



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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 OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS

sent

ADVANCE CONFERENCE

SENT TO ADVANCE: OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS WILL FOCUS ON EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP AT ADVANCE CONFERENCE, MARCH 4-5

 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



MVP Retreat offers support for multi-vocational pastors and wives

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Sent to Advance: Oklahoma Baptists will focus on evangelism and discipleship at Advance Conference, March 4-5

>> by Chris Doyle
MANAGING EDITOR

The Advance Conference offers something for everyone involved in Christian ministry. On March 4-5, Oklahoma Baptists will meet at Oklahoma City, St. John Missionary for great preaching and training on both evangelism and discipleship, under the theme of "Sent."

"The conference has come together really well, and there will be quite a few Oklahoma pastors who will be speaking," said Alan Quigley, Oklahoma Baptists associate executive director for church resources.

The list of Oklahoma pastors who will be speaking include Bryan Pain, pastor of Duncan, First; Collin Coffee, pastor of Inola, Calvary; Doug Melton, pastor of Oklahoma City, Southern Hills; Jeff DeGiacomo, pastor of Shawnee, Immanuel; Stephen Rummage, pastor of Oklahoma City, Quail Springs; Major Jemison, pastor of Oklahoma City, St. John and Anthony Jordan, retired executive director-treasurer of Oklahoma Baptists.

Earlier this year, Quigley announced 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.

"Each of these men will be talking about what it means to be 'Sent,'" Quigley said. "We are sent with the Gospel to advance the Gospel, and the advancing of the Gospel comes with both sharing the Good News of

Jesus Christ and then growing believers in Christlikeness. The Great Commission is evangelism and discipleship in its purest form."

Scott Sullivan, discipleship leader for Georgia Baptist Mission Board, will be coming to speak on discipleship. Tarvoris Uziogwe, evangelism and apologetics ministry partner for Oklahoma Baptists, will make a presentation on personal evangelism.

On Tuesday morning, the conference will feature group breakout sessions, relating to all aspects of ministry. There will be breakout sessions for children's ministry, youth ministry, discipleship, evangelism, African American Fellowship, women's ministry, missions, Hispanic ministry, music ministry and church planting.

The opening sessions on Monday will have a lot of excitement, as this will be the first time St. John Missionary has hosted the Advance Conference. Quigley said attendees will want to come early to the Monday evening session, as there will be a pre-session concert at 6 p.m. featuring St. John Missionary Choir, led by Terry Spigner, and the Ambassadors Concert Choir, led by Sandra Thompson.

"We are expecting a packed house on Monday night with provisions for overflow," Quigley said.

Complete information on the Advance Conference is available at oklahomabaptists.org/advance. This event is free with no registration necessary.

Free childcare will be provided for newborn to 5 years old, but pre-registration is required by March 1. Email keith@stjohnokc.org for pre-registration, and visit the website for information that must be included when registering children. [m](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnokc)

2024 ADVANCE CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Collin Coffee



Jeff DeGiacomo



Tony Evans



Major Jemison



Anthony Jordan



Fred Luter



Doug Melton



Bryan Pain



Shane Pruitt



Stephen Rummage



Scott Sullivan



Tarvoris Uziogwe

MVP Retreat offers support for multi-vocational pastors and wives



>> PHOTOS: PROVIDED

1) Heavener, First's worship band leads a time of worship through music; 2) Joe Ligon delivers a 'timely message'; 3) The MVP retreat had approximately 200 attendees.

>> by Staff

DAVIS—Situating 80 miles south of Oklahoma City, Falls Creek Conference Center provided the picturesque setting for a transformative retreat. On Feb. 2-4, Falls Creek hosted approximately 200 attendees, comprising of multi-vocational pastors (MVP), their spouses and Oklahoma Baptist staff.

The MVP retreat, now in its seventh year, has served as a pivotal gathering for pastors juggling multiple vocations, a demographic that encompasses more than 50 percent of Oklahoma Baptist pastors.

