

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LVIII

MARCH 2023

Number 3

## “How High Should We Go?”

By Chris Gonthier  
BMAO Moral Action

Oklahoma State Question 820 would make it legal for persons in Oklahoma over the age of 21 to use marijuana recreationally.

Currently, medical marijuana is available with a doctor's prescription in Oklahoma.

Genesis 1:29-30 KJV tells us, “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.”

The purpose of this discussion is not to revisit whether medical marijuana is acceptable or not. Some may try to use Scripture to justify the use of alcohol, which is another mind altering substance, to say marijuana is okay.

Proverbs 31:6 tells us, “Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

1 Timothy 5:23 says, “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.”

So the use of medicine, in the case when alcohol is used as medicine, it is okay. We must note the we have many medicines available and do not necessarily need to use alcohol as such.

My issue is focused on the recreational use.

As a Christian I am 100 percent opposed to using any mind altering substance recreationally.

The question is what do I believe I should do as a citizen. I do not like to impose my will on other individuals, choosing to not infringe upon other people's rights.

I do believe marijuana use, at the recreational level, will hurt our society. As I live in post medical marijuana Oklahoma, I have noticed that irresponsible use has had an effect on me.

It is legal, as far as I can determine, to have a licensed grow anywhere they want with little exception. Also, there are very few restrictions on the locations of dispensaries.

Furthermore, the smoking of this substance is very uncomfortable when it is in close proximity to me. How can you restrict someone from using their prescribed medication when and how they see fit.

Smelling the smoke emitted from the smoking makes my stomach upset as well as can cause breathing difficulties. The grow that is near my home seemingly makes me feel ill.

When I did some internet research, I



discovered that the health side effects of living close to a commercial grow were consistent with some of my ailments.

There are times when I go visit family in another state, and there is not a grow close by. Coincidentally, I have noticed that I feel better after being away for several days.

The point I am trying to make is that them exercising their “right” effects my health in an adverse way. There was very little forethought before the legislation

took effect regarding specifics that needed to be addressed prior to the legalization of medical marijuana.

There are multitudes of other problems we are facing in Oklahoma Regarding marijuana use.

Children are bringing gummies from home that have THC, the hallucinogenic chemical in marijuana, and distributing them amongst their peers.

The standards which allow for consistent dosing is seriously lacking with this drug. The regulatory issues are having serious impacts on both those who use and those who are around those who use.

I cannot tell you how many times

(“How High,” cont on pg 7)

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**“Currently, it is a medicine and should be treated as such. However, if you use marijuana, even if prescribed, your second amendments rights can be in jeopardy.”**

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# "From the Pastor's Pen"

By Wearthly Shank

"The Good Samaritan"

Most students of the Bible are familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan in Like 10:25-37, but let me refresh our memories to bring us to some decisions in our personal lives.

Jesus and a lawyer are in discussion and the lawyer asked Jesus what one must do to inherit eternal life, to which Jesus asked him, "What is written in the law?"

The lawyer replied from the OT, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.*"

Jesus said, "do this and thou shall live."

But the lawyer asked Jesus who his neighbor was and this prompted Jesus to share the story of the Good Samaritan; how that a man was beaten, robbed, and left for dead on the side of the road.

A priest and a Levite both passed by and saw the injured man but failed to

render aid. Then the Good Samaritan came by, rendered aid, took the injured man to town and lodged him in an inn, promising to pay any additional expenses upon his return through the city.

After Jesus shared the story, He asked the lawyer, *Which of these three, thinketh thou, was neighbor to him that fell among thieves?*" and the lawyer said, "He that showed mercy on him. Then Jesus said unto him, *Go and do thou likewise.*"



Because the Samaritan was hated by the Jews because of his ethnicity, Jesus shows that racial considerations are utterly transcended by God's command to love Him and thus to love others as He does, without prejudice or partiality.

We are facing racial/political hatred in America today. It is not likely that we will come face to face with the

protesters of other cities here in Wynnewood or in your community, but we surely must be in serious prayer for the communities who are faced with such violence and prejudices.

