



North Canadian Baptist Association News & Information

Pastor/Staff Fellowship

September

September 2.....OSUIT BCM Move-in
 September 9.....Larry Baker
 September 16..... Heath Thomas
 September 23Don Whitchard
Pastor/Staff Breakfast
 September 30.....Bob Fowler

October

October 7 Todd Fisher
 October 14Johnny Wagner
 October 21..... David Hamilton
Pastor/Staff Breakfast
 October 28.....Matthew Wood

NCBA Information

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A Busy Summer Comes to a Close as School and Fall Schedules Begin

Summer is always a busy and hectic time in church life as Vacation Bible Schools, Children’s Camp followed by Youth Camp and Mission Trips fill our calendars and all of that is worked in around family vacations, reunions and other activities. This year was no exception among our NCBA Churches. God has been good to us again this year.

Now that schools are starting, the busyness continues but perhaps with a bit more routine as we work around School and Work schedules. There are Youth Rally’s, Men’s Events and Women’s Events coming up

September–October Birthdays / Anniversaries

September Birthdays	Deanna Hamilton	9-28	
Steve Gallagher	9-02	September Anniversaries	
Ryan Wells	9-04	Mike & Renee Lewis	9-18
Justin Wells	9-23	Mickey & Brooke Provence	9-21
Kim McCullah	9-23		
October Birthdays	Luann Gallagher	10-28	
Berry Norwood	10-18	October Anniversaries	
Bob Fowler	10-18	David & Robin Hamilton	10-11
Dennis Taylor	10-19		
Rhonda Treagesser	10-23		
Teresa Rowland	10-24		

Colorado Mission Partnership at work here in Oklahoma.

Praise the Lord!

A big thank you to our brothers and sister from Colorado. With the help of a mission team from the Vista Grande Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, both Henryetta Immanuel and Hoffman FBC were able to hold Vacation Bible Schools. Immanuel averaged about 12 kids daily.



Hoffman averaged about 17 kids in attendance each day. Neither of these two churches would have been able to do it alone.

In addition the VGBC team stepped in and filled the gap doing a VBS when our mission team that was going to Manford and Pawnee fell apart.



They also put on three concerts (two at nursing homes and then another one at Baptist Village)

Upcoming Events

Ministry Wives Meeting

Monday, September 8th - 6:00 pm

S.Y.A.T.P. Youth Rally

Wednesday: Sept. 24th

Location: FBC Henryetta

Time: 6:30 pm

Speaker: Jeff Williamson

Music: Dewar Youth Worship Band

NCBA presents

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 15
6:30 PM

**MEN'S
FISH FRY**

SPEAKER
MICHAEL MASON

PLEASE RSVP TO THE NCBA
OFFICE BY THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 4TH

LAST CHANCE BAPTIST CHURCH
Okemah, Oklahoma
OCTOBER 4TH & 5TH, 2025

Sportsmans Expo & Crafts Show

Saturday: 12PM - 5PM
Okemah County Fair Barn
1201 E. Columbia St.
Okemah, OK 74859

Sunday Service

Sunday: 10:30AM
Last Chance Baptist Church
10196 Highway 56
Okemah, OK 74859
www.facebook.com/LastChanceBaptist/

Dr. Dennis SWANBERG
America's Minister of Encouragement

REVIVAL

Date: Sept.
7-10

Sun 10 AM

M-W 7PM



A wake-up call.

In my younger days, while I was working my way through college, I did shift work at the Ford Glass Plant that used to be in Tulsa. Much of that work was on the midnight shift. One day, when we had been working a lot of overtime, I was driving the 36 miles home after my shift. I remember getting on the highway and the next thing that I remember was being startled awake by my left front tire dropping off the pavement just about ¼ mile from my exit. I had traveled 27 miles, crossed two river bridges, driven through two towns and several stoplights all surrounded by other vehicles, but I have absolutely no memory of doing any of it. In other words, I was asleep at the wheel and only the grace of God got me through. Sure, I had driven that road hundreds of times, but that event really shook me up.

As I look back and reflect while writing this, I realize that far too many times, I have dozed or just coasted on autopilot, maybe not in the same literal sense as my drive home, but still I should have been alert to what was going on. It is so easy to get so comfortable doing the same thing over and over again that we drift into a type or routine or slumber and fail to see what we really need to be doing.

One of my favorite quotes comes from the book *“Dune”* by Frank Herbert, where his character *Duke Leto Atreides*, makes the statement...

“Without change something sleeps inside us and seldom awakens. The sleeper must awaken.”

While that is not a quote from the Bible, it is an obvious reference to **Ephesians 5:13-14** (ESV)

“But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Have you ever needed a friendly reminder to wake up and be about your business? I have, and those wake-up calls have helped me more times than I can count, to stay on track with my scheduled plans.

Before the days of smart phones with built in alarms, it was a common practice, when staying in a hotel while traveling, to request a wake-up call from the front desk. When it was time to wake up the phone would ring, causing you to awaken from your slumber. In a very real sense, God has given us a wakeup call.

