



# THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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## ROSE DAY

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**Priority of Preaching  
helps improve pastors'  
ministries**

>>BRETT SELBY



**Oklahoma Baptists  
mourn the loss of  
Ron Fannin, faithful  
servant-leader**

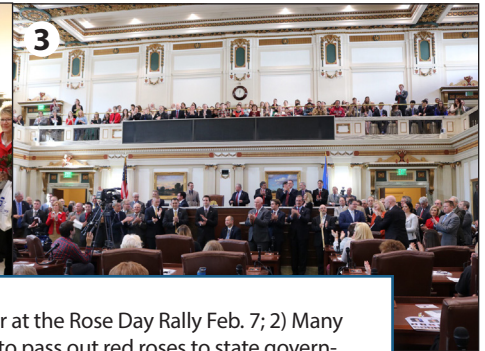
>>BOB NIGH



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# Oklahoma abortion survivor to speak at annual Rose Day Rally (Feb. 7)



>> PHOTOS: OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS STAFF

1) Josiah Presley will be the featured speaker at the Rose Day Rally Feb. 7; 2) Many pro-life advocates will gather at the Capitol to pass out red roses to state government leaders; 3) The Rose Day Rally will be in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

>> by Brian Hobbs  
EDITOR

The Rose Day Pro-Life Rally is less than a month away. On Feb. 7, the annual event will take place inside the Oklahoma State Capitol and will feature abortion survivor Josiah Presley

Pro-life Oklahomans are encouraged to travel to the Capitol that Wednesday morning with red roses in hand and a life-affirming message for lawmakers.

Registration for this free event begins at 9 a.m. Starting at 9:30 a.m., Rose Day attendees will be encouraged to visit and present a red rose to their two state legislators, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt and Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell.

Presley will share his personal story of having survived a scheduled abortion in the womb in his home country of South Korea. He was later adopted by a family in Norman.

Currently a student minister at Edmond, North Pointe, Josiah was [recently featured](#) in the *Baptist Messenger*. He also shared a portion of his testimony in the 2024 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday [video](#) for churches.

"My family was always pro-life and cared for the unborn and adoption," Presley said. "It wasn't until I became a Christian and found out my story that I had a passion for myself, as well."

Presley said he is eager to speak to the Rose Day gathering and "hopes his life story and message inspires those who hear it."

Since 2013 Josiah has been sharing his story with churches, schools, pro-life groups, pregnancy centers and organizations such as Focus on the Family, Family Research Council and Fox News.

More importantly, Josiah is married to his wife Bethany and father to their baby girl Julia.

The Rose Day indoor rally begins at 11:30 a.m. in the State House Chamber inside the Capitol, on the 4th floor.

Oklahoma Baptists and other organizations have sponsored the event, which will also feature music from The Native Praise Choir.

Previous Rose Day rally speakers have included former abortion industry worker Abby Johnson, pro-life activist Alveda King and actress Ashley Bratcher, who starred in the hit movie, "Unplanned."

For more information on Rose Day, visit [roseday.life](https://roseday.life). [m](#)

## ROSE DAY

**Where:** Oklahoma State Capitol

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024

### Schedule:

9 a.m. | Registration opens (2nd floor rotunda, Oklahoma State Capitol)

9:30 a.m. | Rose distribution begins

11:30 a.m. | Indoor rally begins (Oklahoma House of Representatives Chamber, 4th floor)

# Priority of Preaching helps improve pastors' ministries

>> by Brett Selby  
**REGIONAL MINISTRY PARTNER  
FOR OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS**

Have you ever heard it said of someone, "they don't know what they don't know"? It actually expresses a leadership training model called the Four Stages of Competence.

In the beginning, we are unconsciously incompetent. We don't know how to do something, but sadly we don't realize how incompetent we are.

The next stage is so vitally important. For when we move from being unconsciously incompetent to being CONSCIOUSLY incompetent, the possibility for improvement emerges. At this point, since we are aware of our need to grow in whatever skill is in view, we are now in the proper frame of mind to get better and see improvement.

One arena in which this is crucial is the area of preaching. When Paul asks the Colossians to pray for him in his proclamation of the message of the Gospel "that I might make it clear" (Col. 4:3-4), there was an assumption in this request. He assumed that the possibility existed that he might fail to make it clear. He was conscious of his own human limitations.


