

OBU 2020

Vision, Mission, Values



Oklahoma Baptist
UNIVERSITY



OBU 2020

Vision.....	1
OBU 2020.....	2
OBU Mission.....	6
Purpose Statement.....	6
Core Values	7
Strategic Initiatives	8
Moving Forward.....	10

Oklahoma Baptist University

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VISION

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS have historically made great contributions to and have been strong advocates of higher education as an expression of our commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Oklahoma Baptist University seeks to ensure our Christian identity is maintained and that the University remains faithful to our Baptist heritage of academic excellence. Crucial components for guiding the vision and mission include Christ centeredness and Biblical fidelity, our shared mission with Oklahoma Baptists, and academic excellence that equips students with a Christian worldview.

Vision certainly characterizes the founding of Oklahoma Baptist University. Anticipating statehood for Oklahoma in 1907, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma appointed an educational commission to establish a Baptist university in the new state. Those Baptist pioneers saw beyond the need for training only pastors and missionaries, and therefore did not establish a seminary or Bible school, as noble an enterprise as those would have been. Instead they envisioned a co-educational university that would be grounded in the liberal arts – a university that would prepare students to integrate their Christian faith and disciplines as educators, doctors, lawyers, artists, musicians, missionaries, pastors, entrepreneurs, writers, poets, actors, and economists. Their lofty vision was realized as Oklahoma Baptist University (originally The Baptist University of Oklahoma) was founded in 1910 on Bison Hill.

The founders envisioned and established a distinctively Christian university and understood that Christian higher education is best expressed within a liberal arts context in which the lives of students are transformed spiritually, intellectually, and physically. A liberal arts curriculum recognizes that education must be more than simply moving through a prescribed set of courses to prepare for a career. A liberal arts curriculum seeks to educate the whole person and prepares an individual to think critically about worldviews, values, and truth. A liberal arts education seeks to invigorate scholarship and learning that is integrative and imaginative. The liberal arts are essential because they are foundational to true learning and quality living.

Unapologetically Baptist and distinctively Christian higher education prepares an individual for living a Christian life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this OBU should provide for the following five goals.

First, as a distinctively Christian institution of higher learning, OBU provides an education that is a rigorous and excellent academic experience taught from a Christian worldview that holds all truth is God's truth. This Christian worldview addresses the major questions of life including where we came from, why we are here, why things are the way they are, and what happens after death. Such a worldview holds that God was "in the beginning," that all things were created by Him, and that humanity, made in the image of God, sinned resulting in the Fall of creation. Yet Christ was sent to redeem us that we might be in relationship with Him and find our purpose in glorifying Him, and that after physical death there is judgment for those who reject Him but life eternal for those who trust Him.

Second, OBU is differentiated from secular models in the area of faith integration and spiritual formation. Following Augustine's approach, *credo ut intelligam*, faith is a precondition of genuine knowledge rather than a mere capstone to a body of knowledge already acquired. Although secular institutions are increasingly hostile and closed to Christianity, faith and learning at OBU is integrated rather than taught as if they were two separate spheres of reality. Likewise, spiritual formation and character development are foundational in all areas of the University – academics and athletics, student development and residential life, and all other aspects of OBU. Although OBU is not a church, it is the intellectual arm of the ministry of the church. Our Christian faith provides the *unity* for the University.



“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (HCSB)

Third, OBU is committed to fulfilling the Great Commandment. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30 HCSB). The command to love God with all one’s mind requires study, learning and exploration of the marvelous works of the Creator. As Christians we are obligated to develop and use our minds – our intellect – for the glory of God as we engage the culture in which we live. This obligation is manifested in excellent classroom instruction and scholarly activities.

Fourth, OBU views its mission as the preparation of disciples for successful leadership and service for the Kingdom and for fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). OBU serves and partners with the church. One way in which this is accomplished is through the preparation of ministers and pastors for service to the church and for denominational agencies. Another is by preparing an educated laity capable of assuming responsibilities and providing leadership to the church. The church requires spiritually mature and intellectually astute members, and OBU is uniquely positioned to help prepare individuals for these roles of service and leadership.

