minister of music Bonnie Reed who served in Mangum. Private funeral services were January 20 in Colorado Springs, with a praise and worship service January 21 at Colorado Springs, First Southern.

Renfrow, Ralph, manager of Falls Creek Baptist Assembly from 1967-79, died January 26. Funeral services were January 29 at First Church in Bonham, Texas. He served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma prior to managing Falls Creek. As manager he assisted 60 churches in building or remodeling their cabins, the tabernacle was enlarged to seat an additional 1,000 people, and a basement, including four conference rooms was added to the structure. Also, a parking lot was built and the cafeteria, grocery store, office complex were constructed, along with a lodge with 20 motel-type rooms. In addition, a new water line was installed, a new ball diamond completed, a fire truck and fire station added as well as the addition of a truck to haul garbage to a sanitary landfill. An auctioneer, Renfrow conducted 18 auctions to dispose of surplus materials and added \$30,000 to Falls Creek's income.

Roberts, J. T. (Johnson Thomas) – 89, died March 1. Funeral services were at Ada, First, March 9 with burial in Swan Hill Cemetery in Ada. Roberts was a native of Howe, a graduate of Northeastern State College in Tahlequah and Southwestern Seminary, and was awarded an honorary doctor's degree by Langston University. Before going to the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma as associate in the department of missions and director of work with National Baptists in 1960, he served as pastor in several churches in Oklahoma including Del City, First Southern. He later became director of the missions department and business director of Falls Creek (1967-1972), was elected director of annuity and ministerial services for the state convention in 1973, serving until 1981 when the department was divided and he remained as director of annuity services. Roberts began the Falls Creek Bible Conference that is still conducted each spring. In retirement he served as chaplain of the Ada Retirement Village where he and his wife lived until her death in 1997. The prayer room off the lobby in the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City is named the J. T. and Artice Roberts Prayer Room.

Scott, Betty F., wife of Earl Scott, retired director of missions for Craig-Mayes Association, died June 7 in Broken Arrow. Funeral services and burial were in Texarkana, Texas. She served as church

pianist and played background music for her husband while he did chalk art for revivals and special services.

Scott, F. Rae – 71, former Oklahoma church staff member, international missionary and twin brother of BGCO Partnership Missions Specialist Rue Scott, died August 29. Funeral services were in Nesho, Missouri.

Sheldon, Todd Howard – 30, died October 30 in Dallas. He was the son of Eli H. Sheldon, long-time Oklahoma pastor, and Freida Sheldon, Historical Archives ministry assistant, BGCO. An OBU graduate in 1998, he was an elementary school teacher and led in several Bible study classes in the Dallas area. A scholarship fund to benefit students of Capital Association's OBU in OKC program has been established with the Baptist Foundation.

Steelman, Finis Richard – 75, died December 12 in Davis. Funeral Services were December 16 at Beatty Church in Arbuckle Association with interment at Green Hill Cemetery in Davis. Steelman graduated from Southwestern Seminary and was pastor of several Oklahoma churches. He served on the board of directors of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Stewart, Lawrence, died May 25. Memorial services were May 27 at Edmond, First. A former Oklahoma pastor, he served on the board of directors for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the board of trustees for Oklahoma Baptist University.

Stockwell, Ernest Eugene – 79, died November 26. Funeral services were November 29 at Edmond, Henderson Hills with interment at Memorial Park Cemetery. A graduate of Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, Stockwell served as associate director of the Brotherhood and Evangelism Department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and pastor six different churches in Oklahoma, the last being Edmond, First (1967-1983.) He was assistant recording secretary and recording secretary for the convention.

Valentine, Foy – 82, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, died January 7 in Dallas. Valentine served 27 years as head of the CLC, now called the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Wallace, Larry E. – 66, pastor of Vinata, First, died November 20 following a massive heart attack. Funeral services were November 24 at Vinita, First, with interment in Rose Hill Cemetery in Tulsa. Born in Missouri, he graduated from high school in Tulsa and held degrees from Tulsa Community College, Northeastern State University and Southern Baptist School in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a pastor in

Necrology

Oklahoma, served on BGCO board of directors, and was a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, National Association of Academic Advisors and the American Association of Christian Counselors. He taught speech at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. Donations in his memory may be made to Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children or the Vinita Ministerial Alliance in care of Vinita, First.

