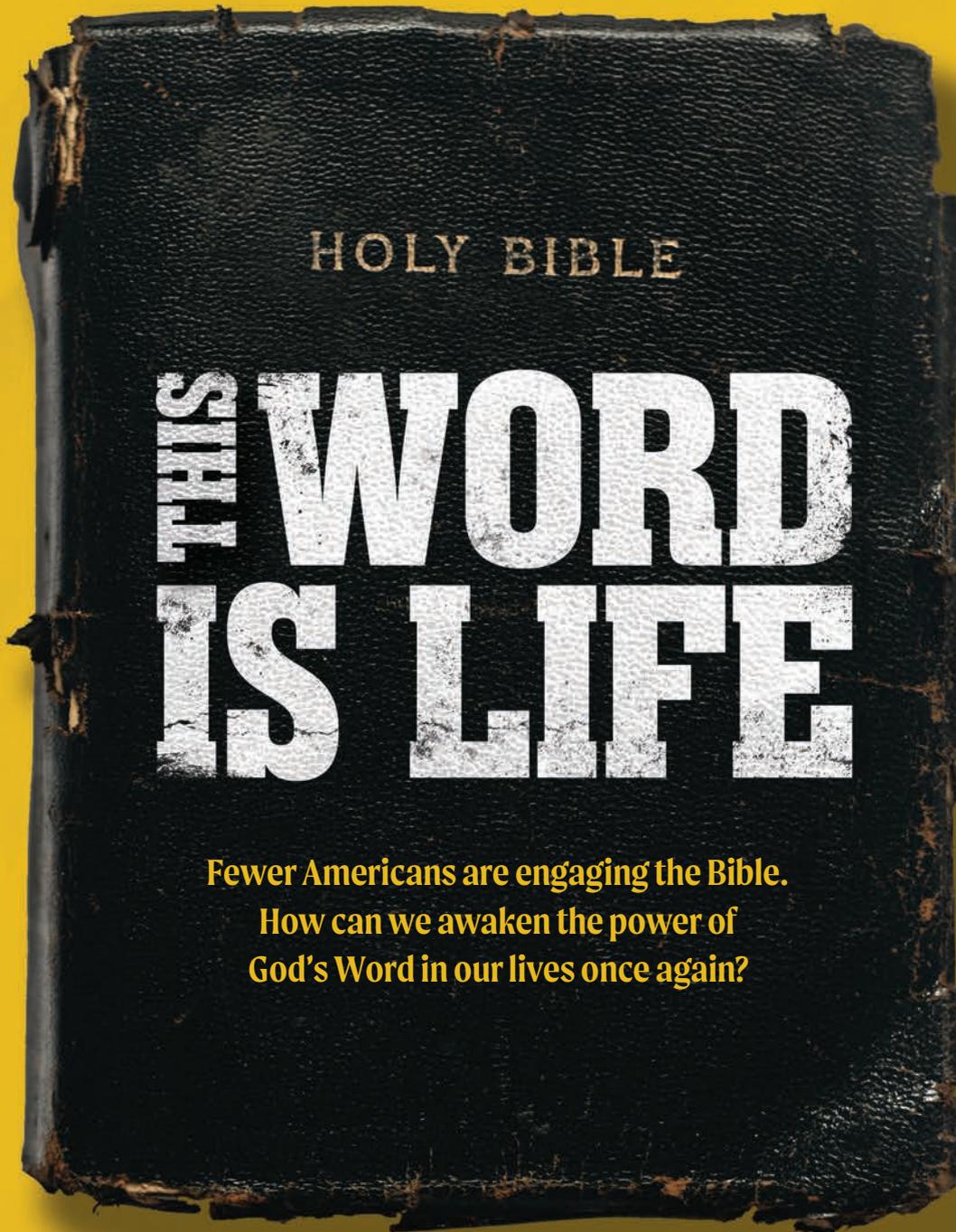


SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
**TEXAN**

APRIL 2022 • VOL. 21 | NO. 4



**Fewer Americans are engaging the Bible.  
How can we awaken the power of  
God's Word in our lives once again?**

+ BUILDING BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS  
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

+ CHURCH PLANT TURNS EVERYDAY  
PLACES INTO SACRED SPACES

+ LIFEWAY RESEARCH'S MCCONNELL ON  
THE TRUE MEANING OF BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

# Learning, leading, and living out your calling

**R**ecently I was invited to speak at a luncheon for one of our associations in Texas. I always really enjoy doing this. It allows me to spend time with the leaders of our associations. It also allows me to be with pastors from across Texas, hear their stories, and celebrate what God is doing in them and through them.

On this particular day, the format that was requested for me was called the “3/2/1.” I was asked to give three leadership lessons I have learned, two people who had profoundly impacted my life, and one leadership decision I would do differently. Thinking through this format was helpful and insightful.

I admit, I am not as seasoned in life and ministry as many of the people I serve. However, over the last 20-plus years, God has, in fact, taught me much about leadership. In this article, I want to list 10 leadership lessons that are among the best I have learned. Many of these I have heard from others and found them to be true for me, too.

Over the coming months, I will unpack some of what God has taught me about leadership. For now, here is the list:

<b>1</b> Broken leaders are the best leaders.	<b>5</b> Stand firm on your convictions, regardless of the consequences.	<b>8</b> Never be too busy to pour your life into others.
<b>2</b> Love people and they will let you lead them.	<b>6</b> Success makes you a more confident leader, failure makes you a more cautious leader, but humility makes you a better leader.	<b>9</b> Don't place your identity and value on what others perceive as success. Find your identity and value in what pleases the Lord.
<b>3</b> Don't internalize criticism from someone you wouldn't seek advice from.	<b>7</b> Surround yourself with people who will teach, encourage, challenge, and sharpen you as you continue to grow as a leader.	<b>10</b> Be focused, passionate, and resolved to lead forward. If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time.
<b>4</b> Never let your planning take priority over your praying.		

As you can see, this is not an exhaustive list. In fact, I am sure the greatest lessons I will learn about leadership have yet to be revealed. While this list certainly flows out of the leadership lessons I have learned in ministry, each of these is applicable in all areas of life. Whatever your calling may be, you can take these principles, apply them to your unique context, and become a better leader one day and one step at a time. What is your list?

I love you, I believe in you, and I am honored to serve you!



Dr. Nathan Lorick  
SBTC Executive Director



Engage.  
Encourage.  
Equip.

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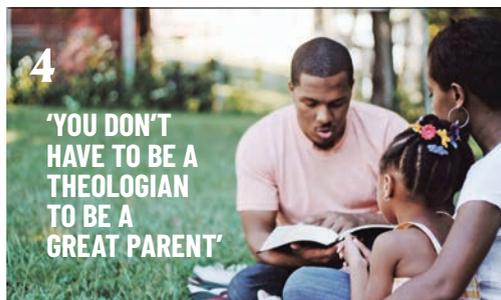
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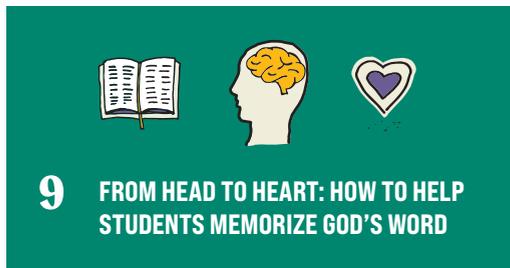
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# The discipline of standing firm



**A**s foreign tanks rumbled and bombs hissed and boomed across Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered one of the more quotable I've heard in quite a while. It came in response to the U.S. government's offer to evacuate him from his country in the face of an intensifying Russian onslaught.

"I need ammunition," Zelensky said, "not a ride."

And so he stayed, and remains there as of this writing.

It's hard to stand firm in the face of a fire, isn't it? Pastors and church leaders know this all too well. Zelensky's courageous stance—his literal, iron-clad refusal to move—should remind us of something we all know in ministry but seem to forget at the most inopportune times: leadership takes guts. I say "inopportune" because the moments that make us want to flee are the same moments I believe God intends to use to strengthen and mature us.

Leadership isn't anchored in good ideas, although good ideas certainly help move the needle. It isn't achieved on the strength of enthusiasm or passion alone, although, again, those seem to be universally necessary elements for effective leadership to happen. It's not even about having an outgoing personality or polished oratorical skills.

Leadership is about taking people and organizations from where they are to where they need to be, from Point A to Point B. The challenge is, people systems typically consist of two kinds of people: the kind who are willing to be led, and the kind who have their own ideas about how to lead and who are willing to fracture the group to achieve their own goals.

In other words, the kind of people who make you want to flee from the leadership to which God has called you.

Think about Moses. God called him to lead the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt to the promised land. Moses didn't ask for that job, tried to ask himself out of that job, and in the end, didn't even get to reap the benefits of the mission accomplished. Moses wasn't going to set a stage ablaze with a fiery speech; Scripture tells us he had what most scholars consider a speech impediment.

Add to those shortcomings the people God called him to lead. They were lifelong slaves with a severe case of short-term memory loss. It only took hunger and thirst to make them wish they were back in chains. Rather than worship the God who turned a sea into a sidewalk, they grumbled. Later, in the book of Numbers, Moses faced challenges in his leadership from people who thought they could do it better (Aaron and Miriam, and then several hundred led by Korah).

And yet Moses stood firm. You can almost hear him saying, "Yes, I know you don't like the menu. Yes, I heard you say you had it better with your last leader. Yes, I know some of you don't think I'm a very good leader ... now, let's keep going. God's got somewhere for us to be."

Don't get me wrong: the effectiveness of your leadership will rise and fall in direct correlation to the quality of your personal walk with Jesus in any given moment. That is a battle leaders fight every day, especially in the church. It's a battle I fight every day.

But beyond that, leadership takes guts. It's going to require you, at some point, to stand firm in the face of a fire that's a lot hotter than you'll like. In that moment, you'll essentially have two choices:

You can go, or you can grow.

# SAY WHAT?

A sampling of wisdom (and a few chuckles) from the Twitterverse



**Missie Branch**  
@ohtasteandsee

The things we learn when we are overwhelmed and paying attention can be so sweet. I am learning more and more about dependence. I am understanding what leaning on The Lord really means and it is quite humbling.



**Luis Juárez**  
@Luis\_Juarez

Grateful for @CriswellCollege alumnus and former board chair, Dr. David Galvan for 40 years of ministry and for receiving the W.A. Criswell Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Kie Bowman**  
@KieBowman

You're NEVER out of options as long as you can pray!



**Mark Hallock**  
@MarkHallock

Boldness, yes. Passion, yes. Courage, yes. But also, gentleness.

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness." - 2 Timothy 2:24-25



**Matt Bowles**  
@mattbowles

I love that I am from Texas! And I'm sorry for all of you that aren't. I'm sorry, but I just had to say that.



**Rashawn Copeland, Start Where You Are**  
@HypeSir7

never forget what God saved you from.

Your past is a great reference point, but a terrible residence.



**Shane Pruitt**  
@shane\_pruitt78

the Gospel is not about making good people - better, it's about making dead people - alive.



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# ‘You don’t have to be a theologian to be a great parent’



PANEL DISCUSSES THE CHALLENGES—AND OPPORTUNITIES—OF BUILDING STRONG BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS IN CHILDREN

Panel  
moderated by  
Jayson Larson/  
Texan editor



KAREN  
KENNEMUR



KAREN  
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a Biblical  
Foundation  
Roundtable

If statistics consistently show adults are not engaging with the Bible at high levels, is it safe to assume children are struggling in that area, as well? We asked three experts in the field of children’s ministry—Karen Kennemur, professor of children’s ministry and the Bessie Fleming Chair of Childhood Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Karen Tayne, family minister to women and preschool families at MacArthur Boulevard Baptist Church in Irving; and Keri Meek, children’s minister at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Cedar Hill—to talk about the state of biblical engagement among children and how parents can help build stronger biblical foundations in their families. The following is an excerpt of that conversation.

