

promoter

A full-page background image of a kayaker in a blue helmet and gear paddling through white water rapids. The kayaker is wearing a blue helmet with a GoPro camera mounted on top. The water is turbulent and white with foam. The kayaker's paddle is blue and has the name 'WERNER' written on it. The kayaker is looking forward with a determined expression.

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ISSUE 6

CHURCH PLANTING

Josh Lee recalls the story of how Horizon Church got started

TAKING THE LEAD

Annual Leadership Conference will focus on discipleship

KEEP PADDLING

The easy path is not always the right path



The journey of a church planter

By Josh Lee

As a high school student I was on the set up team and the worship team of a brand new church. Then as a college student, several friends and I took a class on the introduction to church planting. I don't remember much from that class, but I do remember reading a lot of Ed Stetzer books. My first assignment in ministry was a few short months after I had graduated from Randall University and gotten married to Bre, was as a youth pastor in Woodward, OK with Allen Mabra who served on the Oklahoma Mission Board at the time. He had planted the church in Woodward 25 years before. Between that fact, and his position on the mission board we spoke often about church planting.

I didn't know it at the time, but I can look back now and see that God was using the moments and these conversations to prepare me to launch and lead Horizon Church. It wasn't until 2018, following several comments from the board of We Start Churches, a short conversation with my mentor, Jeff Blair, and a spirit filled night at the National Convention that I knew that the Lord was calling me to



Our opening sermon series at the church is called "The Story" and we're excited that Horizon gets to step into the story that God is writing!

plant a church.

I'll never forget talking with Bre about what this may look like in our lives. Mainly we just had a lot of questions and needed a lot of guidance. We started the conversation with WSC and we are and will be forever grateful to them.

First, they walked so patiently with us while we were seeking God's will. They prayed with us, fasted with us, and never pressured us. They genuinely cared for my family and allowed us to be on God's timeline.

Second, they examined us. When we first started the conversation they sent us an application that was quite daunting. It was a lot of work but we knew that it would give them a better idea of if we were supposed to do this or not. Then they sent us to an assessment that really helped clarify some things for Bre and I as well as point out any blind spots that we may not see. We were grateful to have confirmation as well as a plan moving forward.

Third, they prepared us. It would be really easy to approve someone, throw some money at them and wish them well. But they have walked and will continue to walk with us providing coaching from people who have been there, done that, and live to tell about it. There is so much work that goes into church planting and I can say without any hesitation that had it



not been for the coaching that WSC provided for us, we would have had no clue what to do and would have given up.

On Sept. 11, 2022 all of the conversations and dreams culminated at the launch of Horizon Church! There were approximately 120 people who came together to worship God, listen to the word, and dream with us about what a new church will be like in Siloam Springs! Our opening sermon series at the church is called "The Story" and we're excited that Horizon gets to step into the story that God is writing! We can't wait to see what the future holds and we are forever grateful to WSC and Oklahoma Free Will Baptists for the prayer and support!



Academic Advancements

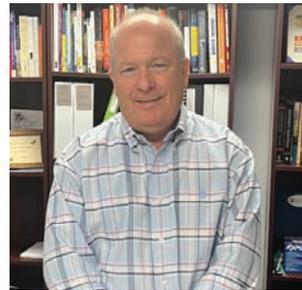
As Academic Dean, I am happy to announce two new bachelor's degree programs that have launched this fall — the Bachelor of Arts in History and the Bachelor of Science in Biology. We also have a new Biology emphasis in our Teacher Education program. I would like to commend our faculty, staff, and administration on their efforts to extend our mission.

Two commonalities that are evident in all three additions are: 1) curriculum that is presented from a Biblical worldview such as historical analysis, ethics in science, and pedagogical techniques; 2) market differentiation, as compared to other institutions.

The new Bachelor of Arts in History focuses on historical interpretation and research skills. The addition of the Bachelor of Science in Biology has been a



Professor Steven Byas, History Program Director



Dr. Michael Harris, Teacher Education Program Director



Dr. Phillip Kemp, Biology Program Director

herculean effort that included an \$80,000 renovation in the Oller Science Annex and the purchase of new equipment. This new program and Dr. Kemp's leadership will serve as our foundation for Randall University to explore future science-related degrees and certifications.

Lastly, our School of Education is committed to preparing teachers for the mission fields of public and

private education. The addition of the Biology emphasis will produce more Christian educators in the field of natural sciences. If you know anyone interested in studying at Randall, please direct them to admissions@ru.edu or 405-912-9007.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brent Sykes
Academic Dean

'Ignite the Spark' Missions Conference

Everyone is invited to attend!

Speakers: Mike Cousineau, Neil Gilliland, and Clint Morgan

Register your church for **Youth Night** on Wednesday!