Fifth, OBU is actively engaged in professional education. Although the liberal arts are foundational, as agents of transformation we recognize that many areas for service are increasingly found in professional arenas, including preparation for study in law, science, medicine and nursing, education, business, technology, and public service. These important areas of professional service are best designed when built upon the foundation of the liberal arts.

Oklahoma Baptist University’s vision is to continue as a distinctively Christian university that prepares students, through the integration of faith and discipline, to be transformative servant-leaders and agents of change in their families, churches, workplaces, and ultimately to influence the world.

OBU 2020

OVER THE NEXT DECADE, Oklahoma Baptist University will implement initiatives addressing quality of life, academic programs and services, marketing and enrollment management, student services, resource development, faculty development, and community outreach and involvement that serve the greater good.

Imagine driving onto a beautiful campus recognized as one of the region’s finest arboretums. Driving from either the east or west on Midland Street, visitors, students and employees enjoy tree-lined walkways as they turn north onto Raley Drive. Apartment-style housing lines both sides as one makes his way underneath a stately arch and grand entrance to the campus. Crossing under the archway, one is met with manicured green spaces and a magnificent view of the signature building of the University, Raley Chapel.

The road turns right giving a glimpse of the Recreation and Wellness Center (RAWC) and the Noble Complex for Athletics to the left. University Street is closed to traffic from Airport Road. Driving east on University and passing Kerr Residence Hall on the left and the new nursing building, the School of Christian Service in Montgomery Hall and the Bailey Business Center on the right, one turns onto the oval replete with seasonal plantings, the fountain, the bison statue and Centennial Plaza.

A newly expanded Wood Science Building that houses additional labs and the mathematics department is on the right. Next on the right is Thurmond Hall, with a renovated second floor housing a new Welcome Center and Academic Center.

Anchoring the north end of the oval is a renovated Shawnee Hall, equipped with multimedia rooms and the latest technologies for education. After driving past WMU Residence Hall and back onto University Street, one drives west and turns back north on Raley Drive past the RAWC, Noble, the completed track and field complex lined with brick and wrought iron fence, the intramural fields on the left, and the Chapel and then the advancement offices on the right. Ahead are the varsity fields and faculty housing. At the intersection of Raley and MacArthur, one can see the expanded MacArthur Apartments to the left. Turning right, there is Taylor Residence Center and a new performing arts theater. Moving back to the north, a winding road leads one through large park-like spaces with ponds, trees, and walking and running trails, ultimately leading to a new street running from Kickapoo past the new baseball and softball parks to a north entry to Unity Health Center.

Signage, lighting and architecture are reminiscent of an Ivy League academic setting; university-owned electric cars and segways glide silently along pathways transporting prospective students and University employees. The entire campus is a mix of excitement, anticipation and peaceful, quiet places. Students gather on wide open green spaces playing guitars, faculty and students share with each other as they walk to a renovated student union to relax, eat, and fellowship. A beautiful walkway of arches and columns leads students between the Geiger Center and the Sarkeys Telecommunication Center, linking the main campus with the Raley Chapel area.

All spaces throughout the campus are accessible by the latest communication and wireless technologies. Students also can wander through the campus in a virtual reality environment as they study at OBU from their homes throughout the world. Faculty search processes reveal a large number of well-qualified applicants, many with national reputations who seek to specifically serve at OBU. There is an environment of trust and mutual respect among employees and a sense that our mission is central to all we do. Everything about the campus speaks to excellence, learning, and quality.

Oklahoma Baptist University is thriving in its second century. With a growing enrollment, highly motivated faculty and employees committed to the mission, OBU is the preferred place to study, learn, and invest your life. By 2020, OBU will be well on its way to achieving this vision, including having accomplished the following.

OBU is nationally and internationally recognized through centers of excellence. These centers of excellence include music, education, theology, church recreation, and faith and discipline integration. Through existing and future centers, OBU will be recognized for:

- **Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach:** Founded in 2005, this Center will be nationally recognized as a leader in research and preparation for missions, including working closely with undergraduate and graduate students in intercultural and orality studies. OBU students will be educated so that in all disciplines a sound grasp and appreciation for international issues and cultural sensitivity is obligatory. Every college and academic program will be proactive to ensure that students are prepared to serve and lead in an ever-increasing global environment. Every academic college will work with the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach to implement at least one international, cross-cultural experience for their students that integrates missional or service-oriented projects.
- **Center for Faith Integration:** This center would be at the heart of the OBU mission, providing faculty, staff, and student development activities to promote and lead the effort of integrating faith and discipline. The center would sponsor workshops and summer institutes featuring speakers of national prominence.





