

SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
**TEXAN**

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**THE NATIONS  
ARE HERE**

**An increasingly diverse state is providing ample opportunities to share the gospel with the world**

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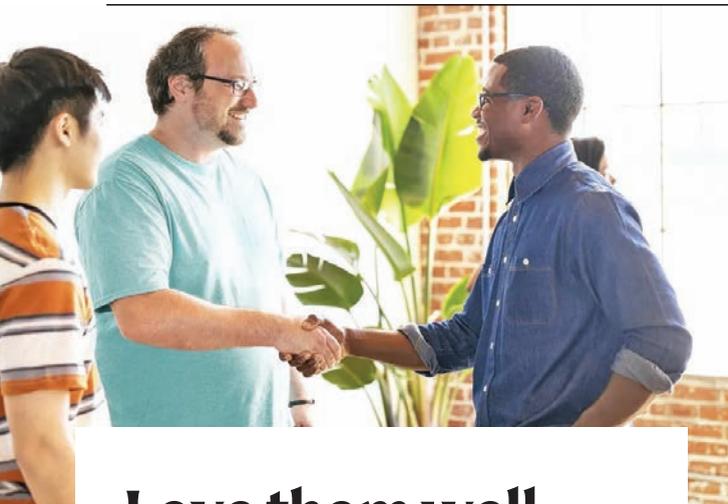
**LOUD & CLEAR**

**NORTH TEXAS WOMAN SAVED FROM BRINK OF DEATH  
NOW COMMITS LIFE TO BRINGING HOPE TO OTHERS**

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**FROM THE INSIDE OUT**

**EQUIP KEYNOTE SPEAKER WITT SAYS HEALTHY  
MINISTRY MUST BEGIN FROM WITHIN**



## Love them well and they will let you lead them

I will never forget that day. It was May 2005. I woke up that Sunday morning excited about what the day could bring, expectant that God was doing something new in our lives.

That morning, at the grand age of 24, I was going in view of a call as pastor to Martins Mill Baptist Church in East Texas. I arrived at the church, greeted the people, preached with every ounce of energy I had, and then waited. Later that evening, I was sitting in a Dairy Queen when I received the call that the church did, in fact, call me to be their pastor.

I was beyond excited. The thoughts that began rushing through my mind when I hung up from the call were fast and furious. The remainder of the night found my mind and heart beginning to think through future vision. Lying in bed having a hard time falling asleep due to the excitement of this new call, the thought finally hit me: *How in the world do I lead a church at 24 years old? How can I get people to follow me at such a young age with little experience?*

Those questions led me down a road of discovering one of the greatest leadership principles I could ever learn: if you love them, they will let you lead them. Over the next 2 1/2 years, I loved the people of this church with everything I had. The more time I spent with them, the more I loved them. The more I loved them, the more eager they were to follow me.

“  
**Of all the things that bring me joy when I reflect on my time as their pastor, the fact they were willing and eager to follow me still amazes me.**  
”

Often, we assume we are called to get a ministry from Point A to Point B as quickly as possible. While this is sometimes true, the best way to do this is simply to love the people God has called you to. As you love them well, you can lead them in the direction the Lord has put in your heart.

Almost three years later, the Lord called me to First Baptist Church of Malakoff. At 26 years old, I still had a lot to learn about leadership. However, I knew I needed to apply the one lesson I had learned. So I stepped into FBC Malakoff and immediately began to love those people deeply. I was able to walk with people through major life celebrations, difficult losses, challenging circumstances, and forward vision. Of course, there were other leadership factors that played a part in the vision. However, none carried the weight of simply loving those God called me to lead.

The real test of this came when we needed to remodel our worship facility in order to accommodate the growth we were experiencing. After exhausting all other options, we elected to meet outside under a large tent for 6-8 weeks—in December and January. I still laugh today when I think about how we arrived at that solution. However, because these incredible people knew they were loved by the leadership, they were willing to take the journey together. If you love them, they will let you lead them.

These two churches were immense blessings to me and my family. They essentially raised us. However, of all the things that bring me joy when I reflect on my time as their pastor, the fact they were willing and eager to follow me still amazes me. It's not because I am a great leader or have it all figured out. It is simple—I loved them before I tried to lead them.

So as you serve in whatever capacity the Lord has given you, learn to love your people and they will let you lead them. I love you and am honored to serve you!

Dr. Nathan Lorick  
SBTC Executive Director



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# Mastering one of the hardest words

**You can't be all things to all people.  
Let's let God take care of that role.  
His shoulders are big enough to  
handle that kind of load.**



**P**eople learning English as a second language often say it is one of the hardest to grasp, with its vast assortment of idioms, punctuation rules, and pronunciations that can change literally depending on what zip code you're standing in.

Yet there's one word I've found that's hard to pronounce whether you're from Dubai, Des Moines, or Dallas: No.

We just don't like telling people no. And that's a problem.

A few weeks back, I had the privilege of having a conversation with Lance Witt, who will serve as the keynote speaker at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Equip Conference in August. Witt is among a growing number of voices trying to convince followers of Christ—including pastors and church leaders—to pay at least as much attention to nurturing their own lives and souls as they do members, budgets, and strategic plans.

On our way to that healthier version of ourselves, at some point we're going to have to learn to say no. I love how Witt put it during our conversation: "We need to realize that every no is rooted in a higher yes."

