



# THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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**GoStudents Network**  
*by Jacob King*



**Marietta Food Pantry**  
*by Jacob King*



**Church News**





# GOSTUDENTS NETWORK ADVANCING THE GOSPEL ACROSS THE GLOBE

By Jacob King

For most students, Summer is a time of fun under the sun, relaxing and taking a break from schoolwork. Others spend their summers working to save money for a new car, video game console or even college.

However, some students make the selfless decision to forgo these two routes. Rather, they choose to use their time serving others, without monetary gain, and help spread the Gospel across the country and across the world through the Oklahoma Baptists' GoStudents Network.

Through the funds of the Falls Creek Missions Offering, Edna McMillan State Mission Offering and Cooperative Program, the GoStudents Network partners with Oklahoma churches to send students on various mission trips both in and outside of the United States. Below are only a few of the numerous trips that have been completed through GoStudents.



## NEBRASKA

Earlier this summer, a group of 9-12 grade students from McAlester, First were sent to Omaha, Nebraska

to serve the Heartland Church Network (HCN). While there, the students power washed a local church, canvassed about 1,200 homes to build connections with three different churches, conducted service projects with four different churches and hosted a block party for the HCN community.

Churches in the area are ethnically diverse and vary in size. Teams sent to Nebraska brought aid to these struggling churches and advanced the Gospel through outreach activities.



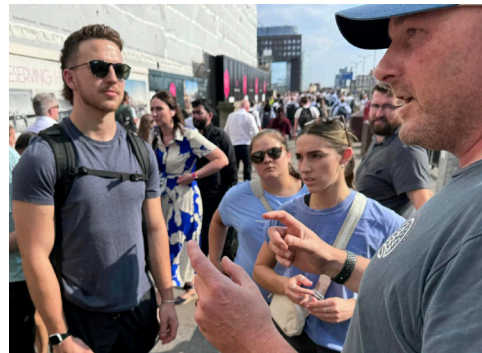
## LONDON

Recently, a team sent by Tulsa, Memorial Baptist, returned from a trip to London, England. The city is one of the most diverse and cosmopolitan cities in the world, with a steadily growing population that has reached a historic high of 9 million people. There are only 290 Baptist churches in the area to serve that massive population, meaning that spreading the Gospel in London is a large task to say the least.

The team walked the streets speaking with people about the Gospel. They

met with people who were born all over the world but came to London to live.

'The biggest thing that impacted me was the two guys my age that rode the double decker bus with us. We shared the gospel with them and one of them accepted Jesus on the bus and came to the House church with us right after to know more about God!' said Daniel Robertson, a London team member.







## NEW YORK CITY

GoStudents Network sent two teams to New York City this summer. The first one worked alongside North American Mission Board (NAMB) church planter Jordan Saucedo, a team adopted by Kingfisher, First, traveled to New York City (NYC) to advance the Gospel. As the largest city in the United States and a home for people from all over the world, New York is a strategic place to end global lostness.

The team worked with various church planters to help move their ministries forward and share the Gospel. They had conversations in parks, set up for church services and events, participated in creative outreach experiences and helped local church events. Stacie Simunek, the leader of the team, shared her experience with Carina who had fallen away from the church.



“She was one of their original church members, back when they met at the karate dojo,” said Simunek. “But she had fallen away and hadn’t been to church in about 6 years.”



Carina spoke with Simunek and the two became fast friends. During the sermon, Carina went forward during the invitation and rededicated her life to the Lord.

## BELIZE

Belize is an excellent destination for students to be introduced to foreign missions. It allows them to serve in one of the world’s poorest countries where most people speak English, and it is inexpensive. This year, teams sent by Pryor, First worked in the southern part of Belize in the Toldeo District. They helped with Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the mornings and afternoons at San Miguel Baptist Church.

“I feel the Lord used our team to build the congregation at San Miguel Baptist Church,” said team member Julie Bryant. “By night 4, we had gone from 99 to 175!”



Bryant also said that the team’s word for the week was “flexible”. Things didn’t always go according to the team’s plan, but they just rolled with it and continued to share the love of Jesus.



This is the first year GoStudents Network has operated in its new Network structure. This new format ensures that even more students and churches can be mobilized. Now, it is a network of Certified Sending Partners, with boundless potential to advance the Gospel even further. Through this network, churches in Oklahoma can adopt the various projects offered and send teams on mission trips to locations across the Globe.

While projects are full for this summer, registration for next summer’s trips will open soon. For more information about the projects, visit [oklahomabaptists.org/gostudents/projects](http://oklahomabaptists.org/gostudents/projects).

GoStudents Network is supported through the Cooperative Program.





# CHURCH COMMUNITY IN MARIETTA RALLIES BEHIND THOSE IN NEED

By Messenger Staff

On April 27, deadly tornados tore through southern Oklahoma. Marietta was hit by an EF-4 tornado with wind speeds clocked in between 165 to 170 mph along its 27-mile path according to the National Weather Service. This was the strongest tornado the state has seen since 2016, leaving Marietta heavily damaged and resulting in one death.

Before the tornado hit, Marietta, Eastside assisted 40-50 individuals per week with food through their food bank funded by the Mercy Health Love County foundation. The local hospital in Marietta hosted the food pantry, but it was destroyed in the tornado along with Marietta's Homeland and Dollar Tree warehouse. These were vital stores of the community where most got their groceries.

