

# Central CONNECTION

## VISITOR'S EDITION NEWSLETTER

Central Baptist Church of Orange County  
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*"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:5*

## WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH IS THIS?

We've been described as "old-fashioned," "traditional," and even "a church my grandmother used to attend." Maybe people say those things because we sing the classic hymns of the faith, carry our Bibles to church and listen to straight-forward preaching from the old Book!

We are delighted you took the time to attend our church. You may have come because you were invited by a member. You may have found us online, watched on YouTube by design, or seen the church lawn sign! Whatever brought you here was no accident. We believe the Holy Spirit of God had something to do with it.

If you detected a warmth and friendliness, that was no accident either. We genuinely love people and were honored by your presence.

You can't know all about a church in one visit. We have four services per week plus a whole calendar of programs, activities and conferences throughout the year. The purpose of this newsletter is to tell you a little bit about our church ministries and what we believe as a church body.



Ukraine missionary, Bro. Chris Rue, preaches during a church service.

## We are a Bible-believing Baptist Church

Above everything else, we are a church that believes, operates and stands on the authority of the King James Bible. *That should be important to you.* Unlike the news, social media and man's opinions, there needs to be a place where you can hear the truth - even if it's hard to hear. If you want to have peace and joy in this life and know for certain where you will live when this life is over, this is the church for you. The Bible has all of that information. Not only that, the Bible is filled with prophecy that clearly shows things to come. (John 16:13) It has never been wrong!



Van Ministry kids say, "Hello!!"

You may have noticed that we are a *Baptist* church. We don't conceal our identity with clever church names. Over the decades, Baptist churches have stood for specific doctrines. Each letter in the name B-A-P-T-I-S-T lays out truths that we believe. **(See page 4)** The rest of the newsletter is filled with information about church activities that may be of interest to you.

Our sincere prayer is that you will come back for another visit and get to know us better.

## SEPTEMBER IS MISSIONS MONTH

*"Making Missions Matter"*



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

### Promotion Sunday

Students will move up to their new Sunday school classes.  
September 7 @ 9:00 AM

### Youth-Directed Evening Service

Teens and their leaders will be in charge of the Evening Service.  
September 7 @ 5:00 PM

### Lord's Supper

September 14 @ 5:00 PM

### Missions Conference

September 26-28  
Friday & Saturday @ 7:00 PM  
Sunday @ 9, 10 and 5

### Missions Sunday

September 28

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### Phebe's Fellowship

(Women's Missionary Society)  
1st Wednesday of the Month  
7:00 PM

### Spanish Bible Study

2nd Wednesday of the Month  
7:00 PM

### College and Career Bible Study

3rd Friday of the Month  
6:30 PM

### Street Preaching

Last Saturday of the Month  
12:00 PM

## Who is the Pastor?

Pastor Steve Owens was born on a military base in Anchorage, Alaska, where his father served in the United States Air Force. He met his wife, Charlene, in Bible college and they have been married for more than forty-six years. They are the parents of two adult children. He preached his first sermon in a Christian school chapel service at the age of sixteen. Pastor Owens attended Bible College where he earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education Degree. He has been involved in every aspect of church ministry from children's church preacher to senior adult Sunday school teacher. He has served as a church bus captain, youth pastor, assistant pastor and Bible teacher. He also served in the Christian School ministry as a high school teacher, basketball coach, and school administrator. Pastor Owens has held a life insurance license by the state of California since 1994 and was the Director of the Veterans Burial Program where he assisted Veterans and families in securing their VA burial benefits and preplanning their funerals. He is the author of two books, *"Thou Shalt Be Buried"* and *"Understanding Pre-Planning."* His favorite verse of Scripture is found in Jeremiah 15:16, **"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts."** Pastor Owens considers it a profound privilege and responsibility to be the pastor of such a wonderful group of people.



### What Members are Saying

*We're the Atkins family. Gabriel has been a member for twelve years and I have been a member for fourteen years. We were single when we came and we were happily married in 2017!*

*As we have attended, we have grown in our appreciation for the depth of the Bible's truths. You never get a surface-level sermon at Central Baptist! We have seen firsthand how applying the Scriptures to our everyday life has transformed our home and marriage.*

*We are the parents of two beautiful children with another one on the way. Our kids love their Sunday school classes and their teachers. The teachers are patient, kind and engaging. They truly want the children to learn the Bible and they're sure to bring on the fun in the classroom! Class activities include Bible memory games, captivating songs about the Lord and fun prizes for learning their memory verses.*

*Gabriel and I teach a mid-week children's program, Junior Church bi-monthly and we volunteer for Vacation Bible School each Summer. In short, we're kid people! If there is a kids' function, you'll likely see us there serving, teaching, and investing in our amazing students.*

*We also serve by singing in the church choir. It's a privilege to worship the Lord with special music for big events and conferences.*