That statement is profound, but it's not rocket science, is it? We all know that saying yes to some things will naturally mean saying no to others. So why is saying "no" so difficult, especially in ministry contexts? Because if we say no, we will feel like we're somehow not meeting someone else's needs. We might feel like we're not being nice if we say "no." In some instances, we might feel like saying no will shatter the tenuous peace we've been able

to keep with the person pressing hard for a yes.

I've been there. As a lead pastor with a penchant for people-pleasing, I admit I had a hard time saying no. One particularly busy week, I was behind on sermon prep and knew Saturday was going to have to be a catch-up day for me, so I said no to a family who invited me to their teenager's birthday party. In another instance, we

had a truck driver in the church who would often call my cell because he got bored on his long drives—usually as early as 5 a.m. or after midnight. For my own sanity (and sleep!), I had to set a firm no boundary there, as well. Neither instance was easy, but the higher yes came in being prepared to deliver God's Word on Sunday morning and protecting rare times of rest.

What about you? Are you getting ready to deliver a yes because it seems too hard to say no? Your yes may keep the church activity wheel turning, but will that come at the expense of a season God might intend for you to be still as He opens another door in His timing? Your yes may keep that grumpy church member happy, but will it come at the expense of an activity your child is participating in that will never happen again?

Don't get me wrong—if we find ourselves saying no all the time, we're going to miss golden opportunities to minister to others and share the hope of Jesus with those who desperately need to hear it.

But you can't be all things to all people. Let's let God take care of that role. His shoulders are big enough to handle that kind of load.

Chances are, yours are not.



# Practical ways to develop a Great Commission heart

To help you and your church do the Great Commission, here are some ways to begin to think globally. As you begin to expand your vision, perhaps your burden for your neighbors and the nations among you will increase:



01

## Follow the news with Great Commission ears and eyes.

Most of us hear the news as events, but we should hear newsworthy happenings as calls to prayer. People who have never heard of Christ die every day due to war and famine. Governments are in turmoil. Natural disasters destroy homes and lives. If we pray as we hear the needs, God will grab our heart for the nations. It's possible in some cases we might be the only person who has ever prayed for some people around the globe.

02

## Put a map on a wall in your home (or get a globe).

Frankly, North Americans can sometimes be geographically ignorant. And, it's easy to ignore the spiritual needs of the world when people are only anonymous folks living in a nation we cannot name. You might find yourself more interested in the nations—and praying more for them—when a map is always before you and your family. Start by praying for a different country when your family says grace each night.

03

## Take a look at who's in your community.

My experience is that many church leaders assume their community looks like their church—and that's not always the case. Learn about the ethnic makeup of your community and pray specifically for individual people groups in your ministry area. Your church might even partner with others to plant a church among one of these

04

## Visit ethnic restaurants in your community.

Instead of choosing restaurants based on your tastes, visit restaurants just to learn about other cultures and food. Ask to meet the owners. Talk to servers who've been raised in other countries. Even if the food isn't your favorite, you'll probably like the people—and then pray more for them, their family, and their country of origin. Pray specifically for opportunities to invite your new friends to church and to your home.

05

## Invite international students to your home.

If there is a university near your home, I suspect you'll find international students there. Many of those students will never be invited to visit an American home, and some will spend holidays alone on their campus. Opening your home will not only invite fellowship and learning, but it will also open the door to sharing your faith.



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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# Paramount partnership

**Want to see kingdom diversity?  
Look no further than Amarillo**

**F**or Danial Habte, pastor of Kingdom Gospel Church and All Nation Worship Church—two congregations connected to Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo—international evangelism begins with relationship and can occur in the unlikelyst of places.

For Yusuf Hussein, All Nation and Habte have been lifesaving.

Habte, a native of Eritrea, planted churches for 13 years in Sudan, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey before arriving in Amarillo at the end of 2012, when the Turkish government refused to renew his work permit.

## From Turkey to Texas

When persecution prevented his return to Eritrea—a small African country bordering the Red Sea—Habte, his wife, Weini, and their children applied for and were granted asylum in the U.S.

Embassy officials asked the Habtes where they would like to relocate in America. They prayed that God would choose the city and state for them, assuming they would be sent to a large city.

“Do you know anyone in Texas?” an embassy official asked.

---

Danial Habte baptizes a new believer, fruit from the multiethnic ministries operating out of Amarillo’s Paramount Baptist Church.

**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

“We don’t have anybody. We don’t know where to go,” Habte replied, assuming they would be sent to Dallas or Houston.

Instead, their destination became Amarillo, a city they had never heard of before.

The family arrived in Amarillo in December 2012. Missionary friends from Turkey introduced them to Paramount Baptist, where Danial shared his desire with church leadership to evangelize internationals. Before long, a significant multiethnic, multicultural ministry began right in the heart of the Texas Panhandle.

Kingdom Gospel Church started as a Bible study for followers of Christ who met in Paramount facilities. Danial, eventually on staff as missionary-in-residence at the church, led the study and became the group’s pastor. Today, services continue every Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. In 2014, Kingdom Gospel Church affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

Kingdom Gospel members are primarily Eritreans and Ethiopians, Habte said.

Recently, a second Bible study, geared partly but not exclusively for Arabic-speaking peoples, launched at Paramount and has become a separate congregation: All Nation Worship Church. The group meets later in the afternoon on Sundays than Kingdom Gospel. Migrants from seven to eight countries attend, including South Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, and the Congo.

Paramount also offers English as a Second Language classes on Wednesdays and during the traditional Sunday school hour.

