



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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Hagar serves Oklahoma Baptists as CrossTimbers program director



>> PHOTOS: GRANT BIVENS

1) Sarah Hagar greets all the campers during morning chapel; 2) Summer staff members make CrossTimbers special and significant for campers; 3) The Gospel is presented throughout camp, even at the ropes course; 4) Campers learn about Deaf culture/ministry during a mission stop; 5) Staff members and sponsors help campers make spiritual decisions; 6) CrossTimbers helps Oklahoma Baptists invest in children for God's glory.

>> by Chris Doyle
MANAGING EDITOR

DAVIS—Spending time at CrossTimbers Children's Mission Adventure Camp is not new to Sarah Hagar. She has spent 10 summers taking groups to CrossTimbers with eight of those years serving as children's minister at Bethany, Council Road.

What is new for Hagar this summer is serving at CrossTimbers as the camp's program director. She is seeing how both CrossTimbers in Davis and at Grand Lake are impacting children who come with many churches across Oklahoma.

"It's definitely different being 'behind the scenes' instead of being a lead sponsor, bringing a group of kids to camp," Hagar said. "I miss being so directly involved with the kids, but it's great to be able to see the big picture in a different way as well."

The big picture involves a lot of facets. Hagar said part of the big picture involves seeing churches come to CrossTimbers for the very first time. She also enjoys watching church leaders counsel their kids over spiritual decisions that are made during every camp session.

"Seeing kids accept Christ and make Jesus 'the boss of their life' never gets old," she said.

Her new role also means she is investing in the summer staff, college students who are a major part of making CrossTimbers special and significant for campers.

"I have known staffers in the past, but getting to invest in them and seeing the growth in our summer staff has been a great experience," Hagar said. "We have a fantastic staff that has so much energy and is doing a phenomenal job encouraging kids every session."

Hagar said the summer staff is committed to sharing the Gospel with campers every day and during all elements of camp.

"We present the Gospel at every activity stop and after every large group game," she said.

Emphasis on missions is a major part of CrossTimbers. Each camp session has three missions stops, and this summer, the stops focus on Deaf culture/ministry, Utah and Portugal.

"One of our missions stops focuses on the Deaf community here in Oklahoma and around the world," Hagar said. "It's really fun throughout the

week, as kids are learning sign language and how to sign their name."

Hagar also has been impressed with the church sponsors who come to each camp session and the impact they are making on campers.

"The sponsors are fantastic," she said. "The fact that there are so many Oklahoma Baptists from churches big and small who are willing to give up a week to invest in kids from their community is truly amazing."

Hagar gave a great summary about the CrossTimbers experience.

"Kids get to experience the fun summer activities being outside and trying new things," she said. "They're doing the waterfront and ropes course and target sports, but they're also getting a glimpse of missions around the world through our missions stops. They are building relationships with sponsors from their own churches who are spending the entire sessions pouring into them."

Hagar has a new role at CrossTimbers, and she's helping Oklahoma Baptists do what she enjoys the most—investing in children for God's glory. [m](#)



Rite of passage: For the birds



Walker Moore

Belated Author &

Baptist Messenger Columnist

Editor's Note: The Baptist Messenger received articles Walker Moore submitted before his passing on June 26, including this column. Look for other columns in the coming edition, as well as from the archives in the future.

As the first hot day welcomed us to a new season, the Moore family initiated the rite of passage into summertime by breaking out the Yada Hoodies' 10-foot-by-30-inch swimming pool. You find these little pools in backyards all across America. They are easy to set up and even easier to tear down.

In case you don't know, the Yada Hoodies are our three grandchildren: 9-year-old Titus the Honorable, 7-year-old Cohen the Goodhearted and 4-year-old River the Peacemaker. Last month, they came bursting through our front door asking just one crucial question: "Is there water in the pool?"

"Yes, and you can go get in," Grammy told them. Without even taking time for one of her famous snacks, they ran out the back door and jumped into the pool.

