



# THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

DIGITAL EDITION | JUNE 05, 2024



**SBC Annual Meeting**  
by Baptist Press Reports &  
Messenger Staff



**Summer Camps Kickoff**  
by Jacob King



**Update on Disaster Relief**  
by Bob Nigh

# OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS' 2024 SUMMER CAMPS KICKOFF

by Jacob King & Messenger Staff

Summer camps across the state have started out strong. Among these are Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center and CrossTimbers Children's Mission Adventure Camp, both of which are focused on pointing campers toward Christ.

## FALLS CREEK

Falls Creek's theme for 2024 is "Totally", encouraging students to totally focus on God.

"Totally was selected as this year's theme to help students take a journey into and respond to the truths of who God is," said Todd Sanders, Falls Creek program director.

Each week at Falls Creek will focus on how God is totally knowing, totally present, totally caring and totally capable. This theme is based on the verse Psalm 139:17, "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!"

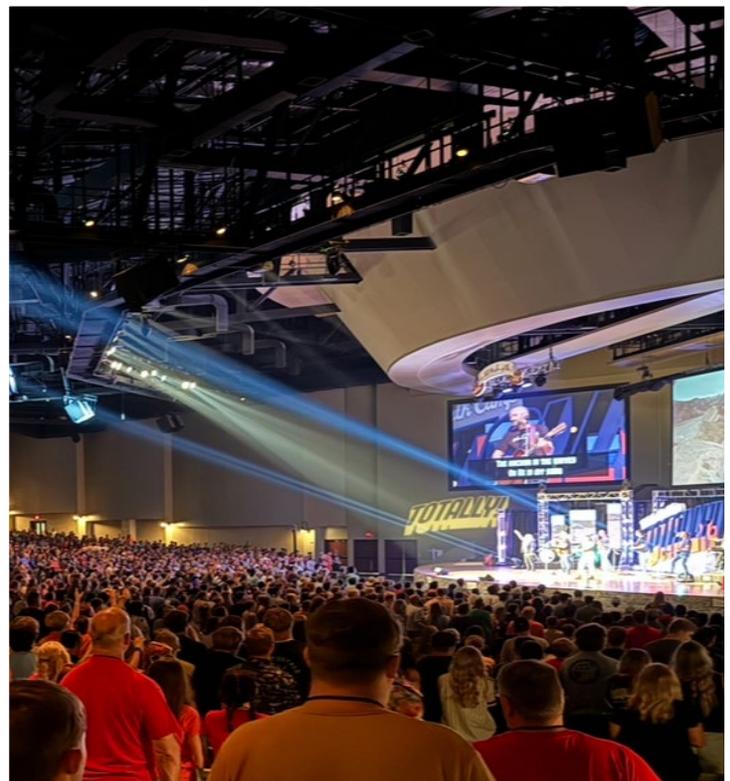
Falls Creek features a notable slate of speakers which include a variety of newcomers to the summer youth weeks and veteran camp preachers. Some are Oklahoma pastors; some are nationally-known among Southern Baptists, and there are evangelists who have been effective in delivering evangelical messages to young people.

These speakers include Chip Luter, senior associate pastor at New Orleans, La., Franklin Ave.; Duncan Blackwell, pastor of Elk City, First; Cody Brumley, pastor of Jenks, First; Internation Mission Board (IMB) President Paul Chitwood; Ryan Fontenot; Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Seminary; and Zack Randles, a pastor in Washington, D.C.

These sessions are accompanied by a variety of recreational activities for campers, as well as breakout sessions covering a wide range of topics such as dealing with grief and loneliness, how to study the Bible and other general spiritual growth opportunities. Missions Mobilization and a new focus on Disaster Relief (DR) is emphasized at the camp. Students have also participated in a practical mission project creating care bags for DR volunteers.

"As always, we will do evangelism training throughout the week," Sanders said. "We will have opportunities in the afternoons where our staff has the chance to engage students in evangelistic conversations."

More than 100 churches and 5,200 attendees are at Falls Creek currently, signaling a strong start for the rest of the summer. More information about the Falls Creek youth weeks can be found at [oklahomabaptists.org/youthcamp](http://oklahomabaptists.org/youthcamp).



## CROSSTIMBERS

CrossTimbers Children's Mission Adventure Camp has begun and is in the second week of sessions. Each session is three nights and four days of giving campers a vision for missions that can be translated back to their communities.