Williamson, Laura Aleta, died October 15 in Oklahoma City. Funeral services were October 19 at Oklahoma City, Springdale. Mrs. Williamson was the mother of Baptist Messenger associate editor Dana Williamson.

A HISTORY OF BROTHERHOOD

By Laddie Adams

Retired Director of Men's Ministries

(In the Autumn 2006 Celebration Issue of *The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*, Laddie Adams wrote an article entitled "A Brief History of Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief." As I began to plan for this issue, I knew that no one would be better qualified to write a history of the Brotherhood, the men's organization for Oklahoma Baptists. I appreciate so much Laddie's research for the contents of this article. Marlin Hawkins, Editor)

The Laymen's Missionary Movement was initiated in 1906 following a centennial celebration of the famous Haystack Prayer Meeting. The inspiration of John Sleman, a businessman of Washington, D.C., caused a committee of 75 laymen to meet and come with a recommendation that 30 laymen be appointed to supervise the movement. Samuel B. Capen, a Boston businessman, was elected Chairman.

At the Haystack Prayer Meeting 100 years before, Samuel J. Mills had said, in reference to starting a movement to give the Gospel to the world, "We can do it IF we will." Samuel Capen, prompted by great faith and prophetic vision said, "We can do it AND we will!"

The general movement spread throughout North America, Great Britain, Australia and Germany. Many evangelical denominations were inspired to follow through with this idea through their own structural organizations, among those were Southern Baptist men led by Joshua Levering of Baltimore. This led to the approval of a recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention that was meeting in May, 1907. An Executive Committee of nine laymen was appointed and headquartered in Baltimore. It was later moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1914, and transferred to Knoxville two years later.

In 1926, the SBC, on recommendation of the Executive Com-

mittee, changed the name to the Baptist Brotherhood of the South. The primary object of this movement was to enlist men in the affairs of Christ's Kingdom, especially as it related to missions. It never proposed to create boards, appoint missionaries or administer any funds except those necessary for operational expenses. Its work was to be educational and inspirational.

The Brotherhood urged men to be loyal to their pastors and local churches and to support the causes of the church through faithful stewardship. It was suggested that the most capable and dependable layman residing in the city of each state's denominational headquarters be made Chairman of their state's committee. It was suggested that the work of the Brotherhood also be carried out in each association and local church.

The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma endorsed Laymen's work in 1910. In 1923 a statewide Brotherhood organization was set up to promote study, stewardship and missions. In 1936, the first state Royal Ambassador Conclave was held at Oklahoma Baptist University with the purpose of "hoping to further enlist and encourage our boys in the Royal Ambassador chapters." 39 boys were in attendance. In 1943, the director was first called Secretary of Brotherhood and Institutions. In 1945, the first state meeting of laymen and pastors convened on November 6 with R. E. Beddoe, missionary to China, as keynote speaker.

On February 20, 1948, a joint meeting was held with the OBU Alumni Association to present the new \$400,000 Brotherhood Dormitory to OBU. R. G. Lee was the featured speaker. 1948 also marked the year that Brotherhood work was included in the Department of Brotherhood and Evangelism under the leadership of Dr. J. A. Pennington.

The first Royal Ambassador camp was held at Falls Creek with

204 attending. Bob Banks, a student at Baylor University, was employed by Woman's Missionary Union as a Royal Ambassador summer worker.

The order of Royal Ambassadors was begun and sponsored jointly with Woman's Missionary Union until it was transferred to Brotherhood in 1957. A joint committee of WMU-Brotherhood employed Bob Banks as the first full-time RA Secretary in 1956. Other associates who came into the Department with primary responsibility in men's work included Jack Carroll in 1958, Robert Chambers in 1960, and after the death of Chambers, Eugene Stockwell, 1961-1968. Dr. Pennington, whose first love was Evangelism, remained as Director. State RA Congress had grown to 1,062 meeting at Trinity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and three RA camps were conducted with 150 in attendance. The first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men was held in Oklahoma City, September 18-20, 1957.

