



# THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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**Collegiate Week a 'rewarding experience,' impacts college students at start of school year**  
>>> CARISSA JONES



**OBU welcomes new, returning students on Move-In Day**  
>>> BRYAN PAINTER



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# On the go: GoStudents sends 580 for summer mission work, prepares for more growth

>> by Brian Baldwin

**OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS STUDENT MISSIONS & EVANGELISM MINISTRY PARTNER**

GoStudents is all about raising up a generation to complete the task of sharing Christ with a lost world. It is a tool churches can use to help their students be obedient to The Great Commission. Every student should experience at least one, if not many, mission trips in their key developmental years. These projects provide opportunities for them to share their faith with different people, in different cultures, and in new ways.

This summer GoStudents had its highest number of participants, which was 580 consisting of 21 projects in the following locations: Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Lawton, Broken Bow, Portland, Seattle, Utah (2), New York City (2), Boston, Calgary, Edmonton, Belize, Peru, London, Portugal, Spain and Cambodia.

Everyone did an amazing job again this year. Several made professions of faith, and the students' lives were impacted in a special way. The missionaries and church planters have expressed to us again and again how thankful and helpful the teams were to their ministry areas!

GoStudents was started in 2002, and since then, Oklahoma Baptists have mobilized more than 3,800 participants on 123 individual mission trips in 39 different locations. We are grateful to God for the exponential progress of GoStudents in the past, but we now look to the future with enthusiasm and anticipation in seeing even more churches and students mobilized.

For this to happen, GoStudents must take on a new structure. GoStudents has now become a network of Certified Sending Partners with boundless potential because we can do more in advancing the Gospel together!

Certified Sending Partners are "capital K" Kingdom leaders from Oklahoma Baptist churches within the "GOSTUDENTS NETWORK." They are coached, resourced and unleashed on to the mission field with not only their own group, but other individuals or small groups that need a pathway to go! Now there is the potential to send more workers, on to more mission fields, that involves more churches, and more individuals working together for the Great Commission.

This mission-sending force is only made possible because of the faithful gifts of Oklahoma Baptists through the Cooperative Program, as well as through the sup-



port of the Missions Offering at Falls Creek. This summer's offering totaled \$91,883 over the eight weeks of camp.

One hundred percent of this money goes to missions. It helps provide mission trip scholarships for participants within the GOSTUDENTS NETWORK, and helped provide a new van, Christmas and birthday gifts to a orphan ministry in Portugal through one of our missionary partners.

We are so thankful to the Lord for all the lives that were impacted in and through GoStudents participants this year and from the last two decades. It is our prayer that the GOSTUDENTS NETWORK, in partnership with our Oklahoma Baptist churches, will continue to send out more and more students to engage the lost in our own state and around the world!

To watch a video presentation of the recent GOSTUDENTS summer mission work, click [here](#). Find out how to send a team or join a team at [oklahombaptists.org/gostudents](http://oklahombaptists.org/gostudents). 

4 PM TO 8 PM

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# Collegiate Week a 'rewarding experience' at Falls Creek, impacts college students at start of school year



>> PHOTOS: CHAD STILLWELL

Collegiate Week at Falls Creek was a great experience for nearly 1,500 college students and ministers. They participated in times of worship through music in the Tabernacle and gathered for times of fellowship in Centennial Plaza.

>> by Carissa Jones  
**OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS  
COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES  
ASSISTANT**

DAVIS—Nearly 1,500 college students and ministers from across North America gathered at Falls Creek Conference Center for Collegiate Week in early August. This number represents the highest attendance the event has seen in recent years.

The event is hosted by the Baptist Collegiate State Directors Association. A planning team made up of BCSD members works with the Falls Creek staff and various Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities and volunteers throughout the year to prepare for the event.

Cris Lowery, collegiate ministries director for Oklahoma Baptists and coordinator of the Collegiate Week planning team, speaks highly of this partnership.