### What is the state of biblical engagement and biblical literacy among children based on what you are seeing in your ministries?

**Karen Kennemur:** I think that biblical illiteracy [among children] is at an all-time high. One of the things I've seen [that concerns me] is the way we are doing church that I'm not sure is very friendly to children. Children may meet one time a week on a Sunday morning, and then that's the only time they meet. Our parents are supposed to be the main disciplers of their children, but also I believe that the partnership of the church is extremely important. If a child is only going to be at church one hour a week, how are we able to actually help parents with biblical literacy there? I'm very concerned about children and families and where we are as we see ourselves today.

**Karen Tayne:** I think as far as literacy, as far as knowing where books of the Bible are, how to look up scripture, [children] are competent in that area. As far as it engaging in their life, a lot of that flows from what they see at home. What we often find when we're talking with parents, they never saw that modeled. They either grew up in a home that wasn't a Christian home, or it was a home where the attitude was, "Take them to church and let church do it," and we will have church conversations, but not spiritual conversations. In other words, "What was your story about today?" versus "What did God teach you today? How does that apply to your life?" Those deeper questions. And so for a lot of our parents, we're learning that we have to get super practical in explaining those very vague terms of family worship or discipleship.

**Keri Meek:** I agree a lot with what Karen just said. As far as Bible skills, those things, I feel like most kids who come to church on a regular basis do feel confident in that area. But as far as them engaging in the Scriptures on a day-in-and-out thing, it's really something that if it's not modeled in the home, the large majority are not going to do that. It's one of those things where if adults are not engaging in the Word, then what follows is the kids not doing the same in turn, because we're only with them so little at church.

### What are some proven practical strategies or helpful tips that you have come across that would help parents start to build a biblical foundation in their children?

**KT:** I always tell my teachers and parents it is critical that you communicate when you're telling a story from the Bible to have a Bible in your hand. Even if you may be reading from a curriculum, say, "This is God's Word and we know it is true." When you're reading a Disney story book at night, and then you're reading a Bible story, at that preschool age it's really simple for them to just assume these are all stories. It's critical to always communicate that there is a difference. And then, as early as possible, but especially when you get into those grade school years, start drawing their attention to the chronological narrative of the Bible and how it all points to Jesus. That's super helpful.

**KM:** We also always stress that with our teachers, to use the Bible and never just have their lesson book out. The other thing is really training our teachers and then our parents to ask the questions: "What is God saying? Who is God in this passage? What does this passage teach us about who God is? How can we apply it to our everyday life?" So it's not just telling the stories, but really asking those important questions so they can apply it to their life. And I love what Karen said, too: we're teaching the whole narrative of the story from Genesis to Revelation, all pointing to the gospel, all pointing to who Jesus is and always drawing that out of every lesson with the kids. But not just teaching it, we teach our teachers to teach this, then it goes beyond that into the home as well, making it more easy and likely that parents will be able to point them to Jesus.

**KK:** I would say there are some simple things. I think that attending church as a family is very simple, but it's very important. It was always good for my children and my husband and I to worship together so children are seeing their parents in a worship setting, they're seeing their parents praise God, they're seeing their parents in prayer. I think another thing that's important is prayer. A lot of times, if the father and the mother were not raised in a Christian home, prayer is not something that

comes easy to them. If the parents are not comfortable in modeling this and showing their children how to pray, then try praying over your children when they're asleep. The other thing I did want to say, I think it's important for children and pre-teens, even preschool children, to serve together as a family.

**Many parents carry a constant guilt because they feel like they're not doing a good job discipling their children biblically or they feel like they've missed their chance altogether. What encouragement do you have for parents who may feel that way?**

**KK:** I think we all feel that we failed at some point. What I would say to young families and to young parents is it makes a difference that you spend time with the Lord, because when you spend time with the Lord, then what you have flows out of you. We had three kids in four years, so [spending time with the Lord] was hard to do. It's hard to do when they're babies and they're staying up and you can't get them to sleep and then you're exhausted the next day. When that season goes away, then you have all these other things. Life as a parent is always fast, furious, and there's always lots to do. I say embrace that, enjoy that time of life, but it's extremely important to spend time in the Word and with the Lord in a strong prayer life. The other thing I would say is, you don't have to be a theologian to be a great parent. In Deuteronomy, the writer gives us great advice in the Shema where he says [talk about Scripture] as you go through the day, when you lie down at night. That's a great time to talk about the Bible story that they learned on Sunday. Take it one day at a time and in every activity.

**KT:** When those babies are little, start talking to them about God. Start calling out God moments even though they don't understand. Start praying over them. Start doing all of those things so that you're comfortable whenever they're older to be already having those conversations. At a conference that we did years ago, we had three different parents who had very different styles of

discipling their children speak on a panel. They did discipling of their children totally different and it gave our folks real-life models of what it looks like. And each one of them said, "I've totally messed up at times . . ." That was freeing to a lot of them who had beaten themselves up a lot over messing up and thinking, "I'm never going to get this right." But the most important thing is exactly what Dr. Kennemur said—live it out. If they see you living it out throughout your day, that will speak volumes to them.

**KM:** Shame and guilt have no place at the table. That is not of the Lord—that is from the enemy. When somebody is feeling shame and guilt, it paralyzes them and they won't do anything. We have to help our parents understand that. Many of the parents that we have in our ministries did not grow up in a home where they even had a Bible or prayed together, so we're having to teach these things. And again, it's best when modeled. That's why it's so important that we build relationships with these families and that we're training our teachers to do life with our families. The best way we can disciple others is to do life with them. Telling them, "You need to read God's Word or pray with your kids," it's so foreign to so many people. But if you have them over to your house, and then you pray before dinner, or you ask one of your kids to pray, or you read a Scripture before dinner, you're doing the little things and modeling that to show them how to do it.



**heart of the child**

**APRIL 1-2**

**Heart of the Child Conference**

OKLAHOMA CITY

[heartofthechild.net](http://heartofthechild.net)

This conference aims to encourage and equip preschool and children's ministry leaders and families to build solid discipleship rhythms with the younger generation.

# Hungry for God's Word? Consider the 'how, habit, and value' of it

**D**on't you love a good buffet—one with lots of options, tastefully prepared, and ready to make it onto your plate and into your tummy? Such a buffet awaits all who would feast on the Bible. God's Word contains a veritable smorgasbord of delights, pleasing every palate, and meeting every need.

Yet few take advantage of this offering. Why? It isn't the monetary cost, for the food is free for the taking. Undoubtedly, many are hesitant to eat for a variety of reasons. But I think several key ones include (1) not knowing how, (2) not having a habit, and (3) not seeing the value. How do we help people get their plates filled? By meeting the hesitations head on!

## How

Consider those who don't know how to get into the Bible for personal enrichment and study. We live in an amazing electronic age that can make this easy. "There's an app for that!" A great one is appropriately called The Bible App, and there are plenty more. This enables people to daily have a biblical reading that will engage and transform them.

## Habit

Getting that daily reminder to read and engage, in bite-size portions initially, in one's inbox will soon help to develop a habit. The app that one uses should come in a variety that allows for a daily e-mail reminder to read.

## Value

The value will be realized as the habit is developing. When one reads a passage, relates it to what is going on in one's life, and begins to receive nourishment and direction, one will rapidly come back over and over for more.

Beyond this initial suggestion on getting people to read, I believe getting people engaged to discuss the Word is also critical. Our churches need to be places where the text is explained and explored. The Bible needs to be seen as more than simply retelling the story of the walls of Jericho falling. The Bible is nuanced with various genres of literature, telling stories of love and betrayal, giving advice for the simple and wise, offering solace through laments, and expressing the full range of human emotions in a struggle to explain life, God, and purpose.

As those in charge of teaching in our churches engage Scripture in those terms, then those who are observing the buffet will begin to get in line and fill their plates. Too often, those teaching are themselves needing to get into a bit more depth to help those who follow. In our internet age, this is easier than you might think. I encourage all interested in delving deeper for teaching or personal growth to consider various sources, including our own that can be found at [Biblical-Literacy.com](http://Biblical-Literacy.com).



*Mark Lanier is a practicing attorney who also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Languages from David Lipscomb University. He teaches a biblical literacy class at Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston.*



## Linked together on a mission

A few weeks ago, I had the joy of attending the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Empower conference in Irving. It was an amazing event in every way. Church leaders across our state were encouraged, equipped, and empowered to pursue the Great Commission.

But the most impactful part of this event for me was interacting one-on-one with so many church leaders from across our state. I heard countless stories of leaders advancing the gospel in incredible ways through their local churches. It reminded me of how special this network of churches called the SBTC really is. I was so encouraged and thankful to Jesus for the privilege of being a part of this cooperative effort to reach our state, nation, and world with the gospel.

As I thought further about this experience, Philippians 1:3-5 came to my mind, and it articulates how I feel as a fellow pastor in our convention. The apostle Paul writes, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." In essence Paul is saying, "Every time I think of you, I thank God for you." Consider what is happening here. Paul is writing this from prison and is currently suffering for preaching the gospel. Yet, even while captive, just the memory of this church brings joy to his heart,

it blesses him, and it leads him to offer prayers of gratitude to God. God has used them to give joy to Paul in the most difficult of seasons. But what is it about them that makes him so encouraged when he thinks about them?

In verse 5 he gives us his reason. He says it is "because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Paul clearly says the joy they bring into his life is rooted in their "partnership in the gospel." The key word here in Greek is *koinonia*, which is often translated "fellowship" or "partnership." But, when it is simply translated as "fellowship," it can often be watered down in our church culture's understanding of fellowship. I grew up in a Baptist church and loved "fellowships" because they were potluck meals. While my affections and appetite are still stirred by potlucks, *koinonia* is describing much more than just meeting and eating with fellow believers. It's a term that means "joint venture." It's the idea of being linked together by a common investment that in many ways defines the relationship. Paul is overwhelmed by this church because they were linked together in Jesus and share in the "joint venture" of advancing the gospel together.

This is what stirred my heart again at the Empower conference! I was reminded of the "joint venture" we share as a network of churches. We are nearly 2,700 churches united in Jesus, sharing a common vision of reaching the world with the gospel through this cooperative effort. We are made up of churches of all styles, ethnicities, sizes, and age demographics but who are working together in a *koinonia* or "partnership in the gospel" to advance the Great Commission.

So, let me echo Paul's words to the Philippian church about our own convention: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel..." This is the way I feel about our network of churches and why I am so thankful to serve as a pastor of an SBTC church.



## FROM HEAD TO HEART:

# Memorizing God's Word is foundational for student growth

**F**or 20 years I have had the honor to serve the Lord in student ministry. In those two decades, I have disciplined and taught hundreds of teenagers to engage God through his written Word.

I have noticed two things remain the same for a teenager's engagement with God's Word, regardless of cultural influence and generational differences:

- 1) Teenagers want to engage with God through His Word; and
- 2) They want to be challenged to do so. Someone just has to be willing to challenge them.

I have also noticed a connection between the number of students who engage with God's Word and the number of adults who challenge students to engage with God's Word. The more adults encourage a single student to engage the Word of God, the more likely that student will engage with the Word of God. It's that simple.

