



MAKING DISCIPLES, GROWING IN FAITH

# Leading others

## Equipping

**Leadership Development** – Oklahoma Baptists have given new life to churches in transition due to efforts of Leadership Development. With an average of 230 out of 1700 churches without a pastor at any given time, the nation's largest team of transitional pastors in Oklahoma stays busy. Over 50 trained and certified transitional pastors across the state enable Oklahoma Baptist churches to take advantage of one of the fastest growing strategies for churches without pastors. More and more churches have discovered the opportunity and fresh vision that can come during transitional time. Most churches that utilize the Transitional Pastor process experience growth during the



*Teaching children about Jesus is possible through your Cooperative Program giving.*

interim time. They are also able to call a new pastor more quickly and testify that the experience was positive. In 2005, the Transitional Pastor process was shared with at least one church per week. Eight out of every 10 churches who learn about the process choose to take advantage of it. Thanks to the Cooperative Program, trained professionals are available to Oklahoma Baptists during one of the most critical times in church life.

**Sunday School** — Sunday School continues to be at the center of reaching Oklahoma for Christ. Last year over 2,700 new Sunday School units were started. Approximately 4,000 Sunday School Leaders participated in training events that were sponsored by the

*Your Cooperative Program giving makes Vacation Bible School fun!*



BGCO and funded by the Cooperative Program. Duncan, Immanuel, reported 17 baptisms as a result of starting seven new units in their Sunday School Program.

**VBS Information** — Vacation Bible School is one of the greatest evangelism opportunities for the local church. The BGCO led VBS leadership training events in every association this year with over 4,500 participants. Early reports indicate that VBS has resulted in over 1,540 decisions for Christ. These figures are 4 percent above the totals for the same period last year. Over 6,950 new Sunday School prospects have also been identified.

**FAITH** — Over 325 churches received FAITH Sunday School training in 2005. A Hispanic FAITH Clinic in Oklahoma City had nearly 40 participants and, as a result, recorded 14 professions of faith. After implementing the FAITH Sunday School strategy, OKC, Southwood, reported 20 baptisms in the first semester alone. ■

## Family's Salvation Began At VBS

This summer, a little girl at our church became interested in church, accepted Christ and was baptized all within a few months of attending VBS. Because of her faithfulness and childlike nature, her parents' interest peaked and both received Christ after witnessing their own daughter's profession of faith. Shortly after these life-changing events occurred, the father began witnessing to his parents, the little girl's grandparents. In spite of the grandfather's apprehension of the church, both grandparents became Christians and were baptized. They are all members of our church and are actively involved in ministry! Praise God for Vacation Bible School reaching the lives of many children and families! ■

— Howard Head  
Pastor, Geary First Baptist Church