



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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ASSOCIATIONAL CHILDREN'S CAMP CELEBRATES 'OUR ADOPTION INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD'

by Jacob King

DAVIS—Summer camps at Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center kicked off with the Associational Children's Camp (ACC). These summer camps are a collaborative effort between many Oklahoma Baptist associations to provide students who have completed 3rd through 6th grade a meaningful, faith-building Christian camp experience.

Two sessions were held this year between May 25 and 31. The theme was "We Are Family", based on Ephesians 1:5, *"He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will."* Pastor Taylor Garmon from Arlington, Texas, Sagamore, served as the camp speaker for both sessions this year.

"The main emphasis is to understand that God is the author of forgiveness and salvation," said Tim Bowen, director of ACC. "It's also to understand that God graciously adopts us into His family."

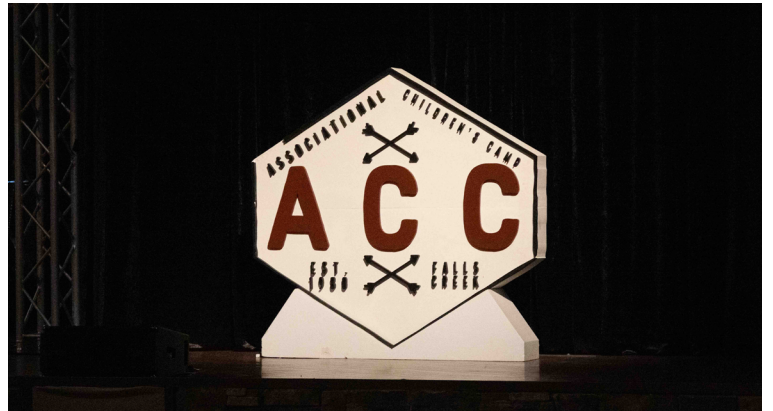
In addition to Garmon, missionaries from across the world spoke during the ACC sessions. Each gave a description of where they serve and what a day in the life of their work looks like. They also gave the campers suggestions of how they could share the Gospel with those around them.

These missionaries also gave the campers interactive experiences during the ACC Missions Fest. This gave campers the opportunity to learn more about missions around the world by talking directly with the missionaries who brought various day-to-day items from the countries in which they serve.

"The ACC Missions Fest is designed to give campers and sponsors exposure to a wide variety of missions opportunities," said Preston Collins, executive director/treasurer of Union Association. "This year we have multiple International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries sharing about the work God is doing around the globe."

The Missions Fest also highlighted Oklahoma missions work, including Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief (DR), Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children (OBHC) and Baptist Collegiate Ministries. Overall, the Missions Fest helps those who are already following Jesus to see ways they can be on mission now and in the future.

ACC's main purpose is to present and communicate the Gospel in a way that can be easily understood by the campers' age groups. For more information about ACC, visit www.accok.org.





OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS' BOARD MEMBERS TOUR RENOVATED OBU CAMPUS DURING MAY 20 BOARD MEETING

by Staff

SHAWNEE—Members of the Oklahoma Baptists Board of Directors met on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) on May 20 for their regularly-scheduled board meeting.

Following the meeting of the board—which included times of key business, fellowship, ministry reports and prayer—board members toured the recently renovated campus spaces that were impacted by the April 2023 tornado at OBU. The tour included stops at Raley Chapel and Shawnee Hall, which are undergoing total renovations.

Todd Fisher, Oklahoma Baptists' Executive Director-Treasurer, addressed the board in the morning and afternoon sessions. Approximately 10 months after his serious automobile accident, Fisher recalled God's faithfulness throughout his recovery journey.

Sharing out of Psalm 13, Fisher recalled how God has helped and blessed him throughout the highs and lows of his recovery following the accident. "In the hardest moments, we still can recall God's faithfulness, as the Psalmist here does," he said.