One attitude that every preacher of the Gospel should possess is conscious incompetence. It is vital for every one of us who declares the unsearchable riches of Christ each week

to know that we could get better at this all-important task.

That is why the Priority of Preaching (POP) Conference is a part of the ministry of Oklahoma Baptists. It is for the preacher who, regardless of whatever progress he has already made in his preaching ministry (1 Tim. 4:15), knows that he can make even more improvement in this most important task. From the novice to the seasoned veteran, the POP Conference will help every preacher improve in his ministry.

The 2024 Priority of Preaching Conference will be held on Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs (14613 North May Avenue). The cost to register is \$40 and can be done at [oklahomabaptists.org/pop2024](http://oklahomabaptists.org/pop2024).

Our speakers will be Stephen Rummage, pastor of Quail Springs, and H.B. Charles, pastor of Jacksonville, Fla., Shiloh Metropolitan. All those who register will receive a book by either Rummage or Charles. Both of these men are adjunct professors at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, our partnering Southern Baptist seminary for this event.

We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. at Quail Springs. 



H.B. Charles



Stephen Rummage

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# Oklahoma Baptists mourn the loss of Ron Fannin, faithful servant-leader

>> by Bob Nigh

## CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Oklahoma Baptists were shocked to learn the morning of Jan. 21 of the death of longtime Oklahoma Baptist servant and statesman Ron Fannin, who passed away the evening before.

"This is a sad day for Oklahoma Baptists," said Todd Fisher, executive director-treasurer of Oklahoma Baptists. "Ron worked for many years on the leadership team for Oklahoma Baptists before retiring in 2014 and continued to serve part-time to the present day.

"Ron was a kind, wise man who loved Jesus," Fisher continued. "He was a friend to so many and one of my greatest encouragers these last two years. A great servant of the Kingdom and Oklahoma Baptists who is now in the presence of his Lord. Please join me in praying for his family."

Funeral service will be Thursday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m. at Oklahoma City, Southern Hills.

Born July 4, 1948, to Hobart and Catherine Fannin in Chandler, Ron grew up in Wynnewood, and resided in Chico, Texas before moving to Marietta, where he graduated from high school in 1966. Fannin graduated from Murray State College in Tishomingo in 1968 and from Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) with a degree in church music in 1971. He accepted the call to Gospel ministry at age 16 and was ordained in 1970 at Drumright, First.

In addition to his ministry in music, education, youth and administration at churches, Fannin served the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma (BFO, currently WatersEdge) as vice president for church building loans and student services and senior vice president from 1988-2000. In the latter role, he oversaw a \$30 million church building loan portfolio, traveling more than 40,000 miles a year assisting Oklahoma churches in evaluating building projects and creat-

ing a safe debt service to allow them to maintain their current ministry and keep their missions giving strong.

He also served Oklahoma Baptists as senior associate executive director from September 2000-July 2014.

"I am still dealing with the shock of Ron's passing," said Anthony Jordan, who was executive director-treasurer for Oklahoma Baptists when Fannin served the state convention. "For 23 years we have walked side by side in life and ministry. I loved him like a brother. He was one of the finest Christians I have ever known. His life was marked by integrity, loving care for others, wisdom and a passion for Christ. He was the greatest encourager I have ever known. He was the epitome of servanthood.

"Our last time together, as was often the case, we praised Jesus for His goodness and wept together as we were overwhelmed by His grace to our families," Jordan continued. "Ron said on many occasions that he found his calling as the man in the 2nd chair. I told him the man in the first chair could not have done it without him. He served Oklahoma Baptist churches and the convention in an outstanding way. His contribution to us will only be revealed in full in heaven."

After "retirement," he served with the BFO as trust/probate property manager and fleet manager for vehicle purchases, and with Oklahoma Baptists, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children and Baptist Village Communities as fleet manager for vehicle purchases, repairs and insurance claims.

Fannin served in more than 25 interim music positions during his 26 years in the Baptist Building. Nationally, he also served on the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.



>> PHOTO: KALI DANIELS  
Ron Fannin makes comments after he received the 2023 Distinguished Service Award.

