

August 2020



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Holy Demolition of Popular Pretensions

Coming up this Sunday, July 26, I will begin a new series called **Holy Demolition of Popular Pretensions**. The title is based on 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. “...We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God...” When you see the words “know” or “knowledge” in the New Testament, remember that it usually means more than just information; it means to experience.

We have many things in our culture that the enemy uses to keep us from experiencing God. I want to demolish some of the more popular ones so that we can truly experience God.

First up is whether or not any lives matter and why. The answers to those questions are only found as we consider the foundations of the competing views of the world.

Next, on August 2, I plan to affirm that indeed Black lives matter to Jesus and his followers. The most famous verse in the Bible in our day, John 3:16, affirms the truth that Jesus died for everyone in the world. As I suggest some actions that logically flow from that Biblical truth, you might be surprised.

The next week I take aim at the scoffers who say that Jesus’ return is just a fairy tale. Indeed, many of the things that were prophesied many centuries ago about his return have started to take place. Other prophesied events that have yet to occur appear to be possible very soon.

The next popular pretension in the crosshairs is the idea that people can make a utopia in this present age if only the “correct” have the power.

I title this message, “God and Government in This Present Age.” God has a purpose for earthly human government regardless of the form a government has. You may notice that many in our present age are working against God’s purposes.

At the end of the month I plan to begin a new series called **Personhood**. The first message on August 30 will be “What God Says about the Value of People.” Please pray for me as I map out the remainder of the series as it continues into September, Lord willing.

In His Service,
Pastor Rodney



AUGUST SERMON SCHEDULE

- 2 “Black Lives Matter to Jesus and His Followers”
- 9 “How Close to Jesus’ Return Might We Be?”
- 16 “God and Government in this Present Age”
- 23 Guest Speaker
- PERSONHOOD Series**
- 30 “What God Says about the Value of People”



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about knowing everything and being everywhere at the same time. Otherwise known as being omniscient and omnipresent. If you are an avid viewer of news and connected to the world on Twitter, Facebook, or other social media platforms, I want to give you something to think about.

I recently listened to a *Stand to Reason* podcast by speaker and author Alan Shlemon. (I heard Alan speak in person last fall at the STR ReThink Apologetics Conference in Minneapolis.) The title of the podcast, should you want to listen for yourself, is "Comment of the Year." In this podcast he references a post he saw on Twitter from a pastor in Florida. Alan does not give his name, but the quote is, "Could it be that God did not wire us to carry every event, taking place in every part of the world, at every moment as if it were ours? Could it be that technology has produced a faux-omniscience and omnipresence that is hurting mankind and not helping it."

Think about that for a moment. Let it soak in and then just go over some of the events from the last 8 months. For me, I remember leaving Districts in January with a car full of kids to memes about World War III, which had to do with the assassination of Soleimani. We were so confused because we had been disconnected from the world for a few days and had no idea what was going on. Then we moved right into the shock of the crash that killed Kobe Bryant, his daughter and others in a helicopter accident, severe locust swarms in Africa, the panic over a new virus, schools being closed, lock downs, major economic layoffs, the protests, the riots, a tropical depression over Wisconsin and a Saharan dust storm making it to the United States! That's not even mentioning political drama, kidnappings, missing people, murders, sex trafficking and Kanye running for president.

Not only do we get a front row seat, sometimes in HD, to all the major and not so major events, everywhere, technology allows us to experience these events as though we are actual witnesses. As a witness we feel the need to respond. Alan says because of this, our culture has given us three unrealistic expectations. It causes us to believe we are (1) expected to know the exact truth, (2) expected to evaluate it immediately for what is right and wrong and who's at fault, and we are (3) expected to say the right thing about it. Ugh... that's a lot of expectations that I know I can't carry.

For all but the last 14 years or so, with the invention of social media, people only had to carry the trials and events of their own lives and those of their family, friends, and community. Now we are given the trials and events of the whole world in rapid succession. Every evil event seems to be recorded and replayed over and over, causing us to soak it in and feel the pain and emotions as we scroll. I don't know about you but it's exhausting and frustrating! This faux-omnipresence leads us to faux-omniscience in thinking we were there, thinking we fully understand it and how it actually happened. It gives us false confidence about the situation and adds layers of stress to our lives.

This podcast reminded me of when I was four and told people I was at my parents' wedding. My mortified mother, would then have to explain that I was born two years after the wedding and therefore, didn't actually remember it. I can still recall how confused I was when my mom explained that my "memories" were from pictures, not from actually being there. It was confusing because I felt like I had actually been there! This is what social media and the constant inundation of news does to us. It gives us the feeling of being there! So what do we do? There are no verses in the Bible about this topic or the use of social media but Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do, word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." And in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 it says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." If you are struggling with the stress of dealing with the world's problems, the only advice I have is try to spend more time in the Bible, listening to Christian podcasts or lectures, reading Christian books and meeting with Christian peers than you spend on social media. And know that you are not expected to know everything nor are you required to respond on-line.

...until next time, Rebecca Anderson, OBC Youth Director

August OBC Meetings & Ministries

WORSHIP TEAM

- 2 Lisa, Emily, Jennifer, Tamra
 9 Youth Group
 16 Steve & Krista, Jim & Pattie
 23 Sam & Aimee
 30 Isaacsons

ORGANIST

- Dolly
 Karen
 Ellen
 Jody
 Anja



AUDIO TECH - Nathan Lind
 VISUAL TECH - Sam Blomberg

MEETINGS

CE Board	Tuesday, 4th	7:00 p.m.
Missions Committee	Thursday, 6th	7:00 p.m.
Trustee Board	Monday, 10th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Board	Monday, 24th	7:00 p.m.