"From the time these boys and girls step on the CrossTimbers campgrounds until they leave, they will learn about the Gospel and the importance of missions," said Sarah Hagar, CrossTimbers program director.

CrossTimbers is a longstanding camp program offered by Oklahoma Baptists and supported by the Cooperative Program, designed for children grades three through six. The camp provides great activities for campers to enjoy in a fun and safe environment. These include a ropes course, target sports and water activities.



"The children of this generation—called Gen Alpha—are in a high-tech world, bombarded by screens and media," Hagar said. "Camp is a great time they can unplug from all of that and hear from the Lord."

Speakers at this year's camp include Grant Findley, Christian Lloyd, Mark Jones, Corry Duncan, Jeff DeGiacomo, Joey Dean, David Skinner, Tom Hollis, Nathan Copeland, Rob Dunning, D.J. Walter and Prophet Bailey. CrossTimbers leaders also place a high priority on the preaching of the Gospel, the scriptures, prayer, Christian service and missions.



### Reception

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 | 5 p.m.  
Grand Hall at Historic Union Station  
123 W. LOUISIANA ST., INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46225

*This event is open to Oklahoma messengers attending the SBC annual meeting and all OBU alumni and friends!*

Registration required.



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# 2024 SBC ANNUAL MEETING, PASTORS' CONFERENCE SET FOR JUNE 9-12 IN INDIANAPOLIS

by Baptist Press Reports & Messenger Staff

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Conventions (SBC) 2024 Annual Meeting is set to take place June 11-12 in Indianapolis. The full schedule of the meeting is now available at [sbcannualmeeting.net](http://sbcannualmeeting.net).

Oklahoma Baptists church messengers and other guests will be taking part in the Annual Meeting. The event will feature times of preaching, worship through music, prayer, various ministry reports, election of officers, as well as various task force reports including the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force and the Great Commission Task Force.

The International Mission Board (IMB) sending celebration is scheduled for the Tuesday morning session. According to the IMB, there will be 83 missionary appointees, which includes four Oklahoma Baptists.

There will be nearly 200 ancillary meetings, events and gatherings throughout the SBC Annual Meeting week. Oklahoma Baptists and Oklahoma Baptist University will be hosting a special fellowship event on June 11, for messengers and guests attending the meeting. For more information, visit [this link](#).

## OKLAHOMA PASTOR STEPHEN RUMMAGE SERVES AT SBC PASTORS' CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the 2024 SBC Pastors' Conference will take place June 9-10, at the same location. Oklahoma Pastor Stephen Rummage is serving as SBC Pastors' Conference President.

In a story recently published by Baptist Press, Rummage shared that he remembers the benefits he received as a young pastor from the pastors' conference. He wants those same blessings experienced by attendees during this year's conference.

"As a beginning pastor ... I knew I would hear some exciting preachers, pick up a few illustrations I might use in my messages and have a good time hanging out with my preacher buddies," said Rummage, senior pastor, Oklahoma City, Quail Springs.

And while hearing legends in the pulpit was certainly a draw, so were the intangibles.

"I've learned that the SBC Pastors' Conference is much, much more than dynamic preaching on a big platform," Rummage said.

"For so many pastors over the years, it's become a lifeline of encouragement and inspiration to keep preaching God's Word, sharing the Gospel and serving the Lord."

The theme for the event is "Faithful: Pursuing Your Mission," based on Revelation 17:14.

Rummage pointed to that passage as designating Jesus "Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called, and chosen and faithful."

"Every preacher will be preaching on some aspect of God's faithfulness and our call to be faithful to Him as

pastors," he said. "Without exception, as I've talked to our preachers for this year, they are deeply passionate about bringing messages that encourage other pastors to be faithful.

"We'll have living examples of faithfulness in the conference pulpit, including preachers who have walked through serious illness, family trauma, church struggle and so many of the other issues every pastor faces, all with enduring faithfulness to our faithful God."

Erik Cummings, lead pastor of New Life Church in Carol City, Fla., is serving as vice president while Michael Stephens, church business administrator at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs, is serving as treasurer.

Session 1 will begin in Halls H/I/J/K in the Indiana Convention Center on Sunday, June 9, after the Sunday prayer gathering and last from 6-9 p.m. Session 2 is scheduled for the following morning from 8:30-noon, with Session 3 in the afternoon (2-5 p.m.) and Session 4 that evening (6:30-9 p.m.).

