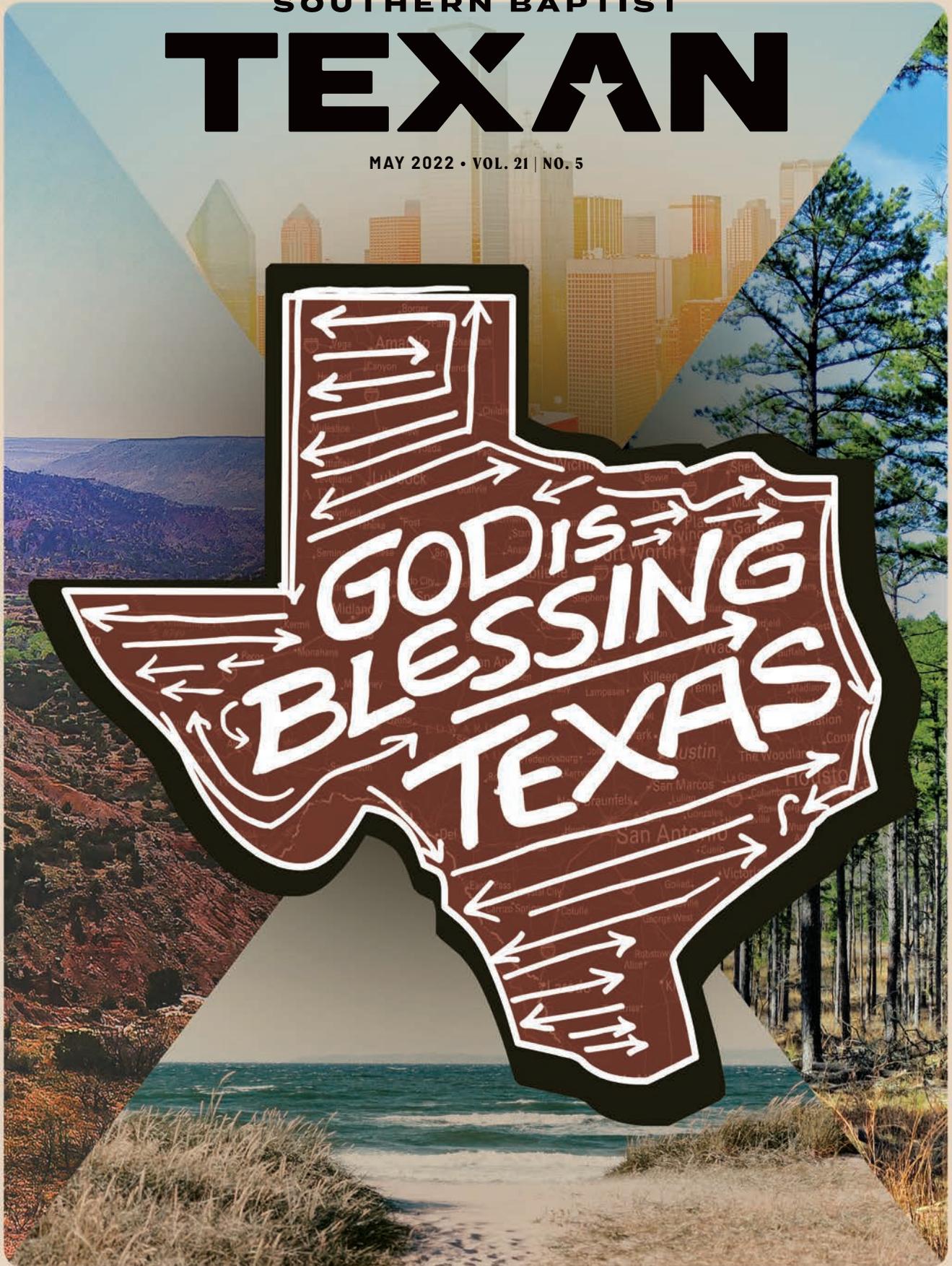


# SOUTHERN BAPTIST TEXAN

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# Broken leaders are the best leaders

I have always been fascinated with the topic of leadership and love to study how great leaders operate and execute vision. However, the longer I have been on my journey of learning to lead, the more I realize the best leaders are broken leaders.

The leaders I have come to love and desire to follow are those whose strength is in their brokenness. In fact, after a little more than two decades in ministry, I have come to a place where I don't trust a leader who has not walked through seasons of brokenness. As I read Scripture, I believe a pattern we see in great leaders is that God calls, He breaks, and then He blesses.

To be clear, brokenness in the life of a leader looks different for everyone. Noah's brokenness was different than Moses'. David's valleys were not the same as Paul's. All these men went through seasons of brokenness, yet they experienced God's favor and blessings. The lessons I have learned through great-yet-broken leaders in the Bible have forever been seared into my mind. Allow me to share the top three lessons with you:

## Don't equate brokenness with weakness

Often when we see someone experiencing a season of brokenness, we assume that person is weak. We question their mental and emotional capacities and default to the notion that the person can't handle their circumstances. However, this is the refining process the Lord uses to grow people to be next-level leaders. When leaders come to grips with their humanity, they begin to realize their deep need for God every moment of every day. Brokenness has a unique way of creating a new sense of dependence on the Lord.

## Broken leaders become humble leaders

We have all been in a room when a leader speaks and we are immediately put off by his or her lack of humility, overconfidence, or arrogance. I was once that type of leader until the Lord blessed me with seasons of brokenness. It was in those valley expe-



riences that I began to watch leaders who led with grace and humility. I was so encouraged and immediately drawn to leaders whose confidence was in the Lord, not in their own ability. I began to desire to be that type of leader, one who knows his brokenness and embraces the Lord's ability to use me in spite of me.

## Broken leaders have nothing to prove

Some people spend much of their lives trying to "be somebody." They feel like they have to do everything they can to prove themselves. While there is nothing wrong with working diligently to do the best job you can, broken leaders realize they have nothing to prove. A leader who understands and embraces brokenness realizes that anything good and worthy comes from the Lord. I love what Paul says in Acts 20:24: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord." Paul knew he was broken and that the only one he needed to please was the Lord. He knew his value was in the Lord and the ministry He had blessed him with. Leaders, when we understand our brokenness, we embrace His strength. When we lead in His strength, we have no need to prove anything to anyone, but only to please the Lord.

Broken leaders are the best leaders. They don't have to hide their fears and insecurities behind big voices or influential positions. They simply depend on the grace and goodness of God every moment of every day. I pray as you lead forward, you would not be ashamed of your brokenness but embrace His strength in you. I love you, I believe in you, I am in your corner!

Dr. Nathan Lorick  
SBTC Executive Director



Engage.  
Encourage.  
Equip.

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God has given my church and my family a greater capacity for love and a deeper dependence on the sovereignty of God through the process of adoption.

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# Prioritize ‘being’ over ‘doing’

**W**e live in a “doing” culture. When things seem broken, we fix them. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. If there was a problem, yo, we solve it *(let the reader understand)*.

Our culture respects hard work, and it should. Some of our favorite stories are those in which the protagonist sheds his or her rags for riches through a mix of fortune and hard work. Dear to our culture are the biographies of those achievers who have pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps *(let the reader of a different generation understand)*.

The problem is, we often carry this kind of mindset into the realm of our faith. When we feel broken, distant from God, like we’re not as far along on the path of faith as we think we should be, we search for something we can “do” to make things better. We turn to the world of Christian publishing, where there are literally thousands of titles offering to help us be more like Jesus, think more like Jesus, lead more like Jesus, and so on. We tell ourselves that if we would just read an extra chapter of the Bible per day or serve more in the church, we would start feeling closer to our Father.

Such things sound reasonable, but in actuality they merely offer “doing” solutions to a “being” problem. What do I mean? I mean that instead of pressing closer to the Lord when we struggle, consuming our minds with who He is, what He has done, what He will do, what He promises, and His unchanging character—in other words, “being” with Him—we try to undertake a series of actions designed to fix our own spiritual problems. We do what we’ve been conditioned to do since our formative years, namely, we attempt to pull ourselves up by our own spiritual bootstraps.

I want to remind you that one of Satan’s great tools of deception is the counterfeit. He waves the banner of freedom, yanking on patriotic strings that resonate in the deepest parts of us, in an attempt to thwart God’s design for gender. There’s no bigger fan of unconditional love than Satan, at least when he is attempting to con-

“  
If you find yourself in a season of spiritual struggle, may I challenge you to try to ‘do’ less for God and ‘be’ with Him more?  
”



vince a culture that God’s design for marriage is outdated and exclusionary. And you better believe the devil, in an attempt to keep you from sitting quietly with the Lord and sharing your heart daily, will be the loudest voice in your life screaming, “Do more for God! Do more for the church! Just do more!” Broken men lie on the bed of such beliefs clutching their best intentions.

I recently decided that of all the spiritual disciplines I observe, none will be more important than sitting and talking with my Lord. Instead of doing things to “make me stronger,” I just want to be a better friend and devoted follower of a God who has always been faithful to me and who is always right. I want to spend time thanking Him, telling Him what’s got me feeling flustered or angry, sharing with Him where I feel like I’m coming up short. Sometimes I just sit in silence and fight off a flood of thoughts as I learn to wait for Him to speak to me.

If you find yourself in a season of spiritual struggle, may I challenge you to try to “do” less for God and “be” with Him more? He didn’t create you because He needed your help getting things done. He created you to be in a relationship with Him, so that you may know the hope of His calling and the riches of His glorious inheritance.

Practice being with God, the much more difficult discipline of our time, and the doing will come.

# SAY WHAT?

## A SAMPLING OF WISDOM (AND A FEW CHUCKLES) FROM THE TWITTERVERSE



**Meredith Cook**  
@meredithcook716

Just had a 5-year-old in Chick-fil-A ask me if I knew Jesus.

