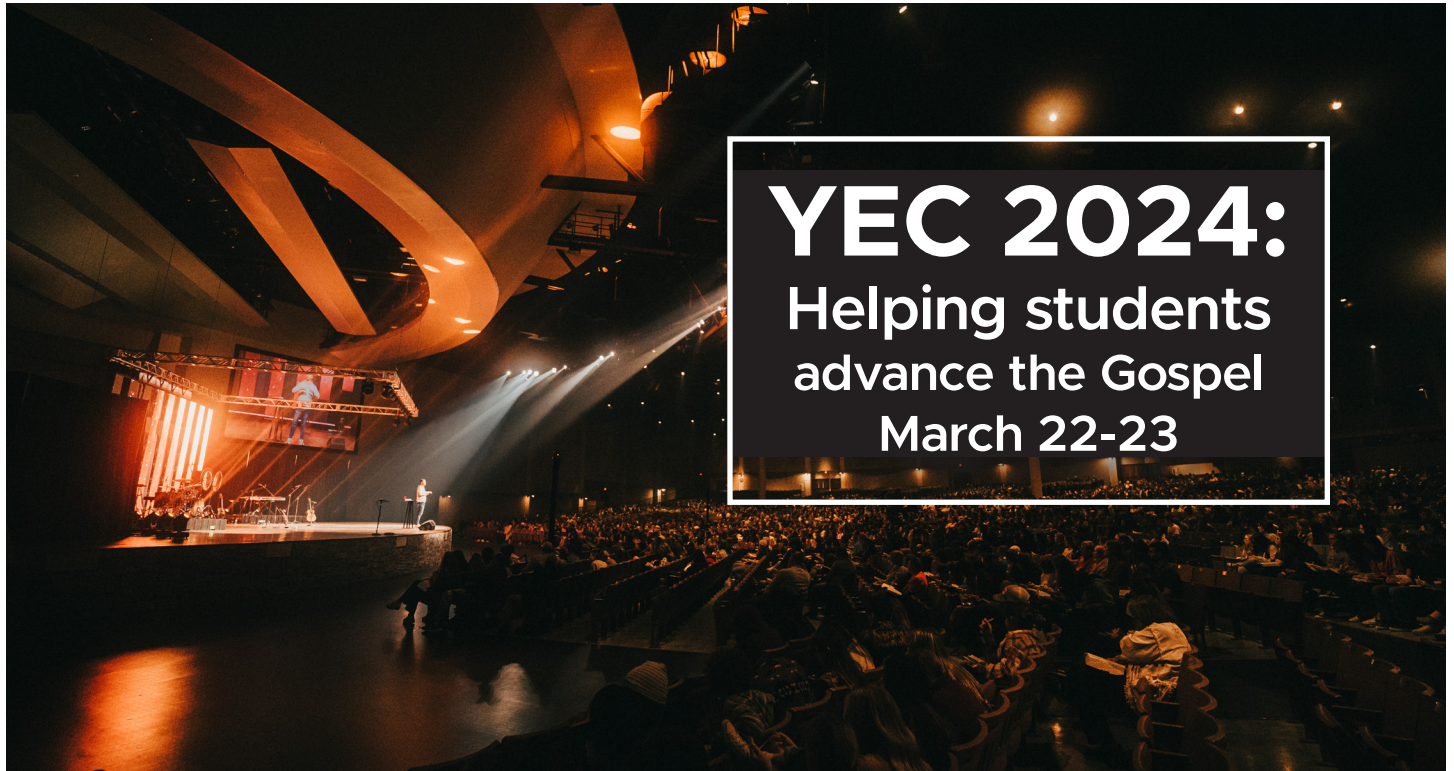




# THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

DIGITAL EDITION • JAN 10, 2024



**YEC 2024:**  
Helping students  
advance the Gospel  
March 22-23



**2024 Advance  
Conference to focus  
Oklahoma Baptists on  
being 'Sent'**  
>>CHRIS DOYLE

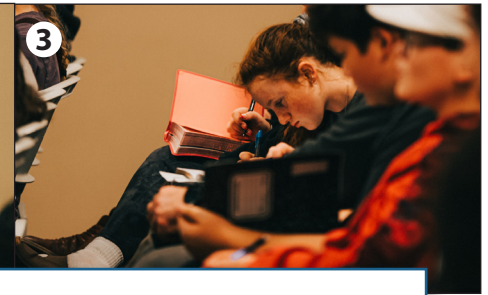


**Oklahoma Baptists  
observe Sanctity of  
Human Life Sunday  
Jan. 21, 2024**



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# YEC 2024: Helping students advance the Gospel March 22-23



>> PHOTOS: OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS STAFF

Alan Quigley, Oklahoma Baptists associate executive director for church resources, (1) and Brian Baldwin (2) lead breakout sessions during 2023 YEC that equip students to share the Gospel; (3) And students are receptive to the teaching; 4) YEC also offers great worship services at Falls Creek

>> by Brian Baldwin

## OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS YOUTH MISSIONS & EVANGELISM MINISTRY PARTNER

There are about 400,000 middle school and high school students in Oklahoma. If you were to place these teens in a single-file line, shoulder to shoulder, it would stretch from Oklahoma City to Tulsa!

