

# The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle



Bob Nigh, Editor  
*history@oklahomabaptists.org*

Published by  
OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS'  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Baptist Building  
3800 N. May Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506

Volume LXVI

Spring 2023

Number 1

# Oklahoma Baptists **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

<b>Term Expires 2023</b>	<b>Term Expires 2024</b>	<b>Term Expires 2025</b>
Mark Hamm Moore	Michael Dershem Yale	Robert Haskins Edmond
Lee Herring Sand Springs	Richard McCullough Perkins	Max Pyron Yukon
Bill Rowland Henryetta	Stefanie Parnell Piedmont	Justin White Terlton

# CONTENTS

Book celebrates 50th anniversary of OSBDR.....	4
2022 awards presented.....	7-9
Former Baptist Building destined for renovations.....	10
Historic Bible to be displayed at OBU.....	24
Necrology.....	26
Memorials.....	30

# Book celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief

by Bob Nigh, Oklahoma Baptists' Historical Secretary and Director of History

Between Oct. 11-13, 1973, Oklahoma's greatest urban rainfall on record occurred in the Enid area. An estimated 15-20 inches of rain fell over a 100-square-mile area. About 12 inches fell in just three hours! The downpour officially totaled 15.68 inches, and forced some residents to cut holes in their rooftops to reach safety. Tragically, however, nine people died.

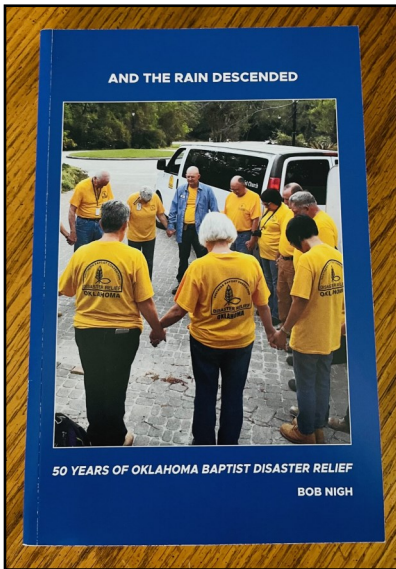
By comparison, the famous Johnstown (Pa.) Flood—known locally as the Great Flood of 1889—

occurred on May 31 after the failure of the South Fork Dam on the south fork of the Little Conemaugh River, 14 miles upstream from Johnstown. The dam finally broke after several days of extremely heavy rainfall. The U.S. Army Signal Corps estimated that 6-10 inches of rain—more than five inches less than what deluged Enid in October 1973—fell during a 24-hour period over the region.

Just as hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people rushed to the aid of Johnstown, Pa. in its time of need, Oklahoma Baptists also were motivated to help their fellow citizens in the Enid area in 1973, including a fledgling group of volunteers who comprised the genesis of what was to grow into one of the largest, most-active, and most-respected disaster relief organizations affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

According to a letter mailed to state pastors from the BGCO Department of Brotherhood dated Oct. 26, 1973, the Disaster Relief Committee of the BGCO Board of Directors met in emergency session on Oct. 22 with the goal of finding a way to "assist our Baptist congregations in flood-ravaged north central Oklahoma." The Committee recommended that an offering be received from state churches on Nov. 11, 1973. A minimum goal of \$25,000 was established, stating that "all receipts above this amount will be placed in a special account to assist in future disasters."

To provide support for the recommendation, BGCO Brotherhood



Director Laddie Adams pointed out that, “The local churches in that area have at least 35 families who have suffered a total loss, with many others who have major damages. Some of the churches have received an offering to help their own members; others are unable to make much contribution. All Oklahoma Baptists can help. Please allow an opportunity for your congregation to make contribution to these needy sister churches on Nov. 11. The next disaster could be yours.”

One month later on Dec. 11, 1973, at a meeting of the BGO Board of Directors, board member—and former Oklahoma Gov. Raymond Gary—made a motion to establish a visible presence of Baptists at disaster sites in our state.

“When I have gone to tornado-damaged communities, I have seen the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army with their emergency relief vehicles, but have thought, ‘Where are the Baptists?’” Gary explained. The former governor’s motion carried unanimously, and the implementation of a plan for Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief began.

Now five decades later, and after more than two years of research, writing and editing, retired *Baptist Messenger* Managing Editor Bob Nigh has compiled a history of Oklahoma Baptists’ disaster relief ministry. Nigh, now the Historical Secretary and Director of History for Oklahoma Baptists—and a disaster relief chaplain endorsed by the North American Mission Board—was faced with a daunting task. How do you condense five decades of ministry into a readable, comprehensive document?

“Through my own memories, personal interviews, online research and scouring the pages of the *Baptist Messenger*, Oklahoma Baptists’ *Annual Reports* and other documents, 50 years’ worth of information was cobbled into what I hope is a coherent manuscript,” Nigh said.

The result is a book titled, *And the Rain Descended*, referring to the deluge that inundated the Enid area in October 1973.

“This work is simply an attempt to tell a story. A narrative of help and hope,” Nigh commented. “It is dedicated to the thousands of faithful, God-called “yellow shirts” who have given hours, days, weeks and, in many cases, years of selfless service to our Lord. Service which was performed following extremely tragic, difficult and heart-rending circumstances.

“But, it highlights much more than human response to Earth-shattering events. It’s a chronicle of how God used many thousands of volunteers to shower His love on a hurting humanity, meeting not only physical needs, but also spiritual needs. And as a result, many people have had a life- and eternity-changing encounter with Jesus Christ as the Gospel was shared with them.

“Obviously, there is no ‘end’ to this story. As we all know, in a world driven by evil selfishness, hatred and cruelty, more disas-

ters—both natural and man-made—will occur. We can take solace, however, in that when those dire and tragic moments do occur, Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers will be among the first to step up and take the love of Jesus to those who need it.”

This 50 year History of the Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief ministry is more than a great story. It is filled with thousands of stories of the men and women who uniquely stepped forward with a call of the Holy Spirit within their lives.

Retired Oklahoma and SBC national disaster relief director Sam Porter provided a forward for the book.