There are many ways to engage the Word, but here are some simple strategies I have used to challenge students (and my own children) based on the challenge found in Psalm 119:11: "For I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

### How old are you?

Can you recite from memory, without a break, the same number of Bible verses as you are old? For instance, if a teenager is 15, can they recite 15 Bible verses without taking a break? As an adult, can I recite 38 Bible verse without a break? This is a fun challenge I do with my 17-, 13-, and 8-year-old children on a regular basis. We even try to see who can quote them the fastest (naturally I never win!).

### How small (and big) can you go?

Memorize a small book of the Bible: Titus, Jude, James, etc. As you memorize one book, move to a larger book. Maybe, just maybe, someone can memorize all of Psalms.

### What is your topic?

I have found a great apologetic tool is to memorize Scriptures based on a topic. For instance, I ask my students and children to memorize the following Scriptures to recount the creation account: Genesis 1:1-2:3, John 1:1-18, and Colossians 1:15-20. Given, there are lots of other creation-account scriptures, but I give these to my students and children because it encompasses a full and Christ-centered view of creation.

No matter your age, I challenge you to join your local church's youth leader or pastor to disciple a younger generation. After all, it takes more than one person to challenge this next generation to engage with God through His word. Will you?



Brandon Bales is student ministry associate for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

A photograph showing a person's hands writing in a notebook on a wooden desk. An open Bible is also on the desk. The text 'Digging deeper' is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

# Digging deeper

## Lifeway Research director says Bible engagement is about much more than just reading God's Word

We've all seen the numbers and heard the statistics regarding Bible engagement in America and they're often not encouraging. There are fewer Americans who believe the Bible is 100 percent true and authoritative, and even among those who claim to follow Jesus, the level of Bible engagement is down. We asked Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research, to help us process some of the numbers and provide a ray of hope for churches and leaders looking to raise the level of biblical engagement among their people.

**In a general sense, we know American Christians aren't engaging with the Bible as much as they should. Can you put numbers to that lack of engagement based on some of Lifeway Research's latest findings?**

**Scott McConnell:** One of the things we see is that among Americans, only 12% have read the entire Bible and another 10% have read it more than once. So that's less than a quarter of Americans who have read the entire Bible at any point in their life. And even if we ask, "Have you read half of the Bible?" it's about 50/50. Half of Americans have read about half the Bible, and half have read less, and 7% have read none of it.

If we zoom in just on Protestant churchgoers and look at their engagement with the Bible, just 32% of them read the Bible every day and another 27% [read it] a few times a week. About six out of 10 Protestant churchgoers are reading the Bible several times a week. So we definitely have some indicators that both presently and really anytime in the past, a lot of Americans and a lot of Christians have really not spent a lot of time in the Word on their own.

**So how would you define biblical engagement? Is it about more than just reading the Bible?**

**SM:** It is. It includes reading the Bible, but it also should include our beliefs about the Bible, our desires related to the Bible, and our behaviors—is it impacting the way you live your life? If you’re only engaging with one or two of those areas, you’re not getting the full benefit of what Scripture has for you. Bible engagement really should be more holistic.

**Can you give me a general profile of a person who is not engaging the Bible regularly?**

**What kind of things can we know about them from your research?**

**SM:** When you’re not engaging with Scripture, you’re not going to be able to grow in biblical relationships. You’re not going to be able to grow in obedience. You’re not going to be able to grow in worship because it’s connected. It’s very much a tapestry. A real tangible example is that somebody who’s reading

the Bible every day and then misses a few days, 65% of those folks say they desperately miss that time in God’s Word and another 21% somewhat agree. So almost nine out of 10 people who are reading the Bible every day—it’s not just a habit that they got into at some point, it’s not feeling like they have to, it is something that they absolutely enjoy. If you’re not in that place, if you’re not reading the Bible regularly, I would definitely want you to hear that. You don’t just want to try to create a habit in your life. You don’t want to just jump into this discipline for discipline’s sake. This is part of worshiping God and enjoying Him, spending that time in His Word.

**What can pastors and church leaders do to raise the level of biblical engagement among the people they serve?**

**SM:** If a church is considering what it can do to encourage Bible engagement, I think they’ve got to start with the authority of Scripture. That might mean starting in a different place than we have in the past. In the past we encouraged people to just believe in the Word of God, but today we have to explain a little more. A lot of folks have not grown up in Christian homes, or they’ve grown up in a home where people take what they want from the Bible and leave the parts they don’t like. So it’s more and more important that churches are taking a step back and explaining “Where did the Bible come from?” and “Who did the Bible come from?” and letting people know that

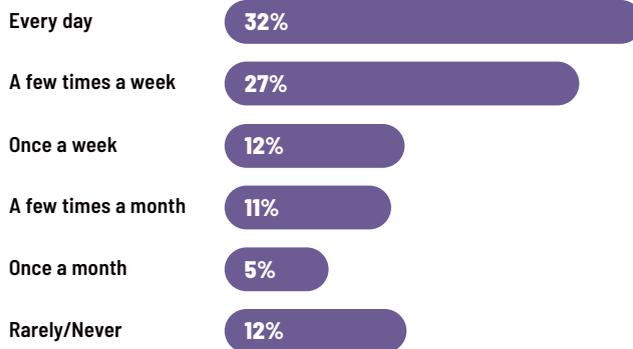


**When you’re not engaging with Scripture, you’re not going to be able to grow in biblical relationships. You’re not going to be able to grow in obedience. You’re not going to be able to grow in worship because it’s connected.**



AMONG PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

**How often do you read the Bible?**



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Scripture has an overall story to it. The Bible is a big book and you can kind of lose your place in the bigger story. Many people don't understand that there's a story of love and redemption that God has extended to us and revealed to us through Scripture. We need to set it up to make sure people understand that this book is worthy of our belief and is a precious gift of God's revelation to us of the relationship He wants to have with us. ... When somebody accepts that the Bible isn't just a book with good moral teaching, but it actually has authority in my life because of who it came from, that can be transformative. You're going to look at other things in life differently when you have that belief in Scripture's authority.

If people don't believe that the Bible is the written Word of God and is totally accurate, they're much less likely to be reading the Word of God and engaging with it on a regular basis. You kind of wonder why they're still practicing in other areas if they don't believe in the Word of God, but at the same time there are many benefits to being a part of a body of believers that they may enjoy. Having a relationship with God and really wanting the truth of God's Word to impact your life—when those are absent, then we definitely see much less engagement with Scripture.

**What are the churches that are successful in helping their people engage more effectively with the Bible doing?**

**SM:** Encouraging people to read the Bible on their own [through a reading plan] is an important thing that we see churches doing. The speed that you're reading through the Bible seems to be less important than reading it regularly. When we ask Americans how they've read the Bible, only 22% actually have read sequentially and systematically through a section a little bit each day. Studying the Bible together in community is also a huge part of Bible engagement, whether that's a Sunday school or a small group. We've seen statistically that people who are doing that on a weekly basis are more likely to be serving in their church. They're more likely to be serving in their community. They're more likely to be giving to

“  
**The fact that you can be going through a passage for the fourth time and see new things that God is bringing to light through that passage is absolutely refreshing.**  
 ”

their church. They're more likely to be engaged in spiritual disciplines. They're more likely to have friends at church and relationships with others at church. They're more likely to be peacemakers at church. So many ways that we want to be growing closer to Christ happen when we study God's Word in community. So that's absolutely an essential piece that churches should be emphasizing. We've actually seen churches rebound faster [after COVID] because the people who were in groups had both the relationships and that closer walk with Christ that encouraged them to be back in person.

We're also seeing [churches raising engagement when they communicate] that life change is expected through God's Word and through the Holy Spirit, that you use God's Word in your life not because you want to be a church that knows the Bible really well, but because you believe it so well. That really completes that circle of Bible engagement where it's actually impacting your life.

**You look at a lot of numbers and statistics, and those figures aren't always encouraging. What are you seeing in the realm of biblical engagement that encourages you?**

**SM:** To me, the most encouraging part of it is that those who are in God's Word on a regular basis, almost all of them enjoy it. And the other thing is just the impact it can have on your life. As with most things within our discipleship journey, it doesn't happen overnight. It's a lifelong journey. The fact that you can be going through a passage for the fourth time and see new things that God is bringing to light through that passage is absolutely refreshing. We continue to see that Bible engagement is predictive of walking closer to Christ, so knowing that spending time in His Word has an impact definitely gives us confidence to encourage others and to want to be in God's Word ourselves. In this day and age, we have so many options for how to do this. If reading is absolutely not your thing, there are so many ways to listen to God's Word and to hear people teaching on God's Word on a regular basis that you can fill that gap in ways that still have you engaging in the Bible regularly.

# Choose quality over quantity when consuming God's Word

When I first followed Christ, my pastor told me I needed to read the Bible. I tried and made it all the way through Exodus but got bogged down at Leviticus. Since those days (a long time ago), I've learned more about reading the Word. Here are five suggestions to help you:



01

## Be grateful for your opportunity to study the Word

I've been in places around the world where people had little or no access to the Scriptures. Meanwhile, many of us have more Bibles in our homes than we have human beings! We who have access to the Word, have a copy available in our language, and can read it without threat of persecution are blessed indeed. Why would we not want to engage the Scriptures?

02

## Focus on consistency more than quantity

Reading a lot of the Bible does not always equate to reading it well and meditating on it deeply. In fact, I would rather you read one chapter every day than read 10 chapters every 10th day. Consistency will make you want to increase quantity, but the opposite is not always true. So, get a consistent reading plan in place. Let God grab your heart every day through His Word.

03

## Follow a plan to read through the Bible at least every other year

I read the Word every year, but I did not start there. It took me years to get there. On the other hand, you can read the Word in two years if you read just under two chapters a day. Most of us can make that commitment even if it means giving up something else to do it. Again, have a plan—know today what you are going to read tomorrow.

04

## Use a good study Bible

I try hard not to get stuck in the notes—but they do help me at times. Sometimes I need them simply to understand the Word better. The more I understand it, the more I want to read it. If you want a suggestion, I have found the CSB Everyday Study Bible helpful because its study notes are condensed from the larger CSB Study Bible.

05

## Hold yourself accountable to someone

Here's how I do it: I write a daily e-mail to a group of guys to tell them what I read, what I'm learning, and how they might pray for me. One of my former students sends his daily e-mail to his student ministry leaders; a colleague sent his to his deacons when he was a pastor. The e-mail doesn't take long to write, and I suspect all of us have someone to whom we might send a message every day.



Chuck Lawless is dean of doctoral studies and vice president of spiritual formation and ministry centers at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. For more from Lawless, visit [chucklawless.com](http://chucklawless.com).

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# Everyday places, sacred spaces

## Batting cage becomes center for God's work through church plant

NEW BRAUNFELS

**H**undreds of people have been reached in New Braunfels as Epic Life, a church plant, fulfills its vision of “transforming everyday places into sacred spaces” where people can connect to Christ.

One way church members do that literally is by showing up on Saturday nights to convert a local batting cage into a worship location for Sunday mornings, and about 400 people have been attending each week. Since the church’s launch in 2019, more than 160 people have been baptized.

“We’ve seen so many stories of God doing a work that only He can do,” Lead Pastor Brent Isbill said. “We’ve seen people step out of addiction. We’ve seen marriages restored. We’ve seen dads become spiritual leaders in their homes.”

