



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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KIDS COMPLETE 'MISSION: POSSIBLE' AT WACK



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Possible' at WACK**

by Bob Nigh



**2024 Indian Falls Creek:
Salvations & Blessings
Abound**

by Jacob King



Forgiven and Set Free
by Hope Pregnancy Center Staff



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More than 130 children who had completed 3rd-6th grade and 90 sponsors from 14 metro area churches converged on Oklahoma City, Quail Springs July 22-24 for Worship Arts Camp for Kids (WACK), sponsored by Metro Baptist Network OKC.

Churches represented were Oklahoma City, Brookwood; Oklahoma City, NewChurch; Oklahoma City, Portland Ave.; Oklahoma City, Southpark; Oklahoma City, Quail Springs; Oklahoma City, Village; Midwest City, Country Estates; Midwest City, Eastpoint; Midwest City, First; Midwest City, Meadowood; Midwest City, Sooner; Jones, First; Nicoma Park, First; and Watonga, Trinity.

"This year, the children learned and presented, 'Mission: Possible,' a fun, scripture-filled musical bursting with biblical truths found in Mark 16:15 and Ephesians 2:10," said Angela Lee, a member of the WACK committee. "The songs in the musical helped the children learn that, as believers, no matter where they are, no matter what their talents are, and no matter the circumstances, they have been given a mission—they have been called to spread the Good News of Jesus to the world around them."

"One of the kids' favorite parts of the musical was singing an upbeat song titled "8 Blocks" complete with sunglasses and fun choreography. Our prayer is that the words of that song—"If I never make it to the other side of the world to share my faith, that's OK! Cause every day I'm

only 8 blocks away from a mission. Don't have to look too far to find a broken heart.'—will stay with them and remind them that God will help them fulfill their mission to share the love of Jesus right where they are in their schools, neighborhoods and families."

WACK concluded Wednesday evening with the presentation of "Mission: Possible" and a showcase of art projects completed by the students.

In addition to learning the musical, the kids at WACK participated in recreation, missions, worship and SWAT (Sent With A Task) discipleship and music activities. Each child also selected a "Worship Arts Track," and every track was incorporated into the musical presentation on Wednesday evening. This year's tracks included Banners & Set Design, Cartooning, Drama, Fabric Arts, Flag Corps, Handbells, Legos, Percussion, Photography, Sign Language, Song Writing, Stomp, Ukulele and Woodworking.

"It was a blessing to see leaders from different churches and communities across the metro area work together in unity towards the same mission: to help boys and girls know Jesus and learn how to worship Him with their whole lives!," Lee concluded.

Lunch and dinner meals were prepared and served to the participants in the church's Fellowship Hall all three days by Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers.





2024 INDIAN FALLS REEK: SALVATIONS & BLESSINGS ABOUND AS FAMILIES, NATIVE TRIBES COME TOGETHER

By Jacob King

DAVIS—The 2024 assembly of Indian Falls Creek (IFC) has concluded, seeing 246 decisions made between July 28 and Aug. 4. These included 88 professions of faith, 56 recommitments, 10 dedications to ministry, 6 decisions to be Baptized, 47 Baptisms and 86 special prayers.

IFC is an annual family camp which welcomes attendees of all ages. Campers come from more than 50 tribal Nations from all parts of North America and more than 250 churches. Beginning in 1947 with an attendance of 333, the camp's average registration is more than 3,000. Since the emphasis for IFC is about being a family camp, families from different tribes can enjoy the camp experience and study God's Word.

"We're a family camp; that is a throwback to our tribes doing everything together," said Victor Cope, IFC executive director. "When we gather together it's everybody from the old down to the babies."

Despite the heat, campers of all ages gathered to participate in activities ranging from footraces to basketball, volleyball, kayaking and more. Like the youth weeks at Falls Creek, breakout sessions were held to give campers

opportunities to deepen their knowledge of Scripture. IFC 2024's theme was "The Whole Measure of the Fullness of Christ," based on 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.*"

IFC's annual blood drive event saw many donations of blood and bone marrow. The drive itself became a time of worship that brought the community together. To pass the time, those in attendance began singing tribal hymns and worship songs, sharing testimonies, preaching and praying for the evening service. This impromptu time of worship began at 12:30 pm and ended close to 6 pm.

"Our Health Directors Jade Vann and Joyce Hansen work very hard to encourage the campers to donate," said Cope. "On Tuesday afternoon I went to check on the numbers and when I walked into the room, I was amazed at the number of people filling every seat in the room."



The week began on a somber note with Cope being informed that Oklahoma Baptists Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Fisher, who was scheduled to be the IFC camp pastor and speaker, was not able to be with them due to an emergency. Fisher experienced a serious automobile accident on July 28 that prevented him from being part of IFC.

