



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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2024 Indian Falls Creek
by Jacob King



**Falls Creek Breakout
Sessions Equip**
by Brian Hobbs



Church News



2024 INDIAN FALLS CREEK SET TO ENCOURAGE FAMILIES

By Jacob King

Indian Falls Creek (IFC) is set to be held July 28-Aug. 4. This family camp welcomes attendees of all ages from babies to senior adults. Todd Fisher, Oklahoma Baptists executive director-treasurer, will be the camp guest speaker and will teach from Ephesians 4:11-13, *“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*

“Fisher is just a good communicator,” said Victor Cope, IFC executive director. “He can speak to adults and youth all at the same time.”

Campers who attend IFC come from more than 50 tribal Nations from all parts of North America and more than 250 churches. This annual time of encouragement and training began in 1947 with an attendance of 333. Now, the camp’s average registration is more than 3,000. J. B. Rounds and W. D. Moorer founded the Falls Creek Assembly 30 years prior to IFC.

As the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, it led the work which began Indian Falls Creek. Mrs. John Davis, Mrs. T. W. Stevens, Mrs. Bertha K. Spooner, Mrs. Homer Grimmett and Aaron Hancock were the organizers of the first Indian Falls Creek.

Victor Kaneubbe, Lewis Hancock and Louise Hendricks drafted the constitution for Indian Falls Creek which states “The objective of this assembly in its annual meeting shall be to foster and promote Christian training, inspiration, fellowship, evangelism and missionary zeal among the Indians in their Baptist church life.”

A major difference between IFC and Falls Creek is IFC’s emphasis on being a family camp. Families from different tribes can enjoy the camp experience and study God’s Word together because of this, regardless of age.

“We’re a family camp; that is a throwback to our tribes doing everything together,” said Cope. “When we gather together it’s everybody from the old down to the babies.”

Campers will participate in various recreation activities including kickball, volleyball, horseshoes, swimming and a golf tournament.

IFC Baptist Assembly has become a widely anticipated tradition for many churches and families. While not officially connected to the Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center, it does use the same campground. The IFC organization works hard to ensure tribes can attend the camp, even offering scholarships to churches. Worship services, classes and activities are designed to engage all ages from preschool to adult. A Health Fair and other ministry organizations—such as a blood drive and missions

fair—provide opportunities for individuals and churches to build up and expand their learning and ministry.

Morning classes provide Bible study and discipleship training. Afternoon activities are designed to encourage fellowship and family fun. Additionally, there are morning and evening services where everyone gathers. In addition to welcoming Fisher as a guest speaker, IFC is also hosting Junior Pratt and his three children who perform dances that help people listen to the Gospel.

For many generations, IFC has been a place where people have come to deepen and nourish their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Many have also dedicated their lives to reach out and serve in their home communities or in special ministry while at camp. The classes and training times provided help campers to better understand Christ’s work in the lives as well as address the needs and concerns they find around them at home.

For more information about Indian Falls Creek, visit indianfalls creek.org.





FALLS CREEK BREAKOUTS EQUIP, ENCOURAGE STUDENTS

By Brian Hobbs

DAVIS—Every summer, thousands of students come to Falls Creek for times of spiritual enrichment, fellowship and fun.

On any given afternoon of camp, you will see students from Oklahoma Baptist churches and elsewhere enjoying all Falls Creek has to offer. The zip line, waterfront activities, sports like volleyball—Falls Creek offers these and a plethora of other activities.

Another popular way to spend time at Falls Creek has emerged in breakout sessions. These teaching times encourage and equip students in various areas, including evangelism, apologetics, worship and more.