As it strives to make disciples, Epic Life has defined a disciple using three words: experience,

express, and expand, said Isbill, who was a student pastor at Oakwood Baptist Church in New Braunfels for 10 years before planting.

“We believe a follower of Jesus experiences on a daily basis the presence of Christ through His Word, through creation, through prayer,” Isbill said, “and as they experience His presence, it’s only natural that they would want to express their love to the Lord and the world around them.”

As Epic Life looks for opportunities to expand God’s kingdom, Isbill urges members to have an EPIC mindset, an acronym for: Expectant faith, People matter, Irresistible community, and Creating margin.

“Whether you’re a little kid or a senior adult, every day we want you to wake up with an expectancy in your soul that the God of the universe wants to meet with you,” Isbill said, adding that the expectancy includes knowing God has a plan for each day.

Because people matter, the way Christ followers treat those they encounter on campus, in business, or in their neighborhoods is consequential, Isbill said. “It matters to God, and the way we know it matters is to look at the cross.”

With Acts 2:42 as a model, Epic Life seeks to create irresistible community by out-loving the secular world. “Others may not believe what we believe at first, but we want them to see the love for each other that we have,” he said.

The goal of creating margin is needed in the world today, the pastor said, because people are “out of time, into debt up to their eyeballs, and over-committed.”

“We believe that God has a better way, so we want people to create margin in their lives with their time, tal-

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Epic Life in New Braunfels meets in a batting cage, and hundreds of people have been reached with the gospel.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



ent, and treasure so they can't be spread so thin that they're not making a difference or running so fast that they're always exhausted," Isbill said. "We want people to eliminate some good things from their lives so they can have great things in their lives."

Epic Life started with 56 people at its first gathering, and just last year the church baptized 59 people. "So we baptized more people than we had gathered at our first service," Isbill said. During the first year of COVID, the church doubled in size, from 200 to 400, he said.

"We love our city. The world is moving to Texas. Every week we have new guests. We have so many people from California that are moving in," Isbill said. "It's been the most fun and exciting thing me and my wife have ever done in ministry, and we love our people. I couldn't be prouder of how God is using them to reach people in our city with the gospel."

Church planting is vital, Isbill said, because a church plant improves the other churches in a town by refocusing on the goal. He gave an

imaginary scenario of a guy named Joe who comes to know the Lord through a church plant and starts talking to his neighbor Bill about his faith. Joe probably never knew Bill was an active believer at an established church in town, but because of Joe's new enthusiasm, Bill may intentionally start to share his faith.

"Bill's never going to go to Joe's church plant. He's going to stay at whatever established church he's at, but that helps fuel the mission of the church at large, and that's what I love," Isbill said.

Every church plant is a unique expression of the gospel, he said.

"The reason we need to plant other churches is because that church is going to reach people that no one would have the capacity to reach with the gifts and talents in the body of Christ that He puts there," Isbill said.

Epic Life already supports other church plants, and it hopes to plant another congregation in New Braunfels before long, the pastor said, to keep the multiplication and the enthusiasm going.

Since Epic Life launched in 2019, more than 160 people have been baptized. Lives have been changed in ways only God could do, said Lead Pastor Brent Isbill.

The church is motivated to transform everyday places into sacred spaces where people can connect to Christ.

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## Pastor with artistic flair sees God bless church through emphasis on making people feel welcome

WHITE SETTLEMENT, Texas

**W**hen Ramon Velez came to Fort Worth from his native Puerto Rico, it was to seek medical care for his daughter, who suffers from a neurological condition. He didn't expect that God's path for him would include pastoring a church.

Now that church, Una Nueva Familia, is experiencing tremendous growth with Velez serving as its lead pastor. Fifty people have received Christ as their Savior in the last two months. To keep up with the growth, Velez said the church has gradually rented four additional locations near the church. One of those additional spaces is for children and includes two classrooms to minister to eight children with special needs.

Ministering to and focusing on children and youth has been one of the means God has used to grow the church, he said. Ultimately, he believes God has blessed the church because it has made its main focus truly reflecting the love of Christ—"something the world cannot offer, nor can it be purchased in a store or found anywhere else but in the body of Christ." Velez is intentional about promoting trust amongst the congregation and making everyone feel equally welcome.

"The church should excel in making people feel loved," Velez said.

Velez began as a leader in the church who, over time, was asked to serve as an associate pastor. When the former pastor had to move, he asked Velez to step up and serve as the lead pastor. Una Nueva Familia

had about 50 members at that time. After pastoring the congregation for six years, the church now has more than 200 faithful members and regular visitors.

Velez says Una Nueva Familia is not what he would consider a “traditional church.” He has incorporated less formal elements into the worship experience and his facilities, such as painting walls black, using dimmed lighting at points during the worship service, and wearing T-shirts rather than more formal attire. Though his focus now is more on pastoral ministry, he has also used his God-given artistic ability over the years to creatively share the gospel while simultaneously painting with graffiti. He has finished more than 1,000 paintings and, in turn, thousands of people have heard the gospel through that ministry.

“God pulled me out from graffiti street vandalism to use the art of homiletics, combined with graffiti, to preach the gospel,” Velez said. “Instead of shaping with paint, now I try to let God use my testimony, character, my new life, and ministry to shape the people who come to the church.”

Receiving theological training has significantly helped Velez, who holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He also has a bachelor’s degree in graphic arts, which has helped his evangelistic ministry for 12 years and also with his graphic work for the church..

Velez said God has used his wife, Rosa Miranda, to help him use his creativity to serve the Lord. They serve the church together alongside their two children. Among the wise counsel he said she has given him is to embrace the criticism that may come from doing ministry in non-traditional-yet-creative ways.

Citing Isaiah, who was stripped and left barefoot for three years (Isaiah 20:3), Velez said, “I do whatever God asks me to do to proclaim His message of salvation. And if through the ministry God has commissioned me to do one person is saved, no matter how radical what I do may seem, glory to God. My fervent and constant prayer is that people will continue to come to church and surrender at the feet of Christ.”



## EL AMOR LOS ATRAE

**Pastor artístico ve a Dios bendecir la iglesia al procurar que la gente se sienta bienvenida.**

Cuando Ramón Vélez llegó a Fort Worth desde su natal Puerto Rico, fue para buscar atención médica para su hija, quien padece de una condición neurológica. No esperaba que el camino de Dios para él incluyera ser pastor de una iglesia.

Ahora esa iglesia, Una Nueva Familia, está experimentando un tremendo crecimiento con Vélez sirviendo como su pastor principal. Cincuenta personas han recibido a Cristo como su Salvador en los últimos dos meses. Debido a tal crecimiento, Vélez dijo que la iglesia ha alquilado gradualmente cuatro locales adicionales cerca de la iglesia. Uno de esos espacios adicionales es para niños e incluye dos salones adecuados para niños con necesidades especiales.

La iglesia Una Nueva Familia (UNF) ha experimentado un tremendo crecimiento bajo el liderazgo del pastor Ramón Vélez.



Ministrar y centrarse en los niños y los jóvenes ha sido uno de los medios que Dios ha utilizado para el crecimiento de la iglesia, dijo. En última instancia, cree que Dios ha bendecido a la iglesia porque ha hecho que su objetivo principal sea reflejar verdaderamente el amor de Cristo, “algo que el mundo no puede ofrecer, ni se puede comprar en una tienda ni encontrar en ningún otro lugar que no sea en el cuerpo de Cristo”. Vélez se preocupa por promover la confianza entre la congregación y hacer que todos se sientan igualmente bienvenidos.

“La iglesia debe destacarse en que la gente se sienta amada”, dijo Vélez.

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El pastor Vélez, originario de Puerto Rico, sirve al Señor en UNF junto con su esposa, Rosa Miranda, y sus dos hijos.

Vélez comenzó como un líder en la iglesia que, con el tiempo, se le pidió que sirviera como pastor asociado. Cuando el anterior pastor tuvo que mudarse, le pidió a Vélez que diera un paso adelante y sirviera como pastor principal. Una Nueva Familia tenía entonces unos 50 miembros. Después de pastorear la congregación durante seis años, la iglesia tiene ahora más de 200 miembros fieles y visitantes regulares.

Vélez dice que Una Nueva Familia no es lo que él consideraría una “iglesia tradicional”. Ha incorporado elementos menos formales en la experiencia de culto y en sus instalaciones, como pintar las paredes de negro, utilizar una iluminación tenue en algunos momentos del servicio de adoración y vestir camisetas en lugar de atuendos más formales. Aunque ahora se centra más en el ministerio pastoral, a lo largo de los años también ha utilizado la capacidad artística que Dios le ha dado para compartir el evangelio de forma creativa mientras pinta con grafiti. Ha pintado más de 1.000 cuadros y, a su vez, miles de personas han escuchado el evangelio a través de ese ministerio.

“Dios me sacó del vandalismo en las calles con grafiti para utilizar el arte de la homilética, combinado con el grafiti, para predicar el evangelio”, dijo Vélez. “En lugar de dar forma con pintura, ahora intento que Dios utilice mi testimonio, mi carácter, mi nueva vida y mi ministerio para dar forma a las personas que vienen a la iglesia”.

Recibir formación teológica ha ayudado

“

**Dios me sacó del vandalismo en las calles con grafiti para utilizar el arte de la homilética combinado con el grafiti para predicar el evangelio.**

**RAMON VELEZ**

”

significativamente a Vélez, quien tiene una Maestría en Estudios Teológicos del Seminario Teológico Bautista Southwestern en Fort Worth. También tiene una licenciatura en artes gráficas, lo que ha ayudado a su ministerio evangelístico por 12 años, como también ahora en el pastorado.

Vélez dijo que Dios ha usado a su esposa, Rosa Miranda, para ayudarlo a usar su creatividad para servir al Señor. Ellos sirven juntos a la iglesia con sus dos hijos. Entre los sabios consejos que su esposa le ha dado, está el de aceptar las críticas que puedan surgir por realizar el ministerio de formas no tradicionales, pero creativas.

Citando a Isaías, que se despojó de calzado y vestimenta durante tres años (Isaías 20:3), Vélez dijo: “Yo hago todo lo que Dios me pida para proclamar su mensaje de salvación. Y si a través del ministerio que Dios me ha encargado se salva una persona, por muy radical que parezca lo que hago, gloria a Dios. Mi oración ferviente y constante es que la gente siga viniendo a la iglesia y se rinda a los pies de Cristo”.



“En vez de formar con pintura, ahora trato de que Dios use mi testimonio, carácter, mi nueva vida y ministerio para formar la gente que llega a la iglesia,” añadió Vélez.

## Classifieds

For questions or pricing on classifieds email [gholt@sbtexas.com](mailto:gholt@sbtexas.com)

**Trinity BC of Vacaville, CA** is looking for a man called by God, adequately trained, and committed to following God's leadership as director of music and worship. Under the senior pastor, he will be committed to planning, conducting, and evaluating all music and worship ministries (including choirs) by building an atmosphere of spiritual worship that brings honor, praise, and glory to God. Email resume to [music@masterplanner.com](mailto:music@masterplanner.com).

**FBC of Lead Hill, AR**, is searching for a FT ordained SBC pastor. We are located in North Arkansas, minutes from Branson, MO. We adhere to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 in life and doctrine. Email resumes to [FBCLeadHill@gmail.com](mailto:FBCLeadHill@gmail.com) or [FBC Lead Hill, PO Box 94, Lead Hill, AR 72644](mailto:FBC Lead Hill, PO Box 94, Lead Hill, AR 72644).