The water hadn't warmed up yet, so before long, we had three blue-

skinned boys. "liiiiiitttt's notttt sooo ccccold," they told us as they shivered and shook. Grammy made them get out of the pool and dry off; she had our lunch spread out in the warm sun.

As we were eating, a tiny baby sparrow came fluttering over our heads and dropped like a stone into the pool. Flapping its wings and beating the water, the poor little thing was drowning. Grammy got up to grab a net from the shed, and our three little boys stared in horror as we all watched the little bird fighting for its life.

Suddenly, Titus the Honorable jumped into the pool and rushed toward the sparrow. As he got closer, he paused and looked back at me. "He's not going to hurt you," I said.

Without any further hesitation, he scooped up the little bird and laid it on the deck of the swimming pool. Stroking its tiny head, he spoke in hushed tones: "You're going to be all right."

The bird didn't move. Titus ran over to grab a tiny piece of cracker, which he laid in front of the baby bird. "It's scared," he told me.


For the next hour, we watched the little bird sitting there until, flapping



its wings against the deck, it took flight in one long swoosh. It left behind one Poppy, one Grammy and three little boys, now jumping up and down with joy.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care" (Matt. 10:29).

Titus the Honorable, I am proud of you for seeing a need and moving to meet it. God cares for the sparrows, and He cares for you. In fact, your actions showed one of the ways He cares for those in need: He uses His children to represent Him.

There are many in this world who are frail, faltering and dropping like stones right in front of us. My prayer for you and your brothers is that you will grow up to become men who represent Him to many — and move to meet the needs of the least of these. 

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DR teams continue work across Oklahoma

>> by Staff

As of July 11, Oklahoma Disaster Relief (DR) volunteers—supported by volunteers from several other states—have completed 386 work orders which resulted from late June tornado/storm damage across the northern section of the state.

“We moved our Command Center from Owasso, First to Sapulpa, First during the first weekend in July to be more centrally located to the remaining work to be done,” Oklahoma Baptists’ State DR Director Jason Yarbrough said. “In the two weeks following the storms, we had received a total of 470 work requests in 20 different communities, and we have about 75 remaining to be completed.”

Yarbrough said teams from the New Mexico, Kansas/Nebraska, Missouri and Kentucky conventions have joined Oklahoma teams to do the chainsaw work, which he expected to continue in the Tulsa area for an additional couple of weeks.

“We are grateful for our partners we can call on for help and they come running,” he said in expressing his gratitude for the support.

In addition to providing cleanup and debris removal services at no charge to many Oklahoma families, DR chaplains had made more than 700 ministry contacts leading to 50 Gospel presentations, which resulted in two professions of faith in Christ and three recommitments.



>> PHOTOS: PROVIDED
1) SWOSU BCM students help DR volunteers in Weatherford after the July 9 storms; 2) DR volunteers serve in Beaver after storms came through the Panhandle.

“We praise the Lord for the seed that is sown by our volunteers during these times of disasters,” Yarbrough commented. “This reminds us that, as DR volunteers, we work through disasters to advance the Gospel. We are also thankful for the support we have received from Oklahoma Baptists and their prayers as our DR volunteers work through disasters to advance the Gospel.”

In addition to the chainsaw work, as of July 11, DR volunteers have prepared more than 13,500 meals, including 2,500 for volunteers, provided 383 showers and washed and dried 149 loads of laundry.

DR teams serve in Oklahoma Panhandle

Yarbrough reported DR volunteers recently served areas in the Panhandle, completing 28 work orders. He commended Jerry Hodges, pastor of Beaver, First, for his support while DR was serving in the area. DR work also was done in Forgan, responding to wind damage that affected that region of the state.


DR teams serving in Weatherford after July 9 storms

Major windstorms on July 9 caused damage in the Weatherford area. DR

has an incident command center set up at Weatherford, First. Currently, 21 DR team members are serving the area with support of Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) students from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).