- **Center for Excellence in Teacher Education:** With a focus on teachers and students preparing for careers as teachers, this center would host an online journal featuring research that benefits teacher education programs and home school educators nationwide. It also would host yearly seminars and other outreach activities that bring Oklahoma teachers to the OBU campus.
- **Center for Sports and Recreation Leadership:** This center, with initial funding from the BGCO already secured, will become the premier resource for sports and recreation leaders and will work closely with Lifeway Christian Resources.
- **Baptist Center:** This center would incorporate a “Pastors School” each summer for OBU students, Oklahoma Baptist pastors and families, as well as OBU alumni, featuring workshops and activities on the OBU campus specifically designed to minister to ministers. Working with the BGCO and other entities, a speakers series featuring outstanding Christian leaders would be offered for ministers and current students.

OBU is nationally recognized as a Christ-centered, innovative university known for excellent academics and faith integration in both graduate and undergraduate education. The graduate programs of the University will target new and innovative academic areas based upon a vibrant liberal arts foundation. These programs will include new degrees in the following areas as well as other fields of study and preparation consistent with our mission and new environments:

- Theology and Ministry
- Education
- Allied Health Fields
- Counseling – Marriage and Family Therapy

OBU’s capital campaign efforts have increased OBU’s endowment to four times its annual budget over the next 15-20 years, and have established:

- Endowments for student scholarships including instituting a scholarship program specifically designed for students who are members of Oklahoma Baptist churches;
- An endowed faculty development program for continued education, and professional and scholarly activities;
- At least one endowed professorship or chair in every academic department;
- An endowed missions program, with the goal of assisting students and faculty financially with international travel;
- Endowment of the first-year experience program for entering freshmen with funds for student enrichment activities;

As tuition rates at private Christian universities rise to cover the increasing costs of education, the necessity of fundraising takes on greater significance. Raising funds for student scholarships is critical to making OBU financially accessible. By 2020, OBU has added an additional \$20 million to its scholarship endowment. Increased and additional performance-based and leadership scholarships will have been added to the endowment. Specific scholarships targeting Oklahoma Baptist ministers’ dependents and students preparing for full time Christian vocations will be provided so that in addition to need-based state and national grant programs, sufficient financial aid and scholarships provide for a minimum of half of the tuition costs. Competitive scholarships for missionary dependents will be provided so that in addition to need-based state and national grant programs, sufficient financial aid and scholarships provide for full tuition costs.

OBU's campus master plan incorporates the most advanced technologies and instructional tools available. This master plan includes a renovated library and learning center with an expanded student success center, study areas, and learning resources. The master plan incorporates new avenues of apartment-style student housing; and addresses environmental stewardship and sustainability with new and improved facilities for student housing, nursing, theology and ministry programs, and music and performing arts.

The University's redesigned Welcome Center is inviting, exciting, and immediately attracts prospects to be a part of the OBU Story. Marketing efforts, a highly interactive Web site and innovative outreach to prospective students have resulted in an enrollment of more than 3,000 students.

OBU has a newly designed area housing all academic services including a welcome center, enrollment management, retention, registrar services, and financial aid services. The University will have another student services area including the dean of student life offices, a health and counseling center, and a center for career placement and counseling.

Student housing at OBU is ranked very high by prospective students in their decision to attend. Residential housing will include additional apartment-style facilities, a planned renovation schedule for all facilities, and a remodeled and redesigned Agee Residence Center that accommodates dormitory-style, quad-style, and private room and bath options. International student enrollment and increased racial and ethnic diversity will add to the richness of university life and reflect the diversity of the state and region.

OBU has established a formal program of faculty development that offers competitive funding for research, grant applications, and other scholarly activities. OBU will increase the number of endowed professorships by ten. A robust and competitive sabbatical program will be implemented that funds three to five sabbaticals per year.