Okay tiny evangelist thank you for challenging me to be bolder.



**Carey Nieuwhof**  
@cnieuwhof

Blaming others is a clear sign of weakness, not strength in a leader. Poor leaders blame. Great leaders take responsibility.



**Tony Evans**  
@drtonyevans

If the devil can't hinder you with difficulties, he'll choke you with distractions.



**Jarrett Stephens**  
@jarrettstephens

Friendships with people and faithfulness to Jesus is what matters most in life. Hope you're living for what matters today!



**David L. Allen**  
@DrDavidAllen

The two kinds of players you don't want on your team: those that won't do what you tell them and those that only do what you tell them. Bum Phillips



**Jackie Hill Perry**  
@JackieHillPerry

What if the goal shouldn't be to "get over it" but to work through it...



**Jason Paredes**  
@jasonparedes

Only someone who is shocked by the scandal of the cross can be a bearer of the cross' infinite power. None deserve it yet all have access to it.

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Church Expansion Certificate investments are available to Texas churches and ministries.





# Being the Change

North Texas pastor helps found council to facilitate communication with local police

KELLER

A couple of years after Kason Branch planted Creekstone Church in Keller, he had an idea that he believed would improve his community.

“With so much civil unrest between the police forces and citizens, I felt the need to foster better communication,” he said. “This was around the time that Botham Jean was killed in Dallas [2018], a very volatile time. I wanted to help people talk to one another within our community, rather than allowing things to spiral out of control.”



**We are called to be the salt of the earth, and as such, to be able to partner with others to do practical ministry in the community. I believe this is part of what God has called us to do.**



**KASON BRANCH**

“We wanted to get out ahead of future problems in our town so we could talk to one another in a civil way if something does happen,” Branch said.

The pastor spoke to then-Mayor Pat Magrail, who “had a heart” for this kind of initiative. Magrail put Branch in contact with then-Police Chief Michael Wilson, who was also enthusiastic about the possibilities. The small group of city leaders met and lined out the purpose and structure of an advisory council.

“The main thing we’d do when we came together is review police complaints and uses of force,” Branch said. “We also reviewed all internal affairs investigations. But we are not police officers, and we don’t get to say what happens. We offer advice and say what we think might be the best way forward for our community. I’m encouraged to say that the chief was always good to listen and take our advice seriously.”

Council members also participated in special trainings: active shooter drills, patrol ride-alongs, and school lockdown drills in order to better understand the daily work of a Keller police officer.

“I’ve always had a healthy respect for police,” Branch said. “It’s not about pointing a finger of blame at police officers, but about building better communications within our city. The police



officers welcomed this because it gives more people a chance to see that they are doing good work. Indeed they are!”

In 2020, the council’s value was proved when Keller was in the national news after a Keller police officer was accused, and later charged, after he was recorded on his body cam arresting and pepper spraying a Hispanic man for standing on the sidewalk videoing the arrest of his son for a traffic violation. The officer left the force and the chief issued a public apology to the victim. Having a council in place before the crisis helped with communication between the police and the city.

Branch recently transitioned off the council because his church plant has purchased a new facility in neighboring North Richland Hills—the church’s first permanent home. The fact that a pastor initiated the formation of the council and, after he resigned, a pastor followed him on the council was of significance to the city and to the churches.

“We are called to be the salt of the earth,” Branch said, “and as such, to be able to partner with others to do practical ministry in the community. I believe this is part of what God has called us to do. We do this because we believe the gospel should be lived out.

“This has strengthened my resolve that all Christians should be concerned about what’s going on in our communities Monday through Saturday. Without necessarily getting into the politics of the community, we should get into the betterment of the community,” he added.

To other churches, he said, “This is transferrable. I think it could be done in every community, and it would be welcomed in every community.”



Creekstone Church members enjoy getting out in the community to pray for people in the neighborhood and share the gospel.

COURTESY PHOTOS

“  
**This has strengthened my resolve that all Christians should be concerned about what’s going on in our communities Monday through Saturday. Without necessarily getting into the politics of the community, we should get into the betterment of the community.**  
 ”

KASON BRANCH



# PICTURE OF HEALTH

By Holly Carey | Texan Correspondent

## Church steps up in South Texas pastor's time of need during cancer battle

### FREER

**D**aryl Hall doesn't like to talk about himself. He doesn't necessarily like to talk about his prostate cancer battle, either—about the yearlong struggle to find treatment at the height of the COVID pandemic, the 400-mile trip from First Baptist Church of Freer to Irving (a suburb of Dallas) that he considered attempting weekly, or the grueling proton therapy that would be waiting for him once he arrived.



In fact, if you ask him about it, he'll probably tell you the doctors caught the cancer early and that he'll be fine.

There are things Hall likes to talk about, however, like his church. He loves to talk about his church—and how it has carried on the work of ministry in his absence.

FBC Freer has blessed Hall with the ability to stay in Irving rather than make a series of 1,000-mile round-trip commutes to finish his cancer treatments, which recently ended. All told, he was away from his church for about six weeks—a span of time he didn't initially believe was possible.

The trek north for treatment that first Sunday left him exhausted not only from the sheer miles and the therapy, but also because he bore the concerns common to those who shepherd a flock: church finances, scheduling, a concern of feeling disconnected from his congregation while being away for extended periods of time. Staying in Irving for the duration of the treatment and not commuting—as church leaders had encouraged him to do from the beginning—just didn't seem like an option.

The second Sunday, however, provided a relief that alleviated his and his wife Laura's concerns and weariness. They had been concerned about trying to rush home that Sunday to oversee a deacon ordination. Instead, they rested in knowing two other deacons had stepped up to oversee

the service with help from their wives and others in the church. Seeing that ordination performed without him gave him a peace that the church would be OK in his absence.

With treatment now complete, Hall said he watched the church flourish and is thrilled with the notion that it stayed on mission. The deacons led in services and prayer, made ministry calls, and ministered to Daryl and Laura, as well. Nearly every

congregant called while he was away, the children made gifts, and the ladies class made cards. The children's ministry also grew, and after an outreach in which free light bulbs were handed out in the community to share that Jesus is the light of the world, three new families joined the congregation of about 50.

Hall likens his congregation to the widow's mite and salt of the earth, saying,

“They give all they have—above their tithe, their work, their sweat. It is all about the Great Commission to them regardless of the pastor or anything else.”

His extended stay in DFW Metroplex has brought other blessings and revelations, as well. As a Tennessee native who moved to Texas only five years ago, getting started in ministry in the Lone Star State and making connections pastoring a church about an hour from the Mexico border proved difficult. Yet this year, he was able to meet and network with other pastors and leaders at the Southern Baptists of Texas Conven-



“  
**They give all they have—above their tithe, their work, their sweat. It is all about the Great Commission to them regardless of the pastor or anything else.**

”  
**DARYL HALL,  
 SPEAKING OF  
 HIS CONGREGATION**



**At Empower,  
Hall said people  
continually stopped  
to encourage and  
pray for him simply  
due to a picture  
taken and posted  
on Facebook ...**

tion's annual Empower conference—held February 28 and March 1 across the street from the Irving hotel where he had been staying. At Empower, Hall said people continually stopped to encourage and pray for him simply due to a picture taken and posted on Facebook by Alex Gonzales, a church health and leadership associate who works with the SBTC and had asked for prayer for the pastor.

These aren't incidental details to Hall. When first diagnosed, Daryl considered seeking treatment at MD Anderson in Houston, which would have been closer for him and Lau-

ra, but that plan ended up not working out. He now knows that, between the Facebook connections, Empower, and seeing First Baptist Freer thrive, that the Lord wanted him in Irving for a reason: to reacquaint himself with his first love and to confirm something he already knew—how healthy the church really is.

“Because if the church is not healthy because you're not there,” he said, “it's not healthy.”

Hall's faith has been central to healing and recovery. He has spent a lot of time praying, learning to be thankful, and reflecting on ministry. He has considered ministry careers versus the essence of the calling, asking himself, “Have you used your time and relationship with Christ wisely? Are you making disciples? Do you have a heart for the lost?” He said he has developed a thankfulness that God would include him in His mission. Even though Christ does not need us, Hall has been reminded, He chooses, wants, and uses us. And in recognizing his privilege in being in the service to his King, he asks himself now, based on Hebrews 12:28, “Am I making an acceptable sacrifice?”

With treatment now in the rearview, Hall is developing a sermon series on gratitude and has started a blog entitled “Living Freer,” in which he gives a devotional on thanksgiving for every day of treatment. In building the blog, it dawned on him that he needed to take his own advice rather than dwell on the cancer and being away from the church. He says God is using this season to teach him and show him “all the ways He has blessed me.”

The Halls are focused on what's ahead. They are working on a feature film titled “Armor,” about ministry for children, to benefit smaller SBTC churches. They are considering a barrel race and skeet shoot to raise funds, as well. All big ideas, all 100% for the sake of the mission.

Not that anything is too big for even the smallest of churches steeped in the power of the Holy Spirit and laser-focused on the gospel mission.

“I am humbled at the commitment of this tiny, multi-ethnic and multi-generational church,” Hall said. “These are very humble people with the deepest commitment to be the light of the world.”

# 4 ways pastor wives can bless their husbands

Proverbs 31:10-12 says, “An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.”

As the wife of a pastor who has served over 23 years in the ministry, I have seen my husband go through many difficulties, heartaches, and challenges. Ministry challenges can include, but are not limited to, trouble with staff or leadership in the church, the heavy burden of caring for and walking with members through grief, tragedy and heartache, and the multitude of changes brought on by the pandemic.