"Collegiate Week continues to be an example of what God can do through Christian leaders when they focus on advancing the Kingdom in His name," Lowery said. "Collegiate ministry is fortunate to have a unified effort that links state collegiate leaders, North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and our seminaries together with one goal and purpose. It is a rewarding experience."

Ken Harmon, fellow planning team member and director of collegiate ministries for the Pacific Northwest, echoes Lowery's sentiment.

"Collegiate Week is one of my favorite weeks of the year," Harmon said. "It feels like a family reunion, but with amazing worship and preaching. It is about 2,000 miles to Falls Creek from Portland, Ore., but always worth it."

This year's keynote lineup featured Chip Luter, senior associate pastor at New Orleans, La., Franklin Avenue; Tommy Woodard, pastor of Oklahoma City, Newchurch and member of Skit Guys Ministries; and Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Seminary. Worship through music was led by CBC Worship from San Antonio, Texas.

Collegiate Week offers a host of breakout sessions for leaders, students and those sensing a call to ministry. Partnered with the many recreational opportunities and SBC entity-sponsored late-night activities, there are countless opportunities for growth, fellowship, and encouragement.

"I love coming to Collegiate Week because I get to meet other people who are passionate about reaching college students and mobilizing them to be disciple-makers on their cam-

pus," said Lissy Sandoval, collegiate ministry leader in Lowell, Mass.

Rylan Cochran, sophomore at Carl Albert State College, enjoyed learning about missions opportunities with the IMB, meeting with representatives from SBC seminaries, and attending helpful breakouts.

"Attending (Collegiate Week) was a great experience, and I believe every college student should experience this," Cochran said.

Attendees also raised more than \$7,000 to help fund collegiate ministry in emerging regions such as New England, the Pacific Northwest, Canada, and other areas without a strong Gospel presence. Harmon rejoiced over two emerging region students who surrendered to a call to ministry at the event.

"The impact of Collegiate Week was seen at the event as students committed their lives to Christ, turned back to Him and surrendered to a call to vocational ministry," Lowery said. "But the real impact will be realized as they live out those commitments in the days, months and years ahead."

For more information about Collegiate Week, please visit [collegeministry.com/collegiateweek](http://collegeministry.com/collegiateweek). 

# OBU welcomes new, returning students to campus on Move-In Day

>> by Bryan Painter  
**OBU MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR**

SHAWNEE—Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) celebrated the arrival of new and returning students Saturday, Aug. 19, during the University's annual Move-In Day. The day is the kick-off to Welcome Week, a special week each year where new students are welcomed into the Bison family.

As new students and their families arrive to their residence centers in their vehicles, upperclassmen greet them with cheers of celebration and shake their cars to welcome them officially to Bison Hill. The upperclassmen, also known as Welcome Week Workers or Tri-W's, then personally deliver all the students' belongings to their rooms, allowing the new students and their families to enjoy the moment as they are warmly welcomed into the OBU family.

"Most everyone coming here has first-day nerves, first-day jitters," said incoming freshman Caden Bailey of Frisco, Texas, who will be majoring in Biblical studies. "But coming in and having students shake your car and take your stuff for you, makes you feel like you are already part of OBU and what it stands for."

Dylanne Nelson of Tulsa, an incoming freshman majoring in English education, was among the first to come around the oval and arrive at the WMU Residence Center. She said the welcome sent a message straight to her heart.

"It was really cool," she said. "I have that feeling that this is the place I'm meant to be, and I can continue to grow here. I'm excited to see how God will work in my life."

That excitement is not limited to freshmen on Move-In Day. Haley Myers, a senior nursing major from Edmond, was among those helping to unload cars.



"Today I'm literally remembering when I was a freshman," she said. "Now I'm getting to pray over them and be excited for these freshmen. I love OBU because the Lord is at work here. The students want to seek His face and He wants to pour His love on us."

It's also a special day for parents. Richard Conde of Temple, Texas was sitting and smiling in his pickup while waiting to pull forward at the WMU Residence Center. His daughter Payten Conde will be a freshman student athlete, majoring in exercise science and playing basketball for the Bison.