Pastors speaking at the event include Steve Gaines, pastor of Memphis, Tenn., Bellevue; Jack Graham, pastor of Plano, Tex., Prestonwood; Shane Pruitt, National Next Gen Director, North American Mission Board; Robert Smith, Jr., retired Professor of Preaching at Beeson Divinity School; among others.

Worship will be led by Charles Billingsley, producer of seven No. 1 Inspirational radio hits during a music career stretching nearly 30 years that includes a time as lead singer for Newsong. Billingsley currently serves as teaching pastor at Lynchburg, Va., Thomas Road.

For more information about the SBC Pastors' Conference, go to [www.sbpc.net](http://www.sbpc.net).





## OKLAHOMA BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF MAKING IMPACT SERVING AFTER NE OKLAHOMA TORNADOES

by Staff

As progress continues assessing and addressing the needs of those affected by recent tornadoes, an Oklahoma Baptist Incident Command Center has been set up at Claremore, Kings Road.

“We have also had teams stay at Salina, First,” said DR Director Jason Yarbrough. “The church family, with help from other congregations, have prepared and served meals to the teams working in that community. This partnership has been a blessing, and helped us to spend more time serving in the community and less time on the road.”

Yarbrough added that being part of the network of state conventions that all have DR ministries has proven to be a tremendous benefit during this storm season.



“We have welcomed teams from New Mexico, Kansas/Nebraska, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina helping us serve the communities in NE Oklahoma,” he said. “To date, we have received more than 250 work requests in the Claremore, Pryor, Salina, and surrounding communities and completed approximately 100 of those as of Sun., June 2.

Assessors and chaplains have been having good conversations with homeowners, and, together with the volunteers on the teams, have had dozens of ministry contacts and Gospel conversations.”

The first week of response saw an average of 90 Oklahoma DR volunteers on the field each day, plus others on out of state teams. This response will continue at least through next week, and is likely to extend into the following week.

“This Saturday, June 8, we will offer an orientation and credentialing opportunity for those who are interested in becoming a part of the DR team,” Yarbrough said. “We will present this at our incident command site, Kings Road Church, 2450 Kings Road, in Claremore. Registration (In person only) is from 8:30-9 a.m., with the orientation beginning after that, and the event concludes with lunch around noon. I am excited about doing this orientation while we are deployed as it gives potential volunteers the opportunity to see first-hand what a deployment set-up/operation looks like.”

Cost to attend the orientation for new volunteers is \$30 and \$20 for returning volunteers needing to renew badge and for college students, and is payable that day (cash or check only).

More info about the training can be found on the Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief Facebook page.

To make a financial donation to Oklahoma Baptist DR, visit [www.okdisasterhelp.org](http://www.okdisasterhelp.org).

# CHURCH NEWS

## BARNETT RETIREMENT



On May 16, leaders with Oklahoma Baptists held a special retirement reception for longtime Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) Director Mike Barnett, who served for more than 45 years in BCM ministry. Barnett served as BCM director for the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and he specialized in leading numerous medical mission trips outside the United States.

## MUSKOGEE, GRANDVIEW HOLDS FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY



On Sun., April 21, the congregation of Muskogee, Grandview held a flag-raising ceremony on the front lawn of the church to show patriotic support for our nation and to bless Israel. "Our purpose in conducting the ceremony was both spiritual and political," said Pastor Jay McAlister. "We prayed for the people in our nation and our nation's leadership and that God in His mercy would bring another Great Awakening with repentance that would turn our hearts back to God. We prayed for the nation of Israel, its leadership and its people amidst the current conflict. We felt compelled to pray for a miracle to occur so the remaining hostages would be released, and peace be granted to Jerusalem."

## HENDERSON NOW AT MUSTANG, CHISHOLM HEIGHTS



Griff Henderson, Oklahoma Baptists' northwest regional ministry partner for four years, has accepted the call as pastor at Mustang, Chisholm Heights. He served the directors of missions in seven associations. He also was pastor at Edmond, Waterloo Road. He was honored during a reception May 23 at the Baptist Building.

## PRESLEY TO SPEAK AT OKLAHOMA MARCH FOR LIFE



Josiah Presley, abortion survivor and featured speaker at 2024 Rose Day at the State Capitol, will be a featured speaker at Oklahoma March for Life, an annual pro-life event, beginning at 10 a.m., June 8. Like Rose Day, March for Life is designed to bring together various pro-life groups to speak up for the unborn. The march starts at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and concludes at the state capitol.