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Falls Creek, CrossTimbers Campers learn of Disaster Relief's ministry impact



**Campers Learn of DR
Ministry Impact**
by Lori Coats



**2024 SBC Meeting
Highlights**
by Staff



Church News



FALLS CREEK, CROSTIMBERS CAMPERS LEARN OF DISASTER RELIEF'S MINISTRY IMPACT

By Lori Coats, Ministry Assistant

This year's spring tornado season in Oklahoma has been especially active and, sadly, has left a wake of destruction across the state. Communities both large and small have experienced severe damage and suffered devastation. Homes and churches have been destroyed and, tragically, lives have been lost.



Amid the tragedy, the Oklahoma Baptists Disaster Relief (DR) ministry has been given the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. Hundreds of volunteers have stepped in to help feed, clean and offer encouragement. According to Disaster Relief Director Jason Yarbrough, "We are thankful to be able to meet the physical needs people are experiencing to see a door opened for us to speak into the spiritual needs they have. We do what we do with God's help, for God's glory!"

This summer, children and youth at CrossTimbers and Falls Creek camps have joined in to help Oklahoma Baptist DR meet the storm victim's needs. CrossTimbers hosts third through sixth grade students, and one of the mission stops is focused solely on encouraging those who have been impacted by the storms. The children

are learning how the DR ministry works, praying for storm victims and are signing their names in the Bibles that will be given to each homeowner who receives help from DR volunteers.

Walter Bivens, a sixth-grade camper from Newcastle, First, is excited to sign the Bibles and pray for the victims. He says, "I think this is a good opportunity for us to get to strengthen a random person. We don't know what troubles they might be going through, but everyone has troubles. This mission stop is helping us learn to pray for and encourage others."

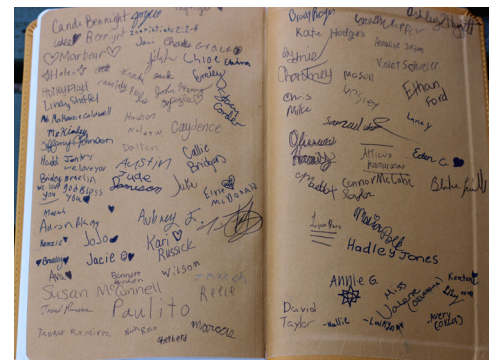
At the Missions Outpost at Falls Creek, seventh through twelfth grade students are packing emergency hygiene bags. These bags contain items to help people who have lost everything get through the first day or two. DR volunteers are able to distribute the bags when they enter disaster areas.

According to recent high school graduate Rich Sharrock from Paris, Texas, Southside, "I'm thankful that Falls Creek is giving us the opportunity to help pack these bags because it allows me to show the love of Jesus to

those who are hurting. I want people to know that even though they may be going through a hard time that Jesus is still there, and people care about them."

Together, both youth camps expect to host thousands of students this summer. Many hands are working, and many hearts are praying for those who have suffered loss. According to Sarah Hagar, CrossTimbers Camp director, "The storm impact has been big, but so has the response." We are honored to have the chance to partner with DR and are proud of these students for stepping up and helping to meet the needs."

Visit okdisasterhelp.org for more information or to donate.



2024 SBC ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Baptist Press & Messenger Staff



INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Nearly 11,000 Southern Baptist messengers gathered June 11-12 in Indianapolis for the 2024 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting. There were a total of 10,946 messengers—including more than 400 from Oklahoma. Messengers hailed from all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, representing 3,988 churches.

the lost, may the Lord remind you that always—always—there are Southern Baptists praying fervently for you, and for the Gospel to advance.”

OFFICERS ELECTED, INCLUDING OKLAHOMA PASTOR BRAD GRAVES AS 1ST VP

A crowded field of candidates for SBC president led to numerous runoff elections in 2024. After two runoffs, North Carolina pastor Clint Pressley was named president. Pressley is senior pastor of Charlotte, Hickory Grove. Oklahoma pastor Mike Keabone of Lawton, First was among the other candidates to run for SBC president.