Sundays are busy days for Habte, who is building the two congregations by befriending Panhandle area migrants.

“We build friendships with all communities: Muslims from the Middle East, Somalis, and Sudanese. They know I am a pastor and work in the church. We help them with things like rides, Walmart trips, applications,” Habte said.

Somali and Sudanese migrants tend to cluster in two areas of Amarillo, he said, adding that he and his family live close to Paramount.

## PEOPLE GROUPS



Yusuf Hussein, an Amarillo resident who attends All Nation Worship Church, became a Christian after reading a Somali language Bible and now evangelizes other Somalians through YouTube presentations.

He has found that if you build friendships with migrants, they will come.

### Yusuf's story

Yusuf Hussein understands living in constant danger. In 2014, the Somali native came to the U.S. from the Awbare refugee camp in Ethiopia.

"I had to leave my country for fear of genocide, killing. [It was] generally unsafe for life. Every day people kill each other for no reason," Hussein said.

His path to the U.S. first took him to San Diego, Calif., where he heard of work available in a meatpacking plant in Amarillo. To Texas he went.

A Christian friend gave him a Somali-language Bible in 2016. Hussein hadn't encountered Christians in Somalia but remembered contacts with believers in Ethiopia, where he "started to see good things from Christians."

Christian behavior contradicted his preconceptions about the faith gleaned from his Muslim background in Somalia. "I found out it was misconception and contradiction; what I had heard before about Christianity was wrong," he recalled.

Hussein decided to read through the

Bible, and he said he "believed and accepted Jesus in the same year I finished reading the Bible."

It hasn't been easy since.

Once they learned of his conversion, family members forbade Hussein from associating with them. He was barred from the Amarillo Somalian community and businesses. Once he was harassed and physically beaten by local Somalians. He has experienced "cultural discomfort" not only learning to live in the U.S., but also adjusting to Christian community itself.

"Living among people with whom I had never lived before was hard for me," he said.

But through Habte and All Nation, Hussein has found a home.

Hussein said he thanks God that he found Pastor Habte: "I feel relieved and comforted. Pastor Danial helped me connect with other followers of Christ who have the same background and culture."

Hussein serves as treasurer of All Nation and, though forbidden from formally socializing with other Islamic migrants, has learned to share the gospel with them nonetheless through YouTube presentations, thanks to training provided by Habte and others at Paramount.

Hussein's experience illustrates the power of relationship and the methods by which All Nation is growing God's kingdom. "We use relational evangelism skills. Evangelism is all about relationship," Habte noted in a description of his ministry, Kingdom Gospel Mission.

Were it not for Paramount's ongoing partnership, Habte's work would be far more difficult. "Paramount is always missional and continually supportive," he said.

With the nations migrating to the U.S., sharing the gospel internationally can take place on one's own doorstep, even in the Texan Panhandle.

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## A treasury of riches

*Editor's note: Todd Kaunitz, pastor of New Beginnings Baptist Church who serves as president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and typically writes in this space, has asked Jeff Manning—NBBC's minister of spiritual formation—to share his heart about God's Word in this month's issue.*

**W**hat pictures come to mind when you think of a great preacher or teacher? There are several images in the Bible. Perhaps you imagine an Old Testament prophet who announces the holiness and glory of God. Maybe you imagine a New Testament shepherd who carefully teaches and instructs his church through various circumstances. In general, maybe you imagine a dynamic speaker or a great motivator.

In Matthew 13, after teaching the value of the kingdom through parables, Jesus asks His disciples, “Have you understood all these things?” (13:51). They answer, “Yes,” but over and over they reveal their need for further explanation of what they’ve heard. Later, in Matthew 15, Jesus will ask them again, “Are you still without understanding?” (15:16). Clearly, understanding is important (and difficult) for the life of a disciple. If Jesus, the greatest teacher in history, had to slow down and re-teach for clarity, how much more difficult will it be for us to lead people in truth and teach them to share it with others?

To be effective preachers and teachers of the kingdom, we must have a clear understanding of the weight of responsibility that has been entrusted to us. In verse 52, Jesus compares

His disciples to scribes or teachers of the law. Scribes were those who were properly trained to instruct others. They had authority and wisdom concerning the right understanding of the law. Yet, Jesus’ comparison draws attention to the difference between His disciples and the Jewish scribes.

See, the Jewish scribes, including the Pharisees, ultimately failed to grasp the full message of Jesus and His kingdom. They relied on what is “old” because they had not been instructed in the “new” secrets of the kingdom. Jesus tells them this is why He taught in parables. It is not that these things were truly new. They’ve been hidden since the foundation of the world (13:35) but have now been revealed in Jesus. All the old is made clear in light of the new. Jesus tells His disciples that it is their role as scribes of the kingdom of heaven to bring out “what is new and what is old,” leaving nothing behind.

I love the imagery that Jesus gives in describing this responsibility of preaching and teaching. In Matthew 13:52, He says, “... every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom treasures new and old.” The picture Jesus is painting is that the Word of God is a storeroom and the truths of the kingdom in it are treasures to be displayed. He wants us to see our responsibility as preachers and teachers as simply taking the treasures in the storeroom and showcasing them for all to see!

As disciples of Jesus and teachers of His Word, there is storeroom of treasures available to us called the Bible. Our responsibility as pastors and teachers is to continually search the Bible and display the full meaning of it by connecting it to Jesus and His riches. The kingdom of God is our pearl of great price and Jesus is the “yes and amen” (2 Corinthians 1:20) to all we need. Let’s be devoted to this storeroom and showcase the great value and beauty of its treasures!