Now, widen your perspective to a global scale, where a staggering 1 billion teenagers would create a line that circumnavigates our planet over 11 times. That's a lot of teenagers! It's the biggest generation of youth in the history of the world.

Gen Z is our nation's first post-Christian generation, which means most do not know Jesus. That means they are increasingly moving toward judgment in Hell, instead of experiencing grace through Christ in Heaven.

Yet, in the face of this potential tragedy, there is hope. Jude 23 challenges us to "snatch others from the fire and save them." Who will rescue this generation from the flames? Who will

courageously risk everything to REACH them? Who will boldly share the Gospel with them?

It's my firm belief that the most impactful messenger to REACH a teenager is another teenager. When they are armed with the tools to engage their friends in Gospel conversations, the potential for spiritual transformation knows no bounds.


Throughout history, God has chosen teenagers to lead spiritual awakenings. They come to Christ quicker and can spread the Gospel farther than the average adult. Couple this with their colossal impact on social media, and the potential for widespread influence becomes evident. With today's technology, there are certain 15-year-olds who can make posts online that could touch more hearts with the Good News than the late Billy Graham could in 15 sold-out stadium events.

This is why I'm so excited about the Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC). It

could usher in a revival! **Because of weather, YEC has been moved to March 22-23.** Teenagers from all around the state will be gathering at Falls Creek to be inspired, equipped and unleashed to REACH friends and strangers alike with the hope of Jesus Christ.

This event isn't about rock concerts, entertainment, and goofing off with friends with an occasional Bible study. It is a focused two-day event filled with the Holy Spirit, worship, prayer, evangelism training and team building. There will be three general sessions, around 20 different breakouts to choose from, a youth leader training session and a strategic planning time where each group will develop a custom blueprint for how they will bring the Gospel message back to their communities.

The theme of YEC is "REACH," because we're talking about reaching a generation endangered. Judges 2:10 says "After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, ANOTHER GENERATION GREW UP WHO KNEW NEITHER THE LORD NOR WHAT HE HAD DONE..." We cannot sit idly by and watch this generation slip away. It's time to rise up and bring hope, light and the salvation of Jesus to those who need it most. Now is the time to REACH and equip a generation endangered!

It's not too late for your group to come. To get all the information and to register, visit our website at [oklahomabaptists.org/yec](http://oklahomabaptists.org/yec). Reach out to us. Pray with us. Let's do this, together! 



# 2024 Advance Conference to focus Oklahoma Baptists on being 'Sent'

>> by Chris Doyle  
MANAGING EDITOR

Oklahoma Baptists will notice new elements with the Advance Conference this year—the date and location. An event that usually met near the beginning of the year, the Advance Conference will meet March 4-5 at Oklahoma City, St. John's Missionary, which is the first time for the church to host.

"We are excited about being at St. John's Missionary," said Alan Quigley, Oklahoma Baptists associate executive director for church resources. "They have historically been a leader in advancing the Gospel through personal evangelism. It makes sense for us to come and be in one of our strong evangelistic churches."

Tony Evans, Fred Luter and Shane Pruitt will be among the speakers for the Advance Conference. Evans serves as senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas, and is a well-known evangelistic speaker. Luter, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is pastor of New Orleans, La., Franklin Avenue, and Pruitt is a favorite Oklahoma Baptists speaker who serves as the next-gen evangelism director for the North American Mission Board.

Additional speakers will include Oklahoma Baptist pastors who will be announced nearer to the conference.

Quigley mentioned the Advance Conference will have an emphasis on personal evangelism and discipleship with the theme of the conference being "Sent," based on John 17:18.

"When we are sent, we don't go on our own authority," Quigley said. "We don't go out of our own initiative, but we have been commissioned by a higher authority. We have been sent on mission to advance the Gospel."


Oklahoma Baptist churches have been effective in being involved in the event evangelism model, Quigley said, but the churches that were the most effective were the ones whose members were equipped to share the Gospel.

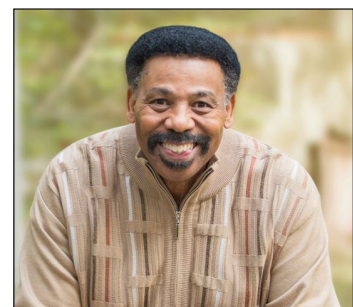
"We have had big block parties, big musicals that invited everybody and presented the Gospel very effectively," he said. "In some ways, you have more people involved in the activity, but few were equipped to engage with the Gospel. We left that to the pastors at those events."

