



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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Helping After Hurricanes



See You At The Pole

by Todd Sanders



Ministry Wives Weekend

by Messenger Staff



Church News



OKLAHOMA BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS HELPING AFTER HURRICANES

by Jacob King

Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief (DR) teams have been hard at work the past month helping with hurricane recovery. Their work began mid-September after Hurricane Francine caused massive damage in Louisiana.

After setting up a site at Morgan City, La., First, DR immediately began work serving storm victims in numerous ways, including clearing mud and debris, preparing meals, offering showers, providing laundry service and more. Jason Yarbrough, Oklahoma Baptists' disaster relief director, highlighted the relief work happening and, even more importantly, the ministry conversations that are happening.

Additional teams joined Oklahoma in the response. These included a team from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC), a Texas on Mission (TXM) team and a team from New Mexico. Their combined efforts allowed them to tackle numerous work orders in an effective manner.

In total, the Oklahoma DR teams completed nearly 410 workorders. These teams included assessor/chaplain teams, feeding teams, chainsaw teams and first response teams. For the volunteers, approximately 25,000 meals were made, 300 loads of laundry were done and 750 showers were provided.

While physical needs were being met, teams also worked hard to meet the spiritual needs of the storm victims. There have been 65 gospel conversations, eight professions of faith, 800 contacts made and 30 Bibles distributed.

"As always, our DR Teams are working hard and doing a great job of being the hands and feet of Jesus," said Yarbrough.

On the weekend of Sept. 27, Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida. Georgia, Tennessee, the Carolinas and the Virginias suffered major damage from trees, mass flooding and the hurricane surge. The resulting impact called for immediate need of relief.

"When Hurricane Helene hit, it was catastrophic," said Yarbrough. "They're comparing this to Katrina that hit Louisiana. This is going to be a long-term response and widespread."

On Monday, Oct. 7, DR teams arrived in North Carolina to help run and operate a recovery site in the Black Mountain area and plan to remain there for a number of weeks according to Yarbrough. Teams also arrived in Georgia to help in recovery efforts there. Some of the resources used in Morgan City, La. were transported to help with response while the rest were sent back to Oklahoma.

"Our volunteers will do the management, feeding, shower and laundry as well as coordinate the distribution center of donated items for the residents of that area," said Yarbrough.

Numerous other Southern Baptist DR teams have already been working in response to Helene. These teams come from Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, SBTC, TXM, Kentucky, Mississippi and Ohio. Cooperation from all Southern Baptist DR teams is necessary to complete the thousands of workorders spanning multiple states.

Yarbrough is thankful to those who have been supporting DR through prayer and requests for those prayers to continue as DR continues to serve those effected by recent hurricanes.

"The prayers that we receive give us strength to know that we can handle this," he said. "Oklahomans have been busy this year. Pray that they're rested, ready and able to go meet the needs because it's vast."

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation to Oklahoma Baptist DR, visit www.okdisasterhelp.org.





2024 SEE YOU AT THE POLE: A GENERATION 'SEEKING THE HEART OF GOD'

by Todd Sanders

Students across Oklahoma gathered at their school flag poles on September 25 for donuts, fellowship and worship. But the main reason they assembled was simply to pray.

Millions of students across the United States and in 63 other countries have taken part in See You at the Pole (SYATP), which began 33 years ago when a group of students, following a retreat weekend the year before, followed through on the conviction to pray. The word spread. A movement began.

SYATP continues today. Students gather to pray for family, friends, schools, communities, their state, country and the world. They ask God to move and for Jesus to be known — for God to carry out His redemptive plan in the world and use them to do it.

The movement, however, does not stop at a one day gathering at a flagpole. The event at the flagpole is a springboard. Many groups host collective, area or community post-pole rallies where students gather to celebrate, testify and share the Gospel.

Many have their own gatherings in their churches with their groups to reflect on the day, but the impact hits well beyond just one day or a single event. The fruit of the public event of the pole is the ongoing faithfulness of students to walk in obedience and continue to be an example to those in their sphere of influence.

Josh Pollock, youth minister at Seminole, First, said of the event, "See You at the Pole is one of those rare events where, as a youth minister, I get to step back and simply watch. It is powerful to see students taking charge, leading in worship, fellowship and prayer. What is even more special is watching students, who may not typically lead out during a Wednesday night youth group meeting, lead their peers in prayer for friends, teachers and the lost. It is a unique moment of student-led faith in action."

Holden McCrackin, NextGen and Missions minister at El Reno, First, said "It's always uplifting and encouraging to witness students across the state coming together in prayer for their schools, communities, state, country and the world."

Each September marks a moment of opportunity across our state—students leading out, and adult leaders providing support, empowering youth and engaging a generation with the hope of the Gospel.

It also marks a moment of opportunity for those on the outside looking in—an opportunity to pray, support, equip and involve—to see students mobilized to pray, to serve, to share. It can serve as a great picture and practice of disciple making, empowering students to carry the light inside to the world around.