# Are you ready to reach the nations across the street?

I recently met a family of five who were on one of the last flights out of Kabul after the U.S. military's 20-year presence there ended in August 2021. This couple and their three children, the youngest of whom is only five months old, had just arrived in Fort Worth after clearing security at an East Coast military facility.

It may surprise some, but the place where I met this family was at Southcliff Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where I serve as the share strategy pastor. In one month, this Muslim family went from sheltering outside of the Kabul airport to sitting in an English as a Second Language (ESL) class at a Baptist church in Texas.

Over 20 years ago, Southcliff volunteers began teaching ESL classes with only four students. Today, thousands of newcomers to America have been taught English at Southcliff. We host a variety of ministries targeted to newcomers to America, including Bible studies in Spanish, Burmese, Swahili, and Mandarin. In addition, we give seminary interns experience in cross-cultural ministry by housing them in apartments where refugees live.

A 2016 survey of pastors by Lifeway Research revealed that 86% of them felt that Christians have a responsibility to care for refugees and foreigners. However, 44% of these pastors revealed that there was a sense of fear in their congregations about refugees coming to the U.S. That may help explain why only 8% of these pastors had effectively led their churches to develop ministries to these families.

So how do church leaders bridge the gap between the belief that refugee ministry is important and the reality that so few churches have thriving newcomer ministries?

## Set a personal example

Leaders must set the pace by personally engaging in ministry themselves. For example, when a pastor becomes a “family friend” to a Sudanese family through World Relief, people in the church notice. Likewise, when a church leader is seen giving driving lessons to a new Muslim friend, people ask questions.

## Set a scriptural standard

Leaders rise above prejudices and politics and teach church members about God's heart for all peoples. Being a Great Commission church means that Scripture guides our opinions of the lost, not social media or cable news.

## Say yes to relational opportunities

Church leaders see opportunities that God puts before them and say yes. When a Burmese congregation asks to meet in your building on Sunday afternoons, try to make it happen. When a refugee from Congo, who speaks broken English, applies for a custodial position at your church, look for a way to hire him. When the children's minister asks to hold the annual Vacation Bible School at an elementary school in an immigrant neighborhood instead of the church building, say yes.

## Make it a budgetary priority

Finally, churches that want to develop effective ministries to newcomers will hire staff and budget for these ministries. Do you want to know if a church values teenagers? Check out their youth ministry budget and staffing. The hard reality is that creating new programs, recruiting team members, and training people in cross-cultural evangelism takes a lot of time and attention. Churches that see missions as something that is both around the world and across the street often make this commitment a reality in their church budget and staffing.

If you would like to know more about practical ways to reach out to newcomers to America, my book, “Reaching the World Across the Street,” will be available in 2022. Feel free to email me at [stu@southcliff.com](mailto:stu@southcliff.com).



*Stu Cocanougher serves as share strategy pastor at Southcliff Baptist Church in Fort Worth.*

# The Power of a Voice

After the gospel literally saved her life, Watauga woman is spending the rest of hers telling others about Jesus

## WATAUGA

Over the course of her 78 years, Carmel Valerio can remember so many of the voices that have spoken into her life.

She clearly remembers the voice of her abusive father, who delivered a steady barrage of insults, humiliation, and contempt. Her exposure to his voice intensified when he removed her from school from the age of 8 to help raise her siblings so her stepmother could begin working outside the home.

Filled with hatred, resentment, and immense pain from all the abuse she received, Carmel said she began to hear another voice at age 14. This voice, an evil one, said things such as, “Nobody loves you!” and “You’re worthless.” That voice even offered a solution: “Take your life.”

The more she listened to that voice, the more she was convinced that would be her escape. On the day she had decided to attempt suicide, however, she heard yet another voice. In her deepest despair, Carmel said she heard that voice repeating over and over:

“I love you. I love you. I love you.”

Carmel realized that voice—which halted her suicide attempt—was the voice of God, showing her that He had a

glorious purpose to fulfill in her. In that moment, she said God began to heal her of all the bitterness, resentment, and hatred she felt for her father. Filled with new hope, she got up from the floor and ran to see herself in the mirror.

It was a milestone in her life: she had never looked at herself in a mirror before that moment, assuming there was nothing worth looking at because her father had always told her she was ugly. But that day, in front of that mirror, Carmel discovered she was a beautiful and new creation.

“I began to feel special and light, because God had taken away my heavy burdens,” she said.

From time to time, her grandmother would take her to church. This is where Carmel recognized who the Lord Jesus is and where she began to serve Him. “The environment I was in and my circumstances didn’t change,” she said, “but God changed me.”

One of the things God was changing was how she viewed her father—not as a man filled with hate and one to be hated, but as a man who needed



(Left) Carmel Valerio is seen in Leon Guanajuato and (bottom) with husband Elias in Mexico City. The Valerios led teams on mission helping local churches evangelize their communities in Mexico.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS





“  
**God doesn't want you to speak well. He just wants you to say what He asked you to say.**  
 ”

CARMEL VALERIO

“  
 speak to others about Christ because she said she did not know how to speak beautifully. She admits that she would always get nervous when approached by other women who seemed to speak more eloquently.  
 ”

The assuring voice of her husband, along with the nudging from the Lord, helped her begin to feel differently. “Don't feel that way,” she remembered her husband saying to her. “The most important thing is that you love God. There are many people who know the Word of God, they are good teachers, they are good speakers, but that does not mean that they are consecrated to God. They know many things about God in mind, but not in heart.”