The retreat featured sermons by Todd Fisher, Oklahoma Baptists executive director-treasurer; Joe Ligon, Oklahoma Baptists senior associate executive director; Walter Wilson, Oklahoma Baptists African American ministry partner and pastor of Lawton, Friendship; and Prophet Bailey, Oklahoma Baptists young adult discipleship and men's ministry partner.

"These timely messages underscored the importance of relying on Christ for ministry strength and guidance," said

Philip Jones, who serves as the multi-vocational ministry consultant for Oklahoma Baptists. "They offered biblical insight on combating burnout and depression and emphasized the necessity of seeking solitude with God to find resilience and avoid the isolation that can afflict ministers and their families."

Jones reported that Darrell Brown, pastor of Atwood, First, shared a powerful testimony about how his cancer diagnosis became an unexpected avenue to manifest his church's vision of spreading the Gospel locally and globally.

Worship through music was led by Xavier Abraham, associate pastor of worship at Lawton, First, and his family on Friday. The worship band from Heavener, First, led by Pastor Brock Hardin led worship for the weekend sessions.

"Worship times enriched the spiritual experience of the retreat," Jones said. "Despite being renowned for its summer youth camps, Falls Creek's tranquil winter backdrop provided an ideal place for participants to forge deep connections with God and one another."

Jones highlighted three recurring themes echoed by pastors and their wives at the retreat.

"First, it offered them a much-needed opportunity for rest and relaxation," he said. "Second, the messages and breakout sessions addressed topics that resonated deeply with their needs. Lastly, the chance to meet fellow pastors and cultivate new friendships significantly enhanced the retreat experience."

"After seven years of gathering, this retreat has transformed into more of a family gathering than a traditional retreat."

Funded by contributions from churches through the Edna McMillan State Missions Offering, the MVP retreat is a demonstration of Oklahoma Baptists' commitment to supporting the state's multi-vocational pastors and their congregations.

Jones urged MVP pastors and their spouses to mark their calendars and plan to participate in next year's retreat scheduled for Feb. 7-9, 2025. [m](#)

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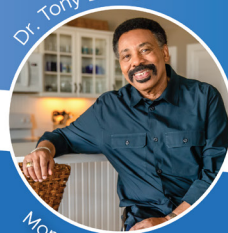
MARCH 4-5, 2024 | ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
5700 N KELLEY AVE. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Dr. Major Jemison



Monday, March 4

Dr. Tony Evans



Monday, March 4

Shane Pruitt



Tuesday, March 5

Dr. Fred Luter Jr.



Tuesday, March 5

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People in the news



DISASTER RELIEF SERVES FALLS CREEK. This month, Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers observed an orientation and training weekend at Falls Creek Conference Center near Davis. Falls Creek benefitted from the training as volunteers cleaned up areas around the campus, including the rec fields and around the entry pool. Approximately 70 volunteers participated. [m](#)

Coming events

FEB 24. Bethany, Tulakes will host Tom Nix and Hugh Kinsey Hymn Sing at 5 p.m. The church is located at 6715 N.W. 50th Street. [m](#)

APRIL 20-21. Noble, First is celebrating its 120th anniversary with two days full of festivities. On Saturday, April 20, at 5 p.m. Noble, First will have a praise and worship service with a light meal in the church's family life center. On Sunday, April 21, special Sunday School sessions will begin at 9:30, followed by 11 a.m. worship service with Preston Collins preaching. The worship service also will feature a time of recognition of former and present staff members and a time capsule presentation. The church is located at 330 E. Chestnut. For more information call 405/872-3529. [m](#)

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

Camp Gibson, Hardesty —Tom Freeman 580/338-6259 or pbaok221@gmail.com

Families Feeding Families Meal Center, Durant—580/230-9142 or visit 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:

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

March 8-9—Orientation/Credentialing, Baptist Village of Owasso; register at okdisasterhelp.org.

April 11-12—Assisting Individuals in Crisis (CISM) – 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – \$50** Baptist Building, 3800 N. May Ave. To register, please email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org (Continuing education for those who have completed Chaplain Manual and OSFA) ** For endorsed chaplains only

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