**FBC of McAlester, OK**, is searching for a children & family minister. To view job description and to apply, go to [firstbaptist.info/were-hiring](http://firstbaptist.info/were-hiring).

**FBC Boswell**, in southeastern Oklahoma, is looking for a FT pastor. Parsonage is available and benefits are provided. Please send resume to [pastorsearch@fbcboswell.com](mailto:pastorsearch@fbcboswell.com).

**Living Stone Community Church**, 30 miles west of Portland, Maine, is seeking a FT senior pastor. Send resumes to [mrrasnorsema@gmail.com](mailto:mrrasnorsema@gmail.com) or Living Stone Community Church, PO Box 126, Standish, Maine 04084.

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**FBC Lafayette, LA**, is seeking a leader of leaders to fulfill the position of discipleship pastor. This is a FT position that will lead a comprehensive program of age-graded discipleship. Please email [career@fbclaf.org](mailto:career@fbclaf.org) for additional info.



## Galvan honored with Criswell award at Empower

IRVING

**D**avid Galvan, longtime pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida in Dallas, was awarded the W.A. Criswell Award for Pastoral Evangelism during the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's 2022 Empower evangelism conference.

The award was instituted during the SBTC's first evangelism conference in 1999. That conference was hosted by First Baptist Church of Dallas. The inaugural award honored its namesake—noted FBC Dallas pastor W.A. Criswell, considered by many to be the pastoral mind behind the Southern Baptist Conservative Resurgence between 1979 and 1995.

"First, I feel so humbled that someone would recommend me. Especially with the impact Dr. Criswell had on my ministry," Galvan said. "If I became an expository preacher, it's because of his influence. If I separated my mornings [for study and prayer] it's because of Dr. Criswell."

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Tony Mathews (left) at the SBTC Empower Conference with David and Elvia Galvan.

Galvan marked his 40th anniversary at Nueva Vida in November 2021. He has served as a church planter, pastor, and denominational leader since 1979. He received a bachelor's degree from Pan American University and a master's degree from Criswell College.

He has served Southern Baptists in many ways during his ministry: as second vice president for the Southern Baptist Convention, first vice president for the SBTC, and as a trustee and board chairman for both Criswell College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Galvan stepped down as senior pastor at the end of 2021 but has no plans to end his ministry. "I'm very available for interims, supply preaching, whatever God opens up for me," he said.

He remembers deliberating on James 1:5 ("Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God...") and recommends younger pastors seeking to build an evangelistic church do the same. "I tried everything—door-to-door, discipleship, visiting like a madman—nothing was working," he recalled.

Through prayer walking in his community, Galvan discerned several ideas he believed to be God's answer. The first idea was an Easter pageant that continued for more than 20 years, and then later a Christmas pageant. Thousands have come to Christ through those events. That led to a conviction about other opportunities in ministry.

"Every single sermon needs to end with an evangelistic invitation," he said. "Take every opportunity, including weddings, funerals, and, for my church, quinceañeras. I ask, 'Do your friends know Jesus?' Use those events to share the gospel."

"Pastor David is one of God's choice servants," SBTC Executive Director Nathan Lorick said. "His steady pastoral leadership and a life that exemplifies evangelism is a great example for all of us. Throughout his ministry, he has modeled what it means to walk with integrity and vision. We are so grateful to honor Pastor David for his excellent life and ministry."

Galvan has been married to his wife, Elvia, since 1972; they have four children and 17 grandchildren.



## Simmons ‘humbled’ to be Fish Award recipient for 2022

IRVING

**J**oe Simmons, who served as an evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention for 12 years, was given the Roy Fish Lifetime Achievement Award for Vocational Evangelism during the Tuesday afternoon session of the convention’s 2022 Empower Conference.

The Fish award was inaugurated in 2006 and is named for the late Roy Fish, a well-known and influential evangelism professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for nearly 50 years.

“I’m unworthy of this,” Simmons said. “I’m just a guy who worked on the crusades. I’m very humbled about this. I’m grateful to God for this.”

Simmons was a layman at Sagemont Church in Houston, a former coach working for the power company, when Sagemont’s pastor, John Morgan, introduced him to evangelist James Robison in the 1970s. They become friends and he went on

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Nathan Lorick (right) presents the Roy Fish Award to Joe Simmons.

“

**I’m unworthy of this. I’m just a guy who worked on the crusades. I’m very humbled about this. I’m grateful to God for this.**

JOE SIMMONS

”

to work with Robison directing crusades all over the country for about 20 years.

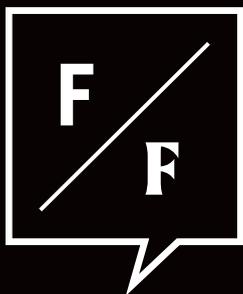
“Our ministry started off really small. And then it got really big,” Simmons said. “We saw more people saved than through any other ministry, besides Billy Graham. We were doing 12 citywide crusades a year and 50 one-night rallies. Five or six-thousand people at a time would respond to the gospel invitation during these citywide crusades. We’d come into a county and then that county would lead the state in baptisms for the year.”

He also worked with Bailey Smith and his Real Evangelism organization before being asked to help the SBTC with event evangelism.

“Joe Simmons has been a great example of a lay person who serves the Lord faithfully,” said SBTC Executive Director Nathan Lorick, who worked with Simmons when Lorick was evangelism director for the convention. “God has used him in incredible ways to advance the kingdom. His heart and passion for evangelism is contagious. We are honored to recognize Joe for his lifelong pursuit of seeing people come to Christ.”

At 81 years old, Simmons is still passionate about evangelism and grieves to see churches neglecting this essential work. “I don’t understand how you can be a pastor, a student of the Bible, and not know that your major responsibility is to win the lost to Christ,” he said. He sees vocational evangelists as “God’s gift to the churches” for the God-given mandate to reach the lost.

Simmons and his wife, Linda, have been married for 60 years and have three sons and three grandchildren.



# FACES OF THE FAITHFUL

A guide to celebrate—and pray—for those standing on the frontlines of the faith



## PAM COPELAND

▶ Age: 60 ▶ Spouse/Children: **Mark/Trevor, Ashley, Julia, & Pam**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: 30 ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Director of Children’s Ministry, Southcrest Baptist Church, Lubbock (6)**

### WHAT’S ONE LESSON YOU’VE LEARNED TO THIS POINT OF YOUR MINISTRY THAT YOU KNOW YOU’LL NEVER FORGET?

We should never want to stop learning and growing in our relationship with our Lord! Keep seeking kingdom work and making Jesus our greatest pleasure and purpose daily!

### WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU’VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?

We are seeing more families returning to church after COVID and seeking the Lord. Faithful giving and our leadership is speaking biblical truth and not opinions.

### HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

For protection against complacency or pride. My prayer is to always stay humble and to encourage and show Christ through my actions and words, especially to the kids and their families I’ve been called to lead and serve with.



## JOHN MARK ROBINSON

▶ Age: 61 ▶ Spouse/Children: **Chellie/Taylor Robinson, Erynn Moore, & Hannah Sharff**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: 40 ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Crossroads Church, Canton (15)**

### WHAT’S SOMETHING YOU’VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?

The Lord brought 85 men to a men’s dinner we recently held on a Friday night. Restored is a ministry impacting anyone with a hurt, habit, or hang-up. This ministry is reaching over 50 men and women each week.

### HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

Pray Crossroads would join with other believers and other churches in our community to focus on the Great Commission. Pray for our unity and total dependence on our Lord for every need we encounter. Pray for our focus, that it would continue to be on God as we seek to impact our community with the good news Christ has to offer all people. Pray for God’s anointing on our staff and elders as they lead. Pray for Christ to be lifted high in our hearts as we look to the future.



## RAFAEL BERLANGA

▶ Age: 55

▶ Total Years in Ministry: 35 ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Primera Baptist Church, Fort Worth (10)**

### WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU’VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?

Our English as a Second Language program is averaging 80-90 students and 20-25 children and youth.

### WHAT’S ONE LESSON YOU’VE LEARNED TO THIS POINT OF YOUR MINISTRY THAT YOU KNOW YOU’LL NEVER FORGET?

Being wise in knowing how and when to make changes. Finding a balance to not change things too quickly.

### HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

Pray for renewed energy for leadership and the congregation.



**JAMES MARTINEZ**

▶ Age: **42** ▶ Total Years in Ministry: **21**

▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Lead Pastor, Ecclesia Community Church, Brownsville (1)**

**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

We are experiencing tremendous growth as a church plant and we have 15 new church members.

**WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN YOUR MINISTRY LATELY?**

One of the biggest challenges is that people in our low-income community are very dependent on social welfare programs and they do not see the importance of being dependent on Christ.

**HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?**

Please pray that we will be able to reach 5,000 homes through a prayer-walking emphasis.



**D'ANN LAYWELL**

▶ Age: **66** ▶ Spouse: **Mark** ▶ Total Years in Ministry: **30**

▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Minister to Children, North Richland Hills Baptist Church (6)**

**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

We are celebrating that we now have four different churches meeting in our church every week. We are happy to share our large buildings with so many others. God has blessed us so much and it is good to give to others.

**WHAT'S ONE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED TO THIS POINT OF YOUR MINISTRY YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER FORGET?**

That God always provides the workers and I shouldn't worry, but just rely on Him. There is never a problem that is not too big that He can't solve. I have learned to "chill" and let God do His thing.

**WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WANT TO SEE GOD DO SPECIFICALLY IN YOUR CHURCH THIS YEAR?**

Help us to see firsthand how other nationalities do church and learn from them. To get out of our ruts and try new ways to share the gospel.



**JOHN MEADOR**

▶ Age: **65** ▶ Spouse: **Kim**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **38** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Senior Pastor, Cross City Church, Euless (15)**

**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

We've just finished our Generations Project with new NextGen ministry space and focus.

**WHAT'S ONE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED TO THIS POINT OF YOUR MINISTRY THAT YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER FORGET?**

God is more faithful and good to us than we can possibly fathom.

**HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?**

We're looking for the perfect site for our North Campus in the North Tarrant County area, praying for the exact spot for maximum gospel penetration.



**DONALD BEAN**

▶ Age: **59** ▶ Spouse: **Kristi**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **32** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Morton Baptist Church, Diana (2)**

**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

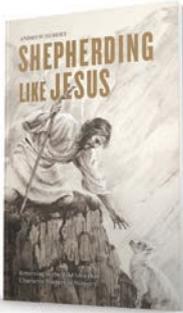
In the months that followed COVID, we have had to overcome many hurdles we never experienced before. We celebrate that our doors were never closed as we continued with online services until we could have in-person services. Our church has not faltered in giving and serving.

**WHAT'S ONE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED TO THIS POINT OF YOUR MINISTRY THAT YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER FORGET?**

God has always been with me every step of the way. In the highs and lows, known and unknown. Sometimes steps of faith turn into leaps of faith.

**WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WANT TO SEE GOD DO SPECIFICALLY IN YOUR CHURCH THIS YEAR?**

For God to continue to grow and unify our church as we follow Him ministering in our community. That we would not give up but keep reaching further to help see the next generation become the leaders that will bring the lost to Christ.



**AMARILLO PASTOR'S NEW BOOK, 'SHEPHERDING LIKE JESUS,' RELEASED BY B&H PUBLISHING**

The most-needed aspect of pastoral ministry—Christlike character—is also the one that is most neglected, Andrew Hébert says in his new book, "Shepherding Like Jesus."

Hébert is pastor of Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo. He said a string of national church scandals compelled him to write the book, which has been released by B&H Publishing. The book is available on Amazon, through Lifeway, and from other book retailers.