*To sum up, we have a home here at Central Baptist. We know when we come through the doors that there are loved ones here who have been praying for us, who lift us up when we're down, and who will always encourage us to stick close to the Lord. We enjoy the many events around the church, but most importantly, we know that the Word of God is preached here unapologetically. We're thankful for our Pastor who diligently studies to bring us the truth and demonstrates his love for our family. We hope you will come visit us again!"*

**Gabriel and Elaina Atkins  
Elizabeth and Daniel  
Luke Henry (on the way!)**

### Weekly Schedule of Church Services

Sunday School **9:00 AM** (Classes for all ages)  
Morning Preaching Service **10:00 AM**  
Sunday Evening Service **5:00 PM**

#### Thursday

Scripture Scouts (Ages 4-12) **7:00 PM**  
Prayer and Bible Study (Adults and Teens) **7:00 PM**

*Services are broadcast on YouTube. Go to Central Baptist Church of Orange County*

## Yearly Events

The church calendar is filled with events. The year begins with an important **Bible Conference** that encourages us to renew our love for the Lord and our commitment to live in His word throughout the coming year. There are **Youth Activities**, **Ladies' Luncheons** and special events like our **Couple's Valentines Dinner**. One highlight is **Anniversary Sunday** on the last Sunday in May. On that day we praise the Lord and give thanks for the founding of the church. Summer activities include the **"Real Men's BBQ,"** **Vacation Bible School**, Summer **S.N.A.C. Nights** (Sunday Night After Church), and the **Ladies Balboa Island Fellowship**. The arrival of fall means our annual **Missions Conference** will be coming soon. The holiday season highlights events such as our **Thanksgiving Fellowship**, **Adult Christmas Banquet**, **Children's Christmas** activities and our yearly **Christmas for Christ Evangelism** event in old town Orange.



**Vacation Bible School**

## Worldwide Missions



We are excited to financially support our faithful missionaries all over the world. Our members annually give over and above their regular church offerings to support twenty-three mission projects in the countries of Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Fiji, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Trinidad/Tobago, and Zambia. In addition, we support a new Bible-Believing church in Irvine, a world-wide Bible distribution ministry, and a Missions Evangelist who travels the country encouraging other churches with their missionary endeavors.

### VITAL BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Every church service is unique from the others and emphasizes a different area of Bible knowledge. In order to receive a well-rounded diet from the Word of God, we encourage you to attend all four services.

*Survey of the Old Testament*..... Auditorium Sunday School (9:00 AM)  
*Lessons from the Life of Christ* ..... Sunday Morning Preaching (10:00 AM)  
*Lessons on the Local Church* ..... Sunday Evening Bible Study (5:00 PM)  
*The Book of Revelation* ..... Thursday Evening Bible Study (7:00 PM)

## Church Ministries

Being a member means you can find ways to serve the Lord through the local church. It's a privilege to serve. The book of Philippians tells us that the Lord came to earth and became a servant. He told His disciples that "ye should do as I have done to you." (John 13:15). The church has many areas to serve. In the area of Evangelism: Saturday Soul Winning, Church Visitation, the Gospel Tract Ministry, Monthly Street Preaching and the Grand Avenue Youth Outreach. Members may serve by being helpers and teachers in children's programs such as: Sunday School, Children's Churches, Thursday Scripture Scouts, and Vacation Bible School. Other church ministries include: Greeters, Ushers, parking lot attendants, security, and the Church Cleaning Crew. If a member has a musical gift they can participate in the Church Choir and Orchestra. Many members are on the Prayer Chain and quietly intercede to the Lord on behalf of others. There are places to serve for everyone who has a willingness to serve.



**Top Left:** Valentine Banquet  
**Top Right:** Youth Activity  
**Bottom Left:** VBS  
**Bottom Right:** Men's BBQ



### What Members are Saying

*My family and I started attending Central Baptist Church of Orange County in February 2023. Before then, we tried out a couple of other churches but we did not feel a deep spiritual conviction to continue attending them. We got to know about Central Baptist Church using Google search. The question that is of interest will be, "What is different about this church that made you stay"? The answer is, the mode of fellowship and the way the undiluted word of God from the 1611 authorized King James Version is being taught, provides a deeper understanding of His word and what it means to be a Christian. The whole family came to the same conclusion that this is it after our very first time worshipping at Central Baptist Church, and it has been this way since then. I thank God for his grace upon my family, because I see us growing in the Lord. The Lord is teaching me day by day on how to give him total control of my affairs, how to practice being patient, a virtue which I struggle with, in all, teaching me how to serve him better.*

**Peter and Tega Ighedo  
Efu, Noel and Precious**

*We first visited Central Baptist about a year ago, and what drew us in right away was its warm, close-knit family atmosphere. We were looking for a small Baptist church that faithfully teaches sound doctrine, sings the timeless hymns of the faith, and has a heart for missions, and we found exactly that here. Over the past year, we've been blessed not only by the clear, Bible-based preaching, but also by the genuine fellowship of believers who love the Lord. We've also been thankful for the opportunities to serve—my husband plays guitar for the Spanish ministry (even though he doesn't speak Spanish), and I teach children's church. We are so grateful that God has led us here."*