The Baptist General Convention's Board of Directors voted on May 7, 1968, to separate Brotherhood-Evangelism into two Departments, thus bringing to a close 20 years of Brotherhood work under the leadership of J. A. Pennington, whose first love was Evangelism. Bob Banks, RA Secretary, was elected head of the Brotherhood Department. Serving with Dr. Pennington during these years as Associates whose primary responsibility was men's work include Jack Carroll in 1958, Robert Chambers in 1960, and after the death of Chambers, Eugene Stockwell, 1961-1968. On September 1, 1968, Henry Chennault was selected as Associate Secretary in charge of Baptist Men's work and leadership training.

Significant meetings held in Oklahoma during this period include the first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men in 1957 and the National RA Congress in 1968 with a record attendance of 10,800.

Annual meetings of RA's and Baptist Men were held in Oklahoma. The RA Congress had its largest attendance in 1966 with 3,000 attending. The Baptist Men's meeting normally had approximately 1,000 in attendance, with a record of 1,314 in 1963. RA Camps were held in McAlester at Camp Hudgens, which was given to the Convention in 1959.

The "Shaping of the '70s," emphasis brought new "grouping-grading" plans for all church program organizations. Brotherhood assumed responsibility for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade boys. They were known as Younger Crusaders and designated as Lads, I, II, III.

Only 503 churches reported men's work in 1971, up slightly from a low of 446 churches in 1969. 1971 was the last year for the Baptist Men's Conference. That year, Disaster relief was assigned to the department and Brotherhood training for local church officers was held in three locations with 169 men trained. In 1972, 125 new units of men and boy's work were begun. 739 churches reported Brotherhood work with a record enrollment of 18,165. 1972 was also the last year a Brotherhood Convention was held. A Lay Couple's Retreat was instituted to replace it. At the request of the BGCO, the state WMU and Brotherhood no longer held their annual meetings immediately preceding the state convention sessions. A Pastor's Conference was held instead.

In 1973, Henry Chennault resigned as Associate Secretary in charge of Baptist Men's Work to accept the post of Brotherhood Director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Also in that year, World Missions Conferences administration and promotion was transferred from Cooperative Missions to Brotherhood. A laymen's dinner and program jointly sponsored by the Brotherhood and Evangelism Departments during the State Evangelism Conference had over 500 in attendance.

In May, 1973, Laddie Adams became Associate Director of the Brotherhood Department, succeeding Henry Chennault. On January 1 the next year, 1974, Bob Banks resigned to become Executive Assistant in charge of Program Planning at the SBC Brotherhood Commission and Laddie Adams was elected by the Board of Directors to succeed Banks as Department Director.

Under Adams' leadership, several structural changes of assignments were made within the Department. Adams continued the work with Baptist Men. Paul McCullough was selected as Associate Director on March 1, with the assignment of RA work and the directorship of Camp Hudgens. Disaster Relief became a growing and recognizable need. Funds and volunteer help was called for in associations and churches affected by tornadoes, floods and fires.

In 1974, Brotherhood training expanded to four area locations. Lay Renewal events were scheduled in 46 churches through the Department. Laymen were urged to organize bus caravans to attend the climax of the State Evangelism Conference in a "one-night" revival at the Myriad Convention Center in Oklahoma City. It was a great and successful gathering.

In 1976, over 500 men received Brotherhood training in eight locations across the state.

In 1977, a 37-foot mobile Disaster Unit was custom-built by volunteers. It was designed to be a mass-feeding unit with communications equipment on board as well as first-aid supplies and tools for temporary repairs. It was completed with donated equipment and skilled volunteer labor and valued at \$50,000. This was the initial launching of the Department's Disaster Relief ministry for communities devastated by all manner of disasters.