“For those who have been a part of the Oklahoma Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministry or for those who have had family or friends serve in the aftermath of disasters. It will stir the memories and past emotions of stepping into the midst of hundreds, and even thousands, of broken lives reeling from a disastrous event that immediately changed their lives,” Porter wrote.

“Disaster Relief is truly an incredible ministry unlike any other. It provides a vehicle of ministry for the layperson in the pew to step out of the pew by putting themselves “in the offering plate” to make a significant difference in the lives of others when their world has fallen apart.

“As only God can do, He takes the lives of those that He has called to do more than they could have ever dreamed that they could do to minister to others. The Lord takes their willing faithful servants and transforms their actions into His ‘hands and feet’ to touch and carry the burdens of those they serve in Disaster Response.

“My heart has been stirred repeatedly as I read this history. I have had many emotions revisited as my mind opened files of memory seeing the faces of victims of natural and man-made disasters, aka terrorism.

“Mentally I have seen the faces of those who were anxious to charge into the battle for our Lord Jesus very much like our USA military veterans see themselves and their fallen comrades fighting for our freedom. The SBDR volunteers all serving to bring that “Peace that passes Understanding that can keep our Hearts and Minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

“I want to thank the thousands of volunteers who followed the Lord leading your heart to become a team member of Oklahoma Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. And, thanks to all of the family members of the volunteers and church members who supported and prayed for those who have served as team members of this dynamic ministry called Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief.”

The book is endorsed on its back cover by Todd Fisher, Oklahoma Baptists’ executive director-treasurer, and Brian Hobbs, editor of the *Baptist Messenger*. Fisher wrote, “I am grateful for this book recounting the fifty-year history of Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief. More than just telling the names and places of all those involved,

this book captures the commitment of Oklahoma Baptists to love their neighbor. As you read this history, you will discover how meeting the physical needs of people is a gateway to sharing the Gospel. That's what Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief has always been about—proclaiming the Gospel and modeling the love of Jesus through acts of service. I am grateful to Bob Nigh for the hard work he has done in researching and writing this important story.”

Hobbs wrote, “Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief is a great example of what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus to people in their greatest hour of need. I have been blessed and honored to witness DR team members, donned in yellow, sharing the love and joy of Jesus with people after some of the most devastating disasters. This 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book is compelling and well done, capturing the heart and key moments of this storied ministry. This work will be a blessing to any who pause to celebrate what God has accomplished through faithful servants connected to Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief, a ministry I pray God continues to bless and use for many years to come.”



**2022 Awards Presented.** Donny Custar, right, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ardmore, accepts the 2021 Gaskin Church History Award certificate from Oklahoma Baptists’ Historical Secretary Bob Nigh. The certificate and those for the Distinguished Service Award and new inductees into the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame (See photos on pages 8-9) were presented during a special luncheon at the 2022 annual meeting last November at First Baptist Church of Mustang.

## 2022 Awards



From left, Andy Latta and Richard McCullough, members of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission; and Bob Nigh, Oklahoma Baptists' Historical Secretary, present a certificate during a luncheon at the 2022 Oklahoma Baptists' Annual Meeting to Stephanie Boothe Miller, daughter of Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame inductee Sylvia Boothe. Also pictured are Miller's daughter, Haleigh Brown; Les Miller, holding grandson Luke Miller; and the Millers' sons, Tim and Aaron Miller.



Andy Latta and Bob Nigh present a certificate to, from left, Lex Bowen, Pamela Box Bowen, Paulia Box Merrell, and James Merrell, the family of Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame inductee Paul Box. Charles Woodward, right, Box's friend, made the presentation during the luncheon.



2022 Awards



Andy Latta and Bob Nigh present a certificate to Norman Wagoner Jr., his wife, Sue, and his sister, Ramona Mays, the family of Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame inductee Norman Wagoner.



Andy Latta and Bob Nigh present the 2022 Distinguished Service Award to Sam Porter, who was accompanied by his wife, Sheryl.

# Former Baptist Building Destined for renovations

by Bob Nigh, Oklahoma Baptists' Historical Secretary and Director of History

On Thurs., June 29, 1950, Oklahoma Baptists formally dedicated their new, four-story Bedford limestone and granite headquarters at 1141 N. Robinson Ave. in Oklahoma City. The building (Depending upon which source you cite, cost, between \$700,000-\$900,000) also housed a new Baptist Book Store.

The dedicatory services began at 10 a.m., and continued through 10 p.m., with morning, afternoon and evening services sandwiched between three open house events. The event drew widespread interest as the 2:30 p.m. dedication service was broadcast statewide over radio stations KTOK and KYBE, Oklahoma City; KRMG, Tulsa; KCRC, Enid; KSWO, Lawton; KADA, Ada; KGFF, Shawnee; KBIX, Muskogee; KVSQ, Ardmore and KTMC, McAlester.

Outstanding Baptist leaders in attendance at the celebration included C. Oscar Johnson, president of the Baptist World Alliance, St. Louis, Mo.; T. L. Holcomb, Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board secretary, Nashville, Tenn.; and J. Howard Williams, Texas Baptist secretary, Dallas. C. Q. Smith, president Oklahoma City University, spoke for other denominations.

A report on pages 38-39 in the 1949 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) *Annual Report* said, "The Baptist Building which has been under construction during the past two years at the corner of Eleventh and Robinson in Oklahoma City is rapidly nearing completion. When this building is finished and occupied, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma will have one of the most beautiful structures erected solely for denominational use to be seen in the entire South.

"This building has been designed to house all departments of the Convention, the Baptist Book Store, and a beautiful chapel adequate for meetings and conferences of approximately 200 people. During the past five years, the present headquarters building has been inadequate for all the offices of the Convention. Office space and auxiliary storage room has been rented in other downtown buildings during this time. With the completion of the new Baptist Building, all departments and offices will be housed in one building and the work of all can be more effectively coordinated and performed."