Cope made arrangements for other IFC speakers, including Taylor Kingfisher, Ray Snell and himself. Oklahoma Baptists Native American Ministry Partner Emerson Falls appeared on the program and also led times of intercessory prayer for Fisher, who has a long road to recovery. Falls announced that IFC leaders will invite Fisher to speak at the 2025 IFC event.

“Indian Falls Creek remains in prayer for brother Todd and his family,” said Cope.

Although it utilizes the Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center as its campgrounds, IFC is not organized by Falls Creek. The IFC Baptist Assembly has become its own event and tradition for many churches and families. IFC’s organization works hard to ensure tribes can attend the camp, even offering scholarships to churches so their members can attend. For many generations, IFC has been a place where people of all ages have come to deepen and nourish their faith in Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Additionally, many have dedicated their lives to reaching out and serving their home communities or in special ministries while at camp.

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.” One major difference between IFC and Falls Creek is the emphasis on being a family camp. At IFC, families from different tribes can enjoy all the camp experiences offered, regardless of age.

For more information about IFC, visit indianfallscreek.org.





Hope Pregnancy Center

FORGIVEN AND SET FREE

by Hope Pregnancy Center Staff

Hope Pregnancy Centers are grateful Keri shared her story to encourage others to seek God's forgiveness:

"In 1990, I was 18, and my boyfriend and I got pregnant. We found a doctor who promised to take care of 'it.' Afterward, I immediately changed. We broke up, and I began drinking, partying and being promiscuous. I stuffed the abortion deep down and didn't think about it.

"I became a Christian in 1998 and married a Christian man in 2001. I didn't tell my husband about the abortion until 2014; the weight of the sin was destroying me. I went to church every Sunday. I understood that God offered forgiveness for sin, but in my mind, not for abortion. I often said to myself, 'How can God forgive me when I can't forgive myself?' and 'How can God love me when I can't love myself?' I looked like I had it all together on the outside, but inside I hated myself. I felt so much shame and guilt from my abortion over 20 years ago. My friend told me about Forgiven and Set Free. Though I was hesitant, I felt led to attend. My journey to healing and accepting God's forgiveness began.

"Through the Bible study, I was inundated with God's Word and the power of His love and forgiveness, and how He was longing for a relationship with me. It showed me, time and time again, that God does love me despite my sin, even my sin of abortion. I now know and believe God loves me and DOES forgive me. The weight of guilt and shame is gone. I feel the warmth of God's love.

"I was so afraid of my Christian friends finding out. Out of fear, I never planned on telling anyone at church. I walked into Forgiven and Set Free filled with guilt and shame. Through the study and seeking God's forgiveness, I AM Forgiven and Set Free! That freedom allows me to testify of God's love and forgiveness openly, even in the church."

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Statistics report 25% of American women have had an abortion. If you or someone you know is hurting from an abortion, healing is possible. Confidential and no-cost Forgiven and Set Free classes start in September at Hope Pregnancy Centers.

Scan the QR code for more information about Hope Pregnancy Centers.



CHURCH NEWS

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, OKC and Community Food Bank of Eastern OK, Tulsa

Both locations, call 405-972-1111
(Not a Baptist ministry, but many BGCO churches receive food from them for local food pantries.)

Arms Around Broken Arrow

Food pantry, 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, Cherokee

918-506-5482

cba_tahlequah@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, Durant

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

HEARTLAND EVANGELISM CONFERENCE SEPT. 6-7, 2024

East Central Association will host the Heartland Evangelism Conference, Sept. 6-7 in the Tenkiller Baptist Assembly tabernacle. The event is hosted by the Oklahoma Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, with special guest speaker Tarvoris Uzoigwe, "Coach Tee," Oklahoma Baptists' Evangelism Partner. Other scheduled speakers /singers are Richard Bailly, Steve Cody, Craig Hobbs, Mike Russell, The Branches, Becky Wright, Wendell Davis, Bobby and Jeanette Smith and Wayne and Noritake Testerman. The schedule is Sept. 6: fellowship dinner at 5:30 p.m., service beginning at 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 7 Conference begins at 9 a.m., followed by a fish fry dinner hosted by Cookson, First at Noon.

ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS (CISM) OCT. 24-25, 2024

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - Cost \$50.00 South Tulsa Baptist Church, 10310 S. Sheridan, Tulsa, OK 74133. To register, please email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org. Continuing education for those who have completed Chaplain Manual and OSFA. (Note: Event is for endorsed chaplains only).

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF ORIENTATION/CREDENTIALING OCT. 25-26, 2024

Grand Lake Baptist Assembly, Grove, OK. Register online at okdisasterhelp.org.

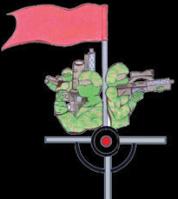
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