In the decade of the 80's, the Brotherhood Department expanded training opportunities for men and boys involved in various mission activities. Oklahoma Baptist Builders was organized and an Agri-Missions Fellowship was begun, along with the expansion of Disaster Relief training. World Changers participation by high school Baptist Young Men was started. Lad and Dad camps (weekend events) were begun in addition to the regular weeks of RA camps at Hudgens. Additionally, youth group and local church retreats expanded the use of Camp Hudgens for year-round utilization. Volunteers did a great deal of upkeep and renovation at the camp. Baptist Builders conducted church building projects in an out of Oklahoma. They assisted following the loss of buildings through tornadoes and fires as well as responding to requests from mission fields in Guatemala and Japan.

The latter part of the 80's and early 90's was marked by a decline in missions' education. This was partially brought about by the dropping of RA Chapters that were replaced by AWANA. The men's work had been emphasizing mission action and neglecting programs on mission education. While many men were enlisted to do mission projects, both men and boys no longer learned about missions by hearing missionaries speak regularly in the World Missions Conferences. This long-used method of mission's education was dropped in favor of a new emphasis.

In order to respond to disasters, our state was divided into four areas, each with a team of volunteers under the supervision of an area leader. This enabled more volunteers to become involved in ministry without calling the same team to respond time after time. All four area volunteers and leaders were called upon to help in the Oklahoma City bombing. 55 volunteers were used in preparing meals for rescue workers and 21 volunteers provided Emergency Day Care at Shepherd Mall for 11

days. A total of 62 children were given supervised care at the request of FEMA.

The feeding unit was set up on the parking lot of First Baptist Church in downtown Oklahoma City. The operation was closed down after four days because the Oklahoma City administration requested all feeding for police, fire and chaplaincy teams be done at the Myriad Convention Center by the Oklahoma Restaurant Association. Many well-meaning food vendors, desiring to help, had been bringing pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs and other foods and leaving them without proper temperature and sanitary controls. This was the reason for the change in feeding operations. The safeguards were instituted for the health of the rescue teams.

Chaplains, under the direction of Joe Williams and Jack Poe went into the Murrah Building with search teams of police and fire crews. They provided debriefing and counseling services for the men who worked under grueling, dangerous and horrifying circumstances. Their work continued during the duration of search and rescue operations and for months afterward the building was demolished as they counseled with men and women whose lives were devastated by the events of April 19, 1995.

Brotherhood continued to assist in promoting, along with WMU and Cooperative Missions, prayer support for State, Home and Foreign Missions. Goals were set for offerings, which increased and were exceeded year after year. Cooperative Program giving, the main channel for mission support, also increased. Throughout the 90's, World Missions Conferences, Volunteer Missions Workshops, Lay Renewal, Disaster Relief, RA Camps and Congress, Local and Associational officer training for Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors expanded.

With the reorganization of the SBC taking place, the Radio & TV Commission, the Brotherhood Commission and the Home

Mission Board were consolidated into the North American Mission Board. At the same time state convention throughout the SBC were also re-structuring.

In Oklahoma, Falls Creek had continued to grow and was increasingly used as a year-round retreat and event center. Camp Hudgens had been restyled for smaller groups, especially for children. Expansion called for changes.

William G. Tanner retired as Executive Director in 1996 as did Laddie Adams, Brotherhood Department Director. Dr. Anthony Jordan was elected as Executive Director and Sam Porter was selected to lead Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors. Work has continued to expand in mission volunteer groups in every area, Disaster Relief and Baptist Builders being the most notable.

God has blessed the efforts of dedicated laymen through the years and is continuing to do so. Oklahoma Baptists can justifiably be proud of the heritage these dedicated saints of God has made possible. May others take up the torch to light the way.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