"This book is a call to rebel against much of what our culture understands pastoral leadership to be and return to being the Christ-shaped shepherd God has called us to be," Hébert said.

Each chapter is punctuated by a pastoral reflection written by some of the more influential figures in Southern Baptist life, including Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Executive Director Nathan Lorick, pastor and former SBTC President Juan Sanchez, Guidestone President and CEO Hance Dilbeck, and Jimmy Draper, president emeritus of Lifeway Christian Resources.

**THOMAS TO BE FEATURED AT BREATHE DEEP RETREAT IN ALLEN**

Gary Thomas, a best-selling author and international speaker, will be featured at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Breathe Deep retreat May 5-7 at the Marriot Allen Hotel.

Breathe Deep is a two-day retreat for non-senior pastor ministry staff and their spouses (if married) to get away from their everyday challenges and enjoy a time of relaxation and rejuvenation. The event will feature two banquet dinners and a spacious room for two peaceful nights.

Thomas' ministry aims to bring people closer to Christ and others through fostering spiritual growth and deeper



relationships within the Christian community. He has authored 20 books that have sold more than 2 million copies and been translated into more than a dozen languages. He is considered a thought leader in the areas of marriage, parenting, and spiritual formation.

Visit [sbtexas.com/breathedeep](http://sbtexas.com/breathedeep) for full schedule of events, speaker info, and to register. Registration closes on April 14 or when all spots are full.

**QUEEN JOINS SBTC AS EVANGELISM CONSULTANT**

Matt Queen, who serves as L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism ("Chair of Fire") and professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is joining the Missional Ministries team of the SBTC as an evangelism consultant.

Queen said he will assist the SBTC in producing and leading evangelism training to reach the more than 19 million lost people in Texas with the gospel. He is currently advising and assisting in the development of a major evangelism emphasis the SBTC will launch next year.

"In addition to my primary duty of teaching evangelism at Southwestern, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in a consulting



role with Dr. Tony Mathews and his Missional Ministries team," Queen said.

Said Mathews: "We are so excited that he has joined our Missional Ministries team.

An incredible academic with a pastor's heart and a passion for the lost are a few characteristics that Matt embodies. He is simply on fire for the Lord. I am so grateful to have Matt as part of our team, and he has already been a huge help and a joy to work with."

Queen also serves as associate dean in Southwestern's Roy J. Fish School of Evangelism and Missions. His research and writing focus primarily on the gospel message, personal evangelism, and congregational evangelism. Queen regularly leads evangelism workshops and preaches in churches across the country. He and his family are members of Lane Prairie Baptist Church in Joshua, where he serves as associate pastor of evangelism.

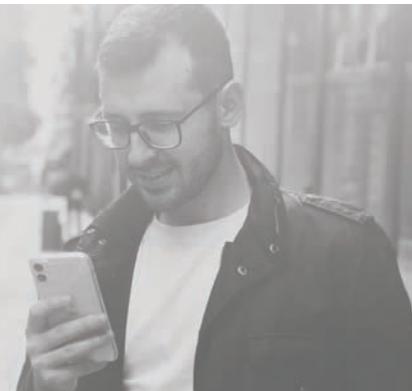
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## FIRST COLLEYVILLE TO HOST ROLE OF THE PASTOR CONFERENCE

First Colleyville will host the 2022 Role of the Pastor Conference on Thursday, April 21, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The conference aims to encourage pastors to shepherd the flocks to which God has entrusted them while maintaining their spiritual health and guiding the church through seasons of trials and conflict.

Mark Dance, director of pastoral wellness at Guidestone, will speak on the "Pastor as a Person." Deron Biles, professor of preaching and pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will speak about the "Pastor as Peacemaker," while Tim Clinton, president of the American Association of Christian Counselors, will cover the topic of "Pastor as Counselor."

Cost is \$10 and includes breakfast and lunch. For more information, visit [sbtexas.com/roleofthepastor](http://sbtexas.com/roleofthepastor).

## REGISTRATION FOR SBTC ROUNDUP UNDERWAY

Shane Pruitt (North American Mission Board), Dharti Lewis (Blueprint), and Austin Wadlow (The Commons Church) will be the keynote speakers at the SBTC's annual Roundup, scheduled for May 11-13 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

"We invite some of the best practitioners to lead at this event, but what makes it great are the people who come," SBTC Collegiate Ministry Associate Mitch Tidwell said. "Our goal is for churches and their leaders to make meaningful relationships with each other. College ministries are on an island, and our goal is to create a network of churches within SBTC that can help each other in the tasks to reach, develop, and send college students."

Roundup is a collaborative learning event that champions church-based collegiate leaders. Visit [sbtexas.com/roundup](http://sbtexas.com/roundup) for more information and to register.



## INFO WEBINAR TO BE HELD FOR NEW CHURCH REVITALIZATION EXPERIENCE

A webinar will be offered on April 28 from 1-3 p.m. for pastors and church leaders to learn about Regenesi, the SBTC's newly designed church revitalization experience for the post-COVID church done in partnership with Future Church Co.



Regenesi combines breakthrough training for disciple-making clarity with gospel-centered visionary planning tools. Will Mancini, one of America's leading church consultants and author of the recent book "Future Church," has been the lead designer and will be certifying all of our SBTC and partner coaches.

Joining this call is not a commitment to sign up for a cohort. All pastors, staff, lay leaders, and other key leadership are encouraged to attend this call. Learn more and register at [sbtexas.com/regenesi](http://sbtexas.com/regenesi).

## CARRELL TO SERVE AS KEYNOTE AT 'SHE STANDS' CONFERENCE

Rebecca Carrell, a longtime Dallas/Fort Worth radio broadcaster, author, and podcaster, will serve as the keynote speaker at the She Stands Women's Conference April 23 at First Baptist Church of Mansfield.

The conference aims to equip and encourage women of all ages to serve and glorify God in the places He has placed them. Carrell's books include "Holy Jellybeans: Finding God Through Everyday Things" and "Holy Hiking Boots: When God Makes the Ordinary Extraordinary." She co-hosts the podcast "Honestly, Though: Real Talk. Real Life. Real Faith."

Cost of the conference is \$35. For more information and event updates, visit [sbtexas.com/women](http://sbtexas.com/women).



## SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION

### 2022 EXHIBIT QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS



Approved exhibitors at the SBTC Annual Meeting include (subject to available space) SBTC ministries, SBC agencies, SBTC ministry relationships (under the oversight of the Ministry Relationships Committee of the Executive Board), Baptist associational ministries and any host church. All other entities desiring booth space must submit their requests in writing to Joe Davis at the SBTC, prior to July 1, 2022.

Entities or individuals may share exhibit space with approved exhibitors only with the approval of the Committee on Order of Business. For-profit entities that have no formal relationship with the SBTC shall not be granted exhibit space.

All exhibit material must be in agreement with the SBTC Constitution and Bylaws, which includes the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Fundraising or sales that do not conflict with SBTC priorities will be allowed in the exhibit area.

# what's your story?

## SNAPSHOTS

During our annual Empower conference last month, we asked attendees to share a brief testimony about what God is doing in their lives and churches as part of our ongoing “What’s Your Story?” campaign. Here’s what they told us:



**Cameron Wiederhold**  
Member of First Baptist Church of Rowlett

“Right now I serve as a volunteer in the youth ministry, and God is just kind of showing me that I need to get out there more and invest more in the next generation.

**We’re experiencing a lot of growth right now and it’s really cool to see how God’s been using prayer to grow the ministry.”**



**John Molina**  
Pastor, Primera Iglesia Bautista, San Marcos

“God is using me as a first responder to encourage and minister to people [in hospitals] who have no visitors, no family, no one to talk to.

**I’m able to encourage and share the hope of Jesus with hurting, lonely people.”**



**Noel Vinzon**  
First Responder & Member of Cedar Pointe Baptist Church, Cedar Park

**“We recently adopted a church called Talking Hands Bible Church ... a sign-language church.**

They were having trouble in San Marcos paying their rent in the place where they were meeting because the rent just kept going higher and higher. So we invited their church to come over and meet [in our building] so they can raise money and hopefully, in a couple of years, find a place to worship for themselves.

And if not, they are welcome to stay with us. It’s no problem at all. It’s just a way we can show our Baptist family that once we were a ‘mission of’ and we were supported by others.

**Now, we want to return that mission favor to others. We have the resources for them and us.**

**The Lord has blessed us in so many ways.”**



**Tommy Turner**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Paris

**“In my life, the more I know of his Word, the more I love him, and it gives me a hunger to go into his Word.** In our church, we have dedicated the last couple of years spending time in the Word on Sunday nights in discipleship groups. Our people are growing deeper in the Word and it’s transforming our church.”



**Jeffrey Stachmus**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Fairfield

“Our story at First Baptist is one of disciple-making. When I came to the church three years ago, I told them my passion is to see people building and making disciples—intentional, gospel-centered, reproducible relationships. **We started off with four men and now we have over 50 people in less than three years making disciples. It’s not just people in the congregation. It’s people in their families, in their workplaces, and in the community.**”



**Manuel and Donna Salinas**  
Members of Primera Iglesia Bautista, Kyle

**MANUEL:**

“Up until four years ago, we were doing mission work around the Rio Grande, around Eagle Pass and Del Rio. Because of health reasons, we have discontinued but we are praying to God that we can recover and go back. Donna has lung cancer, but she is in remission now and taking treatments. Guidestone is now helping us through Mission: Dignity.”

**DONNA:**

“God has strengthened my faith through this. He took us all the way to Wimberley. We lived there a year and I got to witness to two people who gave their lives to the Lord, and that’s how I see Him working in my life—He will take us places and there’s certain people that He leads us to and we get to witness to them. He has been wonderful in my life. I trust Him. I know He is in me and He will do whatever He does. If He wants to heal me, I’ll declare His Word in my life. We are seeing His blessings that we never thought we’d see. God is amazing. Even through my cancer, God is using me because I can witness to my doctor and the nurses and everyone. They’re done with the chemo. Now I’m just waiting on God.”



**Kingsly Mohandoss**  
Church Planter, Church of the Way, Irving

“**We see many multi-language people groups here in Irving. People are migrating here, their stores are here, their foods are here, their temples are here ... but who is going to carry the message of salvation to them?** Who is going to bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? God has brought a great abundance of us to minister to them and to reach them and to share the love of Christ with them. **That’s what we are doing.** This is a place where we are seeing every kind of people [from around the world] here, and I’m sure this city needs Jesus.”



**EMPOWER**  
CONFERENCE



Scan QR code to watch the 2022 Empower Conference sessions



Want to share a story of what God is doing in your life or your church? Scan the QR code or e-mail [jlarrison@sbtxas.com](mailto:jlarrison@sbtxas.com) to tell us your story.



# Church Positions

For the latest listings, visit [texan.digital](http://texan.digital)

## PASTOR

**Rosanky BC** seeks a FT pastor. Email resume to Marc Haynes at [wildfire@realtime.net](mailto:wildfire@realtime.net).

**Toledo BC in Burkeville** is searching for a FT pastor for a rural church on Toledo Bend reservoir. Send resume to Charles Barnes at [cebarnesiii@yahoo.com](mailto:cebarnesiii@yahoo.com).

**Fairview BC in Rhome** is seeking a FT senior pastor. Submit a cover letter and resume to [fairviewbaptisttx2022@gmail.com](mailto:fairviewbaptisttx2022@gmail.com).