Some of the compelling breakout session topics for 2024 include:

- **ADVANCE:** Following the Gospel of Jesus through the Book of Acts
- **ARTIFICIAL IMPRESSIONS:** Seeing Social Media through Jesus' Eyes
- **BEFORE THE THRONE:** Leading others to worship Jesus
- **CALLED:** Following Jesus into vocational ministry
- **CLOSER THAN A BROTHER:** Dealing with loneliness in light of Jesus
- **CUT IT STRAIGHT:** Teaching and preaching the Word of God

One of the most popular sessions this summer is a breakout session called "Fight for Life: The Biblical Battles for the Unborn."

This breakout session, now in its second year, has drawn hundreds of students each week in the summer of 2024. The time is designed to help students "engage with the topic of abortion, the value of life, and how (their) generation can change culture by defending and responding to the position for life."

As students live in a culture and time that inundates them with unhelpful or harmful information about abortion, this breakout session is making a real impact for the biblical principle of the Sanctity of Human Life.

The breakout is facilitated by staff members of Hope Pregnancy Ministries. Charity Lyon, who serves as the director of the Hope Pregnancy Center in Alva, was impressed by the student participation.

"The students in our breakout session have asked great questions. We can tell students are engaging with this topic and are eager to make a difference," Lyon said.

As the American cultural battle over abortion continues, this one breakout session can contribute to building a culture of life to help defend life.

Falls Creek will continue to offer quality camp activities and teaching that will equip and encourage a new generation to live for Jesus faithfully.

Falls Creek is supported by Oklahoma Baptists giving through the Cooperative Program. For more information, visit: oklahomabaptists.org/youth/falls-creek.



CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH FINANCE CONFERENCE SET

WatersEdge is hosting the 2024 Church Finance Conferences at Owasso, First on Oct. 1 and Oklahoma City, Southern Hills on Oct. 3. There's also an option to attend the conference online on Oct. 1. More information and registration are at www.WatersEdge.com/CFC24. The registration fee for the two in-person events is \$20 off through July 31.



October 1 & 3, 2024

REGISTER NOW



Church Finance CONFERENCE

WatersEdge

SWOSU BSU/BCM CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OCT. 25-26

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) BSU/BCM will celebrate 100 years, Oct. 25-26. These 100 years will be highlighted by a banquet (No cost, please RSVP) and celebration at 5:30 p.m., Fri., Oct. 25 and Homecoming gathering and parade in conjunction with the SWOSU Homecoming football game, Oct. 26. For further information, contact Scott Hume at 580-772-2377.



OCTOBER 25-26, 2024 (FRI-SAT) | WEATHERFORD, OK

FRIDAY, 10/25/2024

- 5:30pm – BSU/BCM Centennial Banquet & Celebration
Family Life Center – First Baptist Church
- 8:30pm – Gather by groups at the churches or BSU/BCM

SATURDAY, 10/26/2024

- 8:00am – Coffee, Donuts, and Gatherings in the BSU/BCM
- 10:00am – SWOSU Homecoming Parade
- 1:30pm – SWOSU Homecoming Tailgating
- 2:30pm – SWOSU Homecoming Football Game

The BSU/BCM will be open the entire time for everyone to spend time together and reminisce.

OTHER THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE EVENTS:

- The cost of the banquet will be covered; we just need to know how many will be attending (see RSVP info below).
- We need you to **SEND US PICTURES!** If you have pictures of things that happened during your time at the BSU/BCM and think they're scrapbook-worthy, please email them to us and we'll print them out... they'll be decoration at the banquet. Send photos to updateletter@swosubcm.net.



THIS QR CODE WILL TAKE YOU TO THE BANQUET RSVP; PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18.

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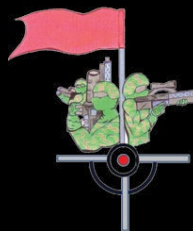
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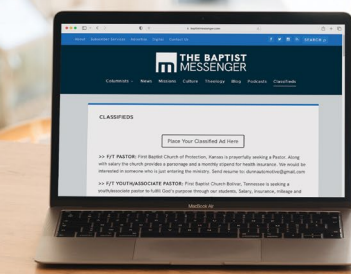
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