Our husbands also deal with personal issues such as health crises, financial problems, and issues with children. So, whatever the challenge your man is facing, you have the power to do him good and not harm all the days of your life. No matter the difficulty, there are some practical ways to support your pastor husband through a challenging season.

## PRAY

Cover your man with prayers. You know the details and specifics of the challenge he is facing more than anyone else, so you can bring those before the throne on behalf of your husband. Hold his hand and pray aloud for him, and pour out your heart for him in your quiet time with the Lord, as well.

## PRAISE

Offer very specific words of encouragement. When he has done something well, dealt with someone in a godly way, or shown grace in a difficult situation, offer heartfelt compliments that point out what you saw. Recently my husband preached a powerful sermon and gave a clear invitation for salvation. I was moved and expressed how God could use that to move in the hearts of others who heard it, even if they didn't respond in that particular moment. I didn't think much about it, but he later shared how many times he had thought back and been encouraged by those kinds of words. Use your words wisely to do him good.

## PROVIDE

Make your home a refuge and a place of peace and joy. Encourage him to get enough rest and sleep. Cook him a good meal. Do your part to make sure all aspects of the marriage are healthy (physical intimacy, spiritual intimacy, etc.).

## PARTNER

Show him that you are unwaveringly his partner in ministry. Ask God for discernment about challenges your husband is facing. Offer words of warning if the Holy Spirit has revealed something about a specific person or situation that he may not see. If you sense that he is wrong or might not be seeing something clearly, gently point out what God has impressed on you.

Praise God that He has called and equipped you to be your husband's helper and ask Him to help you do “do him good and not harm all the days of your life!”



*Aimee Shelton is the wife of Ivy Shelton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Waskom.*



# ‘Our work begins across the street’

West Texas pastor challenges his church to reach beyond its walls



THERE IS NO SBTC CHURCH FARTHER WEST IN TEXAS THAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF EL PASO

**A**mid a remote area of West Texas where serious crimes are a part of life, Immanuel Baptist Church continues to impact its city and grow in God’s mission.

Immanuel Baptist Church’s (IBC) lead pastor, Juan Carlos “JC” Rico, leads his church to stand tall in serving God and the community where the church has existed for more than 100 years—this despite the challenges they face being in a remote and dangerous place where drugs and human trafficking abound.

How remote? Currently, there is no Southern Baptists of Texas Convention church farther west in Texas than theirs. Additionally, IBC is closer to the capitals of Arizona and New Mexico than to the capital of the state it calls home. This has not prevented the church from making an impact in this community and around the world. This church has been able to actively serve through the SBTC and other local and international missionary projects it participates in.

One of the local projects that helps the church reach many people in the area is a private Christian school it founded more than 50 years ago. Immanuel Christian School serves

Immanuel Baptist Church members prepare boxes of food to impact their community.

Started in 1969, Immanuel Christian School serves about 500 students, making it one of the largest schools in the area, serving students from age 2 through 12th grade. The school is one of the strongest ministries of the church.





about 500 students, making it the one of the largest schools in the area, serving students from age 2 through 12th grade. The church considers the school one of its strongest ministries and a key evangelistic tool.

The school “helps us a lot to reach others, to grow, and to defend our faith through the Word of God,” said Rico, who also serves as a field ministry representative for the SBTC.

When Rico began pastoring this century-old church, he said realized it needed a plan in place to innovate and re-emerge. One of the things Rico has observed is that other churches in his area are not seeing growth or have even closed their doors. He said he believes IBC has been able to avoid those negative trends because it has evolved, especially in the way it works to reach others. The message of the gospel does not change, but according to Rico, times change and churches need to update themselves to be more effective.

“We seek to do what is most comfortable for us,” Rico said of the mindset that many

“I think we’ve made a mistake in entertaining people instead of offering families opportunities to grow. There is a lot to do, but it all starts across the street from our home. That’s where the mission is. That’s where it begins.”

J. C. RICO

churches have. “We must learn to reach other cultures, but unfortunately we limit ourselves, either by language, by culture, or by wanting to reach only those who are like us.”

IBC considers itself a multicultural and mission-oriented church. A year-and-a-half ago, it started a worship service in Spanish that has already drawn about 60 people. IBC’s motto is “Come to Christ, Grow in Christ and Go for Christ,” and under this vision, the church works to bring people to Christ, disciple them, and send them out to fulfill the Great Commission.

Rico firmly believes the size of the church should not impede fulfilling the Great Commission that Jesus left His followers. To do that, Rico says, churches must be intentional in teaching and encouraging the congregation every Sunday to reach out to others. It is important to understand, Rico added, that the church is not a club or a place of entertainment.

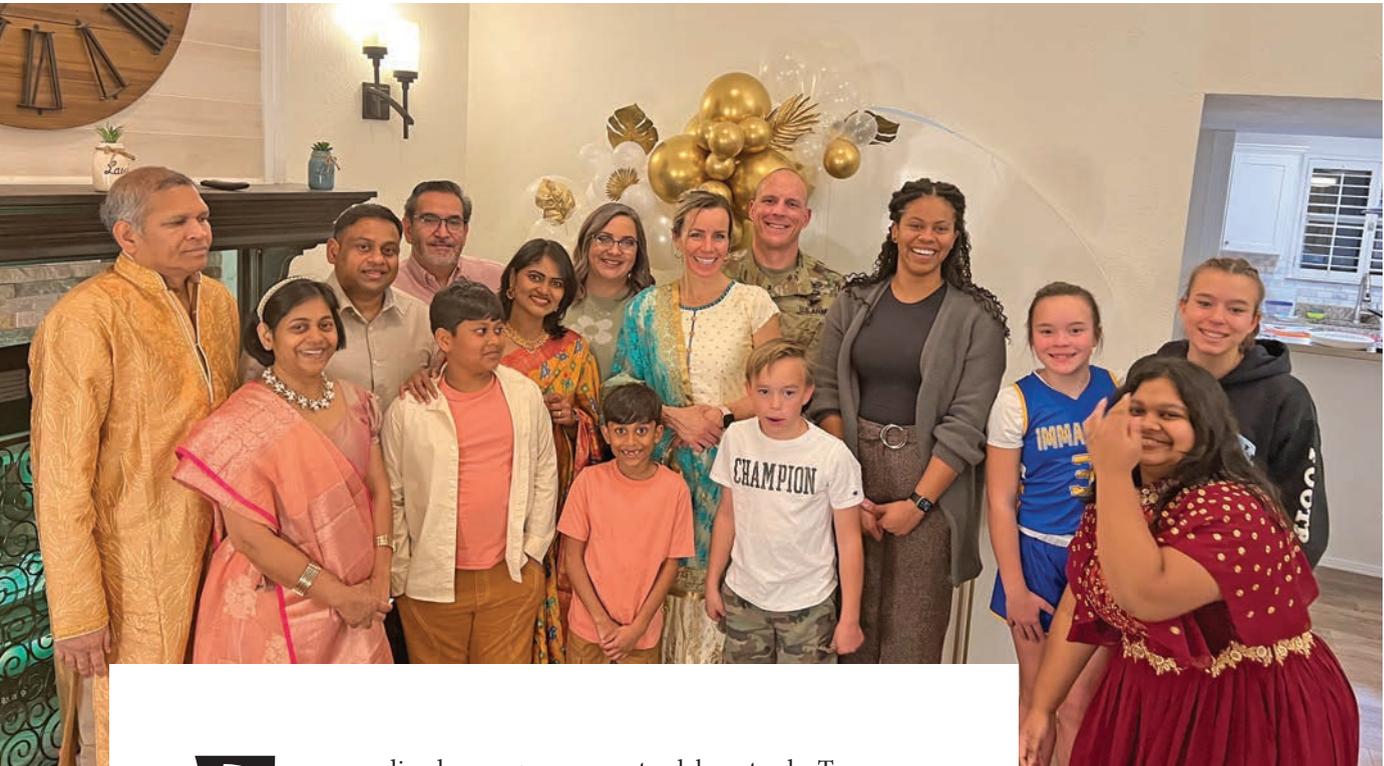
His love for serving and reaching the lost began at an early age. Rico, who is Mexican American, says that despite living in the U.S. with his missionary parents and siblings, they attended a church in Juarez, Mexico, throughout his childhood and adolescence. In this church, he was a part of teams that served and evangelized from house to house—which gave Rico a passion for evangelism. Today, that same passion is the engine that drives him to continue serving with his wife Rosie, to whom has been married for 30 years, and their four children.

“Our work begins across the street,” Rico said of the church’s mission. “I think we’ve made a mistake in entertaining people instead of offering families opportunities to grow. There is a lot to do, but it all starts across the street from our home. That’s where the mission is. That’s where it begins.”



# “Nuestro trabajo comienza al cruzar la calle”

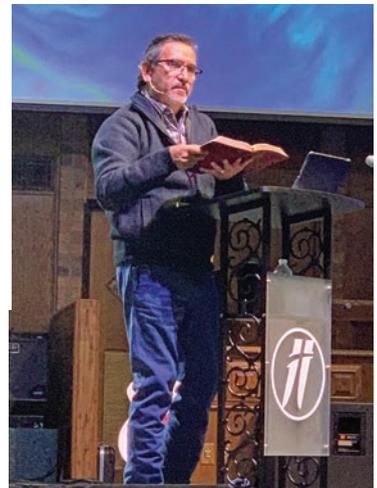
Pastor del oeste de Texas desafía a su iglesia a una misión fuera de sus paredes



**E**n medio de una zona remota del oeste de Texas en donde la trata de personas y las drogas son rampantes, la Iglesia Bautista Immanuel sigue siendo de impacto en su ciudad y creciendo en la misión de Dios.