**Ridgecrest BC in Commerce** is seeking a FT pastor. Send resume to RBC, Pastor Search, 711 Culver St, Commerce, TX 75428, or [resumerbcccommerce@gmail.com](mailto:resumerbcccommerce@gmail.com).

**FBC Wellington** is searching for a FT pastor. Send resumes to [firstbaptistwellington@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistwellington@gmail.com).

**FBC Kerrville** is prayerfully searching for a FT senior pastor. Send resume to [jcgriffin777@gmail.com](mailto:jcgriffin777@gmail.com).

**Trinity Pines BC in Trinity**, affiliated with the SBTC, is seeking a FT pastor. Contemporary worship. No parsonage. Resumes will be received until April 30. Send resume to [tpbcsearchteam@windstream.net](mailto:tpbcsearchteam@windstream.net).

**FBC Jefferson** is searching for a FT/PT/bi-vocational pastor. Email resume to [sharonrh@aol.com](mailto:sharonrh@aol.com).

**Kempner Oak Hills BC**, affiliated with the SBTC, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Church is located in a rural area with great potential for growth. Send resume to Oak Hills Baptist Church, 134, CR 4931, Kempner, TX 76539, or F.A. Taylor at [fataylor@embargmail.com](mailto:fataylor@embargmail.com).

**View BC near Abilene** is seeking a bi-vocational pastor with plans to transition to FT to help reach our growing community. Send resumes to [viewbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:viewbaptistchurch@gmail.com) or View Baptist Church, 250 Boynton Drive, Abilene, TX 79606.

**Big Bend Church in Terlingua** is searching for a bi-vocational/bilingual pastor. Church is small, located on the Texas/Mexico border. The closest amenities (other than a gas station and convenience store) are 90 miles north, in Alpine. Only apply if you are open to these living challenges! Send resume to [krullcc@gmail.com](mailto:krullcc@gmail.com).

**FBC in Sargent**, affiliated with the SBTC, is seeking a PT pastor for Wednesday evenings through Sunday mornings. Need vision to help grow our congregation. Currently average 50-60 for Sunday attendance. Please send resume to FBC, PO Box 4185, Sargent, TX 77704, or [rmhtax@gmail.com](mailto:rmhtax@gmail.com).

**Weaver BC in Saltillo** is currently seeking a pastor for a small church with a big heart. Email resume to [rfwelling@ssisd.net](mailto:rfwelling@ssisd.net).

**Hickory Grove BC in Kilgore** is searching for a PT lead pastor with leadership skills to help people experience deeper discipleship with Christ and deeper community with each other. Salary TBD. Contact Caleb and Alyssa Wallace, [calebandalyssawallace@gmail.com](mailto:calebandalyssawallace@gmail.com).

**Second BC of Jacinto City in Houston** is seeking a PT bilingual (English/Spanish) pastor. Must be evangelism and mission oriented. Send resume to [SecondBaptistJC@outlook.com](mailto:SecondBaptistJC@outlook.com).

**Primer Iglesia Bautista Angleton** is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to lead a congregation of about 15 members. Send resume to Reynaldo Cantu at [rcantu1954@yahoo.com](mailto:rcantu1954@yahoo.com).

**Calvary BC in Rusk** is seeking a bi-vocational conservative pastor. Small SBTC congregation; no parsonage. Please send resume to [joan.robbins72@gmail.com](mailto:joan.robbins72@gmail.com).

**FBC of Medina** is searching for a FT pastor. Send resume to [pastorsearch@fbccmedia.org](mailto:pastorsearch@fbccmedia.org).

**Seth Ward BC in Plainview** is prayerfully looking for a pastor. Must adhere to the BF&M 2000. Submit your resume to Seth Ward Baptist Church at [swbcpplainview@gmail.com](mailto:swbcpplainview@gmail.com).

**Barnum FBC** is seeking a bi-vocational pastor for a small country church. Average attendance is 40. Send resume to [stacyrhandley@yahoo.com](mailto:stacyrhandley@yahoo.com).

**Bethel BC of Deer Park** is seeking a PT or bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to the Pastor Search Committee at [bethelbaptistdp@att.net](mailto:bethelbaptistdp@att.net) or PSC, 2702 E Pasadena Blvd, Deer Park, TX 77536.

**Faith BC in Gilmer** is searching for a local retired or bi-vocational pastor for a small rural church. No parsonage or moving expenses are provided. Send resume to [martycypert@yahoo.com](mailto:martycypert@yahoo.com).

## MUSIC

**FBC Fairfield** seeks a FT associate pastor of worship. Send letter of interest and resume to [worshipsearch@fbcfairfield.org](mailto:worshipsearch@fbcfairfield.org).

**FBC in The Colony** is looking for a contemporary music/worship leader with one of the best praise bands in north Texas. Must sing well, be humble, teachable, and follow the directives of the lead pastor/elders. Email Dr. Mark Richardson at [mark@fbcthecolony.org](mailto:mark@fbcthecolony.org).

**Hillview BC in Henderson** needs a PT worship leader for Sunday mornings and occasional special services and events. We enjoy blended services. Email [hillviewchurch@aol.com](mailto:hillviewchurch@aol.com).

**Oak Knoll BC in Haltom City** is searching for a PT worship leader who can lead worship during the Sunday morning service on a fill-in/interim basis. Transitioning toward a mix of traditional/contemporary music. Salary negotiable. Contact pastor Grady Arnold at 361-489-7640 or [oakknollbaptist@hotmail.com](mailto:oakknollbaptist@hotmail.com).

**Oak Grove BC in Terrell** is accepting resumes for a PT minister of music to help transition to a blended service. Looking for someone who is energetic, loves Jesus, loves people, and has a calling from God on their life. No experience or education is required. Send resume to [mitchchapman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mitchchapman@sbcglobal.net).

**Lebanon BC in Frisco** is looking for a PT music minister for 20 hours per week; blended worship with both hymns and contemporary songs utilizing a variety of instruments. Send resume to Ray Wilkins at [info@lbcfrisco.com](mailto:info@lbcfrisco.com).

**FBC Denison** is seeking a PT worship pastor to lead worship on Sundays, develop a worship team, and fully partner in carrying out the vision of the church. Two years of leading worship and five years of active church membership required. Itinerant worship leaders will be considered. Resumes and questions to [ssuffron@fbcdenison.org](mailto:ssuffron@fbcdenison.org).

**Westside BC in Corsicana** is accepting resumes for a PT music minister for Sunday morning and evening. Email resume to [westside.church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westside.church@sbcglobal.net) or mail to Westside Baptist Church, 1522 N 24th St, Corsicana, TX 75110.

**Calvary Baptist Pearland** seeks a PT worship pastor. Please send resumes and demo videos to [nathan@calvarypearland.org](mailto:nathan@calvarypearland.org).

**FBC Merkel** is seeking a PT minister of music. Send resume to [fbcmerkel.com](mailto:fbcmerkel.com).

**Cook Springs BC in Huntsville** is seeking a PT minister of music. Must adhere to, utilize, affirm, and employ the KJV of the Bible in all aspects of the service of your church and biblical duties. Send resume to [mitacomella@cooksprings.org](mailto:mitacomella@cooksprings.org).

**FBC Vernon** is in search of a worship pastor with the possibility to combine with another pastoral role. Send resume to [brooks@fbcvernon.org](mailto:brooks@fbcvernon.org).

## STUDENTS

**FBC Glen Rose** is seeking a FT student minister. Send resume to [jennifer@fbcglenrose.org](mailto:jennifer@fbcglenrose.org).

**East Paris BC** is seeking a FT youth minister to provide leadership to all students grades 6 and above. Competitive salary based on education and experience. View job description at [eastparis.org/jobs](http://eastparis.org/jobs).

**FBC Farmersville** seeks a FT student pastor. See more information at [fbcfarmersville.com/employment/students.aspx](http://fbcfarmersville.com/employment/students.aspx).

**Green Acres BC in Flint**, south of Tyler, is looking for a FT student minister to participate in the revitalization process. Email resume to [jacob@gab.org](mailto:jacob@gab.org).

**CrossRidge Church in Little Elm** seeks a FT student pastor who has a heart for students and a passion to see them grow in their commitment and walk with Jesus Christ. Email resume to George Bewley at [george@crclife.org](mailto:george@crclife.org).

**Myrtle Springs BC** is seeking a FT student pastor. The student ministry is strong and growing with over 50 regular 7-12 grade students and several volunteers. Send resume to [peters@myrtlesprings.org](mailto:peters@myrtlesprings.org).

**FBC Carthage** is seeking a FT youth pastor who will provide leadership and oversee all aspects of the student ministry. Email resumes to James McRight at [james@firstbaptistcarthage.com](mailto:james@firstbaptistcarthage.com).

**Northside BC in Huntsville** is searching for a FT youth pastor. For information and to submit a resume, go to [northside-baptist.org/employment](http://northside-baptist.org/employment).

**Sherwood BC in Odessa** is seeking a FT minister of youth to introduce young people to Christ, teaching them to become spiritual mature followers of Christ, and equipping them to become disciple-makers. Send resume to [personnel@sherwood.church](mailto:personnel@sherwood.church).

**FBC Merkel** is seeking a PT minister of youth. Send resume to [fbcmerkel.com](mailto:fbcmerkel.com).

**FBC of Troy** has an opening for a PT youth minister for 20 hours per week including Sundays, Wednesdays, and other special youth activities. Please forward resume with references and cover letter to [fbctroytx@fbctroytx.org](mailto:fbctroytx@fbctroytx.org). Job description available on request. Must pass a background check.

**FBC of Eustace** needs a youth/associate pastor. Email resume to Pastor Paul McKinney at [brouall017@yahoo.com](mailto:brouall017@yahoo.com).

**FBC Mesquite** is seeking a PT student minister for students and their families to help them be faithful followers of Jesus Christ by sharing the gospel with those who do not know Him and discipling those who do. Send resume to [fbct27@email@yahoo.com](mailto:fbct27@email@yahoo.com).

**FBC Alvarado** is searching for a PT associate pastor of students, 20+hrs per week, to supervise, coordinate, provide student discipleship, activities, and to enlist workers. Send resume to Wade Taylor at [pastor@fbcalvarado.org](mailto:pastor@fbcalvarado.org).

**FBC Gunter** is prayerfully searching for a spirit-driven PT minister to students. Send resume to [revrick.ballard@gmail.com](mailto:revrick.ballard@gmail.com).

**Fellowship Church in Royse City** is looking for a PT to FT student pastor to help students move their faith forward by following Jesus. Email Jeff at [jhays@fbcrc.org](mailto:jhays@fbcrc.org) for more information.

## CHILDREN

**FBC Graham** is seeking a FT director/minister to children and families. Email resume to [brianbrooks@fbcgraham.com](mailto:brianbrooks@fbcgraham.com).

**South Side BC in Abilene** is searching for a FT family minister/pastor who will set a vision, recruit, equip, and encourage leaders and volunteers within our children's ministry. We are looking for someone who is passionate about training and equipping parents as the primary disciple-makers of their children. Send resumes to [blake@ssbaptist.org](mailto:blake@ssbaptist.org).

**Everyday Christian Fellowship in Cibolo** is seeking a FT children's pastor who can organize a children's ministry, recruit volunteers, train leaders, and work within the vision of a growing church. Ministry experience and seminary training is desired but not required. Send resume or questions to [pastor@everydayfamily.com](mailto:pastor@everydayfamily.com).