OBU employs faculty and staff who are among the best compensated among member institutions of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities (IABCU) and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU). Faculty salaries are in the upper quartile of IABCU and CCCU member schools. OBU will have implemented a formal system for faculty compensation based on criteria that includes educational preparation, rank, experience, market factors, professional development and commitment to mission. Benefits and employee services will be among the best of OBU's sister institutions.

Faculty development and scholarly activities at OBU directly contribute to the high value placed on classroom teaching. Faculty scholarship engages students in research projects and creative arts. Students benefit greatly as they engage one-on-one with a faculty member toward a common scholastic or artistic goal, and as they have opportunities to share their research and creative works at annual conferences and art festivals.

A University Press that has gained a national reputation for relevant mission-appropriate publications will be publishing three to seven books per year and will publish at least two academic journals online. This self-supporting enterprise would establish a mission statement focused on publishing works that advance scholarship and bring recognition to authors and to the University. A particular publishing focus will be for textbooks and other works that promote faith integration as well as books of general interest to Christian audiences.



OBU is identified as a leader in community outreach and involvement with specific targeted programs that reach area school systems, home school families, and the general public. OBU programs in service and learning that reach underserved and impoverished individuals will be a model for other institutions. Environmental stewardship and creation care initiatives will be cited regionally and nationally including new facility construction and remodeling with specific goals to include conservation and green efforts. By 2020 the OBU campus will be regionally recognized as one of the top arboretums in the state.

OBU MISSION

AS A CHRISTIAN LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY, OBU transforms lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world, and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY is an institution founded on Christian principles and teachings whose primary purpose is to conduct educational programs in the traditional arts and sciences and in other disciplines with the intent to prepare students for effective leadership and service in the various vocations. The mission finds expression through a strong liberal arts core curriculum which supports degree programs designed to prepare students for careers and graduate study; through activities planned to stimulate spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical development; and through an environment that reflects the application of Christian principles and teachings. Owned by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and operated through a Board of Trustees elected by the Convention, the University engages in educational tasks in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Convention: to furnish the means by which the churches may carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). To achieve its purpose, the University has adopted several goals, among which are:

- To be a Christian learning community where faith and knowledge contribute to the individual's awareness: of himself and his obligations within a diverse and interrelated society; of truth and its force; of the joy of discovery and the beauty of existence; and of the legacy of the past, the challenge of the present, and the promise of the future.
- To cultivate Christian community in which the Baptist principles of individual freedom and dignity as well as mutual kindness and respect and concern for others are stressed.
- To encourage a climate of learning where the student may develop the lifelong habit of critical thinking in the search for truth.
- To identify and communicate the knowledge, experience, and values which constitute man's cultural heritage.
- To provide opportunities for the student to engage in a serious study of the Bible and to learn the philosophy and tenets of the Judeo-Christian heritage; to instill an awareness of and an appreciation for the distinctive Baptist contribution to Christian theology and for the values inherent in the Christian faith; to encourage Christian commitment.
- To foster an awareness of the needs of the human community and the responsibility of each individual in an active life of service.
- To offer a broad-based liberal arts education and specialized professional training in mutually supportive roles.



- To afford the opportunity to explore the relevance of all academic endeavors to the Christian life.
- To make personnel, services and facilities of the institution available to meet appropriate educational, cultural, and religious needs of its several constituencies.
- To serve the Baptist constituency through the development of informed, enlightened, sensitive leadership.

THE FOLLOWING CORE VALUES represent the institutional convictions, passions, and beliefs of Oklahoma Baptist University. These core values therefore shape the standards and beliefs of the mission and purpose of the university.

Christ Centered

Jesus Christ is the center of all things, and as such is the ultimate goal of an OBU liberal arts education. Oklahoma Baptist University is genuinely committed to and operates within the framework of the Christian world and life view as set forth in the Old and New Testaments. At the center of this commitment is the person and work of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son and Word of God, and the divine Creator and Savior of the world. OBU aspires to be a Christ-centered institution of higher education in its character and conduct, and in its academic pursuit of truth. This aspiration calls for all faculty, staff, and students to integrate the Christian faith in all learning based on the supposition that all truth is God’s truth and there is no contradiction between God’s truth made known in Holy Scripture and that which is revealed through creation and general revelation.