Now, 73 years later, an investment group led by developer Richard McKown is looking at extensive renovations to the structure, according to a Jan. 30, 2023 article in the *Oklahoman*. The article reported that long-range plans include partial apartment conversion

## Baptist Building



The four-story, Bedford limestone and granite Baptist Building at 1141 N. Robinson Ave. in Oklahoma City was completed in 1950; dedication services were held on June 29. The building also housed the Baptist Book Store. (Baptist Messenger *File Photo*)

for the art deco building in Midtown after buying it out of receivership. The \$2.2 million purchase includes a surface parking lot across the street that also could be developed.

“The building was built at a time when Robinson Ave. was the city’s church row, and the First Baptist Church across N.W. 11th St. to the north was one of the city’s earliest megachurches,” the article states.”

The building served as the headquarters for the BGCO for four decades before the Convention moved its offices into the former Allied Bank Building at 3800 N. May Ave. in October 1990. In March 1990, the partnership of Michael Dillard and Kenneth E. McBride—under the name of Western Development and Construction Co.—purchased the 54,000-square-foot structure and later named it the Lawyers Title Building after its largest tenant, Lawyers Title of Oklahoma City, Inc.

Lawyers Title was moved from 300 N. Meridian Ave., where it had been located for three years, said McBride, president of the company. Lawyers Title occupied 11,000 square feet on the building’s first floor. Western Development and Construction Co. occupied 2,000 square feet. Other tenants included Investment Mortgage Co.; Surveyors Inc.; the law offices of Speck, Easter and Hayden; and the *Baptist Messenger*.



Vernon C. Walker, Baptist Building office manager, and his assistant, Betty Eddington. (Baptist Messenger File Photo)

## ***Directors approve sale of Baptist Building***

The Aug. 23, 1990 issue of the *Baptist Messenger* reported that the BGC0 Board of Directors approved the sale of the N. Robinson Ave. building for \$500,000.

"The building is being sold on an 'as-is', 'where-is' basis with no representation or guarantee," BGC0 executive director-treasurer William G. Tanner told the Board members, adding that the state convention would "carry the note" for the purchasers, with a down payment of \$100,000 to "be made at closing or on or before Oct. 1." The article reported that the \$400,000 note was to be at 7 percent interest with a 20-year amortization and a 10-year call. That called for the BGC0 to receive 119 payments of \$3,101.20 beginning on Jan. 1, 1991, with a final payment of \$270,195.88 on Dec. 1, 2000. "Our contract stipulates that the property can't be sold or transferred without the convention's consent until the building note is paid," Tanner said.

The *Messenger* article also stated that "An arrangement has been worked out for the *Baptist Messenger* press and convention printing operation to remain in the Baptist Building basement up to two years. The BGC0 will pay \$1.50 per square foot per year for some 5,400 square feet of space with the landlord to pay utilities."

Tanner said proceeds from the sale of the building "will be into an interest-bearing account for future relocation of the *Messenger* press

### *Baptist Building*

and convention printing service.” The Board also passed a resolution authoring Tanner and the BGCO administrative staff to search for property to buy, lease or build for relocating the printing operations closer to the new Baptist Building at 3800 N. May Ave. Eventually the *Messenger* and printing operations were moved into the ground floor of the N. May Ave. location.

At the time, the *Baptist Messenger* was circulated to more than 98,000 readers among the convention’s 1,419 affiliated churches.

### ***U.S. Sen. Robert S. Kerr speaks at dedication***

One of the highlights of the June 29, 1950 dedication services for the new Baptist Building was an address by Oklahoma U.S. Sen. Robert S. Kerr, who lauded the development.

“Baptists of Oklahoma have reached a crowning hour in their historic record of achievement as we are assembled here today,” Kerr told those in attendance in the auditorium of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, located north across NW 11th St. “We have come together to dedicate the beautiful building across the street to the sacred purpose of accomplishing the divine will. This is for us individually and as a Baptist people an hour significant beyond degree.

“The building committee, of which I have been a member and for which I speak, has discharged to the best of our ability the responsibility placed upon us by action of the state Convention and its Board of Directors five years ago ‘to do all things necessary for the erection



The Baptist Building Club Room. (Baptist Messenger File Photo)



The second floor office of J.A. Pennington, Secretary, Brotherhood and Evangelism Dept., shown with his secretary, Mrs. Bill Potter. (Baptist Messenger File Photo)

of a suitable building in accordance with the needs of the Baptist General Convention of the state of Oklahoma.”

Kerr stressed that the building “stands today attractive and complete. The most careful planning combine with the finest materials to make this structure ideally fitted to our cooperative work.

“From this building will radiate the missionary enthusiasm and evangelistic zeal of Baptists across the nation and around the world. It is the physical manifestation of our united spiritual aims—the physical plant through which we as a Baptist people shall endeavor to express the divine love and to accomplish the divine purpose.”

Kerr then presented the keys to the building to convention president T.P. Haskins, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, saying, “We pray that the keys of what this building represents will unlock the gates of Heaven to multitudes . . . . It is our prayer that the influence of this building shall be for all time and shall endure through a never ending eternity.”

Haskins, responded by saying, “The committee has done its work well. You have built not for a day or a year—and the influence of what you have done will undoubtedly reach into eternity. You have turned the dream of our Convention into a reality.

“We must turn our eyes to the brightening future of which this building is a symbol. We must set our hands and hearts to the new tasks our Master has set for us. For whatever we do, to Him shall be the praise, and the honor, and the glory forever. It is my distinct privilege as president to receive the building on behalf of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the 325,000 Baptists which it represents, who are looking this way at this high hour.”

## ***Baptist Building predecessor opened in April 1924***

The previous state Baptist headquarters was located at 223 W. First St. in Oklahoma City. It was reported on page 4 in the April 9, 1924 issue of the *Baptist Messenger* that the structure was "introduced" to the public during an open house:

"Open House.—On April 4, we observed open house at the new headquarters building of our denomination. Coffee and cakes were served in Baptist Hall from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The coffee was furnished free by the Maxwell House Coffee Company. Visitors came through the day and looked through the building. In the evening the Olivet Dramatic Club gave a play that was splendidly rendered. The Messenger Book House is on the first floor and is the largest exclusive book store in the state. On the second floor we have a hall that will seat 300 people where we expect to hold religious gatherings of various kinds and to rent to reputable people for gatherings downtown. On the third floor are the offices of the denomination. The building is known as the Baptist Building and mail addressed there will reach us all right. The day was greatly enjoyed by the office staff and the visitors.