**Robert and Maria Franco**

## BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

### B - BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

The Bible is our sole authority in faith and practice. It is the final authority on all matters of faith, practice, and polity. The Bible is inspired and preserved by God and carries His absolute authority. Baptists believe the Bible (the AV 1611 King James Bible) and strive to live according to its teaching. It is the Divine Revelation of God to man and is the complete and infallible guide to faith and life. (Ps. 12:6-7; 2 Tim 3:15-17; 1 Thes 2:13; 2 Pet 1:20-21)

### A - AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Each local church is an independent body accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Head of the church. Each church is self-governing, and contains all the human authority for leadership within its congregation. No denomination, governmental body, or religious hierarchy may dictate the church's beliefs or practices. A Baptist church may choose to associate with other churches of like faith around mutual interests or ministry opportunities, but one church cannot exert authority over another. (Col 1:18; Matt 18:15-20; Acts 15:22-21; 2 Cor 8:1-5, 19, 23)

### P - PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

All born-again believers have the privilege of direct access to God. Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and man. We need no other human agent or spiritual mediator. As God's priests, we can study His Word, pray for our needs, intercede for others, offer worship, and serve in His work. Every child of God has equal access to their Heavenly Father. (1 Tim 2:1-6; 1 Pet 2:5,9; Rev 5:9,10)

### T - TWO ORDINANCES

The local church is mandated by God to practice two ordinances. 1) Baptism of believers by immersion in water symbolizes sincere faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection with the desire to walk in newness of life. 2) The Lord's Supper, or Communion, commemorates Christ's broken body and shed blood giving each believer an opportunity for self-examination and rededication. These are not sacraments to earn salvation, but privileges granted by grace. (Mat 28:19-20; Rom 6:4; 1 Cor 11:23-32)

### I - INDIVIDUAL SOUL LIBERTY

Every individual, believer and unbeliever, possesses the God-given privilege of free will having the liberty to choose what to believe. No one should be forced to any belief against his or her will. God speaks to individuals through His Word and His Spirit. Every person is individually responsible to God and will be judged according to the beliefs and practices he or she freely chooses. Freedom of choice demands personal responsibility. (John 3:36; Rom 14:4-12; 2 Cor 4:2; Titus 1:9)

### S - SAVED, BAPTIZED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Local church membership is restricted to individuals who give a believable testimony of personal faith in Christ and have publicly identified with Him in believer's baptism. Church membership is a necessary privilege for believers who follow Christ. Fellowship, guidance, and encouragement of the local church family are essential for believers to maintain an unwavering testimony and a meaningful life of service. (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor 12:12,18; 2 Cor 6:14; Heb 10:23-25)

### T - TWO OFFICES

Scripture mandates two offices for the local church. The pastor leads, feeds, guides, and guards the church at the direction of Christ. The Bible terms "pastor," "elder," and "bishop" refer to different responsibilities for the same office. Deacons help the pastor care for the flock so he can give priority to prayer and the ministry of the Word. The Bible gives qualifications for each office. (1 Tim 3:1-13; Acts 6:1-7; Phil 1:1)

### S - SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

God established both civil and local church governments. They have distinct responsibilities and operations. Neither should control the other. Believers in a free society should influence government toward righteousness, but should not make an unholy alliance for control, influence or favors. A government should not interfere with the local church's preaching, activities, and ministry. (Mat 22:15-22; 28:19-20; Rom 13:1-7)

### ARE YOU 100% CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE?

**THIS IS AN URGENT QUESTION!** It is the most important question you will ever answer. *Please do not take this lightly.* If there is even a tiny bit of doubt, please read the inserted gospel tract. If you make a decision after *carefully* reading the tract, please let us know right away. Thank you!

#### What Members are Saying...

*I am a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Irvine. On April 2, 2023, I visited Central Baptist Church of Orange County for the very first time. I still remember that day clearly, the Pastor preached on "Occupy Till I Come" during Sunday school and on "Riseth Up Again" in the morning service. From that day forward, Central Baptist Church has truly become my home. Since then, I have grown so much in the Lord, learning about soul-winning, street-preaching, sermon preparation, eternal security, the rapture, the tribulation, the millennial reign, the anti-Christ, and many other truths from God's Word. I am deeply thankful for the faithful teaching and spiritual leadership of Pastor Owens, as well as the warm fellowship of my brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*At Central, I have also been blessed with opportunities to serve in different ministries, including prayer, church cleaning, and preaching. Being part of the prayer chain has greatly strengthened my faith. Simple tasks like cleaning the church have reminded me of the joy and humility of serving the Lord—even applying my "engineering brain" to keeping the toilets clean! From time to time, I have also had the privilege of filling in for the Pastor and preaching the Word of God, which has been an incredible blessing. Truly, it is a joy and an honor to serve the Lord at Central Baptist Church."*

**Martin Hu**



Street Preaching Ministry