



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

Informing and Inspiring Oklahoma Baptists Since 1912
DIGITAL EDITION • OCTOBER 11, 2023



**SYATP photos
featuring 32 schools
observing the annual
prayer event**



**2023 Ministry Wives
Weekend focuses on
being resilient
>> AMY PETERSEN**



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Oklahoma 'wholeheartedly' observes SYATP



Atoka High School



Barnsdall High School



Berryhill Public Schools

>> by Chris Doyle
MANAGING EDITOR

"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me" (Jer. 29:13 NLT).

"Wholehearted" was the theme for See You at the Pole (SYATP) this year. The annual worldwide prayer rally for students met on Wednesday, Sept. 27, and schools across Oklahoma "wholeheartedly" prayed for God to impact their communities and families.

"It's really encouraging," said Brian Baldwin, Oklahoma Baptists student missions and evangelism ministry partner, about the turnout for SYATP across the state. "You're getting a lot of different backgrounds (of people participating). You're not just getting Baptist people. You're getting people who are interested and want to seek God. It may be one of the most unified events we do annually with students."

Baldwin said Oklahoma has close to 1,850 schools, elementary through high school, throughout the state. Every school may not have participated in SYATP, but reports have come from all regions of Oklahoma where prayer rallies were observed at school flagpoles.

"I don't know how many people were involved in See You at the Pole," Baldwin said, "but it possibly could be measured into tens, maybe hundreds, of thousands."

Baldwin offered three points of why SYATP is an important event for Oklahoma Baptists.

"It's a rally point for all Christians to be united," he said. "This is for the cause of Christ and not about secondary issues.

"It's also a staging point for revival. They are praying for revival," Baldwin continued. "I also think it's a launching point for evangelism. People are asking, 'Why are you doing that? Is this a protest?' Obviously, it's not a protest, but when you get people asking why we are meeting around a flagpole, it's an opportunity for evangelism.

"With these ingredients, it's a pretty cool recipe for a movement." A movement for God to make a powerful impact among students.

The current generation of students, known as "Gen Z," gives Baldwin much encouragement when it comes to reaching people for Christ.

"Gen Z is a cause-generated generation," he said. "They want to live for a cause. I think God is doing a work with Gen Z. Actually, they share the Gospel more than any other generation."

Baldwin referenced a recent poll that found 58 percent of Gen Z participants said they have shared the Gospel at least three times this year. "They are more likely to share the Gospel more than any other generation because they are cause-focused," he said.

Oklahoma Baptists supported 16 different rallies on the evening of Sept. 27 that related to SYATP events. These rallies are supported through the Edna McMillan State Missions Offering (SMO).

In order to receive SMO funding, these rallies must have public invitations for participants to make spiritual decisions. In recent reports, more than 133 rally attendees made professions of faith in Christ.

See You at the Pole continues to make an impact at schools across Oklahoma, and rallies that follow experience people making life-changing decisions.

This is the result of seeking God wholeheartedly. [m](#)



Bridge Creek High School



Bristow High School

More SYATP in Oklahoma photos



Capitol Hill High School



Cleveland Junior High & High School



Del City High School



Elk City High School



Empire High School



Enid High School



Fort Gibson High School



Holdenville High School



Madill High School



Meeker High School



Miami High School



Mounds High School

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More SYATP in Oklahoma photos



Mustang High School



Okarche High School



Pauls Valley Intermediate School



Perkins High School



Piedmont High School



Plainview High School



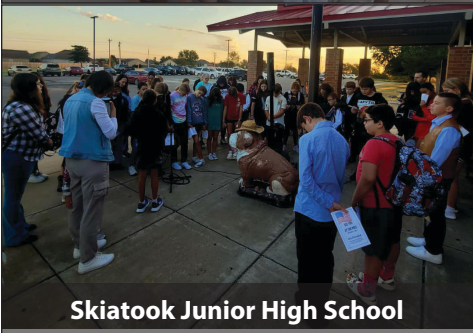
Putnam City High School



Quinton Elementary & High School



Seminole High School



Skiatook Junior High School



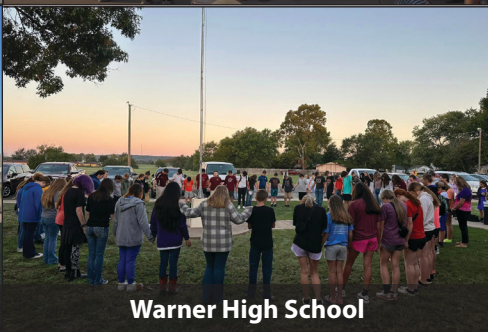
Southmoore High School



Tecumseh High School



Tuska Public School



Warner High School



Wayne High School

Editor's Note: The preceding photos were sent to the *Baptist Messenger* or downloaded from Facebook. To discover even more SYATP photos, visit [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and search for an event near you.

Ministry Wives Weekend 2023 focuses on being resilient

>> by Amy Petersen

MINISTRY WIVES REGIONAL MINISTRY PARTNER

Ministry Wives Weekend is an annual gathering for Oklahoma Baptist ministry wives to be encouraged in connection with each other and in the truth of God's Word. On Sept. 29-30, nearly 225 ministry wives met at Moore, First for wonderful food, sweet fellowship and honest conversations about building a resilient life.