On page 8 of that same issue, C.P. Stealey, editor and manager, wrote:

"Last Friday, April 4th, was Open House Day at Baptist Headquarters, 223 W. First Street. While we have been in our new building for several weeks getting settled, the building was formally opened on the fourth.

"So far as we know, this is the only denominational headquarters building owned west of the Mississippi. We have a building 25x100 feet, three stories high, well located, with one of the finest book stores to be found anywhere on the ground floor, a Baptist hall that will accommodate three hundred on the second floor, and offices, well adapted for all departments, on the third floor.

"Friends came in goodly numbers to our house-warming. All day long, people were inspecting the building and congratulating us on the move. At night, a good audience gathered to listen to some remarks concerning the progress of the work and a delightful program rendered by the Dramatic Club of the Olivet Baptist Church.

"Do not fail to call at Headquarters when in the city. It will make you gladder that you are a Baptist."

A month later, at least one denominational leader expressed his pleasure at occupying his new office. In the March 5, 1924, *Baptist Messenger* (P. 7) Fred A. McCaulley, Secretary of The Sunday School Department of the Baptist General Convention of the State of Oklahoma, wrote, "When coming to Oklahoma City, in place of trying to find us behind a show case, just come to our New Baptist Building, 223 West First Street, just one and one-half blocks west of the Skirvin hotel, mount to the third floor, and visit the Sunday

School Department—and look out a window—or two of them if you desire, for we have two of them, and for the first time in years can see daylight from our own office.”

On page 8 of that issue, Stealey wrote, “We are glad to inform the Baptist Brotherhood of Oklahoma that we are now in our new permanent quarters, 223 W. First St., Oklahoma City.

“We have a splendid piece of property which is now worth probably at least \$15,000.00 more than we paid for it; where our book store is housed on the first floor and the second floor affords a Baptist Hall that we have been in great need of for various uses, then the third floor furnishes splendid office space, for the various departments.

“We are just a little out of the heart of the business district, but in line with the extension of business.

“Everyone who is acquainted with the facts and has seen the situation is delighted with the move. The Board of Directors of the Baptist General Convention, in their quarterly meeting last week were greatly pleased with the fact that we own permanent headquarters, secured under such favorable circumstances. The outlay in paying out on the building is now no more than the rent we have been paying.”

A little more than a decade later, Convention operations had outgrown that small, three-story edifice.

## ***Urgent need for space recognized in 1945***

Five years before the new Baptist Building became a reality, Convention leaders had recognized the urgent need for a new headquarters for the Convention.

The first session of the 1945 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma annual meeting was held at the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City at 7 p.m. on Tues., Nov. 6. President H. T. Wiles called the Convention to order, calling attention to the fact that it was the 40th annual convention of the BGCO, and the 63rd annual meeting of the Baptists organized at Tahlequah, Indian Territory on June 1, 1883.

A section of the Report of the Board of Directors on page 38 of the 1945 BGCO *Annual Report* stated, “A new Baptist Headquarters in an imperative necessity. We have outgrown our present building, and have been compelled to rent five offices in other buildings in Oklahoma City in order to house our growing personnel.

“Every department head is crying for more room to expand and enlarge his work but there is none available. The present three-floor structure, purchased more than twenty years ago, was a dilapidated store building, never designed for the type of work in which we are now engaged. Effective promotion of the work at the various departments of the Baptist General Convention demands twice the room available in the present building.





Sam W. Scantlan, Supt., Rural and City Missions, and his secretary, Faye Estlack, in his office on the second floor.

*(Baptist Messenger File Photo)*

“After discussing this serious problem with department heads, Board members, pastors, and other interested friends, the matter was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, who unanimously recommended to the Board of Directors that we acquire a lot, plan a building suitable to our needs, and proceed as quickly as practicable to erect a home for the Baptist General Convention.

“The Board of Directors, therefore, recommends to the Convention that we proceed immediately to purchase a suitable building site in Oklahoma City; and employ architects to make plans and specifications for said building; and, as soon as practicable, to erect a building suitable to the needs of the Baptist General Convention; and that all the details be referred to the Board of Directors and Executive Secretary for consummation; and that said Board of Directors and Secretary shall have plenary powers to do all things necessary to carry out this provision; and are hereby authorized and directed to proceed for the purchase of a proper building site and do all things necessary for the erection of a suitable building in accordance with the needs of the Baptist General Convention of the State of Oklahoma.”

Five years later, BGCO Executive Secretary Andrew Potter, the driving force behind the construction of a new Baptist headquarters, delivered the Dedicatory address for the new building.

Potter titled his remarks, “What mean these stones?”

“Punctuation points in history give accent and significance to the tide of affairs of men and nations. One can read the progress of the rise and fall of civilizations by the high hills of history—the pause, the question marks, and the exclamation points of tragedy and tri-



From left, Mrs. Scott Williamson; Mrs. Marvin Barnes and Mrs. Oldan Miller hard at work in the Bookkeeping Dept. on the second floor. (Baptist Messenger File Photo)

umph. Man erects milestones along his march to measure his progress, and symbols of his faith on each rising plateau—symbols reflecting spiritual satisfaction in goals achieved, and providing inspiration for yet another march and a still higher plateau.

“Symbols are significant. The sands of the Sahara Desert carelessly shift about the base of the Pyramids of Egypt, symbols of an ancient culture, a monument to a magnificent, but dead civilization.

“High above Athens, upon the summit of the Acropolis, rests the Parthenon, symbol of the glory that was Greece, mute testimony to the world of the love of beauty in the soul of the Grecian people. In splendid ruins stands the Coliseum, symbol of the grandeur that was Rome—Rome the mighty, who conquered all nations save one—yet Rome, the vanquished—the Coliseum, a grand museum piece and a proud witness that military power is not permanent.