Excellence Driven

Excellence should permeate all efforts and all facets of Oklahoma Baptist University. The Christian faith mandates excellence in service to God and humanity in all spheres of life and conduct. This commitment to excellence in all things is an expression of the Lordship of Christ and necessitates the stewardship of His creation. Because the Lord cares about our work, OBU strives to be motivated in humility to excellence in all things for the glory of God.

Learning Focused

Oklahoma Baptist University seeks to promote the virtue of a life of learning and to fulfill the Great Commandment. Scripture affirms our responsibility to love the Lord with all our heart, our soul, and our mind. Every area of the University should be focused upon the mission of scholarship, teaching, and learning. Learning does not occur simply for its own sake, but learning should instead transform each believer into the image of Christ. Through the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, OBU values the life of the academy and seeks to instill in its students a lifelong pursuit of learning and wisdom.

Missional Purposed

As a Christian liberal arts university, Oklahoma Baptist University exists to transform lives for missional purpose in global engagement. OBU strives to equip and educate students to engage a diverse world in obedience to the Great Commission and in submission to the Lordship of Christ. OBU seeks to prepare servant leaders with the character traits of Christ, the intellectual knowledge and wisdom attained from the liberal arts, competencies required for professions, and motivation for responsible Christian action and service.

Community Directed

Oklahoma Baptist University strives to create and nurture a university community where persons relate to one another in Christian charity and compassion. Creation

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in the image of God is the basis for human dignity and uniqueness, and is therefore affirmed for all persons. Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God, and the result of the process of salvation is becoming fully like Christ and thus, most human. OBU is committed to the commandment to love others as ourselves and endeavors to value and relate to all persons in accordance with their created uniqueness. This belief applies both to individual persons and to all human social structures.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY has adopted seven initiatives that form the basis from which University Planning Advisory Council will identify yearly objectives. A vision statement follows each initiative. Taken cumulatively, these initiatives outline the vision included in the beginning of this document.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 1

ENHANCE ACADEMIC SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND SUPPORT

Strategic Initiative: Oklahoma Baptist University will aggressively monitor and address the needs for adapting curriculum to changing environments, studying and proposing missional-appropriate academic programs in the traditional liberal arts, professional areas, and graduate programs. Through establishing Centers of Excellence, OBU will position itself as a leader in targeted areas of expertise and leadership.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will be nationally and internationally recognized through centers of excellence including areas of music, education, theology, church recreation, and faith and discipline integration. OBU's undergraduate programs will include new and innovative academic areas with a vibrant liberal arts foundation. OBU's graduate programs will include degrees in theological studies, education, allied health fields, counseling (marriage and family therapy) and other fields consistent with our mission and new environments.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2

EXPAND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Strategic Initiative: OBU will aggressively expand existing scholarship programs and seek additional scholarships to recruit and retain targeted populations.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will have added an additional \$20 million to its scholarship endowment. Increased and additional performance-based and leadership scholarships will have been added to the endowment. Specific scholarships targeting Oklahoma Baptist ministers' dependents and students surrendering to full time Christian vocations will be provided so that in addition to need-based state and national grant programs, sufficient financial aid and scholarships provide for a minimum of half of the tuition costs. Competitive scholarships for missionary dependents will be provided so that in addition to need-based state and national grant programs, sufficient financial aid and scholarships provide for full tuition costs.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 3

ADVANCE STUDENT SERVICES

Strategic Initiative: Oklahoma Baptist University will advance student services as a priority on the campus including new and expanded services in advisement, health and counseling, improved and additional housing options, and additional security improvements.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will have a newly designed area housing all academic services including a welcome center, enrollment management, retention, registrar services, and financial aid services. The University will have another student services area including the dean of student life offices, a health and

counseling center, and a center for career placement and counseling. Student housing at OBU will be ranked very high by prospective students in their decision to attend. Residential housing will include additional apartment-style facilities, a planned renovation schedule for all facilities, and a remodeled and redesigned Agee Residence Center that accommodates dormitory-style, quad-style, and private room and bath options.