El pastor principal de la Iglesia Bautista Emanuel (IBI), Juan Carlos Rico, está guiando a su iglesia a mantenerse firme en el servicio a Dios y a la comunidad en donde la iglesia ha perseverado por más de 100 años, a pesar de los desafíos que enfrentan al estar en un lugar muy remoto y peligroso en donde abundan las drogas y la trata de personas.

¿Cuán remoto se encuentran? Actualmente, no hay ninguna iglesia de la Convención de los Bautistas del Sur de Texas que se encuentre más al oeste que la suya. Además, la IBI está más cerca de las capitales de Arizona y Nuevo México que de la capital del estado al que llaman hogar. Sin embargo, esto no ha impedido que la iglesia tenga un impacto en esta comunidad y en todo el mundo. Esta iglesia ha podido seguir sirviendo activamente a través de la SBTC y de otras obras misioneras locales e internacionales que ellos realizan.





Uno de los proyectos locales que ha ayudado a la iglesia a alcanzar a muchas personas en su zona es una escuela cristiana privada fundada por la iglesia hace más de 50 años. La Escuela Cristiana Immanuel sirve a unos 500 alumnos, lo que la convierte en la escuela más grande de la zona, y recibe a alumnos de 2 años hasta el 12mo grado. La escuela es uno de los ministerios más fuertes de la iglesia, ya que la consideran una herramienta de evangelización.

La escuela “nos ayuda mucho a alcanzar a otros, a crecer y a defender nuestra fe por medio de la Palabra de Dios”, dijo Rico, quien también sirve como representante regional de la SBTC.

Cuando Rico comenzó a pastorear esta iglesia centenaria, dijo que se dio cuenta de que necesitaba un plan para innovar y poder resurgir. Una de las cosas que Rico ha observado es que otras iglesias en su área no están viendo crecimiento o incluso han cerrado sus puertas. Dice que cree que la IBI ha sido capaz de evitar esas tendencias negativas porque ha evolucionado, especialmente en la forma en que trabajan para alcanzar a otros. El mensaje del evangelio no cambia, pero según Rico, los tiempos cambian y las iglesias necesitan actualizarse para ser más efectivas.

“Buscamos hacer lo que es más cómodo para nosotros”, dijo Rico sobre la mentalidad que tienen muchas iglesias. “Debemos aprender a llegar a otras culturas, pero lamentablemente nos limitamos, ya sea por el idioma, por la cultura o por querer llegar sólo a los que son como nosotros”.

La IBI se considera una iglesia multicultural y orientada a las misiones. Hace un año y medio, iniciaron un culto en español que ya recibe a unas 60 personas. El lema de la IBI es “Ven a Cristo, Crece en Cristo y Ve por Cristo”, y bajo esta visión, la iglesia trabaja para traer a la gente a Cristo, discipularla y enviarla a cumplir la Gran Comisión.



**“Debemos aprender a llegar a otras culturas, pero lamentablemente nos limitamos, ya sea por el idioma, por la cultura o por querer llegar sólo a los que son como nosotros”.**



**J. C. RICO**

Rico cree firmemente que el tamaño de la iglesia no debe impedir el cumplimiento de la Gran Comisión que Jesús dejó a sus seguidores. Para ello, dice Rico, las iglesias deben ser intencionales en enseñar y animar a la congregación cada domingo a que busquen alcanzar a otros. Es importante entender, añadió Rico, que la iglesia no es un club, ni un lugar de entretenimiento.

Su amor por servir y alcanzar a los perdidos comenzó a una edad temprana. Rico, quien es mexicanoamericano, dice que a pesar de vivir toda su vida en los Estados Unidos con sus padres y hermanos misioneros, asistieron a una iglesia en Juárez, México, durante su infancia y adolescencia. En esta iglesia, formó parte de equipos que servían y evangelizaban de casa en casa, lo que dio a Rico una pasión por el evangelismo. Hoy, esa misma pasión es el motor que lo impulsa a seguir sirviendo con su esposa Rosie, con quien lleva 30 años de casado, y sus cuatro hijos.

“Nuestro trabajo comienza al cruzar la calle”, dice Rico sobre la misión de la iglesia. “Creo que nos hemos equivocado al entretener a la gente en lugar de ofrecer a las familias oportunidades de crecimiento. Hay mucho que hacer, pero todo empieza cruzando la calle de nuestra casa. Ahí es donde está la misión. Ahí es donde empieza”.

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# From addition to multiplication

## Southeast Texas church plant recently given building desires to plant churches of its own

### MONTGOMERY

**H**ope Church in Montgomery, near Houston, was meeting in an elementary school when COVID shut them down, but God had a plan for their future campus right next door. Now the church plant is building on nine decades of faithful service in the same community.

At Hope Church in Montgomery, older members weep with joy when they see people baptized because they “prayed for this for so many years.”

PHOTO SUBMITTED



**They saw the greater vision of God working, and they saw the life and the growth, and they saw it as a God thing to join that. I take that really seriously.**

**JUSTIN DANCER**



The plant was barely a year old when the pandemic hit, and since they were running 75 to 100 people each Sunday, the group was too large to meet in a home, lead pastor Justin Dancer said.

“There were no other places to meet,” he said, “so we went online.”

Right next to Lone Star Elementary was Honea Baptist Church, which the church plant had befriended during its short existence. Honea had been in the community for more than 90 years but was dwindling and struggling. The members saw God working at Hope Church and wanted to join Him.

“It wasn’t a merger. They disbanded, and most of their members joined our church,” Dancer said. Honea gave their campus, including five acres and about 15,000 square feet of building space, to Hope Church as a foundation for the future.

“They saw the greater vision of God working, and they saw the life and the growth, and they saw



it as a God thing to join that. I take that really seriously,” Dancer said, adding that Hope Church’s effectiveness in making disciples “honors the 91 years of Christ’s legacy at Honea.”

Hope Church has baptized about 60 people in its first three years, and they’ve made a practice of bringing the children—who normally meet for kids worship—into the worship center to watch baptisms.

“Every time that happens, I see these older, faithful people weeping,” Dancer said. “They’re just crying, so overjoyed.” Former members of Honea often tell Dancer, “We prayed for this for so many years,” and, “I can’t believe I lived long enough to see this.”

Hope Church has renovated the space given by Honea to reach a 21st century community, which is growing substantially. The church has two services on Sundays with 200-300 people attending, and each Wednesday night the campus is at capacity.

“I have like 15 high school students in my office for small group time,” the pastor said. “We literally use every single room on Wednesday nights.”

Since Dancer grew up in Texas with Wednesday night activities a strength of

the local church, it’s important to him that it’s a key part of Hope Church in a day when many churches are not emphasizing a midweek gathering.

Montgomery is a multi-generational area with about 20% each of five different generations showing up in a demographic study. Because of that, Hope Church is intentionally multi-generational.

“That’s why we have Wednesday night meals,” Dancer said. “I want older people sitting with middle age and young people having Jesus-centered conversations regularly, so we’re trying to create space for that.”

Montgomery is known by many who live there as a wealthy community.

“The greatest obstacle in our community, because of the affluence, is pretense,” Dancer said. “Outside, there’s money, big houses, nice cars, but on the inside, you would never know it, but everyone is a wreck. There’s huge amounts of debt, there’s family issues. It’s just covered up.”

What that means for the church, the pastor said, is they have to be a beacon of light, providing a place where people can be “authentically connected in Jesus-centered relationships.”

Hope Church in Montgomery seeks to reach broken people just as they are in an affluent community where it’s easy to hide behind pretense.

At top right, Wednesday night meals—where multiple generations can gather at a table for Jesus-centered conversation—are a key part of the church’s strategy.

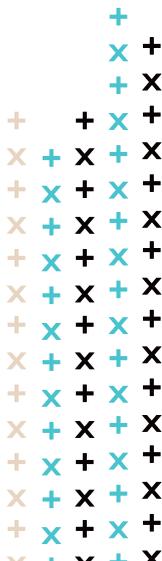
PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Honea Baptist Church, a congregation that ministered in Montgomery for nine decades, gave its campus to Hope Church as a foundation for the future.

Now the church, a three-year-old plant, already has two services, and Bible study is at capacity, the pastor said.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



We're also partnering officially to plant two other churches outside the Houston area, so we're at three right now with a vision of being a part of planting many more.



JUSTIN DANCER

"People can come as they are and be connected and loved and grow no matter where they're at," Dancer said.

The idea for Hope Church began when Dancer was on staff at Crossroads Baptist Church in The Woodlands and the pastor there asked him to plant a church on behalf of Crossroads. Dancer had previously served for six years in South Dakota planting churches with the North American Mission Board.

When Hope Church launched in April 2019, a core group of about 20 people from Crossroads was part of the average attendance that ranged from 50 to 100, Dancer said. They set a goal of helping to plant 25 churches in 25 years.

To facilitate that, Hope Church already has a church planting residency program and has trained and sent out one planter to Conroe, about five miles down the road.

"We're also partnering officially to plant two other churches outside the Houston area, so we're at three right now with a vision of being a part of planting many more," Dancer said.

Church planting is on the front lines of gospel work around the world, the pastor said, and training planters to establish effective, sustainable churches is his goal. Attrition takes out too many planters and pastors, Dancer said, and he wants to help them achieve long-term ministries in the communities where they plant.

"If anybody is reading this and has an interest in church planting, I would love to talk to them," he said.

# Breaking the bonds of worry

I admit it—I can be a worrier. That's a problem, given Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25 ("Therefore I tell you: Don't worry") and Paul's challenge in Philippians 4:6 ("Don't worry about anything"). I'm learning to overcome it, though, so maybe these suggestions will help you:



01

## Be honest with somebody about your worries

Some of us—especially Christian leaders—realize that worry is problematic, so we don't tell anybody when we do worry. Bearing worries alone, though, only increases the burden. Actually, worry is selfish (it ignores the offers of help from others who love us) and silly (it assumes no one else will understand). Don't listen to Satan, who tries to convince you to fight your battles alone.