LIFE

Laddie Adams
Oklahoma City, OK

Leon Alexander
Marlow, OK

Dr. Del Allen
Wilburton, OK

Mrs. Floyd Allen
Broken Arrow, OK

Floyd Allen
Broken Arrow, OK

Jerry L. Allen
Plano, TX

Ramona Peters Allen
Wilburton, OK

Mr. George Atkins
Weatherford, OK

V. C. Aubert
Hobart, OK

Bill Aydelotte
Sallisaw, OK

James Baird
Pampa, TX

John Ball
Bartlesville, OK

Lemuel F. Ball, Jr.
Claremore, OK

W. D. Barnes
Tulsa, OK

Robert C. Bazzell
Birmingham, MI

Patricia Beasley
Claremore, OK

Martin S. Berry
Oklahoma City, OK

Katherine Biggs
Muskogee, OK

Tommy Billings
Victoria, TX

Flora Blake
Edmond, OK

Kenneth Blazer
Oklahoma City, OK

Darlene Bradshaw
Claremore, OK

Donald Brent
Oklahoma City, OK

Mrs. Hugh R. Bumpas
Oklahoma City, OK

Anna Lou M. Burgess
Tulsa, OK

Rachelle Burleson
Enid, OK

Wade Burleson
Enid, OK

Orby L. Butcher, Jr.
Shawnee, OK

John E. Canada
Shawnee Mission, KS

Bob N. Carner
Mounds, OK

Wayne Carson
Sapulpa, OK

Marie Chappelle
Henryetta, OK

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Henry Chennault
Aiken, SC

J. D. Dowdell
Shawnee, OK

Maxine Chennault
Aiken, SC

Cecilia Ann Downum
Oologah, OK

Loweta (Mrs. Cecil) Chesser
Altus, OK

Larry Downum
Oologah, OK

Rose Chronister
Wilburton, OK

Donald R. Dunn
Chickasha, OK

Kevin Clarkson
Moore, OK

Robert Dye
Chickasha, OK

Evanna Clayton
College Station, TX

Wayne Edge
Edmond, OK

Mrs. Alvin Cockrum
Perry, OK

Dan Edwards
Heavener, OK

Jocelyn Coldiron
Del City, OK

Fondanell S. Edwards
Bartlesville, OK

Gloria Coley
Claremore, OK

Dr. George Ella
Mulheim, Germany

Dr. Russell R. Cook
Shawnee, OK

Carolyn Ellenbrook
Lawton, OK

Bill Crawford
Kingfisher, OK

Dale Elliott
Heavener, OK

Jonell Crawford
Kingfisher, OK

Dr. James W. (Bob) Evans
Allen, TX

Paul Cunningham
Oklahoma City, OK

Ron Fannin
Oklahoma City, OK

Dr. J. P. Dane
Oklahoma City, OK

Jerry Faught
Checotah, OK

Michael Dershem
Yale, OK

Dr. Jerry Faught
Oklahoma City, OK

Curtis L. Dixon
Oklahoma City, OK

Dr. Milton Ferguson
Kansas City, MO

Audie Dorrough
Waurika, OK

Dr. David Flick
Enid, OK

Oletta Dotson
Enid, OK

Weldon Foster
Claremore, OK

Membership

Dr. Joe Dan Fowler
Bartlesville, OK

Clark Frailey
Tecumseh, OK

Jackie Freeman
Springer, Ok

Rex Fry
Claremore, OK

Michael D. Gabbert
Tulsa, OK

Lyle Garlow
Oklahoma City, OK

Margaret Garner
Oklahoma City, OK

Franklin Gaskin
Pottsboro, TX

Dr. J. M. Gaskin
Durant, OK

Helen Gaskin
Durant, OK

Mildred Gay
Sulphur, OK

Frankie Sue Gilliam
Muskogee, OK

C. Henry Gold
Durant, OK

Dean Goodfellow
Altus, OK

Jo Ann Goodfellow
Altus, Ok

Bill Green
Oklahoma City, OK

Tim Green
Seminole, OK

Dr. Kenneth Guthrie
Oklahoma City, OK

Dr. David C. Hall
Chickasha, OK

Dr. Robert N. Hammons
Seminole, OK

Mary Goin Harmon
Broken Arrow, OK

Dr. Robert Haskins
Edmond, OK

James Hawkins
Lawton, OK

Lula Hawkins
Weatherford, OK

Marlin Hawkins
Oklahoma City, OK

Patsy Hawkins
Oklahoma City, OK

Stacy & Patricia Hawkins
Oklahoma City, OK

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On September 8, 1998 by vote of the Historical Commission, a memorial fund was established whereby a gift of \$25 or more may be made to the Gaskin Historical Archives and Library Forever Fund in memory of a deceased relative or friend.

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