STRENGTHEN MARKETING AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 4

Strategic Strategy: Oklahoma Baptist University will strengthen marketing efforts and enrollment management strategies by implementing an integrated marketing plan. A comprehensive enrollment management plan will aggressively increase enrollment and retention.

Vision: By 2020, Oklahoma Baptist University will be nationally recognized as a Christ centered, innovative university known for excellent academics and faith integration. International student enrollment and increased racial and ethnic diversity will add to the richness of university life and reflect the diversity of the state and region. The University's redesigned Welcome Center will be inviting, exciting, and immediately attract prospects to be a part of the OBU Story. Marketing efforts, a highly interactive Web site and innovative outreach to prospective students will result in an enrollment of more than 3,000 students.

ENRICH QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OBU EMPLOYEES

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 5

Strategic Initiative: OBU will proactively improve institutional quality of life. University quality of life issues will be addressed, including significantly increasing salaries, wages and compensation packages for employees and implementing a strategic faculty compensation system.

Vision: Oklahoma Baptist University will employ faculty and staff who are among the best compensated of member institutions of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities (IABCU) and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), with faculty salaries in the upper quartile of IABCU and CCCU member schools. OBU will have implemented a formal system for faculty compensation based on factors including educational preparation, rank, experience, market factors, professional development and commitment to mission. Benefits and employee services will be among the best of OBU's sister institutions. By 2020, the number of endowed professorships at OBU will have increased by ten.

REINFORCE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 6

Strategic Initiative: OBU will reinforce faculty development through additional endowment, grants, and a University Press.

Vision: By 2020, Oklahoma Baptist University will have established a formal program of faculty development that offers competitive funding for research, grant applications, and other scholarly activities. OBU will increase the number of endowed professorships by ten. A robust and competitive sabbatical program will be implemented that funds three to five sabbaticals per year. A University Press that has gained a national reputation for relevant missional publications will be publishing three to seven books per year and will publish at least two academic journals online.

IMPROVE UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Strategic Initiative: OBU will increase and improve external relations with its diverse constituencies including the local community, alumni, donor, and denominational relations. This initiative includes intentional efforts with local schools, community service and learning, and environmental stewardship.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will be identified as a leader in community outreach and involvement with specific targeted programs that reach area school systems, home school families, and the general public. OBU programs in service and learning that reach out to underserved and impoverished individuals will be a model for other institutions. Environmental stewardship and creation care initiatives will be cited regionally and nationally including new facility construction and remodeling with specific goals to include conservation and green efforts. By 2020 the OBU campus will be regionally recognized as one of the top arboretums in the state.

MOVING FORWARD



One hundred years ago, our founders may only have imagined the worldwide impact Oklahoma Baptist University would have. By God's grace OBU is recognized as an outstanding institution of higher education, recognized for its excellence by organizations including Forbes.com, The Princeton Review, and *U.S. News and World Report*. They may have only dreamed that OBU have more missionaries serving through the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board than any other university in the world. Could they have imagined the beautiful campus that is OBU? Could they have imagined a faculty of more than 100? Could they have imagined our programs in telecommunications and media, our programs in computer information sciences?

What will our next 100 years look like? We cannot dream of the programs and disciplines that may exist in the next hundred years. We cannot imagine the technologies that do not yet exist but that will be commonplace in the next century of higher education on Bison Hill. But this we know. OBU will be there, leading the way with the best faculty, the greatest students, and with a commitment to continue its rich tradition of academic excellence and faith integration. OBU will be there, educating students and continuing the OBU Story.



OBU will be there, faithful to its founders' vision of a great university preparing students to change the world, to serve Christ and His church, and to serve with distinction in their fields of expertise. OBU will be there, still committed to the Great Commission and to the Great Commandment. OBU will be there, transforming lives and preparing students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world, and live lives worthy of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. As we plan for the next century on Bison Hill, our collective prayer is that this time in our history be a time of faithfulness to OBU's mission, vision, and values.

**“Grant to all in this school such strength of body,
clearness of mind and purity of heart
that Thy Word may be heartily done
and Thy Name glorified.”**

*Prayer of W.P. Blake, Chairman of the OBU Board of Trustees,
on the University's new campus in Shawnee, 1910*