“Across the continents of the old world are other symbols of the varying cultures and emphases of man—protective walls and high ramparts, forts and moated castles, state houses and palaces, temples and cathedrals gilded with gold and decorated with gems, with gorgeous windows displaying rich treasures of art and beauty—symbols of man’s determination to outlast the centuries by the demonstration of his faith and skill in these mighty and artistic efforts.

“But milestones do not measure the march of past history alone—nor are symbols of man’s achievements limited to any given generation. To each generation is given the right and responsibility to blaze its trail and erect its memorials for the guidance and inspiration of succeeding generations. In the long annals of history, the twentieth century—our century—can best be characterized by great strides,

milestones and symbols of new ways for men. Science and industry, education and economics, politics and production, exploration and exploitation of new worlds—all have blazed their trails and established symbols of great power in these swiftly moving days.

“In this dramatic march of progress, Oklahoma Baptists move with others in solid ranks, and by sacrificial devotion beyond the line of duty, established markers along the way they go, and erect temples upon the plateaus they top—symbols of the power and energy of a strong and dynamic people moving toward a grand objective.

“During the past two decades we have moved with unprecedented speed, despite the fact that in this same period we have fallen under the catastrophic weight of depression and war. Yet to the discerning observer, progress has always been present in the program of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

“Building institutions to promote the Kingdom of God is an important part of the business of the people called Baptists. We have invested literally millions of dollars in the Christian institutions of our beloved commonwealth. These institutions are the tangible evidences of our interest and the measure of our progress as a people—milestones in our march toward the high plateau of achievement and attainment.

“Today we stand on that wide plateau assembled for the purpose of dedicating the symbol of our hopes and dreams, our beliefs and aspirations as a Convention.

“At 1141 North Robinson, stands the Baptist Building, headquarters for all the work of the Kingdom of God represented by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma at home and around the world.

“This magnificent structure of glistening white stone and shining marble—graceful in its architecture—sturdy in its construction—functional in its arrangements—beautiful in its appointments—truly a temple of steel and stone—a thing of strength and beauty dedicated to God, stands as a symbol of achievement wrought and a prophecy of greater triumphs in the long tomorrow.

“At high noon of the twentieth century—this dramatic moment of history—the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma crosses its Jordan and in this structure places twelve stones of faith, as did Joshua of old on the banks of that other Jordan centuries ago. This, then, is our Gilgal beyond which lies the promised land of a greater tomorrow for Oklahoma Baptists.

“It will profit us today to highlight this hour with that historic moment when the children of Israel crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, Let us recall the scene and the words from the sacred Scriptures: *“And the twelve stones which they took out of Jordan did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. And he spoke to the children of Israel, saying When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the Lord, your God*

*dried up the waters of the Jordan from before you, until we were passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty; that ye might fear the Lord your God forever.”*

“What mean these stones—this magnificent headquarters building to the Baptists of Oklahoma? Of what is it a symbol in our life and activity as a people? Occasions such as this challenge (Us to search) our hearts for the real meanings and demand definition. We must interpret these stones to our generation and state the tradition for our children and our children’s children.

“These stones mean doctrinal integrity. To us, the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and the final authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice. We believe in the absoluteness of the Lordship of Christ. We believe in the reality of the soul and the dignity of human personality. We believe in a free and democratic church in which every member has equal voice and vote from whose decisions there is no appeal.

“We Baptists have a distinct body of doctrines. In this age when skepticism is rife, and compromise on every moral and religious issue is popular, we have the faith to believe, and the courage to proclaim the principles of our beliefs. We have a conviction deep as life that on distinctive Baptist principles we can rebuild any world, however distraught and debased. We believe Winston Churchill was right about the stabilizing influence of conviction regarding great doctrines, when he said, ‘Those who are possessed of a definite body of doctrine and of deeply rooted conviction upon it will be in much better position to deal with the shifts and surprises of daily affairs than those who are merely taking short views, and indulging their natural impulses as they are evoked from day to day.’

“We Oklahoma Baptists propose to proclaim our distinctive message to the world that needs it. While leaders in many fields of religion appear to trim their sails to every wind that blows, we propose to yield no part of our convictions, and in the firmness of that purpose, we shall advance into tomorrow. The strength of this building and firm foundation beneath it symbol the strength of our doctrine and the solidarity of our faith.

“What mean these stones? This headquarters building symbolizes the unity of purpose of Oklahoma Baptists. The stones of this structure were not cut and placed in the walls by the hands of one person only—No, many hands cut the stones, polished them, and fitted them together until symmetry and beauty of architecture was achieved.

“Even so, have Oklahoma Baptists demonstrated the spirit of cooperation—the fine art of working together. For example, all our agencies and institutions are coordinated in effort by the spirit of cooperation in a vast enterprise for the Kingdom of God.



BGCO Executive Secretary T.B. Lackey, left, and Hugh L. Harrell, minister of education and administration at Oklahoma City, Olivet prepare to make the final payment on the building on July 5, 1952. (*Baptist Messenger File Photo*)

“Our state mission program reaches every nook and corner of Oklahoma through the earnest efforts of our devoted missionaries. Together we serve the needs of unfortunate orphan children. Together we provide facilities at Falls Creek—the inspiration point for multiplied thousands of our Baptist youth. Together we offer Christian counsel and guidance to college students through the Baptist Student Union, and Christian education at Oklahoma Baptist University. Together we enter into the Christ-like ministry of healing. Together we give leadership and training for Bible teaching and soul-winning. Together we supply source material and stimulate interest in the things of the Kingdom of God through Christian literature. Together we speed our missionaries as Messengers of Light around the world. Truly, these great units of our denominational life reflect in their coordinated effort membership in a living organism rather than a mechanical organization put together by the ingenuity of man.

“And this ‘Togetherness,’ this unity in purpose and program has cast the soul of our denomination so wonderfully symbolized in this beautiful structure of steel and stone.

“There is a destiny that makes us brothers: None goes his way alone: All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own. I care not what his temples or his creeds, One thing holds firm and fast—That into his fateful heaps of days and deeds The soul of man is cast.

“And this same principle holds true in the soul of a denomination. The things we have done together, the things we now do and purpose to do—these things cast our soul and determine our denominational destiny.