From that moment on, Carmel began to understand that “God doesn't want you to speak well. He just wants you to say what He asked you to say.”

Since that realization, she has used her God-given voice to share the gospel with hundreds of people. She has won souls for Christ by teaching English as a Second Language, sharing about Jesus in jails, public restrooms, in her neighborhood, at garage sales, in stores and malls, even among people of different nationalities. Her workplaces became mission fields, including the medical clinic where she worked as a janitor. God often allowed her to go into the rooms where medical care was being given to pray for patients and present the gospel to them.

“The first pews in the church were filled with people I prayed for in the clinic,” Carmel said.

She saw sick people being healed through her prayers of faith and many souls being saved. She also worked as a chaplain for Marketplace Ministries where she was known as “the woman of God,” which she says is a privilege.

Though the voice of her husband remains in her memories, she remains steadfast in her relationship with the Lord and her calling.

“Now, instead of having my husband by my side, I have my Bible, my hymnal, and I praise the Lord,” she said.

Her desire is to help other sisters who have suffered a loss like hers, to overcome their depression through Jesus. “Illnesses are good because they make us trust in God and live happier,” she said. “For as long as God gives us life, we need to give the message of salvation to everyone who is suffering.”

A message that she, herself, once heard because she chose to listen to a still, small, and loving voice.

Jesus. Now it was her voice that could speak into her father's life. A year before he died, the voice of God led her to share the gospel with him and he, in tears, accepted Jesus into his life.

Another voice would soon begin speaking into Carmel's life. At age 16, she met her husband, Elias, at church. They were married for 58 years, most of which time he spent serving as a missionary and church planter in several towns across Texas and Mexico. Carmel and their five children were right there with him, faithfully by his side. Elias pastored a Hispanic mission church started out of First Baptist Church of Watauga before passing away at the age of 85.

God called Carmel to personal evangelism through her husband. According to Carmel, one day, as she was thanking God for the way He was using her husband to share the gospel with great results, she heard the same loving voice of the Lord that spoke to her at the time of her salvation many years before.

“And what are you doing for Me?” she felt the Lord saying to her. “You are called to do my work. I want you to speak and testify about Me.”

Upon hearing from the Lord, Carmel said she got on her knees and asked God for forgiveness because she did not feel qualified to

# El Poder de una VOZ

Luego de que el evangelio literalmente le salvara la vida, una mujer de Watauga pasa el resto de su vida hablando a otros de Jesús.

## WATAUGA

**D**urante el transcurso de sus 78 años, Carmel Valerio puede recordar muchas voces que han hablado a su vida.

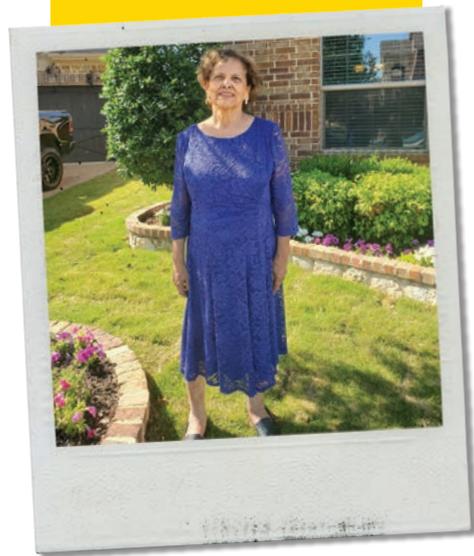
Ella recuerda con claridad la voz de su padre abusivo, quien le hacía un bombardeo constante de insultos, humillaciones y desprecio. Su exposición a esa voz se intensificó cuando la sacaba de la escuela desde los 8 años para ayudar a criar a sus hermanos y así su madrastra pudiera trabajar fuera de casa.

Llena de odio, resentimiento y un inmenso dolor por todos los abusos recibidos, Valerio dijo que empezó a escuchar otra voz a los 14 años. Esta voz, una voz maligna, decía cosas como: “¡Nadie te quiere!” y “No vales nada”. Esa voz incluso ofrecía una solución: “Quítate la vida”.

Cuanto más escuchaba esa voz, más convencida estaba de que esa sería su salida. Sin embargo, el día en que decidió intentar suicidarse, escuchó otra voz. En su más profunda desesperación, Valerio dijo que oía esa voz repitiendo una y otra vez:

“Te amo. Te amo. Te amo”.

Valerio se dio cuenta de que esa voz, que la detuvo en su intento de suicidio, era la voz de Dios, mostrándole que Él tenía un glorioso propósito que cumplir en ella. En



“

**Dios no quiere que hables bien, sólo quiere que digas lo que te ha pedido que digas.**

CARMEL VALERIO

”

ese momento, Valerio dijo que Dios comenzó a sanarla de toda la amargura, el resentimiento y el odio que sentía por su padre. Llena de una nueva esperanza, se levantó del suelo y corrió a verse en el espejo.

Esto fue un logro en su vida: pues nunca se había mirado en un espejo antes de ese momento, asumiendo que no había nada que valiera la pena mirar porque su padre siempre le había dicho que era fea. Pero ese día, frente a ese espejo, Valerio descubrió que ella era una hermosa y nueva creación.