November 29 - December 1
Services start at 6:30



encountercamp



encounter
kids

Encounter Teen Camp

June 11-16 & June 25-30

Early Bird Rates: \$150 before May 15th & 22nd 2023

Regular Rate: \$150 before May 15th & 22nd 2023

To register for camp you need to send in two things to the state office

1. A church registration form from okstatece.org
2. A \$1,000 deposit check

Encounter Kids Camp

July 23-27

Early Bird Rates: \$150 before May 31st 2023

Regular Rate: \$150 before May 31st 2023

To register for camp you need to send in two things to the state office

1. A church registration form from okstatece.org
2. A \$1,000 deposit check

DISCIPLESHIFT

FOLLOW + LEAD + MODEL

Leadership Conference to Highlight Discipleship

Pastors and ministry leaders from across the denomination will gather at Sonesta Nashville Airport, December 5-6, for the 2022 Leadership Conference. The conference will offer two days of training, inspiration, and fellowship. Bestselling author and pastor Robby Gallaty will be the keynote speaker, exploring the theme “DiscipleShift.”

The pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee, Gallaty’s story is a vivid testimony to God’s grace. He was saved from drug addiction and today is driven by a passion to disciple others for Christ. Gallaty is founder of Replicate Ministries and the author of several books, including *Growing Up*, *Firmly Planted*, and *Rediscovering Discipleship*. He and his wife Kandi have two sons, Rig and Ryder.



Robby Gallaty

Between keynote sessions, attendees will enjoy banquet-styled meals, a broad variety of seminars, Q&A discussions and workshops, and free time to fellowship or explore the sights in Nashville. Several denominational boards, commissions, and committees will meet in conjunction with the conference.

Visit nafwb.org/leadershipconference to register or for updates.

Speakers and Topics | Schedule

Marshall L. Bonéy III

Training Free Will Baptist Churches in Cross-Cultural Competence to Reach Their Multi-Ethnic Communities for Christ

Fernando Bustamante

Discipulado

Matthew Bracey & Eric Thomsen

Going DPR: Deliberate Personal Relationships for Discipleship

Carolyn Dwyer

The Pastor’s Wife: Our Ministry in Discipleship

Pedro Garcia

Discipleship When It Isn’t Wanted

El Discipulado Cuando no se Quiere

Steve Greenwood

Priorities for Partnering With Parents

Ron Hunter

Five Strategic Questions for Effective Discipleship

Ruth McDonald

Be Sure to Like, Follow, and Share! (Becoming a Disciple Who Makes Disciples)

Faron Thebeau & Josh Chapman

For Such a Time as This: Strategies for Discipling the Rising Generation to Reach a World We No Longer Recognize

Faron Thebeau

Para un Tiempo Como Este: Estrategias Para Discipular a la Generación Surgiente con el Fin de Evangelizar a un Mundo que no Reconocemos

Phyllis York

Discipling Across Generations

Monday Evening, December 5

3:00 pm Registration
5:30 Supper
7:00 Evening Session*
Speaker: Robby Gallaty

Tuesday Morning, December 6

7:30 am Breakfast
9:00 Seminars 1
10:00 Seminars 2
10:50 Refreshments
11:10 Seminars 3
12:00 pm Lunch

Tuesday Evening, December 6

1:30 Seminars 4
Free Time / Fellowship Opportunities
5:30 Dinner
7:00 Evening Session*
Speaker: Robby Gallaty

*Q&A After Evening Sessions

Milestone Celebrations

Note Burning

On October 9th the Cornerstone FWB Church in Sperry celebrated a note burning. Several years ago in a giant step of faith and under the direction of Pastor Curtis Linton the church moved from its former location to its present beautiful facility located on Highway 75. Rev. Zack Hinson is now the Lead Pastor and it is

exciting that the church is now debt free. Cornerstone Christian Academy is a thriving Christian School teaching students from Pre K through 12th grades.

50th Anniversary Celebration

On October 2nd the Crossroads FWB Church in Jenks celebrated their 50th year as a church. The Church was started by the



Oklahoma State Association Mission Board in 1972. Rev. David Sutton was the church planter. The church became self-supporting in just two and a half years. Rev. Doug Carey has pastored the church for the last 20 years and the church continues to serve the Jenks community in many amazing ways. Several of the congregation shared testimonies of how the church has had a tremendous impact in their lives. Bro. Sutton was there and shared of the early days of the churches ministry.



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April 10-12, 2023 – Orlando, FL

WHY THIS THEME
You're a problem solver, you make things happen. Changing programs or utilizing the latest ideas may not be enough for your church, ministry, class, or family. **DEUTERONOMY 6** commands to love God and engage His Word with all your **HEART**, all your **SOUL**, and with all your **MIND**. By doing so, every generation catches your consistent passion because they know you're **ALL IN**. Come join the conversation in discovering how you can take your church and home to an **all-in approach to discipleship**.