"This just warms my heart as a parent," he said. "Everybody has been so nice. As parents, it makes us feel comfortable that we can drive five hours home and know that she's in a good place."

Later in the day following a separate student orientation and parent orientation, families and friends shared a special time to say goodbye to their students and pray together, before heading home.

OBU President Heath A. Thomas was making his way back-and-forth across campus as students and parents arrived Saturday for Move-In Day.

"Parents get to see the excitement and know that their child is going to be cared for, that there is a community of support around them and that this is a fun and safe place to be," Thomas said. "All of that is communicated in their first moments on Bison Hill."

That message carries for a lifetime.

This week, Students are going through the full Welcome Week experience, including familiarizing themselves with campus, getting to know other students and numerous events such as the President's Vision and Worship, Ka-Rip Wars, Serve Shawnee, The Walk and Spotlight on Shawnee.

"Bison Hill is about relationships," Thomas said. "Those that come here will forever be Bison and that means something."

Fall classes at OBU begin Wednesday, Aug. 23. [m](#)

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# Coming events

**AUG. 26.** Bethany, Tulakes, 6715 N.W. 50th St., is hosting a gospel music concert featuring Steve Weatherford and the Four the Cross Quartet at 4 p.m. 




Steve Weatherford Four the Cross Quartet

**AUG. 27.** Fairview, Orion, 9426 Highway 60, is celebrating 123 years with an anniversary service and dinner beginning at 10:45 a.m. Todd Fisher, executive director-treasurer of Oklahoma Baptists, will be the guest preacher. 



Larry DeLawder Family Matt Carroll Family

**SEPT. 15.** Yukon, Sara Road, 2015 N. Sara Road, is hosting a gospel music concert featuring the Larry DeLawder Family and the Matt Carroll Family. Concert will begin at 7 p.m. 

**SEPT. 23.** Bluejacket, First, 212 Harris Street, is celebrating 125 years with a free Bluegrass Festival for the community. The festival is from 12 noon-5 p.m. and will feature seven bands. For more information, contact Pastor Austin Clark at 918/784-2574 or [austin@fbcbluejacket.com](mailto:austin@fbcbluejacket.com). 

**SEPT. 23.** Bethany, Tulakes, 6715 N.W. 50th St., is hosting a gospel music concert featuring Jason Runnels & Son. Concert will begin at 4 p.m.



Jason Runnels & Son

## VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

### OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

**Camp Gibson, Hardesty**—Tom Freeman 580/338-6259 or [pbaok221@gmail.com](mailto:pbaok221@gmail.com)

**Families Feeding Families Meal Center, Durant**—580/230-9142 or visit [familiesfeedingfamilies.org](http://familiesfeedingfamilies.org)

**Hope Pregnancy Centers**—South OKC 405/688-8700, North OKC 405/755-5433, Edmond 405/330-0200, Ardmore 580/223-7232, Tulsa 918/622-3325

**Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children Campuses**  
Oklahoma City—405/691-7781  
Edmond—405/341-3606  
Madill—580/564-2218  
Owasso—918/272-2233

### DISASTER RELIEF

Training:

**Sept. 14**—Chaplaincy Refresher Course \$10—OKC Baptist Building (endorsed chaplains only)

To register, email [pjones@oklahomabaptists.org](mailto:pjones@oklahomabaptists.org)

**Sept. 16**—Disaster Relief Orientation & Credentialing—8:30 a.m. 12 p.m.; Weatherford, First, 1510 E. Davis Ave.

Register at [okdisasterhelp.org](http://okdisasterhelp.org)

**Sept. 22**—Chaplaincy Refresher Course \$10—Bartlesville, Eastern Heights (endorsed chaplains only)

To register, email [pjones@oklahomabaptists.org](mailto:pjones@oklahomabaptists.org)

**Sept. 23**—First Aid/CPR Class – 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Cost \$20  
DR Team Center, 7180 NW Expressway, Okarche, OK

To register, email [rdeatherage@oklahomabaptists.org](mailto:rdeatherage@oklahomabaptists.org)

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