“Comencé a sentirme especial y liviana, porque Dios había quitado mis pesadas cargas,” dijo Valerio.

De vez en cuando, la abuelita de Valerio la llevaba a ella a la iglesia y durante este tiempo Valerio reconoció quién es el Señor Jesús y comenzó a servirle. “El ambiente en donde yo estaba ni mis circunstancias cambiaron, dijo ella, pero Dios me cambió a mí.”

Una de las cosas que Dios estaba cambiando en ella, era la forma en que veía a su padre. Ya no lo veía como a un hombre al que había que odiar, sino como un hombre que necesitaba a

Jesús. Ahora, la voz de Valerio fue la que pudo hablar en la vida de su padre. Un año antes de su padre fallecer, la voz de Dios guio a Valerio a compartirle el evangelio y él, entre lágrimas, recibió a Jesús en su vida.

Otra voz comenzó a hablar en la vida de Valerio. A los 16 años, conoció a su esposo, Elías, en la iglesia. Estuvieron casados durante 58 años, la mayor parte de los cuales él pasó sirviendo como misionero y plantador de iglesias en varios pueblos de Texas y México. Carmel y sus cinco hijos estuvieron junto a él, fielmente a su lado. Elías fue pastor de la congregación hispana de la Primera Iglesia Bautista de Watauga, antes de fallecer a la edad de 85 años.

Dios llamó a la señora Valerio a la evangelización personal a través de su esposo. Según Valerio, un día, mientras agradecía a Dios por la forma en que estaba usando a su esposo para compartir el evangelio con grandes resultados, escuchó la misma voz amorosa del Señor que le habló en el momento de su salvación muchos años antes.

“¿Y qué estás haciendo por mí?”, sintió que el Señor le decía. “Tú estás llamada a hacer mi obra. Quiero que hables y testifiques de Mí”.

Mientras escuchaba la voz de Dios, Valerio dijo que se puso de rodillas y pidió perdón al Señor ya que no se sentía capacitada para hablar a los demás sobre Cristo porque decía que no sabía hablar bien. Ella admite que siempre se ponía nerviosa cuando se le acercaban otras mujeres que parecían hablar con más elocuencia.

La voz de afirmación de su esposo, junto con el llamado del Señor, la impulsó a comenzar a sentirse de otra manera. “No te sientas así”, recuerda que le dijo su esposo. “Lo más importante es que ames a Dios. Hay muchas personas que conocen la Palabra de Dios, son buenos maestros, son buenos oradores, pero eso no significa que estén consagrados a Dios. Saben muchas cosas de Dios en la mente, pero no en el corazón”.

A partir de ese momento, Valerio comenzó a entender que “Dios no quiere que hables bien, sólo quiere que digas lo que te ha pedido que digas”.



Desde que ella entendió esto, Valerio ha utilizado la voz que Dios le ha dado para compartir el evangelio con cientos de personas. Ha ganado almas para Cristo enseñando inglés como segundo idioma, en cárceles, en baños públicos, en su vecindario, en ventas de garaje, en tiendas y centros comerciales, incluso entre personas de diferentes nacionalidades. Sus lugares de trabajo se convirtieron en campos de misión, incluida la clínica médica donde trabajaba haciendo la limpieza. Dios le permitía a menudo entrar en el cuarto de atención médica para orar por los pacientes y presentarles el Evangelio.

“Las primeras bancas de la iglesia estaban llenas de personas por las que oré en la clínica”, dijo Valerio.

Valerio vio enfermos ser sanados por medio de sus oraciones de fe y muchas almas ser salvas por el evangelio. También trabajó como capellana para Marketplace Ministries, donde era conocida como “la mujer de Dios”, lo cual Valerio expresa es un privilegio.

Valerio es ahora viuda, y aunque la voz de su esposo permanece en el recuerdo, ella sigue firme en su relación con el Señor y en su llamado.

“Ahora, en lugar de tener a mi esposo a mi lado, tengo mi Biblia, mi himnario y alabo al Señor”, dijo.

Su deseo es ayudar a otras hermanas que han sufrido una pérdida como la suya, a superar su depresión por medio de Jesús. “Las enfermedades son buenas porque nos hacen confiar en Dios y vivir más felices”, dijo. “Mientras Dios nos dé vida, tenemos que dar el mensaje de salvación a todos los que sufren”.

Un mensaje que ella misma escuchó una vez porque eligió escuchar aquella pequeña voz apacible y amorosa del Señor.

# ‘DON’T CALL YOURSELF A REFUGEE ... YOU ARE A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST’

After spending the first two decades of his life in Nepalese resettlement camp, Metroplex man is being used by God to pastor growing congregation

**D**emas Kharel knows what it feels like to be a refugee, culturally rejected and far from home. Born in Bhutan of Nepalese descent, he spent the first two decades of his life living in squalor inside a refugee camp in Nepal before coming to the U.S. Now, through God’s leading, he is serving the Lord as pastor of New Life Family Church in Watauga.

Like many Texans, transplanted and otherwise, Kharel can look around his community and see a rising number of men and women from around the globe. According to the latest numbers released from the people groups department of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Texas is home to 420 people groups who speak more than 300 languages. SBTC missions strategy associate Dan Acharya, who leads the con-

“  
**I want to come closer to them and tell them what I have in me and that Jesus can change their lives.**  
”

DEMAS KHAREL





vention's people groups department, says there are 59 language groups in the five-square-mile 75231 North Dallas zip code alone.