It's natural for us to "pick sides" politically but let us ever be ready to "love our neighbor" in the manner in which God has before us.

## The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Published by the  
Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Direct all correspondence, publication material  
and news items to the office of the editor

Direct all subscription payments to:  
Carl Barnes  
P.O. Box 5171  
Ardmore, OK 73403

E-mail: Michael.mobly@yahoo.com

Subscription rates are, any church may pay  
ten dollars a month, or one hundred twenty  
dollars a year, to receive a digital copy of the  
paper emailed to one email address  
in your church.

### The BMA of America Brotherhood Meeting Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, AR April 26 at 9:00am

Guest speaker  
Bro. Scott Small  
Camp Director at Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville, AR

### This Year's Theme "FAITHFUL MEN"

2 Timothy 2:1-2

*You then my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,  
and what have you heard from me in the presence of many witnesses  
entrust to faithful men also.*

We need the men of the BMA to attend this meeting so we can make our men's ministry stronger. We also need men who are willing to stand up and be an officer. We have several men who have stepped down and a couple more that are stepping down as we speak. We need to encourage our men to be the leaders God has called them to be. Let's encourage one another to do as the scripture says in our churches and communities.

**Mark Jones, President**

# *"I Was Just Thinkin'"*

By Narita Roady

## *"Flying Lessons"*

Like all loving parents, our Heavenly Father supplies our needs before we even experience them. Of course, we may not realize it until the moment that need arises.

Back in 2003 the Lord supplied me with some spiritual truths He knew I'd badly needed. You see, God is constantly holding mini-courses for me in a multitude of ways. It might be a quote, an advertisement, circumstances or experiences I have. I see lessons wherever I go.

We were on a flight on our way to Alaska to visit our children and grandchildren. As I was being crammed into a giant winged sardine can, with 182 strangers for six hours, without a doubt, I was a captive audience for Him!

Absent were the daily interruptions that so often distract me from hearing His voice. Yes, my Master Teacher held one such class while we were in flight to Alaska this past October.

I was reading and studying my Bible when the pilot came over the speaker with one of his many reports. He announced that we were flying at an altitude of 32,000 feet.

Awe struck, I marveled that we could actually be that high. A thought quickly crossed my mind; "I am closer to God than I have ever been!"

In the next instant, I realized, that was silly. I'm no closer to God 6 ½ miles above the earth than I am with my feet planted on solid ground. He lives within me and you can't get any closer than that!

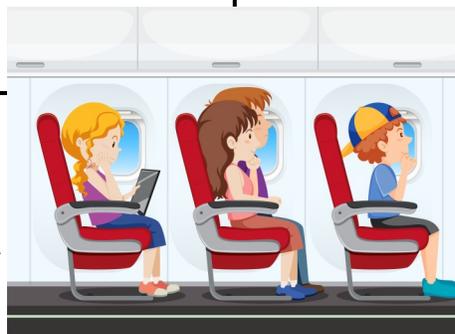
In our limited understanding we sometimes think our location makes us nearer or further from God. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Psalms 139:7-10 sets us straight on that!

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?"

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."



A simple truth but unfortunately one quickly forgotten. Silently He follows us during each day and tenderly watches over us through out the night.

How close I feel to Him is totally dependent upon my heart location not my physical location.

I sat there ruminating on this new nugget of wisdom, and turned to

look out the window. The clouds lay directly below us in as a surreal layer of fluffy white carpet, looking as if we could step out and walk upon them.

Just then the shuddering and jolting of the plane against some air turbulence quickly turned my thoughts to our safety!

The scenario in my mind that followed was along the line of "What on earth have I gotten myself into?" Reality sat in and I hastily took inventory of my situation!

I was above the earth at a distance that would take me almost 10 minutes to drive in my car, speeding through the sky at 530 mph, in an air compressed metal, glass and plastic tube, sometimes above the ocean and mountain ranges.

But the real cincher was I was trusting a man with my life, I knew nothing about him, had never even laid eyes on, met or talked to – the pilot!!!