Fisher emphasized how Oklahoma Baptists, as a state convention, exist to "serve every church of every size in every location in the state. We are Gospel-focused and church centered."

He highlighted the 100th anniversaries of the Cooperative Program and the Baptist Faith & Message in 2025, as well as shared the impact Oklahoma Baptists are making.

All four Oklahoma Baptists Affiliates gave ministry reports. Among the many report items discussed by each Affiliate, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children President James Swain spoke about the impact they are seeing in their Focus Care program and shared various testimonies. WatersEdge CEO Robert Kellogg highlighted the success of the "25x25" campaign, which distributed more than \$30 million last year alone.

Baptist Village Communities (BVC) President Bill Pierce talked about the great things happening on each campus

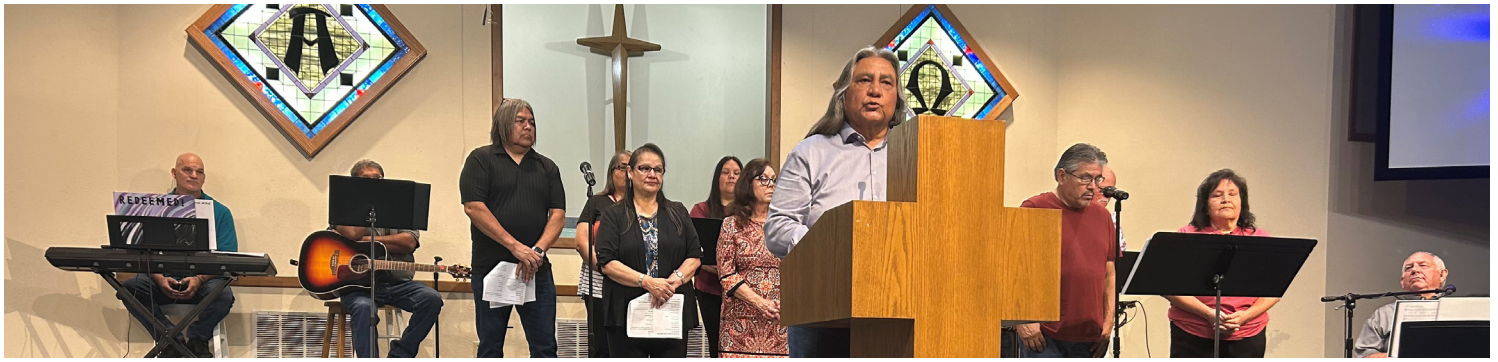
including the strategic importance of the new BCV location in Enid. Fisher delivered a ministry report on behalf of OBU President Heath Thomas, highlighting the campus renovations and also the spiritual impact of the OBU Prison Divinity Program.

Leslie Osborn, CFO for Oklahoma Baptists, delivered a financial update for the state convention. Board members heard various ministry reports and a recap of the April retreats at Falls Creek. Board members also were asked to pray for the upcoming summer camps, which include Camp Perfect Wings, Associational Children's Camp, CrossTimbers, Falls Creek, Indian Falls Creek and Collegiate Week.

Board members presented motions during the Board's plenary session, which included a motion "that the 2025 Edna McMillan State Missions Offering goal totaling \$1,300,000, to be distributed in 2026, be approved." The goal marks an increase over the prior year's State Missions Offering and will ensure funding of various Gospel-based missions endeavors in Oklahoma. Board members also approved the 2026 Cooperative Program objective of \$24.5 million.

The next scheduled meeting for the board is Sept. 9 at Oklahoma City, Cherokee Hills. For more information about Oklahoma Baptists' ministries, visit www.oklahomabaptists.org.





HISTORIC NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH BURNED IN WILDFIRES RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM SISTER CHURCHES

by Messenger Staff

When destructive wildfires swept across Oklahoma on March 14 of this year, one of the buildings lost was the sanctuary of one of the state's most historical churches, Kiowa, Rainy Mountain. The effort to rebuild is already underway, and Oklahoma Baptists are assisting with fundraising efforts.