Brad Graves, senior pastor of Ada, First, was elected first vice president. Eddie Lopez, senior pastor of Forney, Texas, FBC en Español won the race for second vice president. Don Currence was named registration secretary, and Nathan Finn, was named recording secretary.

KEY BUSINESS & OTHER SBC MATTERS

Southern Baptist messengers did not approve what became known as the Law amendment. The amendment did receive the requisite two-thirds approval last year in New Orleans. The amendment would have defined a co-operating church as one that “affirms,

appoints, or employs only men as any kind of pastor or elder as qualified by Scripture.”

Oklahoma Baptists’ Todd Fisher said, “Many who voted against the amendment did so, not because they believe women should serve in the office of elder/pastor, but rather thought the amendment to be unnecessary or that it could potentially create problematic issues regarding Baptist polity. It is important to note that the most recent version of the Baptist Faith and Message states, ‘While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.’”

Messengers overwhelmingly approved two recommendations brought forward by the SBC Abuse Reform and Implementation Task Force (ARITF). The recommendations hand the priorities identified by ARITF over to the SBC Executive Committee to further implement.



83 MISSIONARIES COMMISSIONED IN IMB SENDING CELEBRATION

The messengers were moved to joy and tears as 83 new missionaries—including four Oklahoma Baptists—were commissioned on June 11 by the International Mission Board (IMB). IMB President Paul Chitwood told the missionaries, “Beside you and behind you are row upon row, thousands of Southern Baptists, here to celebrate with you as you prepare to go to the nations.” “As you go out to literally every corner of the Earth in pursuit of



Messengers also approved various other motions, eight resolutions and heard various ministry reports. The 2025 SBC Annual Meeting is set to take place June 10-11 in Dallas, Tex.

Jeff Iorg, newly elected SBC Executive Committee president and CEO, gave his first presentation in the role. In his address, Iorg acknowledged Southern Baptists face great challenges focusing on God's eternal mission while giving other issues appropriate attention.

"The mission matters most," Iorg said, reciting a phrase he said has helped him stay on track. "This phrase reminds me to prioritize God's eternal mission, while still recognizing other matters need appropriate attention. The mission matters most means other things do matter—but just not as much as some people advocate—and never ever to the detriment of God's eternal mission."

Prior to the SBC Annual Meeting, many other SBC auxiliary events took place from June 9-12 in Indianapolis. The annual Pastors' Conference took place June 9-10 and was attended by thousands of pastors and others. The 2024 conference was led by president Stephen Rummage, pastor of Oklahoma City, Quail Springs.

Visit baptistpress.com or baptist-messenger.com for articles about the 2024 SBC Annual Meeting.





CHURCH NEWS

OBU PRESENTS HOBBS AWARD TO RUMMAGE AT SBC ANNUAL MEETING

Oklahoma Baptist University President Heath A. Thomas presented the Herschel H. Hobbs Award for Distinguished Denominational Service to Stephen Rummage on June 11 during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in Indianapolis.

Rummage serves as senior pastor of Oklahoma City, Quail Springs. "I am so pleased that the committee unanimously selected Rummage for this prestigious award," Thomas said. "In the tradition of Herschel Hobbs, Rummage is a pastor, churchman, scholar, and denominational leader. We are grateful to have him serving faithfully in Oklahoma and leading graciously in the national convention. Well deserved!"

Rummage also has pastored churches in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, and Louisiana. He has taught at Southeastern, New Orleans, and Midwestern seminaries. Rummage is also an author and the founder of Moving Forward, a nationally broadcast radio teaching ministry. He served as president of the 2024 SBC Pastors' Conference and has previously held positions, including chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and president of the Florida Baptist Convention.

The Hobbs Award is named to honor the noteworthy Southern Baptist denominational service of Herschel H. Hobbs, a prolific author, preacher and radio program host.

SWOSU BCM 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SET OCT. 25-26 DURING HOMECOMING

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford will observe its 100th anniversary, Oct. 25-26—highlighted by a banquet on Friday and a float in the Homecoming Parade on Saturday. Alumni are invited to an open house during the entire event. For additional information, email shume@oklahomabaptists.org.

TRIBUTES

Bill Fuller, longtime Oklahoma pastor and father of Mark Fuller, pastor at Wilson, First, died June 10.