With increasing international diversity comes higher numbers of those who are lost and unchurched. In the "Reach Cities" of Austin, Houston, and El Paso—where the SBTC has heightened its church-planting efforts to respond to growing numbers of lostness—the percentage of lost and unchurched is 41 percent, 68 percent, and 98 percent, respectively.

"I want to come closer to them and tell them what I have in me," Kharel said, "and that Jesus can change their lives."

Jesus changed Kharel's life in 2008, near the end of his time living in the Nepalese refugee camp. Two years later, in December 2010, he and his family were relocated to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex by the International Organization for Migration. Though they had envisioned a change in their fortunes after coming to the U.S., they were resettled in a high-crime apartment complex.

Even so, God was at work.

At that time, Acharya was New Life's pastor, and he

and his wife, Narola, would often visit apartment complexes to connect with people groups. That's how they met Kharel, who, in turn, was excited to meet a Christian pastor. The Acharyas continued to minister to Kharel and his family, and he eventually joined the church and began to do ministry there.

The Acharyas spent many hours investing in the lives of Kharel and others, knowing that God might use one of them to one day lead the church. In Kharel, Acharya said he saw someone with a "kingdom-sized mentality."

"Don't call yourself a refugee," Kharel remembers Acharya telling him on one occasion. "You are a new creation in Christ."

So when Acharya was ready to hand over the reigns of the church in 2021, the congregation called Kharel to lead them into the future.

"He knows the mission," Acharya said of Kharel. "He knows the DNA of the church."

In 2015, New Life Family Church—which had been meeting in a Methodist church—began praying for a building of its own. Those plans were slowed in 2020 with the arrival of COVID, which hindered in-person attendance and eventually resulted in more than half the members of the church being laid off from their jobs. Despite those setbacks, one thing didn't stop.

"We had been praying for five years," Acharya said. "We were not going to stop now."

Eventually, one of the church's newest converts alerted church leaders to a building for sale in Watauga. Though its original price tag was far out of range, the church continued to pray for God to provide. Through negotiations, the owner of the building decided to sell to New Life for several hundred thousand dollars less than the asking price.

Today, New Life is meeting in the facility, which sits on three acres of land, has 220 seats in the sanctuary, and includes five to six rooms that can be used for education space. Nearly 50 families—most of whom are Bhutanese, Nepalese, and Burmese—are either members or are regularly attending.

"I thank God that He brought us here," Kharel said. "I became a citizen of the U.S. and people here listen to our voice. We had been fighting for our rights [in Bhutan and Nepal], but we didn't get it. But here, they hear us. They listen to our voices. That gives me great joy."

# ‘I NOTICED THAT THEY’RE NOT LIKE ME’

## Divine appointment opens door for Filipino church to minister to Afghan refugees

STAFFORD

While many churches find opportunities to travel to other countries to reach the nations, the staff of Sugar Grove Baptist Church have found the nations just around the corner.

Earl Alcazar, one of the pastors at Sugar Grove, said one of the church’s most interesting and unexpected gospel outreaches was the result of a chance encounter with some Afghan refugees staying in a hotel near the church.

Alcazar said he was driving one day when he noticed children running around a hotel parking lot near a Sam’s Club.

“I noticed that they’re not like me. I’m Southeast Asian, and I said, these are not Southeast Asian people,” Alcazar said. “These are not Hispanic [people]. They’re wearing the Middle Eastern clothing or something. ... I felt that maybe I should just give something to them, so I bought something from Sam’s Club and gave it to them. And I learned that they don’t speak English. There was a driver that was helping them, and he said that they were Afghans.”

This was during the pandemic, around the spring of 2021, and Alcazar said he was praying for the Lord to help him overcome his fear of reaching out to people he had never met and did not know how to communicate with.

“And I was just praying, Lord, help me. I have a little heart for missions, but I’m afraid to do something like that,” he said. “There are times that I would try to

reach people and my wife would warn me that they might not like it or something like that. I just gave them some stuff, chocolates and toys, and I told my wife that there are kids there and I think they’re in need.”

Late last year, Alcazar noticed that two Afghan men began showing up on Sunday morning to church services at Sugar Grove, which is almost entirely comprised of Filipino believers.

“Maybe last quarter of 2021, we were having a worship service and we saw these two guys [visiting] the church. We asked them, and they said they’re Afghans and they were living in the hotel that I’d been going to. And they just saw our church and joined us,” Alcazar said. “They did not know each other back then in Kabul. They just met when they were here in the states, and they were able to connect because they can both speak English. They were helping the people there. And they were walking

### WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

International people groups face many challenges as they settle in Texas. Though they vary, general needs include:

- + English as a Second Language classes
- + Basic household needs
- + Assistance in adapting and adjusting to life in Texas
- + Community support
- + Friendship

Above all, their greatest need is to hear the message of hope found in Jesus Christ.

SOURCE: SBTC PEOPLE GROUPS DEPARTMENT

around the area, and they saw this church, and they joined us, and I said, 'Well, God was sending them to us. They are Muslims, but they are open minded.'"

Alcazar said that the two men had Filipino friends back in Kabul and those in the church had an instant camaraderie and connection with them.

"The connection was there already. And the people, we were excited," he added. "I was desiring for it, praying for it. And as a church, we were not really praying for it. But God brought these two guys. And yeah, we are taking it as God giving us a ministry. I know, we know that. It's hard. But yeah, this is it. God is guiding us."