On May 18, Carnegie, First, where the Kiowa Tribe is headquartered, combined with Rainy Mountain's congregation to host a luncheon. The event, boosted by a \$1,000 donation from Oney, First, raised \$7,550.

"One of our church members, Trecil Bearbow, approached me about the idea and connected us with the leadership of Rainy Mountain," said Carnegie, First Pastor Kenny Mossman. "The result was one of the best days our church has experienced in a long time."

Carnegie, First provided the groceries and desserts while members of Rainy Mountain prepared the fry bread for Indian Tacos. Some 400 lunches were served. Visitors to the luncheon came from as far away as New Mexico and Oklahoma City, which is 90 miles northeast of Carnegie.

"The turnout was excellent, and our kitchen was a flurry of activity," Mossman said, "but honestly, that was not the best part of the day. On the night the two churches met to choose a date and lay out the plan for the lunch, representatives of Rainy Mountain decided that they would also worship with us that day."

"On that morning, Pastor Gerald Haunpo updated us on the church's progress and offered the prayer for our service. We also sang The Love of God and Amazing Grace in Kiowa with several members of the two churches combining as a choir. It was incredibly moving."

During his sermon, Mossman asked why God would allow a church to be destroyed. One of the reasons he offered was the unification it forged between his church and Rainy Mountain.

"I know Rainy Mountain is under great hardship in rebuilding a church, but God is showing up all over the process,"

Mossman said. "We were blessed to work and worship alongside our neighbors. We're praying that the funds will continue to roll in so the church can be rebuilt as quickly as possible."

Kiowa, Rainy Mountain, located four miles east of Gotebo and south of State Highway 9 in Southwestern Oklahoma, was destroyed when high winds disconnected power lines and ignited the fire. On that day, winds of between 60 and 80 miles per hour swept across Oklahoma. The resulting fires charred 170,000 acres and burned some 300 buildings across the state. Twelve counties were declared disaster areas.

Kiowa, Rainy Mountain has existed for 131 years and survived two previous fires to its church buildings.



Pastor Kenny Mossman of Carnegie, First pictured with Pastor Gerald Haunpo of Rainy Mountain Baptist church, a historic church which burned down in a fire recently. Carnegie and other churches are helping the church financially toward recovery.

CHURCH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS/INFORMATION

MinistrySafe Lunch & Learn for Pastors

Join MinistrySafe founders Gregory Love and Kimberlee Norris as they explain how to develop an effective background checking strategy for your ministry. The event will take place in conjunction with the SBC meeting on June 10 from 12 p.m. to 1p.m. in Dallas, TX at the Omni Hotel. [Learn more or register here.](#)

Indian Falls Creek Benefit Golf Tournament

On Friday, June 6, Indian Falls Creek (IFC) will host the annual IFC Benefit Golf Tournament. The cost is \$100 for individuals and \$200 for a two man team. To register, text or email the team members names to Victor Cope ndnrev@aol.com or 405-388-1568. It will be held at 1901 Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee. For more information, [click here.](#)

DR Orientation/Credentialing – August 23

Location TBD

Register online at okdisasterhelp.org

Chaplain Manual/OSFA Training – September 4-6

Naomi Paget, Instructor – Cost \$60.00

South Tulsa Baptist Church

10310 S Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74133

To register, please email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

DR Orientation/Credentialing – September 20

Location TBD

Register online at okdisasterhelp.org

CISM Training - October 2-3

Greg Giltner, Instructor – Cost \$50.00

South Tulsa Baptist Church

10310 S Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74133

To register, please email

pjones@oklahomabaptists.org



HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED



Baptist Children's Home



Baptist Home for Girls



Boys Ranch Town



Learn more and apply today at
obhc.org/houseparents

NURSE AND SONOGRAPHER OPENINGS

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

obhc.org/employment