The ministry wife may not only carry the needs of her church but also her family and husband's needs. She may feel isolated and stressed because of her husband's role and expectations others have for her. So, a weekend retreat talking about real issues often is a welcomed oasis:

"This weekend was such an encouragement to my heart. Thank you so much."

"It was such a blessing to my soul. I love the women God placed around my table. Loved it!!"

And this ministry wife was particularly impacted by what Kathy Litton,


the speaker, shared: "God has a purpose for my current trajectory. I will encounter people I never would have, had it not been for my experiences. Only I can decide how I pursue the trajectory God has me on."

Litton, director of Planter Spouse Development at the Send Network and ministry wife to Ed Litton, pastor of Mobile, Ala., Redemption, shared many relevant and biblical truths about resilience in life and ministry and how to emotionally support your husband. Tara Matlock, a licensed counselor, led a session with practical tips on Gospel identity and healthy boundaries. Courtney and Doug Matlock led in beautiful worship.

In the post-COVID church, resilience is essential. It is defined as "able to stand strong and recover quickly from difficulties." Within the context of local church ministry and leadership, resilience is, as Litton explained, "having strength to fulfill God's calls even when it's painful and difficult."



The theme verse emphasizes God's purpose in trials, *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (1 Pet. 1:6-7). Ministry wives are strong women who love Jesus well.

Today, would you pray for your church's ministry wife? Pray for her resilience. And, as the Lord leads, simply tell her, "Thank you." 

Oklahoma Baptists Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

Messengers to the 2023 Oklahoma Baptists' Annual Meeting (Meeting on Nov. 13-14 at Del City, First Southern) will be asked to consider and vote on revised and amended constitution and bylaws for the Convention.

The proposed documents are available for viewing at oklahomabaptists.org, in accordance with provisions of the current constitution and bylaws, so that Oklahoma Baptists will have an opportunity to review, in advance of the Annual Meeting, exactly what revisions are being proposed.

Note: The proposed documents are all online for viewing; they are presented with deletions stricken out and additions in red text.

 www.oklahomabaptists.org/constitution-bylaws

If you have any questions regarding the proposed documents, Chairman Luke Holmes can be reached at laholmes2@gmail.com.

"It has been a privilege to lead the task force of Oklahoma Baptists tasked with reviewing and updating our state convention's bylaws and constitution. This is an important task and this group of pastors and lay leaders represents OK Baptists well, and has done a thorough, thoughtful and excellent job. We invite Oklahoma Baptists to read the proposed updates and prayerfully consider them as we vote on the matter during our Annual Meeting in November."

-Luke Holmes, Oklahoma Baptist Pastor; Chairman of the Constitution & Bylaws Task Force

People in the news



DEBORDE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AS PASTOR.

Tulsa, Braden Park celebrated Darryl DeBorde's 50th year as pastor on Oct. 1. The church submitted a statement on DeBorde's accomplishment: "DeBorde's ongoing legacy is profound, refreshing and even groundbreaking. The reason? He literally has stayed grounded all these

years. He has stayed rooted in faith, family and community, and his wife Dorothy has served alongside. He has been able to minister on all seven continents as he had hoped, but his main pursuit has been to keep listening and to keep walking with family, both his own as well as his church family. With such heart, he keeps ministering, and we say 'thank you.'



LONGTIME SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AT CHEYENNE, FIRST CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY.

Judy Tracy, a member of Cheyenne, First, has been teaching Sunday School since 1963. The church recently celebrated her 80th birthday, as she has been a faithful member, not only teaching Sunday School but also served as a cook

at Falls Creek for more than 25 years and also taught in the church's Vacation Bible School. She is pictured with her husband, Dale, who has served as a deacon for more than 50 years.



TUTER RETIRES AFTER LONGTIME SERVICE WITH OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS.

Billy Tuter has seen many advancements in printing services. In 2001, he started working with the *Baptist Messenger* as a type setter and a press operator, as well as a graphic designer. He continued working with Oklahoma Baptists over the years in printing services, primarily as lead graphic designer, working on a vast array of projects. He was recognized at a retirement reception on Sept. 27 at the Baptist Building with many friends, family and coworkers present.

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Coming Event

OCT. 29. Fairfax, First Osage is celebrating 120 years. Special speakers will be featured, and history of the church will be shared. The church is located at 236 S. Main Street in Fairfax.

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, OKC and Community

Food Bank of Eastern Okla., Tulsa—both locations, call 405/972-1111 (Many Oklahoma Baptist churches receive food from them for local food pantries.)

Arms Around Broken Arrow

—food pantry, clothes closet, 918/258-7714 or bryan@armsaroundba.org

Lake Texoma Baptist Resort Ministry

—Monty & Tammy Wood, Directors, 580/916-2181 or thehelm2034@gmail.com, 2034 Max Rd, Mead 73449

Cherokee Baptist Assembly, Cherokee

—918/506-5482 or cba_tahlequah@yahoo.com

DISASTER RELIEF

Training:

Oct. 14—Disaster Relief Orientation & Credentialing, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., DR Team Center, 7180 NW Expressway, Okarche. Register at okdisasterhelp.org

Oct. 20—Chaplaincy Refresher Course \$10, Wilson, Zaneis** To register, email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

Oct. 21—Chaplaincy Refresher Course \$10, OKC Baptist Building** To register, email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

** For endorsed chaplains only

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