Quigley pointed out spiritual issues raised following the COVID pandemic. He said many unbelievers were seeking answers.

"The world was asking eternal questions," he said. "They just weren't coming to the church to ask those questions because the churches weren't meeting. They were asking in their workplace and in their neighborhood. The church members who were 'sent,' equipped, empowered by their leaders to be ready with an answer, the Gospel, and do personal evangelism—they had an open door to share the Gospel. So many of the churches had significant decisions in baptisms because the world was asking a question."

"Our goal at the Advance Conference is to put before the churches opportunities to train and equip their members to do evangelism through personal witness."

Visit [oklahomabaptists.org/advance](http://oklahomabaptists.org/advance) for more information on the Advance Conference. 



Tony Evans



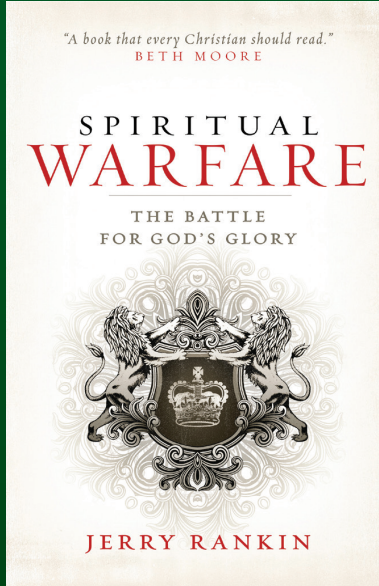
Fred Luter



Shane Pruitt

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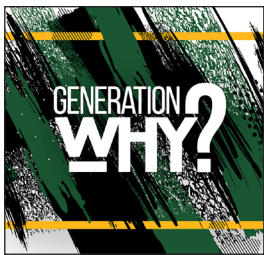
 CP COOPERATIVE  
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# Coming events



**JAN. 21.** Oklahoma Baptists will recognize the annual Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Oklahoma Baptists and Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children have teamed up to create resources for churches, including prayer points, bulletin inserts, video testimonies, sermon outlines and more. Information and resources are available at [oklahomabaptists.org/life](http://oklahomabaptists.org/life). While *Roe v. Wade* was overturned nearly two years ago, Oklahoma Baptists recognize there are still abortion-vulnerable women in the state and across the nation. Please join many Oklahoma Baptist churches on Jan. 21 in observing this important annual event. [m](#)

**JAN. 27.** Bethany, Tulakes, 6715 N.W. 50th Street, will host The Batchelor Family in concert at 5 p.m. A love offering will be received for the talent. For more information visit [ougma.org](http://ougma.org) or call 405/324-2144. [m](#)



**MARCH 2.** Oklahoma Baptist University is hosting its annual youth apologetics conference, Generation Why. Students, youth groups, college ministry groups and others around the state and region are invited to attend.

Generation Why, referred to as "GenWhy," enlightens and equips students to recognize the importance of reasonable faith in a post-Christian age. The conference is designed for students from middle school, high school and college to be prepared to recognize and know their faith more deeply, and to be able to defend their faith more effectively.

GenWhy will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. In addition to sessions, the day will include a time of worship.

Registration cost is \$10 per person, \$60 per group for groups with six to 14 people, and \$70 per group for groups of 15 or more.

The Generation Why 2024 conference is facilitated through OBU's Hobbs School of Theology and Ministry. Registration for the conference can be found on the [Generation Why event page](#). [m](#)

## VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

### OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

**Tulakogee Conference Center**, Wagoner - 918/462-3212 or [info@tulakogee.com](mailto:info@tulakogee.com)

**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](http://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 go into the jails and share the Gospel each week. For more information call 405/917-2242 or email [ojpm@ojpm.org](mailto:ojpm@ojpm.org).

### DISASTER RELIEF

Training:

**Feb. 16-17**—Orientation/Credentialing, Falls Creek Conference Center; register at [okdisasterhelp.org](http://okdisasterhelp.org).

**Feb. 29- March 2**—Chaplain Manual and Operational Stress First Aid, \$60, Baptist Building, 3800 N. May, OKC. To register email [pjones@oklahomabaptists.org](mailto:pjones@oklahomabaptists.org).

An advertisement for the Messenger Insight Podcast. It features a microphone in the foreground and a blurred background of a person speaking. The text reads: "MESSENGER INSIGHT", "From pastors to authors, ministry leaders to missionaries, hear inspiring podcast interviews today at [baptistmessenger.com/podcast](http://baptistmessenger.com/podcast) or find the Baptist Messenger Insight Podcast program on your preferred podcast platform.", and "New Episodes Out Now!".

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