02

## Recognize worry for what it is: a lack of faith

Writing those words is painful to me as a worrier, but I can't ignore the reality. Worry says, "I'm not convinced God is going to take care of this problem." Faith says, "I give it to You." One of my steps in overcoming worry is to confess my lack of faith, and I've learned that taking this step can itself be freeing—especially when I confess it to someone who wants to help shoulder my burden.

03

## Pray about what worries you

That's what Paul told us to do in the rest of Philippians 4:6—"but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Humbly cast your cares on God by talking to Him (Psalm 55:22, 1 Peter 5:6-7) and by asking others to pray with you. Frankly, most of us would worry less if we just prayed more.

04

## Read, memorize, and recite Jesus' words as often as you need them

I know that's a basic answer, but the Word trumps worries. Particularly, quote these words from Matthew 6:27: "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?" Worry doesn't accomplish anything, except hinder our relationship with our God—who, by the way, isn't worried about anything. Bury His Word deeply into your heart and mind, and let Christ give you His peace the world won't understand (Philippians 4:7).

05

## Take steps to address whatever worries you

I've learned over the years that I've sometimes worried foolishly about things that really weren't a problem in the first place (like, e.g., if I think I've made someone angry but choose not to ask if that's the case). Worry becomes a consuming fire to me when it would hardly be an ember if I quit fretting and started doing something. Maybe that's the case with you, too.



*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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# NEAR

By Jane Rodgers | Texan Correspondent

## FROM JACKSBORO TO ROMANIA, SBTC DR TEAMS ANSWERING CALL

### SUCEAVA, Romania

The flood of thousands of Ukrainian refugees that began pouring over the Romanian border at Siret, near Suceava, in late February diminished to a daily trickle of 100-200 by April, said Southern Baptists of Texas Convention DR associate Wally Leyerle. But the heart-wrenching stories of the survivors remain as the possibility of another refugee tidal wave looms.



# AND FAR

# AS THEY FLEE, UKRAINIANS ARE FALLING INTO THE ARMS OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

## The task

“Their stories are horrific,” Leyerle said, recalling accounts shared by Ukrainian refugees during his March 21–April 2 trip to Romania, where he served as part of a team of six Southern Baptist Disaster Relief leaders representing SBDR teams from California, Missouri, and the SBTC.

“Our job was to determine what was going on at the border and how Southern Baptists can help partner with Romanian Baptist associations and IMB missionaries ... to figure out what future teams would do,” Leyerle said, adding that his team was aided by an IMB missionary and Catalin Croitor, pastor of Betleem Baptist Church in Suceava, whose congregation is part of the Suceava Regional Romanian Baptist Association which he also directs.

The situation at the border was orderly when the SBDR team arrived, Leyerle said. The Romanian government responded quickly in the early days of the crisis. Soon, nongovernmental organizations assisting refugees with everything from documentation to supplies to baby and pet needs to healthcare sprouted up.

The SBDR team and Romanian Baptist churches established a border station to provide tea, coffee, charging stations, assistance directing refugees to the proper resources, and spiritual comfort.

They talked to the survivors, praying with them—distributing Bibles and information. They also offered hope, partly through a digital engagement tool launched by Send Relief and IMB missionaries.

At the Baptist border site, a large blue and yellow banner produced by Leyerle’s team features a QR code linked to a website in the Ukrainian language called “Hope for Ukraine,” containing a clear gospel presentation.

IMB President Paul Chitwood, who again visited the Romania-Ukraine border in early April, noted that the QR code had been made available to “5 million Ukrainians” and that “thousands of gospel conversations” had ensued.



## The stories

The refugees’ stories were heartbreaking, Leyerle said, adding he had heard accounts of sexual violence and mass killings. One survivor showed him a photo of an unexploded Russian missile lodged in an apartment. Many cried openly, often saying had lost everything: their homes bombed, their bank accounts inaccessible, their businesses destroyed.

“They came to us with horrendous, brutal stories ... things we had not heard, things you cannot print,” Leyerle said.

Buses brought other refugees to the border, too.

Many displaced remain in Ukraine, Leyerle said, noting reports of some 50,000 to 100,000 temporarily staying just north of the border, lodged in parks and empty buildings. Romanian Baptist churches, which have opened their facilities to refugees and given sacrificially, are sending supplies to these survivors, he added.

The region’s complex geopolitical situation is made even more challenging by the fact that the Ukrainians and Romanians, despite a shared border, do not share a common language.

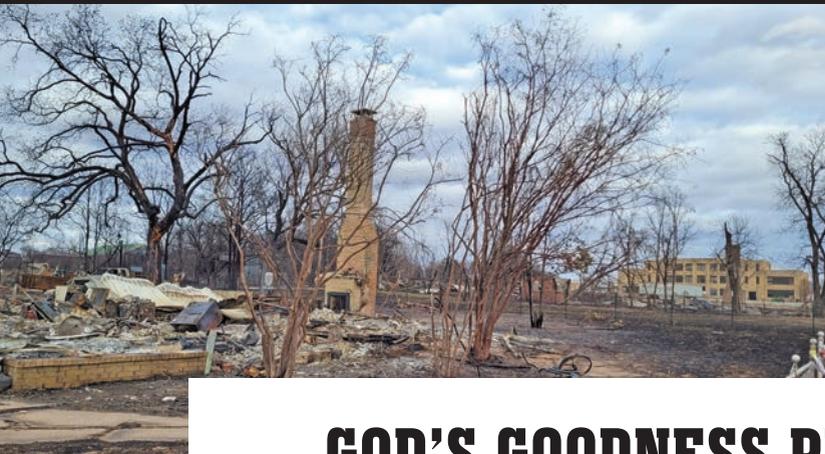
A second multistate SBDR team, including SBTC DR volunteer Terry James, left for Romania on March 30. SBTC DR Director Scotie Stice deployed to Romania April 7-14.

◀ Lynn Kurtz and Ted Bedford pray with Ukrainian refugees at the Siret border.

PHOTO BY WALLY LEYERLE

▲ SBTC DR volunteer Terry James (left) talks with Iaroslav, a survivor from Bucha, who described fighting and “friends dead in the street” before he escaped with family. James said each time someone asked why the volunteers had come so far to help, she replied, “God sent us because He loves you.”

IMB PHOTO



## GOD'S GOODNESS PROCLAIMED IN EYE OF STORM, THROUGH THE FLAMES

**M**arch winds turned destructive so far this year, spawning tornadoes and spreading wildfires in rural cities such as Jacksboro, Gatesville, and Carbon. Residents, disaster relief volunteers, first responders, churches, and pastors met the challenges of what was a stormy, dangerous spring.

### Jacksboro: 'God saved us'

"Is that normal?" Adam Lazarine's teenage daughter, Keslie, asked her dad as the pair sat in the carpool line at Jacksboro Elementary at 3:40 p.m. on March 21. Amid tornado warnings, Lazarine, pastor of Live Oak Baptist Church in Jacksboro, had picked up Keslie at the middle school and was now waiting for fourth-grader Kale.

"You could hear it ... a constant roll of thunder. The sky was dark, almost black. A wall of cloud filled the horizon as high as you could see," Lazarine said.

Things were by no means normal.

His pickup sandwiched within a line of cars, Lazarine saw the school principal, Michael Qualls, urging everyone inside. Lazarine started Keslie toward the building and rushed to vehicles behind his to spread the warning. Eventually, he followed the group inside as Qualls notified the cars in front of Lazarine's and hurried to pull down metal storm doors on one side of the school building.

A harrowing video from school security cameras shows Qualls scrambling to reach another interior hallway and shut storm doors as lights flicker and debris flies, milliseconds before the tornado hits, shearing off the roof of the adjacent gym.

"Why God chose me to be in that situation at that time, I don't know," Qualls told Dallas-based KDFW television.

As the doors descended, Lazarine found himself inside a long hallway with students, teachers, and Qualls. Ceiling

tiles fell, and the pastor recalled glimpsing the gym ceiling torn away.

Huddled inside along the interior walls, the students and adults stayed safe. Lazarine's background in sports medicine had prepared him to stay calm in emergencies, but his emotions broke as he found his son uninjured in another hallway after emergency crews arrived.

"God saved us," Kale told him.

"Yes, he did," Lazarine replied. Even weeks later, the pastor's voice cracks in the retelling. He praised both school and city officials for their rapid responses, maintaining he did nothing heroic but "just what needed to be done."

Jacksboro is a small community, emphasis on *community* ... where everybody knows everyone's name. The principal thanked Lazarine for his help, and days later, Sunday, on the courthouse lawn, even grabbed him in an embrace. Qualls had seen the video of his narrow escape.

"If you hadn't done what you did, I wouldn't have been able to be where I was," Qualls said.

Lazarine noted many Jacksboro residents who have said their routines inexplicably varied on that day.

That's God's sovereignty, Lazarine said. "He took care of everybody. But even if God had allowed something catastrophic, He would still be sovereign. He is still on His throne."

Things could have been much different, Lazarine admitted. Throughout the community and even at the church,

folks are doing clean up and restoration, but, thankfully, “we did not have to do any funerals,” he said.

Shortly after the tornado, Live Oak church members started preparing food for first responders, coordinating with city officials. They served many at the church and transported food to the downtown fire department, the staging area for emergency management teams.

A Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Disaster Relief quick response kitchen quickly deployed to the church to assist, as did chainsaw crews from SBTC and Arkansas Baptist DR, who completed several jobs. An SBTC DR laundry and shower unit, with staff, deployed to Live Oak, too.