“What mean these stones? They prophesy advancement. I remind you that Gilgal was but the point of entry into the promised land. Beyond the symbol of the strength of the hand of God lay the land flowing with milk and honey. Gilgal prophesied conquest of that land and challenged immediate advance into rich regions beyond. With the ringing phrases of Joshua in their ears, extolling the providences of God, they moved on, inspired by the stones as symbols of the victories of the past and signals for the triumphs in the future.

“On the portals of the Archives building in Washington, housing priceless treasures of great moments of history, one finds these interesting words. On one portal ‘Study the past.’ On the other, ‘The past is prologue.’ To us the past indeed is but the ‘prologue,’ and this building which we dedicate today is only the point of entry into the grand tomorrow which by the strength of the hand of God we shall possess our Promised Land.

“Let us on this dedication day highly resolve to go on to greater victories and achievements, establishing new land marks along the line of march, topping new plateaus, and erecting new symbols, remembering that our glory is in ‘Going On.’ This is a great day for the Baptists of Oklahoma, but a greater day is yet to dawn. It is only by going on that we can inspire investment of life and treasure in this all-inclusive campaign to the ends of the earth. The opportunity of all history is now at hand for Oklahoma Baptists—a day of compelling need to challenge a strong and dynamic people. We are a mighty host, 325,000 strong—a great people who live at a great moment. The question is: Have we the greatness of spiritual vision and Christian character which this hour demands? I rejoice with joy unspeakable over the indications that we shall not be found wanting. The clock of time is now striking twelve—the hour of destiny for Oklahoma Baptists.

“To multiplied millions of the earth these are dark hours in a long night of spiritual depression and despair. The world is busying itself with weapons and machines of destruction and death. Governments have made the Christian religion the object of attack and by evil stratagems seek to destroy the last vestige of hope and faith in the hearts of the people they exploit. Gladness and singing, poetry and music are far away.

“But as Christians, we believe in God and in the strength of His mighty hand. We believe that the God of the ages is also the God of this age, and that in His appointed time the arts of peace and the spirit of good-will shall dominate the desires and habits of the sons of men.

“Let us not be like certain characters in Dante’s “Inferno,” people walking eternally with their heads looking backward. We believe in tomorrow. There is something very much worth living for and fighting for ahead. Today we dedicate this temple as an expression of our faith in those intangible, yet eternal things, and in the dynamic

*Baptist Building*

vitality of the cultural and Christian forces of life.

“This building is the symbol of our faith expressed in beautiful architecture. The strength of our faith, the devotion of our hearts, and the singing of our souls have become a part of the steel and stone of this towering structure known as the Baptist Building. Let us highly resolve by the help of God that this holy day of dedication will see Oklahoma Baptists marching in step toward a day of destiny. Today, let us build on our yesterdays for the sake of a greater tomorrow! “

“We shall build on! On through the cynic’s scorning, On through the coward’s warning, On through the cheat’s suborning, “Firm on the rock of ages, City of saints and sages, laugh while the tempest rages, We shall build on!”

# Historic Bible to be displayed at OBU Green Campus

An historic 1613 King James “He” Bible donated to the Gaskin Archives at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) is set to find a home—at least temporarily—at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art (MGMoA), located on OBU’s Green Campus, formerly the campus of St. Gregory’s University. The museum operated independently of St. Gregory’s and survived its closure.

The Bible was donated to the archives a few years ago by members of Oklahoma City, Shields Boulevard, and has since undergone restoration by experts at the Museum of the Bible in Oklahoma City.

The Bible’s display will be formally dedicated during the Fall semester at OBU. The OBU campus was severely damaged from the April 19 tornado. But, the MGMoA itself did not suffer any damage.

The MGMoA’s collection includes more than 3,500 pieces of art, and spans more than 6,000 years, representing cultures from around the world including ancient Egyptian, Chinese, pre-Columbian, African, Native American, European, and American.

The museum’s collection began with a gift in 1903. While Fr. Gregory Gerrer was traveling in the Holy Land, he was presented with an Egyptian scarab with the hieroglyphic goose symbol on it.

The museum now houses an artifact collection that includes an ancient Egyptian mummy and sarcophagus, ancient Egyptian animal mummies, Roman glass, ancient Greek pottery, ancient Chinese terracotta figures, European ivory and icons, Venetian armor, Mesoamerican stone carvings, shrunken heads, Spanish colonial paintings, and African masks and bronzes.

The paintings collection includes work from Guido Reni, Tintoretto, Guercino, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, Jean-Léon Gérôme, William-Adolphe Bouguereau, William Merritt Chase, Albert Bierstadt and Robert Priseman.

The museum also includes a gift shop that sells educational toys, publications related to their exhibitions and arts and crafts from local artisans. The MGMoA is a member of the Oklahoma Association of Museums and a member agency of Oklahoma City’s Allied Arts.

Museum officials have opted to display the “He” Bible in their main gallery, which includes a section for Works on Paper, with proper lighting and climate control for displaying sensitive materials.

“Their vision for the exhibit is to display the Bible alongside a Bible written in old Flemish, printed in Belgium in 1542,” said Josh Mackay, OBU archivist. “Alongside those bibles, they plan on displaying related religious art along both walls flanking the case. They have a collection of illustrations from Bibles and other related materials in their collection that would pair perfectly with this display.”





**The “He” Bible will be displayed in a case similar to this one.**

“We are thrilled and pray that this exhibition will give OBU and Oklahoma Baptists an opportunity to celebrate the work the Lord has done in bringing us this invaluable piece of Bible history,” added Julie Rankin, OBU director of library services. “We look forward to showcasing the Bible and inviting our brothers and sisters to see the results of this good work.”



**Adoration of the Three Kings, by Dirck Barendsz (1534-1592), is among the art displayed in the MGMOA**

NECROLOGY

Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2022

**Able, Tim** died July 3. He was the brother of Lou Ann Able, Oklahoma Baptists' Church and Employee Benefits Ministry assistant.

**Allen, Nancy** died Dec. 25. She was the wife of Brad Allen, pastor of Comanche, Countryside.

**Atkins, Charlie** died April 7. He was advertising manager for the Baptist Messenger and with Oklahoma Baptists' Disaster Relief.

