



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

DIGITAL EDITION | SEPT. 17, 2025



OKLAHOMA BAPTIST PASTORS EQUIPPED TO LEAD AT CONFERENCE



'One Day,' One Mission: Send Network Oklahoma Rallies Church Leaders

by Jacob King

See Page 4



Fisher Highlights 'Global Impact' of Key Ministries During September 9 Board Meeting

by Messenger Staff

See Page 6



Church News

See Page 7



OKLAHOMA BAPTIST PASTORS EQUIPPED TO LEAD AT CONFERENCE

by Jacob King and Brian Hobbs

SHAWNEE—On Thurs., Sept. 11, more than 400 Oklahoma Baptist pastors and leaders attended the Priority of Leadership Conference presented by Oklahoma Baptists.

The Conference, which took place on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) and was made possible by Oklahoma Baptists giving through the Cooperative Program, featured multiple recognized speakers.

SBC Leader & Author Serves as Conference Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker for the Priority of Leadership Conference was Jeff Iorg, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Iorg's first session was titled 'Model for Christian Leadership,' based on Matthew 22. He emphasized the importance of leadership that is based on spiritual foundations. Iorg noted that the proper motivation for one to lead is loving God and loving people.

In his second session, Iorg tackled the dilemma of loneliness in Christian leadership. He reassured pastors that loneliness is not something to be ashamed of because everyone can go through it, even in a community-based setting.

"The dilemma of loneliness in Christian leadership is really striking because we emphasize community," said Iorg.

The reasons for Christian leaders being lonely are because they are isolated by information, isolated by obedience, isolated by job demands and isolated by emotional depletion from job performance, according to Iorg. To combat this, Iorg challenged leaders to cultivate their awareness of God's presence by reading the Word and cultivate friendships that would sustain them through the low times.

In the third session, Iorg highlighted the importance of enhancing mission discipline. He reminded pastors that the whole reason they are in a place of leadership is to advance the mission of spreading the Gospel. Iorg listed several ways pastors could effectively lead and advance the mission of their church, including clearly articulate

the mission, use the mission statement in decision making and communicate consistently.

For Iorg's final session, he spoke on the essential quality of endurance. Here, he instructed younger church leaders to look to more experienced church leaders to be examples of endurance that others can look up to.

"Jesus is a source of hope," said Iorg. "But so are you. Older men can demonstrate endurance, and in doing so become a source of hope for other leaders."

Oklahoma Baptist Speakers Share Ministry Insights

Other speakers at the Conference included retired Oklahoma Baptists' Executive Director-Treasurer Anthony Jordan; retired Oklahoma Baptist pastor Ted Kersh; and Michael Staton, who serves as Lead Pastor of Mustang, First. Each presentation related to the theme of leadership.

Jordan shared with attendees how to effectively initiate change in a church or ministry context. Kersh shared about how ministry mentors can help guide pastors during various seasons of ministry. Staton emphasized how to best handle conflict resolution in the church context.

The Priority of Leadership Conference was a new event for Oklahoma Baptists that supplements the Priority of Preaching Conference. Commenting on social media, Oklahoma Baptists' Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Fisher expressed gratitude for pastors attending the event.

"Grateful for the 400 pastors and church leaders that came today to be encouraged and equipped in Christian leadership," he said. "Jeff Iorg and our other speakers did a phenomenal job investing in everyone who attended today. What a joy to be an Oklahoma Baptist and be part of such wonderful people and churches cooperating together for the kingdom of God!"

For more information about pastoral leadership, download episodes of the 'Feeding & Leading Podcast' presented by Oklahoma Baptists at www.oklahomabaptists.org/podcast.



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF WORSHIP!