Jacksboro citizens also actively engaged in recovery efforts, clearing roads with their tractors and heavy equipment common to a farming community.

Nine people were hurt and 90 homes destroyed in Jacksboro by the tornado, officials said. No students in school that day were injured. The March 21 storm system spawned more than 25 tornadoes in Texas, damaging 1,000 homes before moving eastward into neighboring states, according to news reports.

SBTC DR crews also deployed to the Gilmer area to assist feeding and tornado recovery efforts there.

### Wildfires sweep Central Texas

Wildfires fanned by damaging winds tore through the dry Central Texas region in mid-March, igniting and re-igniting in sections of Eastland County. Much of the town of Carbon was destroyed. Jody Forbus, who pastors Carbon Community Church, serves as volunteer fire chief, and is the owner/operator of the Carbon Ag & Outdoors store, helped lead local first responders. The business and church became centers for recovery efforts.

Ron Lowe, pastor of First Baptist Church of Flat, near Gatesville, helped transport a trailer and van full of supplies to Carbon, where he spoke with Forbus. Little did Lowe know that very soon, he, too, would be fighting fires.

The next Sunday, March 27, Lowe projected slides of the Carbon damage in church and the congregation prayed for both town and congregation.

Church let out at noon, but by 2 p.m., Flat itself was being evacuated, Lowe recalled. Fires raged within a few hundred yards of many church members’ homes. Lowe assisted two elderly couples whose homes were near the flames before returning home to gather documents and take his wife to her mother’s home in Hamilton.

Lowe returned with bottled water and supplies for firefighters. He found Harrold Baustian, a deacon in his 70s who serves as volunteer fire chief, in the field manning a fire truck. The pastor offered to help; Baustian directed him to extinguish flare-ups, pockets of fire springing up and threatening homes even as airplanes dropped water and fire retardant on the main blaze.

Lowe spent a day-and-a-half putting out flares. He has since officially joined the local VFD.

FBC Flat also opened its doors to emergency responders, who staged at the church. Members cooked for firefighters, and neighboring churches generously sent food and supplies. Unity Church of Copperas Cove was among these, as were congregations from Gholson and Belton.

“We were overwhelmed by [help from] all the churches and community,” Lowe said. “Firefighters came from California to Florida to help. ... The least we could do was feed and nurture them.”

It took a village. Or a Central Texas community, Lowe mused.

Referencing the Golden Rule, the pastor added, “All the glory goes to God. ... He brought us together in unity to be the example of love.”



MONDAY  
JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>

5:30PM

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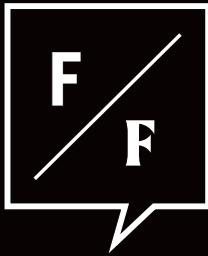
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# FACES OF THE FAITHFUL

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



## AMANDA GLADDEN

▶ Age: 27

▶ Total Years in Ministry: 5 ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Family Associate to Children, Tate Springs Baptist Church, Arlington (3)**

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

The biggest challenge in my ministry right now is having enough volunteers for nursery/pre-K. We are blessed with many families with little ones and are honored to come alongside parents to care for, love, and teach their children. I have a wonderful group of volunteers but I am struggling to add new volunteers to our team.

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

I have been celebrating the children's desire to read the Bible! Our kids are hungry for the Word of God. They are attentive in Bible study, quick to search for Scripture, and are excited to volunteer to read in class.

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

I have learned to ask God for help and believe that He will provide exactly what is needed! Whether I am writing a lesson, planning an event, or scheduling volunteers, I know that I am incapable of doing it on my own and that it is only through God's grace, power, wisdom, and provision that these things can be done.



## BLAKE WHITE

▶ Age: 39 ▶ Spouse/Children: **Alicia/Josiah, Asher, Karis, Knox, & Bo**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: 12 ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Lead Pastor, South Side Baptist Church, Abilene (5)**

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

As we are seeking to practice regenerate church membership, we recently shifted from elder-rule polity to elder-led congregationalism. This has increased member ownership and fueled the culture of discipleship we are seeking to cultivate.

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

We have nine mission trips on the calendar so we are praying that God produces an increased missional lifestyle among our members through these and other ordinary means of grace.

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

I would love prayers for increased love of Christ and increased hatred of sin. My people most need my holiness. If I am being sanctified, everything else will work out.



## CHARLES LEE

▶ Age: 51 ▶ Spouse/Children: **Carol/Caleb, Grant, & Truett**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: 28 ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Lead Pastor, Acts Fellowship Church, Austin (23)**

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

Our annual churchwide family retreat that we had put on hold the past two years due to the pandemic resumed this year, and we are currently in the process of building our own church building. We are excited about the young people we are reaching in the greater Austin area with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The age of most of our congregation is between the early 20s to 30s.

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

Cultivating and nurturing your own personal walk with God becomes even more vital as you age and as the church grows. Unless I am abiding in Christ Jesus, I have nothing to give.

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

Pray for our church to abide in Christ (personal relationships with God), to unite as a church in the gospel (corporate unity for kingdom causes), and to be faithful in maturing believers to become healthy, reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ.


**CHARLIE ROBINSON**

 ▶ Age: **38** ▶ Spouse/Children: **Lyndsey/Aiden (14), Gracie (10), & Addilynn (1)**

 ▶ Total Years in Ministry: **20** Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church, Athens (2)**
**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

Two new members shared ministry news: one told a story of getting to know their neighbors because of the use of Bless Every Home and the other shared how they are getting involved in the Abundant Life Pregnancy Center.

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

Dr. Ted Elmore once said, "You are either in a storm, coming out of a storm, or about to go into a storm." This helps me relate to the widow who will, for the rest of her life, suffer from losing the love of her life and to the senior whose grandchild has no connection to the church, along with everyone in between.

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

I need the Lord's wisdom, His eyes in all situations, and His strength and resources to see the gospel work to completion.


**EDWARD BELTRAN**

 ▶ Age: **52** ▶ Spouse: **Lorena** ▶ Total Years in Ministry: **26**

 ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Genesis Baptist Church, San Antonio (15)**
**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

We will celebrate 15 years as a church since beginning as a church plant.

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

I've learned to trust and obey the Lord in all things because we do not see the big picture in God's plan.

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

Please pray for my family, that they will be protected from the enemy's tactics in spiritual warfare.


**PETRA PACHECO**

 ▶ Age: **57** ▶ Spouse/Children: **Frank/Frank, Jonathan, Isaac, & Giovanna**

 ▶ Total Years in Ministry: **20** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor's Wife, Primera Iglesia Hispana, Fort Worth (15)**
**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

A past student of mine and her mother recently contacted me and now they are members of our congregation.

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

We want to see everyone involved in sharing the good news of salvation.

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

Pray for strength for us and for us to be an active church.


**MICHAEL SHEETS**

 ▶ Age: **59** ▶ Spouse/Children: **Theresa/Marcus, Jarrod, Mai, Alexa, & Micah**

 ▶ Total Years in Ministry: **32** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Abundant Faith Baptist Church, Humble (4)**
**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?**

In March of this year, we celebrated two years of never closing our doors, no church members' lives lost to COVID-19, and a resurgence in attendance and giving due to the recognition that our church "stood through it all."

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

I have maintained, throughout the pandemic that the Lord never told us to close our doors, in spite of the fact that church doors all over our community had closed. I have learned that heeding the Word of the Lord for our church is what matters, which I know I will never forget because I will be able to stand before God knowing that I answered only to Him and to no man.

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

Please pray that Abundant Faith Baptist Church acquires the relationships, resources, and knowledge to fulfill the vision that God has given us.



## SBTC BLACK CHURCH NETWORK RESTRUCTURES, LOOKS AHEAD

The SBTC's African American Fellowship has unanimously decided to rebrand itself as the Black Church Network (BCN) and is forming teams to engage in cooperative missions efforts across Texas.

BCN serves in harmony with the SBTC in fulfilling the Great Commission through support of the Cooperative Program. Member churches will aim to help one another in missions, evangelism, compassion ministries, church planting, and church growth while promoting the services offered by the SBTC. The network is currently working to inform churches about its purpose and objective and forming ministry teams.

"As pastors, associate pastors, and leaders in the black community, it's always beneficial to connect with others who are serving in similar positions," said Tony Mathews, SBTC's senior strategist for missional ministries. "The network will be a source of encouragement, as many of the participants experience some of the some challenges in ministry. This is a great opportunity for our leaders and churches to expand the great work they are already doing."

For more information, e-mail Mathews at [tmathews@sbtxas.com](mailto:tmathews@sbtxas.com).



## TASK FORCE TO REVIEW SBTC SEXUAL ABUSE POLICIES, PRACTICES

LONGVIEW—SBTC President Todd Kaunitz, pastor of New Beginnings Baptist Church, has appointed a seven-member task force to review the convention's policies and practices on sexual abuse prevention.

Kaunitz appointed the task force in response to a motion made by Michael Criner—pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro—and approved by messengers during the SBTC Annual Meeting in November 2021.

The task force consists of: Justin Arnold, chairperson (New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview), Adam Mason (Houston's First Baptist Church), Joyce McKinley (Rowlett Friendship Baptist Church), Christy Piles (Emory Baptist Church), Spencer Plumlee (First Baptist Church of Mansfield), Tamera Turner (Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church), and Criner.



## FINAL PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR ROUNDUP COLLEGIATE EVENT

Registration is ongoing and final preparations are being made for Roundup, SBTC's headline collegiate event, set for May 11-13 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Roundup is a collaborative learning event that champions church-based collegiate leaders. It's also a venue where churches and their leaders can make meaningful connections with one another.

"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," SBTC Collegiate Ministry Associate Mitch Tidwell said.