"It went through the west part of town along the interstate," said Eastside, Marietta Pastor Brett Alberda. "We lost some homes. I don't want to minimize that. It took out about a dozen homes, and we went and helped them clean up."

The Dollar Tree warehouse alone employed over 400 people and is not planned to be rebuilt. After the tornado hit, the food bank was helping nearly 250 people a week. As a result of this increase, Eastside and the Marietta community as a whole needed assistance in providing food.

Major corporations and Disaster Relief volunteers from across the country began assisting the community through boxes of food and cleanup efforts. Utilizing a fair barn, the Marietta community created a drive through area where people could get supplies.

"It was really a community effort," said Alberda. "Churches coming together along with the community to help the needs of the people."

Even with outside assistance, the need for supplies was still massive. Eastside reached out to Oklahoma Baptists and asked if they could help their community with a great need for food. In response, \$20,000 was used from the Edna McMillan State Mission Offering (SMO) fund and given to the community to assist Eastside, other sister Baptist churches and the food bank in Marietta to help people in need in this devastating time and to advance the sharing of the Gospel.

"The money is there to meet whatever need we see to help maintain the food bank and to help families in need," said Alberda.

During this process, Eastside and the other churches began to see needs in the community that were previously unknown to them. Alberda now regularly visits a couple who tend to keep to themselves. He delivers food to them and checks up on them, making sure to meet any needs they have.

"We have a couple of families who have started coming to Eastside just from us going door to door," said Alberda. "Eastside is a 'small c' church. First Baptist is a 'small c' church. We needed to come together as the 'big C' Church to help the community and show them we were united."

When Oklahoma Baptists give to the SMO, the funds are used to provide necessary resources and support for various mission endeavors. These funds go to associational camps, crisis care, foster care, global missions and various other ministries and relational programs.





# CHURCH NEWS



**Saturday August 24**  
 Southern Hills Baptist Church  
 8601 S Pennsylvania Ave.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73159

**A FREE Conference for pastors and Sunday School directors that includes lunch, conference booklet, and free books on Sunday School for each participant**

**8:00AM** Registration / Coffee & Conversations  
**8:30AM** Welcome & Opening Exercise  
**8:50AM** Did You Know?  
**9:00AM** Session 1: The Purpose & Definition of Sunday School  
**10:00AM** Break  
**10:20AM** Session 2: Responsibilities of the Sunday School Director  
**12:00PM** Lunch break  
**12:30PM** Session 3: Growing Your Sunday School  
**1:30PM** Session 4: Developing Life-changing Bible Study  
**2:45PM** Break  
**3:00PM** Session 5: Developing my Next-steps Plan  
**4:00PM** Dismiss

**Lifeway** **OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTORS SUMMIT SET FOR AUGUST 24

Oklahoma Baptists and Lifeway Christian Resources will present a Sunday School Directors Summit from 8a.m.-4p.m., on Sat., Aug. 24 at Oklahoma City, Southern Hills, 8601 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Titled "Blueprints for Building a Better Sunday School," the event is a free conference for pastors and Sunday School directors that includes lunch, conference booklet, and other free books on Sunday School for each participant. Session topics include The Purpose and Definition of Sunday School; Responsibilities of the Sunday School Director; Growing Your Sunday School; Developing Life-Changing Bible Study and Developing My Next-Steps Plan.

## BAPTIST VILLAGE, OKC HOSTS JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

Baptist Village of Oklahoma City hosted a star-spangled celebration July 2 leading up to the 248th birthday of the United States of America on July 4. The event, attended by approximately 200 residents, team members, volunteers and other friends, featured hot dogs and hamburgers, greetings from Baptist Village Communities President Bill Pierce and special music by the Village's "Singing Saints" and Blake and Jenna Bolerjack.



*Faith Comes By Hearing*

*"So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"*  
 Romans 10:17

# Bible Conference

**OCTOBER 6**  
 10:30am/6:00pm

**OCTOBER 7 - 9**  
 6:30pm each night

Music By: **Master's Voice**

Sunnylane Baptist Church  
 4500 SE 31st Street • Del City, OK 73115  
 Phone: 405-677-0591

## DEL CITY, SUNNYLANE TO HOST BIBLE CONFERENCE

Del City, Sunnylane will host a Faith Comes by Hearing Bible Conference, Oct. 6-9 with five speakers, including former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Fred Luter, and special music by Master's Voice. Other featured speakers include Bill Britt, Ricky Capps, Jerry Chaddick and Roc Collins. Service times are 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Oct. 6 and 6:30 p.m. each night, Oct. 7-9. The church is located at 4500 SE 31st St. in Del City. For more information, call 405/677-0591.

## BETHANY, TULAKES TO HOST GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT

Bethany, Tulakes, 6715 NW 50th St., will present a gospel music concert featuring the "Abundance Quartet" at 5 p.m., Sat. July 24. The event is sponsored by the United Gospel Music Association, Inc. For more information, call 405/324-2144 or visit [www.ougma.org](http://www.ougma.org) or email [Jim@ougma.org](mailto:Jim@ougma.org).