Not to mention the hundreds of unforeseen crisis's and emergencies that could occur that might possibly end in serious harm or death that he would have absolutely no control over the outcome!!

All at once I felt very ashamed before the Lord. In blind faith I rode upon wings of steel high in the heaven, but too often I hesitated to ride on the wings of prayer and His strength.

I haven't a clue how tons of steel and people can fly thru the air. Yet I accept it, believe in it, and trust my life to this concept.

("Flying Lessons," cont on pg 6)

***"All at once  
I felt very ashamed before the Lord.  
In blind faith I rode upon wings of  
steel high in the heaven,  
but too often I hesitated  
to ride on the wings of prayer  
and His strength."***

## CBC Alumni Honored During Homecoming

This year the Alumni Association held several events planned during the February 17 and 18 weekend.

One of our highlighted Homecoming events is honoring several of our past alumni.

The annual Alumni Luncheon was held on Saturday, February 18, in the Dining Hall of the Mabee Student Services Complex.

During the luncheon, the recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Young Alumnus Award, Mustang Community Impact Award, and the Mustang Ambassador of the Year were honored.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented to an individual who has served their community for more than 20 years. This individual demonstrates a legacy of service and continues to serve in a multitude of ways that demonstrate interest in CBC.

This year's Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient is Mr. Tommy Guthrie.

Guthrie graduated from CBC in 1965 with a BA. Mr. Guthrie has over 50 years' experience in the ministry. Tommy has served as a pastor to several churches in Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

During his time as a pastor, he volunteered at nursing homes, Meals on Wheels and the food pantry.

Some of his fondest memories while at CBC were meeting and marrying his wife (Vivian Gregory) and meeting some of his lifelong friends.

He and his wife have three children and seven grandchildren and are members of New Life Church in Alexandria.

The Outstanding Young Alumnus is awarded to someone who has been instrumental in the advancement of his/her chosen profession, primarily within the last few years.

This recipient demonstrates the love of

service within the community and continues to show interest in CBC. This year's Outstanding Young Alumnus Award recipient is Preston Jones.

Preston graduated from CBC in 2018 with his BS in Worship Arts. After graduation, he received his Master of Worship Arts from California Baptist University.

He has served in many roles around CBC including Admissions officer and a PACE instructor. He also serves as the high school Bible and history teacher at Clark County Christian Academy.

Jones is a member of New Life Church in Arkadelphia where he serves as Worship Pastor and Youth Pastor.

The Mustang Community Impact Award is given to an individual who goes above and beyond to serve their community. They are Mustangs through and through and carry the values of CBC into the community.

This year's Mustang Community Impact Award recipient is Dr. Garrett Taylor.

Garrett attended CBC from 1999-2001. He then went to UCA and received his bachelor's in biology in 2003, and his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry in 2007.

He has been the owner of Garrett Taylor, DDS, PA since 2007.

He has served in the Arkansas State Dental Association, Southeast District Dental Society, Jefferson County

Dental Society, Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners and Hope of the Delta in Pine Bluff.

He has also participated in several dental mission trips to Nicaragua, Guatemala, Brazil, and Romania.

He has served with Arkansas Mission of Mercy, a free dental clinic hosted by Arkansas State Dental Association for many years.

Taylor has been a group leader for Bible Study Fellowship since 2011.

His fondest memory of CBC was helping to honor his parents Charles and Eilon Jane Attebery Taylor when he helped sponsor the Judy Gabbard Science Center.

He and his wife, Caron have one daughter and are members of Watson Chapel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff.

The Mustang Ambassador of the Year is given to an individual who is a member of the Mustang Ambassador Program, a volunteer recruitment program which assists the Enrollment Management Division at Central Baptist College. This year's Mustang Ambassador of the Year is Tabitha Ward.

Tabitha graduated from CBC in 2015 with a bachelor's in business administration. Tabitha has been an ambassador for many years. In fact, she has been recruiting students since before the program was developed.

She currently serves as Public Housing Director for Conway Housing Authority, a role she has had since 2018. She and her son live in Conway and attend New Life Church.