Shane Pruitt (North American Mission Board), Dhati Lewis (Blueprint), and Austin Wadlow (The Commons Church) will be the keynote speakers at the event. Visit [sbtxas.com/roundup](http://sbtxas.com/roundup) for more information and to register.

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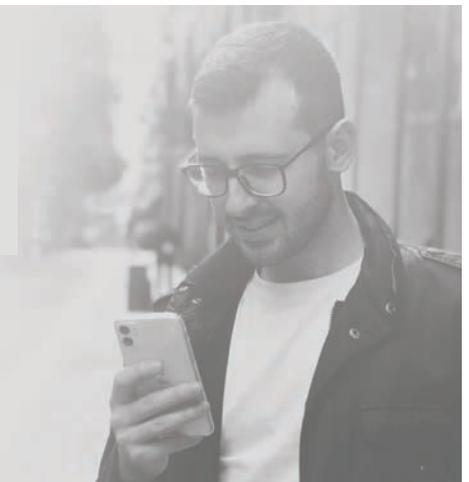
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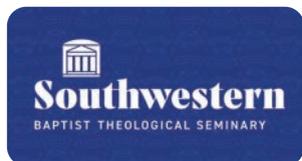
## SWBTS BOARD APPROVES \$37.3 MILLION BUDGET

The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees has approved the proposed fiscal year 2023 budget of \$37.367 million, representing a 5.86% increase over the current year. The budget includes a 3% cost-of-

living increase for faculty and full-time staff, a 3% increase in tuition and fees, as well as targeted investments in Hispanic programs, technology infrastructure, and other campus improvements.

"It is my joy to report to the board of trustees that the state of Southwestern Seminary is strong, and it is growing stronger every day by God's grace," Adam W. Greenway, president of Southwestern Seminary and Texas Baptist College, said in his report to the board during the April 5 plenary session.

Additionally, Danny Roberts—executive pastor of North Richland Hills Baptist Church—was re-elected to role as chairman of the board.



*Information from SWBTS was used in this report.*

## SBTC PASTOR AMONG TRIO TO BE NOMINATED FOR SBC PRESIDENT

Bart Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Farmersville, is among three men who have been announced as candidates for the office of SBC president. Messengers will vote during the SBC Annual Meeting in Anaheim, Calif., June 14-15.



Barber will also serve as chairman of the Committee on Resolutions at the June meeting—a position he was appointed to by current SBC President Ed Litton, who has opted not to seek a second term. Two other candidates for SBC president had been announced as of press time: Florida pastor Tom Ascol; and Robin Hadaway, senior professor of missions at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Texan will publish interviews with each of the candidates in its print and online platforms in June.

*Information from Baptist Press was used in this report.*



# Alumni & Friends Luncheon at SBC Annual Meeting

ANAHEIM, CA | JUNE 15, 2022 | 12 PM



Join us for lunch in Anaheim.

[SWBTS.EDU/SBC22](http://SWBTS.EDU/SBC22)



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.

# ADOPTION HAS INCREASED OUR CAPACITY TO LOVE



**I**'ve been a member of the church I pastor since 1998. I found Ridgewood in the yellow pages after I came back home to Southeast Texas from college. Shortly after I joined, I became the principal and athletic director for five years of the church's private school. During those five years, the church relocated to Port Arthur. In the fall of 2004, I became the lead pastor.

My long tenure serving at a church in my hometown is unique. My family dynamics are even more unique. My wife, Kerri, and I met at Ridgewood in 1998. I guess you could say I found her in the yellow pages, too. Kerri and I had plans for a large family that would grow through both biological and adoptive children. We just had no idea that adoption alone was how the Lord would expand our household.

Our adoption journey began in the fall of 2005. Kerri called me while evacuated for Hurricane Rita to let me know that we had been chosen to adopt two little girls. Two weeks later in a parsonage that was half-livable, we welcomed a five- and two-year-old into our family. They are now 21 and 18.

Shortly after, we had the opportunity of our lives to take home our third daughter from the hospital as a newborn. At the time we might not have called it the opportunity of our lives, as we were anxious the unknown. Our daughter, who is now 14, has Trisomy 21: Down syndrome. We found out about her at 8 p.m. on a Thursday night and took her home at noon on Friday, clueless of the stressful joyride we were embarking on.

**I tell others that adoption increases your capacity to love as you experience and understand God's love more fully, knowing that He has adopted you.**

We had the blessing of getting our next two children at birth, as well. Our only boy, and fourth child, is now 12. He is a typical redhead. Our caboose, who is our fourth daughter and is Black, is now 11 years old. We are a diverse family that gets plenty of stares everywhere we go.

There are several things I share with folks about adoption. First, I'll always say that growth is in the process. The growth is in the journey and it is humbling, as adoption exposes your selfishness and the idols you have about what you want your family to look like and be like. It's gut-wrenching when you and your spouse go through agency paperwork listing which kids you're willing to take. You see how selfish you are as you rate how likely or not likely you are to take a life into your home based on their ethnicity, disabilities, or deformities.

Second, I tell others that adoption increases your capacity to love as you experience and understand God's love more fully, knowing that He has adopted you. It is a beautiful picture of the gospel.

Third, I share how adoption teaches you how to depend heavily on the sovereignty of God. There are many disappointments and roadblocks along the way. We Americans pretty much control our own lives; if we want something, we know how to get it. If we can't afford something, we figure out a way to make it happen or use a credit card. When you go through the process of adoption, you realize that this is an area you simply can't control.

Our kids have only known one church. Ridgewood has been a blessing to our family and has grown along with us in our journey. At one point, we had 21 adopted children in our congregation, and the church has paid out around \$30,000 in adoption grants to members. Ridgewood is a safe place to be vulnerable about your ups and downs. It's a place where it is OK to be not OK. Much of this vulnerability has been birthed through the church standing by us in our unique and unusual journey as a family over the last two decades.

I need to share how the adoption of our daughter with Down

syndrome has changed us all and has led Ridgewood to lead the way in Southeast Texas in serving the No. 1 unreached people group in North America: people with special needs and their families. For the last four years, we have hosted Night to Shine (NTS), sponsored by The Tim Tebow Foundation, which is a prom night for people with special needs. NTS SETX has allowed us to reach over 200 individuals with special needs and their families, host over 500 volunteers from the community, and have over 25 community sponsors. After our first NTS, the matriarch of our church who, with her husband, founded the church in 1958, stood up and said, "I've been here over 60 years, and this is the best thing I've ever seen us do." That says volumes, as Ridgewood has a rich history of outreach that predates me. We're experiencing the fruit of many that have gone before us.

What's my story? God has given my church and my family a greater capacity for love and a deeper dependence on the sovereignty of God through the process of adoption.

**Ridgewood has been a blessing to our family and has grown along with us in our journey. At one point, we had 21 adopted children in our congregation, and the church has paid out around \$30,000 in adoption grants to members.**



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



# Church Positions

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

## PASTOR

**Northrich BC in Richardson** is seeking a FT senior pastor who has a demonstrated heart for evangelism. He must have dream, vision, drive, and a "builders" mentality. Creative thinking will be crucial to lead a financially-solid church in transition, which has resolved to renew/revitalize for the glory of God. Send resume to davidbaty6@gmail.com.

**Cornerstone Community Church of Leander** is prayerfully seeking a FT lead pastor to carry out our church vision and mission through preaching, teaching, and discipling, empowering our church to reach the lost in the rapidly growing Austin metro area. Email resume and cover letter to psc@cornerstonecommunity.com.

**Mount Olivet BC in Fred** is seeking a FT pastor. Send resumes to mountolivetpastorsearch@gmail.com or Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 120, Fred, TX 77616.

**Rosanky BC** seeks a FT pastor. Email resume to Marc Haynes at 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.

**Fairview BC in Rhome** is seeking a FT senior pastor. Submit a cover letter and resume to 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 resumerbccommerce@gmail.com.

**FBC Wellington** is searching for a FT pastor. Send resumes to firstbaptistwellington@gmail.com.

**FBC Jefferson** is searching for a FT/PT/bi-vocational pastor. Email resume to 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@embarqmail.com.

**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, calebandalysawallace@gmail.com.

**Second BC of Jacinto City in Houston** is seeking a PT bilingual (English/Spanish) pastor who is evangelistic and mission oriented. Send resume to SecondBaptistJC@outlook.com.

**Primera 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.

**Calvary BC in Rusk** is seeking a bi-vocational conservative pastor. We are a small SBTC congregation. We have no parsonage. Please send resume to joan.robbins72@gmail.com.

**FBC of Medina** is searching for a FT pastor. Send resume to pastorsearch@fbcmedina.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 swbcplainview@gmail.com.

**Lakeway BC in Trinity** is seeking a FT/bi-vocational pastor. SBTC church with average worship attendance of 30-50. Please send resume to Scott Newport at lakeway12748@gmail.com.

**Piney Grove BC in Leesburg** seeks a PT pastor. Send resume to pineygrove4942@gmail.com.

**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 martycyper@yahoo.com.

**Barnum FBC** is seeking a bi-vocational pastor for a small country church. Average attendance is 40. Send resume to 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 or PSC, 2702 E Pasadena Blvd, Deer Park, TX 77536.

**Weaver BC in Saltito** is currently seeking a pastor for a small church with a big heart. Email resume to rfwelling@ssisd.net.

**Tabernacle BC in Redtown**, affiliated with SBTC, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor in a rural area with opportunity for growth. Average attendance 50-60. Send resume to kenzie.

johnson072728@gmail.com.

**FBC Sargent**, an SBTC church, is seeking a PT pastor on Wednesday evenings through Sunday mornings. Need vision to help grow our congregation. Averaging 50-60 Sunday attendance. Send resume to FBC, PO Box 4185, Sargent, TX 77404 or email to rmhtax@gmail.com.