Yarbrough said he appreciates the “good hard workers” SWOSU BCM is providing, which is a great support for DR volunteers.

“The consistency of the storms that have hit Oklahoma over the past several months have kept our volunteers extremely busy,” Yarbrough said. “But they have been faithful to serve, and it is so encouraging when groups like Baptist Collegiate Ministry students come to help. It’s a boost of morale to our volunteers. The out-of-state teams that have come to assist also is a great sense of help. Just to know that we have the prayers and the encouragement and the support of our fellow Oklahoma Baptists keep us going.”

For more information or to donate to Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief, visit okdisasterhelp.org. 

 OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS

RECOMMENDATIONS SOUGHT FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Oklahoma Baptists’ Nominating Committee invites Oklahoma Baptists from across the state to recommend persons to serve on the various boards and committees. The committee’s nominations will be presented to messengers at the Annual Meeting on November 13-14. For more information, visit www.oklahomabaptists.org/recommendations

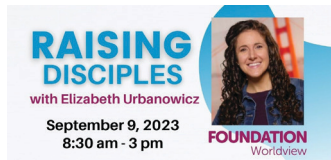


Coming events

JULY 22 & 29. Bethany, Tulakes is hosting two gospel music events. On Saturday, July 22, the church is hosting John Mills and Pearl Grace & Company at 4 p.m. On Saturday, July 29, Becky Lercher and Abundance Quartet will be performing at 4 p.m. Bethany, Tulakes is located at 6715 Northwest 50th Street. [m](#)

AUG. 15. Oklahoma City, Quail Springs, 14613 N. May, is hosting Leading Forward Business Leadership Forum, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Bob Hoffman, head men's basketball coach at University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), will be one of the keynote speakers who will provide messages of teamwork and engagement for Christian business leaders. The forum also will feature a Q&A session with Hoffman led by Todd Lamb, new UCO president and former Lt. Governor of Oklahoma. The forum also will have bonus sessions led by training directors from Express Employment Professionals. [m](#)

SEPT. 9. Altus, First is hosting Raising Disciples with Elizabeth Urbanowicz, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Session topics include "Setting Right Priorities in Discipling our Kids" and "Raising a Generation to Discern & Follow the Truth." Cost is \$20 a person, and lunch is included. To register or for more information visit fbcaltus.org/raisingdisciples. [m](#)



SEPT. 26 & 28. WatersEdge Ministry Services is hosting the Church Finance Conference on Sept. 26 at Owasso, First and on Sept. 28 at Yukon, Trinity, both events will meet 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Formerly known as the annual Tax Seminar, the conference will help churches comply with local, state and federal laws. For more information visit watersedgeservices.org/church-finance-conference. [m](#)



VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

The Spring, a faith-based shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence or human sexual trafficking and their children, Sand Springs—Mychaela Burris —918/947-4679.

Hospitality House of Tulsa provides family centered lodging, emotional and spiritual support for family members of patients traveling to Tulsa for medical care. 918/794-0088 or hhtulsa.org.

Hospitality House of Oklahoma provides for the physical, spiritual needs of families with loved ones incarcerated in McAlester. Lodging available—918/429-0142.

OK Jail & Prison Ministry needs volunteers to share the Gospel—405-917-2242 or ojpm@ojpm.org.

DISASTER RELIEF

Training:

Sept. 14—Chaplaincy Refresher Course \$10—Baptist Building (for endorsed chaplains only), to register, email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

Sept. 16—Disaster Relief Orientation & Credentialing—8:30 a.m. – 12 noon; Weatherford, First, 1510 E. Davis Ave. Register at: Orientation & Credentialing | Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief (okdisasterhelp.org)

Sept. 23—First Aid/CPR Class—9 a.m.-3 p.m. – \$20, DR Team Center, 7180 NW Expressway, Okarche, to register email Ryan Deatherage rdeatherage@oklahomabaptists.org

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