**CENTRAL**  
BAPTIST COLLEGE

# Central Baptist College Admissions Announces Spring Happenings

CBC's Stampede Preview Days are fast approaching! These events are the best time to check out the whole CBC experience.

Attendees will get to tour the campus, attend chapel, meet students and faculty, and enjoy a hot, delicious lunch from our cafeteria. Plus, a \$250 CBC scholarship will be given to every student that attends!

You can sign up for our next Stampede Day happening on March 8 at [cbc.edu/visit](http://cbc.edu/visit). Feel free to bring your friends and family.

Are you a homeschooler or guardian of a homeschooler? We've got a special event just for you! Our first annual Homeschool Stampede Preview Day will take place on March 29!

Tailored exclusively for homeschool students, families that attend will go to special sessions that cover pre-college testing like the Accuplacer, how to enroll as a concurrent high school student or full-time college student, and talk with Financial Aid about scholarships and the FAFSA.

In addition, there's opportunities to meet our students, faculty, and athletic

coaches.

A free, hot lunch is included from our cafeteria and the opportunity to attend Chapel and win door prizes.

All students who attend will be given a \$250 CBC scholarship. Families, guardians, and students can sign up at [cbc.edu/visit](http://cbc.edu/visit).

Do you know what Admissions loves about Spring?

Campus tours!

This is the perfect time to book your campus tour whether you are a prospective student, pastor with youth group students, families, or a teacher and/or school counselor wanting to bring your class. All are welcome and invited!

Each tour is personalized to the student or group and students can even bring their friends or favorite person to make the most of their experience.

You can schedule your personalized tour at [cbc.edu/visit](http://cbc.edu/visit). If you are bringing a group of students, contact us at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) for dates, times, and a customized itinerary.

Admissions and the Pace Program welcomes Kayleigh Smith as the new Pace Enrollment Coordinator at Central Baptist College.

As an alum of the school ('16), Kayleigh is excited to enter the role and help adult and online learners earn their college degree.

Kayleigh earned her BA in English from CBC and she played on the Women's Soccer team. She earned her M.Ed. from William Woods University in Fulton, MO.

Kayleigh is married to Ryan Smith ('16 alum) and they have a son, Kelley James. She is a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR.

Before beginning as the Pace Enrollment Coordinator at Central Baptist College, Kayleigh's love for sports, specifically soccer, led her to become a high school soccer coach where she led teams to the state playoffs multiple times.

While coaching, she held a sports information director and admissions role at Episcopal Collegiate School, and then continued to work in the SID role while teaching business classes at Beebe High School.

Kayleigh also has a background in corporate marketing and is eager to apply those skills as well as her expertise in education to her new role at CBC.

## Annual Scholarship Gala 2023

CBC's 4th Annual Scholarship Gala will take place on Tuesday, March 28 at 6:00pm at the Conway Expo Center. The black-tie optional event will be catered by Central Baptist College Dining Services under the direction of Chef Billie Rodriguez.

The night will be a celebration of Fearless Faith and will feature keynote speaker, Harry Miller.

The proceeds from the event will benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports institutionally funded scholarships. Sponsorships are still available by calling Amy Reed at

**501.205.8934 or  
[areed@cbc.edu](mailto:areed@cbc.edu)**

## Sunray Baptist Church 76th Birthday Homecoming Services Celebration March 25 & 26

Saturday, March 25, at 6:00pm,  
come and enjoy a gospel singing service with  
The Williamsons and Mark Bishop

Sunday, March 26  
Bro. Dennis Clark will be preaching at the morning service at 11:00am  
The Gastineaus will be the musical guest.

Bro. David Pickard will be preaching an afternoon service at 1:00pm

There will be a fellowship lunch following morning worship.

A love offering will be taken both days to help with expenses

# "That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

## "Locating a Cemetery"

My cousin had died and they were having a graveside service in the Tuttle Cemetery. I wasn't quite sure where the Tuttle Cemetery was located. I had handled my uncle's funeral and he was buried there in 1974, which was 31 years earlier.