**Birth of Hope BC in Cottonwood Shores**, a small church in a town of 1800 and bordered by Marble Falls and Horseshoe Bay, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to help reach this growing area. Send resume to BOH@nctv.com or Birth of Hope BC, 621 Magnolia Ln, Cottonwood Shores, TX 78657.

## MUSIC

**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@fbthecolony.org.

**Brashear BC** is prayerfully seeking a worship minister. The church is growing and just purchased 13.5 acres off Interstate 30 frontage property for the future. Please send a resume and DVD or link showing the candidate leading worship and singing to dustin@brashearbaptist.com.

**Coastal Oaks Church in Rockport** is in search of a PT choir director. Send resume to racatetteguyjen@msn.com.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 sffuffron@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 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.

**FBC Merkel** is seeking a PT minister of music. Send resume to fbcmerkel.com.

**FBC Vernon** is in search of a worship pastor with the possibility to combine with another pastoral role. Send resume to brooks@fbvernon.org.

**Frost BC** is seeking a PT or bi-vocational worship leader to lead on Sundays and special events (funerals, etc.). Contact frostbaptist@gmail.com for more information.

**FBC Greenville** seeks a PT worship leader who has a heart for the Lord and for leading worship. For job description or questions, email roy@fbcgreenville.org.

**FBC Ponder** is seeking a PT minister of music, who can lead a blended-style worship service, including a wide variety of musical genres. For questions or to submit a resume, email the senior pastor, Kim Broadstreet, at kimb@fbponder.org.

## STUDENTS

**Central Church, College Station** needs a FT student ministry associate who will report to the student pastor. Position includes salary with benefits. Email jlewis@centralbcbs.org for job description and/or to submit a resume.

**FBC Anahuac** is searching for a FT youth minister. See job description and apply at [www.fbcanahuac.church/employment](http://www.fbcanahuac.church/employment).

**Porter FBC** seeks a FT youth minister who will passionately and relationally engage youth to develop mature disciples who seek to reach and disciple others. Minimum of bachelor's degree; masters preferred, 2 years' minimum experience. Send resumes to rob@porterfirst.org.

**FBC Glen Rose** is seeking a FT student minister. Send resume to 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. More information at [fbcfarmersville.com/employment/students.aspx](http://fbcfarmersville.com/employment/students.aspx).

**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 kpeters@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.

**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.

**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).

**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@gabc.org.

**FBC of Madisonville** is looking for a FT student pastor. Applicants must have a desire to disciple students, love the church. FBC desires our student pastor to teach experientially, love unconditionally, and must affirm the BF&M 2000. Send resume to Matt Carey at mcarey@madisonvillefbc.org.

**Hickory Grove BC** in Kilgore is seeking a PT/bi-vocational minister for high school students to work alongside junior high and college ministers to grow students' knowledge of and love for Jesus in rural East Texas. Contact Caleb and Alyssa Wallace at calebandalysawallace@gmail.com.

**FBC Merkel** is seeking a PT minister of youth. Send resume to fbcmekel.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. 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 broaupal1017@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 fbc127email@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.

**FBC Gunter** is prayerfully searching for a spirit-driven PT minister to students. Send resume to revrick.ballard@gmail.com.

**Fellowship Church in Roysse 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 for more information.

**Anderson Mill BC in NW Austin** is searching for a PT student ministry leader. Will consider a college student or graduate. Previous ministry experience preferred. Send resume to Rod Minor at rminor@ambcaustin.org.

**FBC Rogers** is seeking a PT or bi-vocational student minister to work with junior high and high school students to help them grow in their knowledge of Christ and deepen their walks with Him. For more information call 254-642-3327. Send resume to fbcrogers@fbcrogers.com.

# Church Positions

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

## CHILDREN

**FBC Graham** is seeking a FT director/minister to children and families. Email resume to [brianbrooks@fbcgraham.com](mailto:brianbrooks@fbcgraham.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 Buie, NextGen Pastor at [kbui@fbcforney.org](mailto:kbuie@fbcforney.org).

**Highland Terrace BC in Greenville** seeks to call a FT children's ministry director for birth-grade 6. For complete job description and/or to submit resume, go to [childrensminister@highlandterrace.org](http://childrensminister@highlandterrace.org).

**Everyday Christian Fellowship in Cibola** 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).

**The Mount Church in Keller** is searching for a children's minister who will bring strategic leadership to our next generation of kids from birth to 6th grade. We have a big vision to see our families form Christ-centered homes. This leader of leaders must be a developer of volunteer teams. Email resume to [jobs@themount.church](mailto:jobs@themount.church).

**FBC in Queen City** is seeking a FT director of children's ministry. Send resume to [resumes@fbcqc.org](mailto:resumes@fbcqc.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).

**Harmony Hill BC in Lufkin** is searching for a children's pastor or director. Should have four years' experience and a degree in childhood education. Send resume and cover letter to [humanresources@harmony-hill.org](mailto:humanresources@harmony-hill.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

**First Baptist Maypearl** is looking for a FT associate youth/recreation pastor. Please send resumes to [tony@fbcmaypearl.com](mailto:tony@fbcmaypearl.com)

**Sherwood BC in Odessa** is seeking a FT minister of music & youth to lead Christ-centered worship, introduce young people

to Christ, teach them to become spiritual, mature followers of Christ, by equipping them to become disciple-makers. Send resumes to [personnel@sherwood.church](mailto:personnel@sherwood.church).

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

**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 & 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).

**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).

**Midway BC in Big Spring** is looking for a FT associate pastor of music & education. Send resume to [gregmoore71@outlook.com](mailto:gregmoore71@outlook.com).

**Community BC in Ferris** is seeking a FT or PT youth & 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 [johne@cbcferris.org](mailto:johne@cbcferris.org).

**Cowboy Church of Orange County** seeks an associate pastor of youth & 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 [edalee@hotmail.com](mailto:edalee@hotmail.com).

**FBC Munday** is currently looking for a FT family & worship pastor. This position will oversee coordinating all aspects of youth ministry, assist in contemporary worship, and help with Awana & VBS volunteer directors 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.

**Meadows BC in Plano** is looking for a worship & 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 & 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 apply, go to <https://go.apply.ci/s/kajkYmP9Y>.

**Lamb & Lion Ministries in McKinney** is seeking a FT finance associate. Visit [lambliion.com](http://lambliion.com) to learn more about the ministry. Send resumes to [rhouck@lambliion.com](mailto:rhouck@lambliion.com).

**Oak Knoll BC in Haltom City** is needing a church media specialist 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 the 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).

**Mobberly BC in Longview** is searching for a FT communications director. Benefits included. Send resume to Gail Moore at [gailm@mobberly.org](mailto:gailm@mobberly.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 <https://www.sylvaniachurch.com/apply/>.

**Kilgore College** is looking to fill the FT position of Baptist student ministry director. If interested, 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 Mission12 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 at [kmcanally@phckaty.org](mailto:kmcanally@phckaty.org).

**North Richland 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).

**Lake Church in Arlington** needs a PT (20 hours, \$15 per hour) technical director. Responsibilities include audio, video & lighting. Primary focus is audio/visual of all Lake Church worship events. Responsible for directing & supervising team of volunteers. Send resume to Pam Mason at [pmason@lakechurchdfw.org](mailto:pmason@lakechurchdfw.org).

**NorthPointe Church in Burleson** is searching for a PT family intern for 20 hours per week. Close to SWBTS. Send resume to Jeremy Dooley at [dooley@nplife.com](mailto:dooley@nplife.com).

# Classifieds

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

**FBC of McAlester, Oklahoma**, 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).

**FBC Lafayette, Louisiana**, 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.

**Baker Book House** pays cash for pastoral and academic

religious libraries, large or small. Email quotes@[bakerbookhouse.com](http://bakerbookhouse.com) or call 866-241-6733.

**Trinity Baptist Church in Ardmore, Oklahoma**, is seeking a FT associate pastor for ministry in a conservative Southern Baptist Church. Send resume to [TrinityAssocPastor@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityAssocPastor@gmail.com).

**FBC of Lead Hill, Arkansas**, 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 [FBCLeadHill16@gmail.com](mailto:FBCLeadHill16@gmail.com) or FBC Lead Hill, PO Box 94, Lead Hill, AR 72644. **Trinity Baptist Church in Ardmore, Oklahoma**, is seeking a FT

associate pastor for ministry in a conservative Southern Baptist Church. Send resume to [TrinityAssocPastor@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityAssocPastor@gmail.com).

**Government Street Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama**, is seeking to employ a full-time minister of education & administration. If you are interested, please submit your resume to [governmentstreetbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:governmentstreetbaptist@gmail.com).

**East Maryville Baptist Church in Maryville, Tennessee**, is searching for an associate pastor to students who will plan, administer, coordinate, supervise, and evaluate a comprehensive ministry to students. Email resume to [patricia.harding@embc.us](mailto:patricia.harding@embc.us).

# 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)



## BREATH DEEP

**MAY 5-7** ALLEN

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



## COLLEGIATE ROUNDUP

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

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



## EQUIP CONFERENCE

**AUGUST 13** SWBTS, FORT WORTH

[sbtexas.com/equip](https://www.sbtexas.com/equip)

## May

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

## June

12-15	<b>Southern Baptist Convention, Anaheim, CA</b>
20-24	M3 Camp, Highland Lakes, Spicewood
24	Capacitarte Regional Conference, Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana de Odessa
27-7/1	M3 Camp, Highland Lakes, Spicewood
27-7/1	M3 Camp, Zephyr, Sandia



FOR MORE SBTC EVENTS  
**SCAN THIS QR CODE** WITH  
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