FEATURING

Oklahoma Baptist
Children's Chorus

FREE FOR ALL
COLLEGE
STUDENTS!
Must Show Your
Student ID

SPECIAL
GUEST
SPEAKERS



GROUP TICKETING INCENTIVES

Bring your church or group (20+ people) and enjoy these special perks:

- 1 Enter your church/group into a drawing during intermission by The House FM.
- 2 Get your church/group name on the big screen before and after the service.
- 3 If the camera guy finds your group, you can have a video on the big screen!



CALEB & JEREMY FREEMAN

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 28TH
5:30-8:00PM

at the



PURCHASE
TICKETS NOW!



'ONE DAY,' ONE MISSION: SEND NETWORK OKLAHOMA RALLIES CHURCH LEADERS

by Jacob King

On Mon., Sept. 15, pastors, church planters and church members attended the Send Network ONE DAY event at Oklahoma City, Southern Hills. The day consisted of four sessions which included two main sessions by Pastor Dean Inserra of Tallahassee, Fla., City Church, and times for attendees to participate in breakout sessions.

To begin the day, Send Network Oklahoma Director Rusty Gunn welcomed those in attendance and thanked Oklahoma City, Southern Hills for hosting the event. Then, City Wide Worship led the time of worship through music.

In the main session, Inserra spoke on how to find the mission field and how to know when one is called to it. He emphasized the importance of knowing the people and culture of the mission field before going there to know how to effectively bring the Gospel to the people within the mission field.

"If we are going to be faithful in our labor, we need to know our crops," said Inserra.

Part of this is, first, identifying the reasons for why people are unsaved or for why people believe they are saved when they are not. Inserra said that there are people who just don't believe in God which needs to be addressed, but he also reminded pastors that there are those who believe in a "god" that does not fit the God described in Scripture. These "gods" are ones that people have created based on who they think the true God is.

Second, Inserra shared about morals and how the modern age teaches that if someone is a "good person" they get into Heaven. This teaching is false. People can be "good," but being good is not what leads to salvation. The only way to receive salvation is by believing and confessing that Christ died and rose again for all our sins.

Heritage was the third and final issue Inserra addressed.

"Faith can be passed down," he said. "But it cannot be inherited."

By this, Inserra meant that just because one's family is Christian does not immediately make them a follower of Christ. Each person must individually confess Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Following this, numerous breakout sessions were held. Each covered topics including "Worship Culture," "Kingdom Impact," "Deepening Devotion," "Disciples Are Made", "Marketplace Matters," as well as two Spanish language topics.

This was one of many Send Network ONE DAY events held across the nation. For more information about upcoming Send Network events, visit namb.net/send-network/oneday.



EVERYDAY HERO

For more than a century, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children (OBHC) has been showing and sharing the love of Christ. This mission takes place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The needs of the marginalized, minimalized, abused and neglected do not stop on weekends, holidays or after hours.

Real heroes show up early, stay late, and meet the need. They provide a path forward for children and their families as they walk out of brokenness, shame, poverty, illiteracy, despair, and the darkness of lostness.

YOU CAN BE AN EVERYDAY HERO - BECOME A DIFFERENCE MAKER



obhc.org/differencemaker



\$1 MILLION MATCH FOR NEW MONTHLY DIFFERENCE MAKER DONORS

OBHC 
Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children

JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

To learn more, call OBHC at 405.363.6242.

FISHER HIGHLIGHTS 'GOSPEL IMPACT' OF KEY MINISTRIES DURING SEPTEMBER 9 BOARD MEETING

by Messenger Staff

Oklahoma Baptists' Board of Directors gathered at Oklahoma City, Cherokee Hills on September 9 for a regularly scheduled meeting.

Board members, who are ministry and lay leaders from Oklahoma Baptist churches across the state, met to consider business, pray, share fellowship and to hear ministry reports about the Gospel impact Oklahoma Baptists are having.

Todd Fisher, Oklahoma Baptists' executive director-treasurer, shared with board members about the spiritual decisions that the Lord had brought about through various most recent summer activities. Fisher reported that:

—Over the eight weeks of Falls Creek Youth Camp, more than 50,000 attended from 762 churches. There were 2,210 who made a profession of faith.