**Bevers, Seth** died Feb. 17. He was BCM director at Western Oklahoma State College and served as music minister at Blair, First.

**Bissell, Billy** died March 22. He was pastor of several churches, including Tishomingo, Bullard Chapel; Dewar, First; Muskogee, Boston Ave. and Commerce, First and a police chaplain.

**Bristow, Wayne** died Aug. 20. He was a longtime Southern Baptist leader in evangelism and missions. He served from 1982-86 with the International Mission Board, overseeing evangelism and church growth. From 1986-93, he served as state evangelism director for Oklahoma Baptists.

**Brown, Johnny** died Jan. 5. He was the father of Rick Brown, retired Oklahoma Baptists' maintenance supervisor.

**Brown, Martin L.** died June 20. He was the father of James Brown, BCM director at Langston University.

**Burchfiel, Eddie** died Sept. 3. He was retired as greeter at the Baptist Building.

**Cantrell, Kenneth** died April 21. He was interim pastor of Lawton, Letitia before becoming pastor of Lawton, Southside.

**Christenberry, Eugene** died Oct. 12. He was the grandfather-in-law of Danielle Adkins, Oklahoma Baptists' Resource Group Administrative Assistant.

**Coleman, Danny** died March 15. He was the father of Chad Coleman, Oklahoma Baptists' BCM associate.

**Collyer, Mike** died Dec. 19. He was the pastor of Tecumseh, Pink.

**Connell, Donna** died July 2. She was the wife of Jerry Connell, pastor of Oklahoma City, South Lindsay.

**Dawkins, Donna** died July 3. She was the grandmother of Courtney Matlock, wife of Doug Matlock, Oklahoma Baptists' Discipleship/Small Groups Ministry partner.

**Eaker, Allen** died Jan. 20. He served as member of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma Board of Directors.

**Echols, Charles** died Sept. 26. He served 39 years as pastor of Southern Baptist churches.

**Enegren, Judy** died June 1. She served Oklahoma Baptists for nearly 40 years, first in the convention's music office, and then as

switchboard operator/receptionist at the Baptist Building.

**Ervin, Linda** died April 6. She was the mother of Jason Ervin, Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center Utilities Manager.

**Flanigan, L.B.** died Feb. 12. He was a pastor for 37 years, including Duncan, Western Heights; Kingfisher, Oak Street; Luther, First; Valliant, First and Valliant, Trinity. He also served as campus director for Baptist Village of Cleveland.

**Ford, Richard** died April 13. He was pastor of Onapa Church in Muskogee Association for 52 years before retiring in 2021, and also was pastor of Muskogee, Community for several years.

**Gipp, Kyle** died Dec. 8. He was associate pastor at Seminole, Indian Nations, and a student at the Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministry.

**Green, Ruth** died Oct. 25. She and her husband, James, served as international missionaries for 14 years.

**Gunn, Tommy** died Oct. 15. He served in music ministry at several churches, including Cushing, Oak Grove; Duncan, Fair and Shawnee, Rock Creek, and was the father of Rusty Gunn, pastor of Sand Springs, The Church That Matters, and a Send Oklahoma Network Catalyst.

**Hiatt, Elbert "Butch"** died July 9. He was father-in-law/father of Mike and Kelly Ridgway, Director of Missions in Banner Association.

**Jones, Barbara** died May 6. She was the mother of Kenny Jones, former Oklahoma Baptists' mailroom supervisor, and mother-in-law of Pat Jones, ministry assistant with Oklahoma Baptists' Disaster Relief.

**Knox, Marvin** died Jan. 16. He was pastor of several Oklahoma churches, including Duncan, Liberty; Gage, First; Marlow, Central and Stratford, First, and served as a member of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma Board of Directors.

**Koelsch, Kristi** died May 2. She was the cousin of Lori Warren, Oklahoma Baptists' executive assistant.

**Lobaugh, James "J.V."** died Sept. 22. He was pastor of several Oklahoma Baptist churches, including Cordell, First; Galey Mission; Graham Church; Hickory Church; Maysville, First; Mangum, First; Pauls Valley, First and Snyder, First, and served as the Director of Missions for Southwest Baptist Association.

**Lunsford, Gerald** died Sept. 16. He served as pastor at eight Oklahoma churches, including Choctaw, First, where he also served as senior adult minister, and Weatherford, Emmanuel, and was the Director of Grace Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City and the adjacent Baptist Mission Center.

**Massey, John** died June 24. He was a major benefactor of Ok-

lahoma Baptist causes. The Massey Chapel in the Raymond A. Young Tabernacle at Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center is named in his honor.

**Miloy, Carolyn** died June 29. She was the grandmother of Caroline Martinez, Oklahoma Baptists' Falls Creek/Youth assistant.

**Pritchard, Barbara** died Jan. 31. She was the mother-in-law of Danny Ringer, DOM with Great Plains association.

**Reisdorph, Chuck** died Aug. 6. He was a retired music minister, serving in several Oklahoma churches and a longtime member of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma.

**Rowan, Betty** died March 8. She was the mother-in-law of Gary Dempsey, DOM in Johnston Marshall Association.

**Sanders, Orban Eugene "Gene"** died July 15. He served in music ministry for 48 years, including 23 years as music minister at Lindsay, First.

**Schantz, John** died May 11. He served for 17 years as controller for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma (Now WatersEdge).

Through high school, he led music at the Spanish mission in Frederick, where his father preached, and then led music at Durant, First while getting his accounting degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He also led music at Oklahoma City, Highland Hills.

**Sigman, Shirley** died June 9. She was the mother of Sandy Delsigne, Oklahoma Baptists' Finance Office, and grandmother of Adam Delsigne, Oklahoma Baptists' Building Maintenance.

**Smithey, Jana** died July 31. She was the wife of Billy Smithey, interim pastor at Durham Church.

**Starnes, Ellen** died Aug. 4. She was retired Oklahoma Baptists' mail department manager.

**Stephens, Vicki** died in September. She was the niece of Walter Wilson, pastor of Lawton, Friendship and Oklahoma Baptists' African American Ministry Partner.