Another cousin called wanting to ride with me to the cemetery. I agreed, but was a little puzzled by his request since he lived almost as far from me as he did from the cemetery.

When asked why he said he had been to the cemetery for our Aunt Dora's burial, but he couldn't remember exactly how to get to it.

I advised him that she had died in 1955 which was 50 years earlier. He laughed and said that was probably the reason he couldn't remember how to get there.

On the day of the services I drove all the way through town without seeing any signs on the highway for the Tuttle Cemetery. Ladies, believe it or not, I stopped and asked directions and the store clerk directed me right to it.

However, upon arrival I was surprised to find there is not Tuttle Cemetery. The actual name of the cemetery in Tuttle is "Fairlawn." When I was told the services were to be graveside they said it was in the Tuttle Cemetery. The clerk who directed me to it didn't correct me about the name.

However, when I arrived at the cemetery I was surprised to see the name over the entry gate was "Fairlawn Cemetery."

But this is not unique to Tuttle. Most cemeteries do not bear the name of the town where they are located. Amazingly, many have some peaceful name attached to them, many times with "lawn" as part of the name. That's probably to

make it sound more peaceful for the loved one who has departed.

Regardless of the name on the cemetery gate, the cemetery is a place where the dead are buried.

I'm sure many are like my cousin and I about the Tuttle Cemetery. Although we had been there before, neither of us could remember how to get to it.

There are a lot of cemeteries in the world, so I wondered how many cemeteries are unknown to anyone, even in the community where they are located.



To document the location of all the cemeteries in the world be an unimaginable, if not impossible task. A computer could contain the information once assembled and entered, but what human could gather all that information?

Yet God not only knows where all the cemeteries are, but also where all the graves are.

In John 5:28-29 Jesus said, "...the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation."

Isn't it amazing that God knows where every cemetery and every grave in the world is located. In the resurrection, none will be overlooked.

## "Flying Lessons," continued from pg 3

Neither do I understand how God works and His great power, nor can I fathom His love for me. Yet, how foolishly I can trust a man made contraption fraught with possibilities of disaster, but day in and day out, I struggle to trust the Lord with my concerns, my problems, and my future!

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Psalm 91:4

Bowing my head I asked Him to forgive me for not fully trusting Him with every aspect of my life.

I warmly felt His presence near me. Great joy filled my heart knowing He would take care of everything, if I would only trust Him and put my faith in Him, instead of what was going on around me.

For a couple of months thereafter I neatly tucked my lessons away in the notebook of my heart.

I learned He wants me to be mindful that no matter what I face, He is right by my side every second of every day. That He wants me to trust Him completely with even the smallest details concerning my life and those I love.

Yes, the test is yet before me in the future but now I felt prepared!

# **“How High Should We Go?”** cont from pg 1

***“The standards which allow for consistent dosing is seriously lacking with this drug. The regulatory issues are having serious impacts on both those who use and those who are around those who use.”***

vehicles have travelled past me on or near the road and the smell was overpowering. There have been times the smell was sickening, even though the windows were closed.

This puts lives in danger, those who are passengers as well as other drivers who share the roads.

We have foreigners who illegally own these grows and it is very difficult due to current laws to regulate the industry.

The illegal purchase and possession of weapons as well as what some would call drug cartels and prostitution are prevalent on some of these properties.

The water use and chemical contaminants have had destructive impacts on our lands.

Property values have soared through artificial inflation and communities have had interruptions.

Prime agricultural real estate is now under the control of foreign enemies who desire to destroy us.

While state law allows for the use of medical marijuana, it is still against federal law to use it. The attitudes towards marijuana are also often inconsistent with other potentially mind-altering drugs.

Currently, it is a medicine and should be treated as such. However, if you use marijuana, even if prescribed, your second amendments rights can be in jeopardy.

Also, because of the lack of dosage standards and inconsistencies with the potency of different strains of marijuana people may be unaware of how much they have been compromised.