In our recent Executive Board Meeting, several facts were presented by the Finance Team and the Executive/Admin Team which have awakened us to a serious situation facing our Association. This is not something that has happened overnight but has instead been developing for a period of years, and has now become obvious. The truth is that the difficulty that we face is the same difficulty being faced by most if not all of our churches. Money is tight and giving is down. We can't just keep doing the same thing and expect the situation to improve. For that reason, we now have to take a long hard look at what we are going to fund and how we are going to fund it going forward. I do not believe in going around hat-in-hand asking for money. I believe that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and He owns the hills that they

are grazing on. In other words, He will provide for the ministries that align with His will and best glorify Him. With that said, He also expects us to be the best stewards possible with the resources that He has entrusted us with and that brings us to our current situation.

The reality is that we find ourselves at both a crucial turning point but also with an opportunity to take advantage of the moment to trust God, boldly moving forward. Recognizing that fact, we formed a Task Force to take a long hard look at our ministries, properties and personnel, with everything on the table for discussion, and then to bring a recommendation back to the association for consideration. That evaluation will not be easy nor quick, but it must be done if we are to be the effective good stewards that God requires us to be as an association. The members of that Task Force, along with myself, are working hard and looking at a wide variety of options to resolve this situation.

I was asked recently, is the association necessary? I believe that the answer is yes. If that is so then what benefit do churches get from being a part of an association? That is a fair question that deserves an honest answer. Perhaps the best way to answer that question is to look at the history of why we have associations to begin with. I have repeatedly said that an association only has value as it encourages, resources, and equips churches and pastors to fulfill their calling to be the best that they can be for God's glory.

If we use NCBA as an example, we see that this Association was formed in 1895, from a group of individual churches, for the purpose of working together to plant new churches and to strengthen the existing ones. In other words, our forebears realized that we are better together at Advancing God's Kingdom than we ever could be as individual churches working alone. That is the heart and soul of why the Association came together in the first place. Together we provide opportunities for children's camp and youth rallies, Vacation Bible School resources, mission trips, disaster relief teams, evangelistic training and outreach, church revitalization and much more. That purpose is still the reason that our association exists. In fact, our current purpose statement says "*N.C.B.A. exists to Strengthen, Encourage and Support Churches to fulfill the Great Commission in the Spirit of the Great Commandment.*"

I have been researching numerous, creative ways of funding our associational ministries, and exploring other options to solidify our financial position. In that process I have become convinced that, whatever other course of action we take, we must first and foremost completely bathe this in prayer.

It's like God is saying to my heart, "those are things that man can do to try and fix this but where do I fit into your equation"?

The beauty of our Association is that we seek to work together doing these things we have maintained great fellowship among our churches and people as we work together. Therefore, I am beseeching each and every one of you to seriously take this matter before the Lord in prayer. God has given us a wake-up call let's not miss this opportunity. Let's stand together once again and ask God what ministries that we need to promote, what opportunities that we need to present, what services that we need to provide, and what facilities that we need to be all that He expects NCBA to be as we continue to strengthen, encourage and support one another providing opportunities to let the Light of the Lord shine through our people and churches going forward.

Bro. Bill

Policy Change for Block Party Trailer

We try very hard to keep the block party trailer in good shape, clean and well stocked. Recently however, there have been several times when it has been returned without the contents being cleaned and stored away properly.



For instance the bounce houses have been put away wet and dirty resulting in the mildew. Also, the Cotton Candy machine was missing the heat control knob. Folks these things are a blessing and would be very expensive to replace.

As a result and due to increased prices we have had to make a policy change. The use fee is now \$75, Popcorn Kit \$1.50 and Cotton Candy Floss \$10. If equipment is returned dirty or not stored away properly there will be a cleaning/damage fee of \$100 minimum up to the actual cost of repair or replacement will be added to the invoice to the church along with the usage fee and any consum-



North Canadian Baptist Association 2025 Annual Meeting

Location: Paden First Baptist Church

Date: Sunday, October 12th, 2025

Preacher: Dr. James Swain

3:00 PM – Business Session
4:00 PM – Mission Fair
5:00 PM – Fellowship Meal
6:00 PM – Worship Celebration

2025 Colorado Springs Mission Trip



Our Team



3 Construction Projects

2 VBS's



18 Professions



1 Service Project



Calendar

September

Pastor/Staff Fellowship

Tuesdays - 10:30 am - Association Office

Ministry Wives

Monday September 8th—6:00 pm

El Avocado Restaurant

Priority of Leadership Training

Thursday September 11th at OBU

Men's Fish Fry

Monday September 15th—6:30 pm

Dewar FBC

S.Y.A.T.P

Wednesday September 24th –6:30 pm

FBC Henryetta

Pastor/Staff Breakfast

Tuesday -March 25th - 9:00 am

Association Office

October

Pastor/Staff Fellowship

Tuesdays - 10:30 am - Association Office

Discipleship Strategy Workshop

Let's Continue to Roll Advancing the Gospel In 2025!

North Canadian Baptist Association

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