It is a good thing to see students set an example in faith. We would be wise to follow their lead. Get involved however you can in the good work God is doing in and through our youth and youth ministries in our state—but first, pray.





2024 MINISTRY WIVES WEEKEND OFFERS REFRESHMENT, SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

by Messenger Staff

TULSA—Ministry Wives Weekend is an annual gathering for Oklahoma Baptist ministry wives to be encouraged in connection with each other and the truth of God's Word. Led by Amy Petersen, Oklahoma Baptists ministry wives ministry partner, nearly 200 ministry wives came together at Bixby, Evergreen, on September 27-28 for a time of refreshment and encouragement.

The theme, "MORE of Jesus," resonated profoundly and encapsulated the heart's longing for more of God's love, joy, peace, strength—and even for more rest.

Rachel Lovingood, the keynote speaker from Cleveland, TN, First, delivered powerful messages emphasizing the importance of seeking more of God in our personal walks. She inspired the women never to settle but continually reach for more of Jesus, trusting His ability to pour abundant grace and truth.

The anchor verse, John 1:16 (AMP), beautifully highlights this theme: *"For out of His fullness, the superabundance of His grace and truth, we have all received grace upon grace – spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, favor upon favor and gift heaped upon gift."*

Keeva O'Mealey and Lindsey Dail, members of Bixby, Evergreen, led in heartfelt worship, creating an atmosphere of reverence and joy that invited women into God's presence. Their music was a vital part of the weekend, making space for the women to encounter the Lord personally and profoundly.

Glenette Russell from the Grady Association shared relevant and heart-warming realities of being a ministry wife, fostering a sense of community and shared experiences. Her honest and authentic reflection on the joys and challenges of a ministry wife life resonated with many, encouraging them to lean on God's grace for every need.

In a panel conversation with Petersen on Saturday, Sara Holmes (Duncan, Immanuel) and Manita Forney (Tulsa, New Joy Fellowship) tackled the topic of learning to say "no" in ministry without feeling guilty. This honest dialogue

provided practical wisdom and tools for ministry wives, equipping them to navigate their many responsibilities without feeling stretched thin.

The weekend offered delicious food, heartfelt fellowship and powerful teaching. As the women returned home, they were reminded that there is always more of Jesus to seek and experience. It was a time of renewal, refreshment and a renewed commitment to pursuing everything God has in store for their lives.



CHURCH NEWS

NEW BOOK BY PASTOR GADDIS

Pastor Teron Gaddis recently unveils new book, "Give Your Pastor a High Five", a 31-day prayer guide to strengthen pastors and their ministries. After 41 years in ministry and 33 years as the pastor of Oklahoma City, Greater Bethel Church, he has witnessed firsthand the spiritual battles that pastors must navigate. This book is "not only a tool for prayer but also a source of encouragement for congregations to become frontline warriors, lifting their pastors through intentional intercession." Gaddis is the founder of Pastor G Ministries. For more information, visit prayingforourpastor.com.

ARBUCKLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S 75TH

On Sunday, Oct. 20, at 6 P.M., Davis, First (208 S. 3rd St, Davis) will host the 75th annual meeting of Ar buckle Association. For more information email Nick Johnson at njohnson@fbclindsay.org.



UPCOMING DR EVENTS/INFORMATION

Assisting Individuals in Crisis (CISM)*

Oct. 24-25, 2024 | 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. | Cost \$50
Tulsa, South Tulsa

To register, email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

(Continuing education for those who have completed Chaplain Manual and OSFA)

Orientation/Credentialing*

Oct. 25-26
Grand Lake Baptist Assembly, Grove
Register online okdisasterhelp.org

Inaugural Oklahoma DR Roundtable

Nov. 16 | 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Oklahoma Baptist University
Register at www.okdisasterhelp.org

**For endorsed chaplains only*

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma/ Community Food Bank of Eastern OK
405/972-1111

(Not a Baptist ministry, but many Baptist churches receive food from them for local food pantries.)

Arms Around Broken Arrow

Food pantry and clothes closet.

918/258-7714
bryan@armsaroundba.org

Lake Texoma Baptist Resort Ministry

Monty & Tammy Wood, Directors
2034 Max Rd, Mead 73449
580/916-2181
thehelm2034@gmail.com

Cherokee Baptist Assembly

918/506-5482
cbahalequah@yahoo.com

Campers on Mission

If you are interested in helping with church building projects, sewing, and evangelizing, please contact Paul Day.
405-509-0396
paul.l.day@att.net

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

Families Feeding Families Meal Center

580/230-9142
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)

Shawnee
(405/585-0693)

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children Campuses

Oklahoma City
(405/691-7781)

Edmond
(405/341-3606)

Madill
(580/564-2218)

Owasso
(918/272-2233)