**FBC Pittsburg** is searching for a FT children's minister with annual salary between \$45k-\$50k. View website at [fbcpittsburg.org](http://fbcpittsburg.org). Send resume to [bb.fbcpittsburg@gmail.com](mailto:bb.fbcpittsburg@gmail.com).

**FBC Huffman, near Houston**, is searching for a FT children's pastor to serve children and families. Men and women considered. Medical included. Please submit resumes to [personnelteam@fbchuffman.org](mailto:personnelteam@fbchuffman.org).

**FBC Forney** has an opening for a FT preschool director. The position is part of the NextGen Ministry and will direct all preschool activities. Please send resumes to Kevin Bule, NextGen Pastor at [kbule@fbcforney.org](mailto:kbule@fbcforney.org).

**FBC of Port Neches** is searching for a FT children's minister to serve birth

through sixth graders. Please send resumes to [rjones@fbcpn.org](mailto:rjones@fbcpn.org).

**Coastal Oaks Church in Rockport** seeks a PT children's ministry director with a bachelor's degree in primary or secondary education. Classroom experience preferred, as well as prior experience in ministry and/or children's Bible study leadership. Must possess a passionate faith in Jesus Christ and affirm the BF&M 2000. Submit resume to [cirving@coastaloakschurch.org](mailto:cirving@coastaloakschurch.org).

**Lamar BC in Arlington** needs a PT preschool coordinator for 20 hours per week. Email resume to Dallas King at [dallas@lamarbaptist.org](mailto:dallas@lamarbaptist.org).

## COMBINATION

**Emmanuel BC in Arp** is needing a FT youth & education minister. Send resume to [kelly@arpebc.org](mailto:kelly@arpebc.org).

**FBC Palestine** is searching for a FT associate pastor of worship and youth. Solid student ministry in place. Two morning worship services (traditional and contemporary) but no regular choir. Experience preferred, but not required. Submit resume to Tony Watson, senior pastor, at [tony@firstpalestine.org](mailto:tony@firstpalestine.org).

**Midway BC in Big Spring** is looking for a FT associate pastor of music and education. Send resume to [greglmoore71@outlook.com](mailto:greglmoore71@outlook.com).

**FBC Fairfield** is searching for a FT associate pastor of youth & recreation. Send resume and letter of interest to [pastor@fbcfairfield.org](mailto:pastor@fbcfairfield.org).

**Community BC in Ferris** is seeking a FT or PT youth and family pastor. Ordained and at least 5 years' experience preferred. Must be enthusiastic, personable, people-oriented, and willing to be active in local schools and in the community. Send resume to John Martinez at [john@cbcferris.org](mailto:john@cbcferris.org).

**Cowboy Church of Orange County** seeks an associate pastor of youth and discipleship with a desire to become senior pastor when the current pastor retires in June 2022. Could be bi-vocational or FT. Should have connection to the cowboy culture. Send resumes to [edalelee@hotmail.com](mailto:edalelee@hotmail.com) or mail to 673 FM 1078, Orange, TX 77652.

**FBC Munday** is looking for a FT family/worship pastor. This position will coordinate all aspects of youth ministry, assist in contemporary worship, and help with Awana & VBS volunteers with various children's ministry responsibilities. Housing is available. Send resumes to [wesclark9er@yahoo.com](mailto:wesclark9er@yahoo.com) or FBC Munday Search Committee, PO Box 718, Munday, TX 76371.

**Yorktown BC** is seeking a student and college pastor. Email resume to [jonathan@yorktown.cc](mailto:jonathan@yorktown.cc).

**Meadows BC in Plano** is looking for a worship and communication pastor to join our team. Please contact [searchteam@meadowsbaptist.org](mailto:searchteam@meadowsbaptist.org).

**Compass Fellowship of Waco** is seeking a PT/bi-vocational worship and youth leader for a church plant in the Waco area. Salary based on experience and availability. Send resume and video to [bkworley82@gmail.com](mailto:bkworley82@gmail.com).

## OTHER

**The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention in Grapevine** has openings for ministry assistants. To see job descriptions and to apply, visit [go.apply.ci/s/kajYm9V](http://go.apply.ci/s/kajYm9V).

**Oak Knoll BC in Haltom City** is needing a church media specialist immediately who is versed in all areas of media: broadcasting via YouTube, Facebook promotion, audio and visual recording, worship service PowerPoints, and teaching/equipping church members in aspects of media ministry. Contact pastor Grady Arnold for complete job description at 361-489-7640 or [oakknollbaptist@hotmail.com](mailto:oakknollbaptist@hotmail.com).

**The Mount Church** is seeking a family pastor who will be responsible for developing and growing adult community & growth group ministries and leading the NextGen ministry to ensure a strategic and vibrant discipleship ministry. Email resume to [jobs@themount.church](mailto:jobs@themount.church).

**Mobbyerly BC in Longview** is searching for a FT communications director. Benefits included. Send resume to Gail Moore at [gaim@mobbyerly.org](mailto:gaim@mobbyerly.org).

**Pleasant Hill BC in Tyler** is prayerfully seeking a FT minister to children and young families. Submit resume to Gib Baskerville at [gib@phbctyler.com](mailto:gib@phbctyler.com).

**FBC Portland** is searching for a FT associate pastor of family ministries. To request a job description and to submit a resume, email [ronearley@fbcportlandtx.org](mailto:ronearley@fbcportlandtx.org).

**Birchman BC** needs a church controller/accountant. Seeking ministry-focused individual. Willing to train software and procedures. Must demonstrate testimony of a heart for ministry and knowledge of accounting. Contact David Hain at 817-244-6490 or [david.hain@birchman.org](mailto:david.hain@birchman.org).

**Sylvania Church in Tyler** is searching for a FT pastor of families. If interested, visit [sylvaniachurch.com/apply](http://sylvaniachurch.com/apply).

**Kilgore College** is looking to fill the FT position of Baptist student ministry director. Request job description and/or send resume to Matt Korzeniewski at [ypastork@gmail.com](mailto:ypastork@gmail.com).

**Crossroads Baptist Association in Big Spring** is searching for a FT or bi-vocational associational mission strategist. A parsonage is available. Send resume to [brad.borgg@gmail.com](mailto:brad.borgg@gmail.com).

**Southcliff Church in Fort Worth** is looking for a refugee ministry intern to focus on meeting the physical, social, and spiritual needs of refugees in our community. The Mission2 internship program provides housing as you work with a cross-cultural ministry team. Email resume to Stu Cocanougher at [stu@southcliff.com](mailto:stu@southcliff.com).

**Pregnancy Help Center of West Houston**, a thriving non-profit, is looking for a business administrator to assist the executive. Send resume to Kelli McAnally [krcanally@phckaty.org](mailto:krcanally@phckaty.org).

**North Highland Hills BC** is seeking a PT website & video production associate to maintain & update the website. Work with video production team to produce, edit and record videos of worship services and other videos needed for church staff. Email resume to Danny Koonce at [dkoonce@nrhbc.org](mailto:dkoonce@nrhbc.org).

# WHAT'S UP NEXT?

2022 CALENDAR

FOR MORE ABOUT SBTC EVENTS OR TO VIEW A MORE DETAILED CALENDAR, [VISIT SBTEXAS.COM/EVENTS](https://www.sbtexas.com/events)



## HEART OF THE CHILD CONFERENCE

**APRIL 1-2** OKLAHOMA CITY

[heartofthechild.net](https://heartofthechild.net)



## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SUNDAY

**APRIL 3**

[sbtexas.com/cp](https://sbtexas.com/cp)



## ROLE OF THE PASTOR CONFERENCE

**APRIL 21** FBC COLLEYVILLE

[sbtexas.com/roleofthepastor](https://sbtexas.com/roleofthepastor)



## SHE STANDS/MUJERES FIRMES CONFERENCE

**APRIL 22-23** FBC MANSFIELD

[sbtexas.com/shestands](https://sbtexas.com/shestands)

## April

<b>1-2</b>	Heart of the Child Conference, Oklahoma City
<b>2</b>	Intro to DR & Phase I Training, FBC Linden
<b>3</b>	Cooperative Program Sunday
<b>8-9</b>	Capacitarte Regional Conference, Austin
<b>9</b>	Regional Bible Drill, First Odessa
<b>21</b>	Role of the Pastor Conference, FBC Colleyville
<b>22-23</b>	She Stands/Mujeres Firmes Conference, FBC Mansfield
<b>23</b>	Regional Bible Drill, Spring BC
<b>28</b>	Student Ministers Prayer Meeting, FBC Mansfield
<b>30</b>	Regional Bible Drill, SWBTS, Fort Worth

## May

<b>5-7</b>	Breathe Deep, Marriott Dallas Allen Hotel & Convention Center, Allen
<b>9-11</b>	Administrative Assistants Retreat, Calvary BC, San Marcos
<b>11-13</b>	Collegiate Roundup, Travis Avenue BC, Fort Worth
<b>13-14</b>	Capacitarte Regional Conference, Jezreel El Siembra, El Paso
<b>14</b>	State Bible Drill Finals, SBTC, Grapevine



**MAY 5-7**  
MARRIOTT DALLAS  
ALLEN HOTEL &  
CONVENTION CENTER

**MAY 11-13**  
TRAVIS AVENUE BC,  
FORT WORTH

[sbtexas.com/breathedeep](https://sbtexas.com/breathedeep)

[sbtexas.com/roundup](https://sbtexas.com/roundup)



FOR MORE SBTC EVENTS  
**SCAN THIS QR CODE** WITH  
YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA



**"WE GIVE BECAUSE THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM HAS BEEN A GREAT TOOL TO DO MINISTRY AROUND THE WORLD, BUT IT HAS ALSO BEEN KEY IN OUR VISION TO DO COLLEGIATE CHURCH PLANTING AND TO PARTNER WITH THOSE WHO ARE IN OUR STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS WHO ARE CALLED TO DO THE SAME."**

**RICHARD ROGERS, SENIOR PASTOR,  
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, HUNTSVILLE**



**"WHEN I NEEDED RELATIONSHIPS MOST, THE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION WAS THE CONDUIT FOR THAT TO HAPPEN— AND IT ONLY HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. THAT'S WHY WE GIVE, AND THAT'S WHY WE'LL CONTINUE TO GIVE."**

**CALEB TURNER, CO-PASTOR,  
MESQUITE FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**



# WE GIVE BECAUSE ...

**"SOME YEARS AGO, WE HAD A SHOOTING HERE IN EL PASO—ONLY A FIVE-MINUTE WALK FROM OUR CHURCH. THROUGH YOUR GIVING THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, WE WERE ABLE TO SEND COUNSELORS THE VERY NEXT DAY AFTER THE SHOOTING. WE WERE ABLE TO SEND FEEDING TEAMS AND TEAMS TO WASH CLOTHES FOR ALL THOSE WHO WERE AFFECTED [BY THE SHOOTING]. THAT WAS A MAJOR BLESSING TO THE CITY."**

**J.C. RICO, PASTOR, IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, EL PASO**



**"WE HAVE RESOLVED THAT WE WILL NOT MOVE BACKWARD IN OUR COOPERATIVE GIVING. WE WILL ONLY MOVE FORWARD. THERE ARE YEARS WHERE OUR BUDGET HAS BEEN TIGHT. COVID YEARS WERE TOUGH, RIGHT? EVEN IN THAT, WE MADE NECESSARY CUTS IN OTHER PARTS OF OUR BUDGET SO THAT WE COULD STAY COMMITTED TO THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT."**

**TODD KAUNITZ, LEAD PASTOR,  
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, LONGVIEW**