Business owners cannot discriminate against a medical user. To be quite honest, there are some jobs that in my opinion should not have compromised people doing them.

On March 7, when very little people even know that we have such an important issue on the ballot, voters will decide should we have recreational marijuana available in Oklahoma.

For me, the decision is an easy one, and that is a resounding no. I believe we need to rally the troops and make sure that we should have concerned voters to override the yes votes.

I will vote no on State Question 820. Please vote no on March 7, 2023.

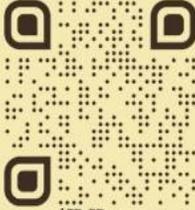
**R & R 2023**  
**RELAX & REFRESH**  
**MARCH 28-30**  
TUES. AFTERNOON - THURS. MORNING

**StoneRidge**  
baptist camp  
SMITHVILLE, ARKANSAS  
**ALL PREACHERS WELCOME**

 EVERYONE WHO REGISTERS WILL BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO WIN A NEW HERITAGE SINGLE-ACTION .22 PISTOL.

**COST PER GUEST \$80**  
THE PRICE INCLUDES SNACKS, DRINKS, FIVE HOT MEALS AND TWO NIGHTS OF LODGING.

TO REGISTER, SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT



[BAPTISTTRUMPET.COM/RR2023](http://BAPTISTTRUMPET.COM/RR2023)

# Latest News From New Generation

Greetings from Norman, Oklahoma. I hope things are going well where ever you may be. Please continue to serve in the ministry as God has called you.

We here at New Generation Baptist Church are endeavoring to serve the people in Norman and surrounding communities as we have the opportunity.

We primarily serve in low income and homeless communities. As a general observation, we are noticing more and more people who fall into those categories.

I believe that many who would fall into the homeless community especially are suffering from some type of mental disability.

I believe that there is a great increase in these numbers within the last few years.

I have not done any type of scientific study into this, but only from personal observation have I reached this conclusion.

If you travel north on I-35 before you cross the river bridge as you enter Norman, today there is a large homeless camp to the East. It continues to grow weekly.

You might ask, what is the problem. I'm not certain. But this I do know, that we as a culture have abandoned the truth and there is

acceleration in our belief of lies.

I believe that John 14:6 holds the answer. Jesus is being abandoned by our culture and so are his ways and so is eternal life.

Please pray for us as we continue to work in Norman and as we try to expand our work into Noble and Oklahoma City.

We hope that Bro. Luis and Melissa will be able to start a Bible study in the Choctaw area of OKC and that Bro. Chris will be able to start a Bible study in Noble.

If any one feels led to work in these fields, please let me know. We would be pleased to have your help.

**Steve & Lynn Puckett,**  
**Representing Christ in Norman OK**  
**724 Fairway Dr.**  
**Norman, OK 73069**  
**Cell – 405 570-8325**

**Chris Lorenz**  
**Cell – 405 226-4111**

**Luis & Melissa Santos**  
**Cell – 832 513-3505**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunray Baptist Church**  
**76th Birthday**  
**Homecoming Services**  
**Celebration**  
**March 25 & 26**

**BMAO Midyear Meeting**  
**April 15, Pleasant Hill, Blanchard**

**BMAA National Meeting**  
**April 25-27**  
**Antioch Baptist, Conway, AR**

**State Youth Camp**  
**June 5-9, Binger, OK**

SOAR 2023

# DEVOTED

DEVOTED  
DEVOTED  
DEVOTED

**JULY 3-5, 2023**  
**GAYLORD TEXAN, GRAPEVINE TEXAS**

**REGISTRATION**

**\$135.00** PER PERSON  
 DEADLINE IS JUNE 4, 2023

**\$150.00** PER PERSON  
 AFTER JUNE 4, 2023 DEADLINE

**GAYLORD TEXAN**

**\$139.00** PER ROOM  
 UNTIL JUNE 10, 2023



**CHRIS VINES**



**NATHAN BREWER**



**SOAR COLLECTIVE**



**STEPHEN CASTLEBERRY**



**DONNY PARRISH**