—During CrossTimbers sessions, there were 4,373 attendees from 128 churches. Of those, 313 children made a profession of faith. Prior to CrossTimbers, Camp Perfect Wings had 208 attendees.

—There were 2,500 in attendance at Indian Falls Creek (IFC), where 54 people made a profession of faith. Fisher served as camp pastor at the 2025 IFC.

—More than 4,300 attended Associational Children's Camp (ACC), from 148 churches. During those two sessions of ACC, 187 made professions of faith.

Fisher also shared about the Gospel impact other key ministries, which are Cooperative Program supported, are making. He noted the ministry impact of the Haskins School, Youth Evangelism Conferences, Baptist Collegiate Ministries' Momentum, The Call Conference and more.

Throughout the meeting, board members had committee meetings and delivered reports. Board members also heard ministry reports from three of the affiliate presidents—Bill Pierce of Baptist Village Communities, James Swain of Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children and Heath Thomas of Oklahoma Baptist University. During the plenary session, Board Members approved the 2026 Financial Plan. Also, Audit Committee Chairman Nate Geist reported that Oklahoma Baptists and all affiliates received clean audit opinions.

Fisher said on social media following the board meeting, "Another great Oklahoma Baptists board meeting today. It is so encouraging to hear about all the Lord is doing through the churches and the ministries of the state convention! Grateful for the 63 men and women from across our state who faithfully serve on our board holding the organization in trust and ensuring our faithfulness to the Word, the mission, the churches, and financial integrity. Thank you Cherokee Hills Baptist Church for hosting us today!"

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is Feb. 3, 2026.



CHURCH NEWS

OU BCM WORSHIP RELEASES ALBUM BASED ON PSALMS

On Weds., Sept. 3, the Baptist collegiate ministries (BCM) praise team at the University of Oklahoma (OU), Renown Worship, released an extended play album (EP) on various major song streaming platforms. The EP, titled "Psalms 1", takes various passages from the first book of Psalms and puts them to modern music. Tracks include "Life Up Your Heads, O Gates," based on Psalm 24:7-10; "Out of My Distress," based on 118:5-6; "I Cried Aloud," based on 3:4-5 and more. This EP can be listened to on Spotify, Youtube Music, Soundcloud and Apple Music. For more information about the OU BCM visit oubcm.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS/INFORMATION

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

DR Orientation/Credentialing – October 11

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Skiatook, First
825 W.C. Rogers Bld
Skiatook, OK 74070
Register online at okdisasterhelp.org

Faith Comes By Hearing
Bible Conference
"So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" Romans 10:17

Bill Britt David Allen Fred Luter Robert Smith, Jr. Music By: Joey Johnson

October 5 **October 6-8**
10:30am & 6:00pm **6:30pm each night**

SUNNYLANE BAPTIST CHURCH
4500 SE 31st Street - Del City, OK 73115
thelane.tv - 405-677-0591

Save the Date!
4PM TO 8PM

THE BIG GOD LITTLE CHURCH CONFERENCE
ENCOURAGEMENT • TRAINING
DINNER • FELLOWSHIP

SEPT 21
FREE
INCLUDES CONFERENCE AND MEAL

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TULSA

Join OBU and the Tom Elliff Center for Missions for the second Mission Forum of the Fall semester

- Served as an IMB missionary in the role of affinity group leaders, overseeing the work of IMB missionaries reaching European Peoples
- Gained 15 years of on-the-job experience in Cross-Cultural Ministry, Leadership Development, and Global Theological Training
- Developed strategic partnerships and empowered local leaders to engage their communities
- Communicates effectively with diverse audiences as an experienced and gifted speaker
- Represents Oklahoma with pride as one of the state's own



SPECIAL GUEST **Jacob Boss**

Vice President for Mobile Engagement for the IMB

Monday, October 6
2-2:30pm

Shawnee Hall, OBU

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