Onward and Upward



Mike Wade,
Executive Director
for Oklahoma
Free Will Baptists

In my sophomore year of high school I made the brilliant decision to go out for our cross country team. It was easy to make the team because very few individuals wanted to run as much as the coach required. The races were two miles long but the daily practices were from 4 to 6 miles each day.

The main thing that I learned from my year in cross country was that I am really not fond of running. I have heard many long distance runners such as marathon participants talk about the joy that running brings them. I only remember agony and discomfort.

One other thing I remember is that I liked running downhill better than uphill. I like bicycling better than running but I like cycling downhill better than uphill. Sometimes while practicing football, our coach would make us run the stadium steps. You guessed it, I liked coming down the steps better than going up.

While I do not claim to be an expert in canoeing, I have done enough canoeing to discover that it is easier to canoe downstream than upstream. There seems to be a common thread to all of the above. Besides the obvious that I am somewhat lazy, it is simply that it takes much less exertion to travel down. It is just easier.

When paddling upstream in a canoe, you must fight the current to make any progress. There are times of deeper slower water that enable greater progress to be made. There are also times of shallow fast moving water that brings upward movement almost to a halt. Some occasions even bring such slow progress that it is necessary to get out of the stream and carry the canoe around an impassible section of the stream. If the destination is upward there is no choice but to battle the current and do whatever is necessary to keep moving toward the destination. To succumb to the temptation to let the current take you downstream will only take you further from the desired destination.

Church work in today's American society is much like

paddling a canoe upstream. The currents are pushing against upward progress. The rapidly changing moral climate is causing the downhill waters to rush ever faster. The moral teaching of the Bible is being abandoned. An acceptance that everyone gets to choose whatever they desire as their own moral code of right and wrong has brought the downward current to such a speed that many in the church feel that upward progress is nearly impossible. Sadly, many denominations have found it easier to flow with the current rather than continuing upward.

I understand that this is one instance that I cannot allow myself to take the easy course. We must not grow weary. We must not lose heart. Our destination is onward and upward. We cannot and must not turn back. God's Word is truth and we must embrace it, teach it and proclaim it in every way possible. The world will hate us but didn't Jesus plainly tell us of this (1 John 3:13).

Like those of faith who have endured to the end, we must run the race. We must set aside all hindrances. We must remember what Christ has done for us.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. Hebrews 12:3 ESV

In other words, KEEP PADDING UPWARD!!!

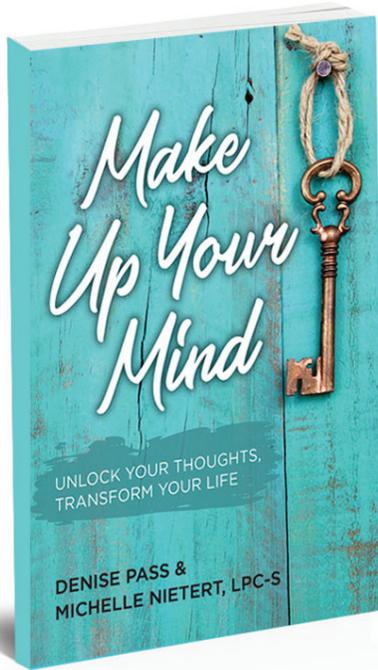
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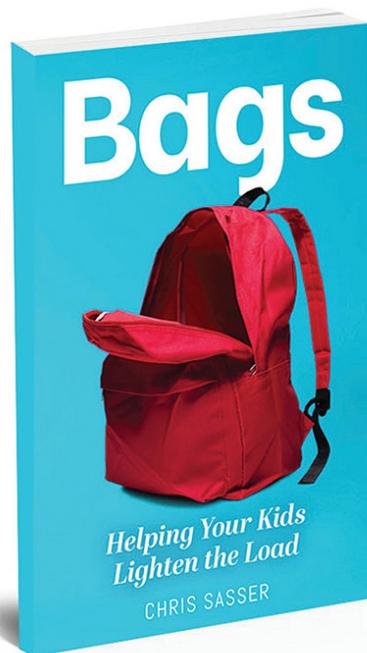
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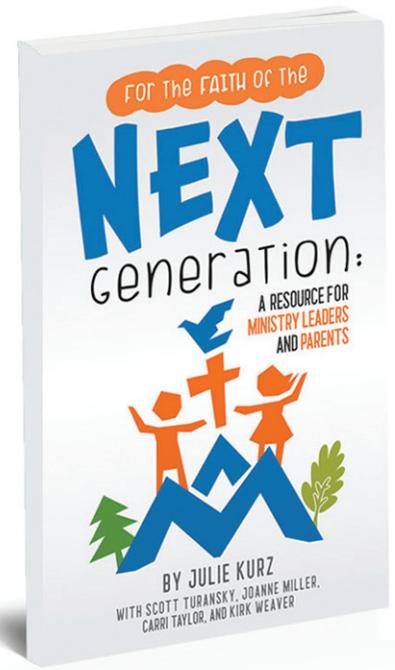
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