Ladies' Monday Evening Bible Study

All ladies are invited to join this study beginning **August 10, 7:00 p.m.**, at church. They will be using Warren Wiersbe's "Be Comforted" - a study of Genesis 12-25.

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39



Virtual Bible School, August 3-7, Mystery Island

Is there just one God? Who is God? What is God like? Does God love me? Can I know God? Our kids grapple with questions like these every day.

At Mystery Island, we'll uncover the truth about our Creator God! There's a sea of confusion about who God is and what he's like, so we'll track down the one true God and learn how amazing he is through the pages of Scripture. Mystery Island VBS is packed with teaching that connects the Bible to the real world and gives kids a better understanding of our awe-inspiring Creator and the salvation he offers through Jesus Christ. Each day, kids will learn more about one of God's amazing attributes (great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, trustworthy) and how that applies to their lives.

Get ready for a taste of paradise as you track down the one true God at Mystery Island!

go to: ogemabaptistchurch.org



"God is always seeking you. Every clear blue sky. Each ocean wave. The starry hosts of night.

He blankets each new day with the invitation, 'I am here.'" 

-Louie Giglio

God ENJOYS You

Will you allow yourself to believe this?
 God absolutely, unequivocally, loves you.
 But He also ENJOYS you.

He likes the way He made you.
 He likes the things that make you laugh,
 and the things you're really good at.
 He likes the areas that feel weak to you,
 because they are places He can meet you in a unique way.
 He likes the way you see the world
 a little differently than anyone else.

You are a reflection of His character and intent,
 and He just straight up enjoys seeing that lived out.

How can believing this change your internal narrative?
 How can it change how you view yourself?



August Birthdays

- 2 Terrie Grapa, Darrin Polzin
- 3 Karolyn Erickson, Ashley Berg
- 4 Carrie Ulrich
- 7 Chris Blomberg, Landon Blomberg, Teague Shoup, Violet Jesunas
- 8 Michelle Nelson, Alisha Olson, Vytautas Jesunas, Luca Blomberg
- 9 Mindi Wolsky
- 10 Julia Blomberg
- 12 Kari Swan, Thorson Gustafson
- 13 Scott Hueckman, Mike Ulrich
- 14 Tim Heisz
- 15 Tina Cattanach
- 16 Manny Espinoza
- 17 Hagan Isaacson
- 18 Levi Gedde, Angelica Espinoza
- 19 Duane Heldstab
- 20 Andrea Blomberg, Deb Bosserman, Katie Carlson, Emma Blomberg
- 21 Debbie Gustafson, Christopher Gedde, Fallon Blomberg
- 22 Heidi Loomis
- 23 Molly Andreae, Justin Ulrich
- 24 Lloyd Johnson, Nikki Heikkinen, Leah Reynolds
- 25 Nathan Lind, Carolyn Bauer
- 26 Noah Ulrich, Lance Gustafson, Lance Meier
- 27 Chuck Selander, Keith Erickson, Richard Ziegler
- 28 Joan Gasser
- 31 Calvin Blomberg



Happy Birthday!

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family (on our mailing list) has an address change
 - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
 - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org Thank You!

OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Combined Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:15 a.m.
or online at www.ogemabaptistchurch.org

Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.



*“And the Lord, He is the One
who goes before you.
He will be with you,
He will not leave you
nor forsake you;
do not fear nor
be dismayed.”
Deuteronomy 31:8*

Missionary Spotlight

At our annual church business meeting in May, OBC membership voted to support 3 additional missions for this year only, and Janellie Blanco working with *Belize Camping Experience* is one of these.

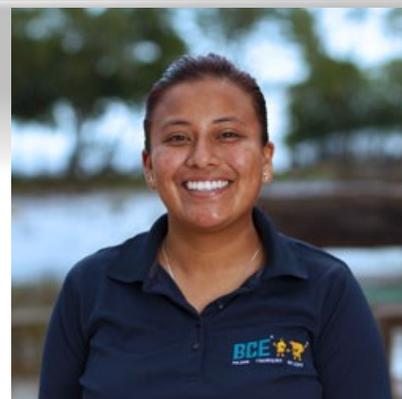
“Our Vision—To see Belize change Belize through the love of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission—Engaging tomorrows leaders with positive, fun, life changing experiences that develop confidence, competence and Christian character.

Children's Programs—Belize is a beautiful country, but poverty in Belize is high. A priority issue for CCM's Belize program is reaching the children who are lost in a cycle of poverty and despair and to prevent them from turning to dangerous activities such as crime, drugs and other destructive activities. The project in Belize is operated under the name of Belize Camping Experience (BCE). This project seeks to develop tomorrow's leaders with fun, positive, life changing experiences that strengthen confidence, competence and Christian character. This is done by working with schools, churches and individuals who are running programs with children doing summer day camps. These camps are similar to many Vacation Bible Schools in that they include Bible stories, memory verses, skits, crafts, games and snacks. Our desire is to place people over programs. Our group leaders are expected to get to know the children in the groups well and to know what each child is facing in their lives in order to present God's love while addressing that child's need.

Moving Forward—For the remainder of the year, we conduct follow-up programs. We continue to work with the schools and other groups providing material and moral support wherever needed. On a regular basis we lead a chapel service for the students. These chapels are lively, interactive and culturally relevant. Each lesson is different in its presentation using exciting and captivating instructions that will instill more values to enable them to have happy and productive lives.”

from belizecampingexperience.com



Janellie Blanco
Belize Camping Experience

**Staff manager and
Head Youth
Development**

I am a teacher at heart who loves mentoring young people as they grow in their faith and deepen their love and understanding for Jesus. I lead worship on Sundays and during the summer for camps.