

## Newsletter for July 18, 2023

I've learned to love the wind here in Oklahoma. I grew up deep in the piney woods of East Texas, where the trees are 5 to 6 stories tall. They grow in triple layers – the saplings 10 to 20 feet, the hardwoods 20 to 40 feet then the loblolly pines up to 60 feet, or more. The branches often grow together over small roads and even highways run thru what I think of as “tree canyons” – kinda like some parts of the drive from here to Chandler on 66. So you can't see very far, except ahead down the road. You also don't get much of a breeze thru all that foliage. It takes a significant gale to reach down into the thicket. I'd see the leaves moving at the tops of the trees, while on the ground, it was just plain sweltering. So to come up here, where the wind blows almost all the time, was very odd at first, then wonderful. Some days the Okie wind a bit much, and some days it's not enough, but it's usually reliable and appreciated. Kinda like my awareness of God's presence, always there, some days more, some less, but reliable and appreciated. What reminds you of God's daily presence?

## Newsletter for week of July 25

I'm gonna be gone on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, “God be willing and the creek don't rise” as we used to say. Gone off as of Wednesday evening to Kentucky to our General Assembly in Louisville! Lots of my seminary classmates and friends have retired, but I hope to still see some of them there, and I get to travel with very dear friends, John and Sheri Malget from FCC OKC. It's the first Assembly I've been to in 20 years – I didn't get time off from work at Valley Hope to go to far off church events, just one day at a time to go to local ones. I've missed Assembly. Its an amazing experience to be in one room with thousands of other Disciples from all over North America, and even missionaries from abroad! To hear good preaching, some old songs and new ones, get caught up on what's going on with our various ministries, and take care of some important business as a whole church. I'll give a full report when I get back, til then, prayers for travel mercies are appreciated, and I'll see y'all in August!