**Suhre, Fred** died March 27. He was the father-in-law of Kent Gamble, Oklahoma Baptists' Finance Team (Accountant/Payroll).

**Thompson, Johnny Harold** died Feb. 26. During a ministry that spanned 60 years, he served as an evangelist and pastor in Oklahoma, including at Choctaw, Midway; Colbert, First; Del City, Carter Park; Oklahoma City, Brookline; Oklahoma City, Draper Lake; Oklahoma City, Twenty-third Street; Stroud, First and Tulsa, Fellowship. He also served as a member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission.

**Tompkins, Randy** died Oct. 17. He served Oklahoma Baptist churches in Ada, Bethany, Henryetta, Enid, Jenks, and Tulsa.

**Unruh, Theresa** died Sept. 26. She was the mother of Bill Pierce, president of Baptist Village Communities.

**Varela, Rigoberto** died Dec. 12. He was the son of Rigo Varela, pastor of Duncan, El Divino Salvador.

**Walker, Jerry** died April 14. In his 32 years of vocational ministry, he served Norman, Trinity (1959-70) and Oklahoma City, Baptist Temple (1970-91) as minister of education. He also served as president of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society and as a member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission.

**Wall, Lisa** died Sept. 13. She was the wife of Wayne Wall, former Director of Missions for Northeastern Association and pastor of Chouteau, First, where she was instrumental in starting children's ministry, support groups and women's ministries.

**Westfall, Faye** died Nov. 16. She was the wife of retired Oklahoma Baptist pastor, Floyd Westfall, of Yukon.

**Wilson, Leon** died April 18. He served as pastor of Oklahoma City, Southpark before he and his wife, Sharon, became national missionaries for bivocational ministers and their wives across the U.S. and Canada. He served as pastor of nine churches, five in Oklahoma.

**Witt, Kenneth** died March 4. He served as an Oklahoma Baptists' literacy missions workshop leader, a ministry he was involved in for more than 50 years. In 1988, he wrote and published a book for new readers titled "God's Plan-The Story of the Bible," which is still being used in the mission field around the world. It has been translated into Swahili, Vietnamese, and Portuguese.

# Memorial Gifts

On Sept. 8, 1998 by vote of the Oklahoma Baptist 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. The following list includes those gifts in alphabetical order for those honored.

*Del Allen*, Wilburton

Given by Sans Bois Association

*Ramona Allen*, Wilburton

Given by John and Pat Hart

*Ramona Allen*, Wilburton

Given by Delmer, Charity and Tim Allen

*Donald E. Badgett*, Del City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L., Knight, Jr.

*James Ball*, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

*Margie Ball*, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

*Bob Burrows*, Amarillo, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*Pluma Cantrell*, Sallisaw

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

*Rose Chronister*, Sallisaw

Given by Sans Bois Baptist Association

*E. Farrell Dixon*, Tulsa

Given by Curtis and Betty Dixon

*Memorial Gifts*

***Donald R. Dunn***, Chickasha

Given by Jimmie L. Dunn

***Jack Everhart***, Oklahoma City

Given by Del and the late Ramona Allen

***Betty Farris***, Muskogee

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

***J. C. Folk***, Midwest City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***Virginia Ann Fry***, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

***Helen Isom Gaskin***, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts

***Jesse Marvin (J.M.) Gaskin***, Durant

Given by Delmer Allen

***Joseph Alexander Gaskin***, Cartersville

Given by J. M. Gaskin

***Jim Glaze***, Montgomery, Ala.

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***George Hill***, Coalgate

Given by Margaret Hill

***George Hill***, Coalgate

Given by J. M. Gaskin

***Mrs. Carrell Hooper***, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

***Carleen Jones***, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*Memorial Gifts*

***Norma Jordan***, Bartlesville

Given by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

***Nadean Justice***, Oklahoma City

Given by J. M. Gaskin

***Thelma Juanita King***, Del City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***Murray Leath***, Plano, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***Dick Lovelady***, Bethany

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***Clara Luedecke***, Weatherford, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***Burl Mackey***, Edmond

Given by Jonell Crawford

***Carl Mackey***, Kingfisher

Given by Jonell Crawford

***Charles Mackey***, Durant

Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

***Robert Mackey***, Durant

Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

***Bob Maxwell***, Stigler

Given by Del Allen

***Lee McWilliams***, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts

***Maye McWilliams***, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts



*Memorial Gifts*

***John H. Morton***, Durant

Given by Bill J. Morton

***Emma L. Shoemate Morton***, Durant

Given by Bill J. Morton

***Barbara Peaden***, Oklahoma City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***Wenonah Willene Pierce***, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

***Wenonah Willene Pierce***, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

***Marie Ratliff***, Wilburton

Given by Center Point Baptist Church

***John D. Riggs***, Durant

Given by J.M. Gaskin

***Todd H. Sheldon***, Dallas, Texas

Given by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

***Todd H. Sheldon***, Dallas, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***John L. Smith***, Marlow

Given by Winfred Knight

***Cathy Spain***, Midwest City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***Max Stanfield***, Oklahoma City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***William G. Tanner***, Belton, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*Memorial Gifts*

*James Timberlake*, Atlanta, Ga.

Given by Kathryne Timberlake

*Thelma Townsend*, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*Lawrence Van Horn*, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*H. Alton Webb*, Anadarko

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

*Almeda Welch*, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

*Hazel Marie Williams White*, Wilburton

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

## PUBLICATION POLICY

Digital issues of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* back to 2007 have been posted to the Oklahoma Baptists' web site. Printed copies of the *Chronicle* as far back to the late 1950s are available for purchase at a cost of \$2 each. Send orders to the Historical Secretary, Baptist Building, 3800 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506.

The *Chronicle* has been published twice annually since it began in 1958. It is the official historical journal of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission. Correspondence concerning all articles, book reviews and editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 3800 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506.

The *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* and its parent organization, the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission, do not assume any responsibility for factual dates or other statements made by authors whose articles appear in its pages.

- - - - -



**3800 N. May Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506**