In 2013 he was a recipient of the OBU Alumni Association's Profile In Excellence Award.

Ron was a member of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma beginning in 1971 and served as president of the group in 1982. He was the recipient of the Churchmen's Royce Brown Award for


Lifetime Achievement in Music Ministry in 2014. He traveled with the Churchmen on mission trips to Russia twice, China, Australia and Armenia. He also traveled to the Holy Land on three occasions.

Married to the former Jamie Pace of Tishomingo in 1968, the couple have three married children: Melanie Nippert, Todd Fannin, and Greg Fannin; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

"I gave my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ at age 13 at, Chico, Texas, First and surrendered my life to Christian ministry in music at age 16," Fannin once said. "I love and appreciate my association with Oklahoma Baptist churches through church loans, opportunities to share my faith, lead in worship services and connect with each of them through the Cooperative Program of mission giving.

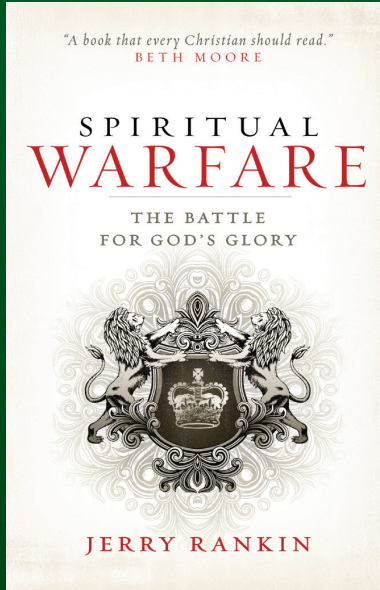
"I am most grateful for the mentorship of Bob Ross, my pastor and president of the Baptist Foundation, and Anthony Jordan, who allowed me to minister alongside him (with Oklahoma Baptists)."

Fannin was honored by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission during the 2023 Oklahoma Baptists' Annual Meeting with the annual Distinguished Service Award.

"It is hard to give him up," Jordan said. "I will miss him so much. But I rejoice and am somewhat jealous that he has seen Jesus in all His glory. My longing for heaven just took another step higher now that Ron is there." 

Join OBU and the Tom Elliff Center for Missions for the first Missions Forum of the Spring semester.

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former president of the  
IMB, will be speaking  
on Spiritual Warfare.

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# People in the news



**OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS AT MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON D.C.** On Friday, Jan. 19, tens of thousands gathered in the nation's capital for the annual March for Life event. Among those who braved the cold and snowy conditions for the March were several Oklahoma Baptist University students and other Oklahoma Baptists. [m](#)



**BABY LOTTIE.** On Oct. 30, 2023, Charlotte "Lottie" Moon Johnson was born. Her parents are Pastor Jesse and Kara Johnson of Enid, Trinity. The couple named their baby, featured above, after the namesake of the annual Christmas Offering that is observed by Southern Baptist churches in support of International Mission Board missionaries. [m](#)

## Coming event

**MARCH 10.** Tulsa, Canyon Road is hosting the Lindley Creek Band, a Gospel bluegrass band at 10:30 a.m. This is a free concert. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 918/381-2837. [m](#)

## VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

### OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

**Baptist Village Communities:**

- Ada—Tracy Scheer – 580/332-6004
- Broken Arrow—Monty Baggett – 918/355-0099
- Cleveland—Danna Ellis – 918/358-2575
- Cordell—Alicia Holt-580/832-5831
- Elk City—Cathy Henderson-580/225-5555
- Enid—Ricky Coleman-580/249-2600
- Grove (Honey Creek)—Gary Mishler-918/786-2223
- Madill (Lake Texoma)—Alandra Needham -580/564-3776
- Miami—Shane McGhee-918/542-7124
- OKC—Chris Finley – 405/470-8915
- Okmulgee—Matthew Wood – 918/756-5377
- Owasso—Steven Walkingstick – 918/272-2281 ext 102
- Entrusted Hearts (Home Health Care)—Shannon Ryan – 405/942-3000 ext 4685

### 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).
- March 8-9**—Orientation/Credentialing, Baptist Village of Owasso; register at [okdisasterhelp.org](http://okdisasterhelp.org).

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