Alcazar said the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention provided some resources that were particularly helpful as they have tried to minister to the Afghan refugees living nearby. Martin Gonzalez, who serves as a SBTC people groups strategist for the Houston area, equipped the church with some digital Bibles so they could read Scripture in their native language.

While the church hasn't yet seen any professions of faith from their ministry with their Afghan neighbors, they are hopeful that their continued work with them and service will provide more inroads for gospel conversations.

Alcazar said one of the most encouraging things has been seeing

the way these people from another part of the world have opened their hearts and homes to the members of his church. One recent example was being invited for tea at the hotel room where one of the refugees was living. One of the two English-speaking Afghans who had been visiting the church explained the nature and importance of hospitality to Alcazar, stating that it is considered an honor to be invited into someone's home.

"I was thankful that it is an expression that they [would welcome us] as Christians to be near their families. That's the simple way of saying it, that they're opening their house for non-Muslims, or Christians if you will ... to be in their house."

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# Strong leaders are built from the inside out

**Equip Conference** keynote speaker Witt says ‘doing’ is necessary for leaders, but ‘being’ comes first



Lance Witt will be the keynote speaker at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention’s annual Equip Conference set for August 13 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Witt is the founder of REPLENISH ministries and author of “Replenish,” “High Impact Teams,” and, most recently, “Your ONE Life: Own it, Live it, Love it.” He recently spoke with the Texan about the importance of soul care, self-awareness, and understanding identity as it pertains to pastors and church leaders.

**When it comes to leadership, so much has been written and taught about how to lead in an external sense (structures and strategies, processes and procedures). Yet the heart of your ministry has focused much more on the internal parts of leadership like “being” and spiritual health. What were you seeing in the Christian landscape that led you to make that the focus of your ministry?**

**Lance Witt:** The first thing I was seeing was a lack of health in my own soul. I was coming out of seven years as an executive and teaching pastor at Saddleback Church. I was there when Rick [Warren, Saddleback’s pastor] wrote “Purpose Driven Life,” so that was a huge game-changer for him, for our church, and for our staff. It was a season of amazing ministry influence, but also a season with a lot of challenges because the church was exploding in growth, everybody was contacting the church, Rick sort of became this global celebrity. And so the bottom line is, I just really wasn’t leading myself very well. I just began to see, as hard as I was working and trying to do good things and serve the Lord on the inside, I was pretty empty.

I think my story is not unusual, especially for a lot of people who are either pastors or who serve as volunteers in leader-

ship. We’re sort of taught like—we’re very Word-centered, we’re very evangelistic, let’s go win the world for Jesus—but in the process, we haven’t really been taught much about caring for our own souls. What I began to discover is that even though theologically I would’ve known I had a soul and that my soul was headed for heaven and had been redeemed by the cross, what I didn’t really live with was the experiential reality that my soul needed attention on a daily basis and that I had to care for and nurture my soul and the being side of my life.

That doesn’t minimize the importance of doing, but I think being comes first. And by the way, I think this is really consistent with what Jesus taught, that the Christian life is inside to outside. He says it starts with the root and then it moves toward fruit, it goes from the invisible to the visible. I think that’s why Solomon said in Proverbs 4 that, above everything else, guard your heart, your inner life, because everything you do flows from that.

**Equip is an event designed specifically to train leaders in the local church. Many of those leaders are lay leaders who have full-time jobs, busy families, and they’re working through the stresses and struggles of everyday life. What are some practical ways lay leaders in 2022 can find a balance between being present with their families and active in their churches without running themselves into the ground?**

**LW:** I think part of this is just embracing that there is a dual component to this thing. There is paying attention to my inner life, my soul, my relationships, but then also realizing that the reason God left me on earth ... was that He has an assignment for me and He has given me gifts and called me into the body. He’s wired us in such a

way that at the end of the day, we can never be fulfilled when we're just consumers taking care of ourselves. Now, I really do believe that self care is not selfish—it's good stewardship. But we can become self-absorbed, and it just becomes all about us and our comfort and meeting our needs and taking care of what we want. God just didn't wire us that way. He wired us so that our great fulfillment comes in part when we're actually serving.

One of the things I'm going to talk about in my main session comes out of the book I just released last year called "Your ONE Life." I think if people are going to live meaningful lives in 2022 as lay people who have full-time jobs, families to take care of, and serve in the local church, it starts with first getting really clear about your purpose in life, what is your true north, and what is it that, at the end of the day, you truly value? The whole book is based on the idea of how do we really steward well the one and only life we've ever been given? A key verse I use is Psalm 90:12, which says, "Teach us to number our days that we may grow a heart of wisdom." We need to live with this sense of [understanding] that we get one shot at this life. We need to be really clear about our purpose. We need to be crystal clear about our values. And then I think this is where it gets really practical, but I need to align my priorities and align my week around the things that I say are most important to me, because what I've discovered is that my life and my calendar sort of become like my garage. If I just leave it alone, it ends up really cluttered.

I think getting clear about what's really important and then aligning my life around that is what really leads to the beauty of a life that is paying attention to my personal life, but also is engaged in serving. I will talk in my main session about grabbing your life by the throat—like, you really have to take responsibility for your life and where you're going to commit to.

**You plan on addressing a couple of other important topics at Equip: rhythms and relationships. Can you just share a glimpse about what God has put on your heart about those two topics?**

**LW:** We live in a world where everybody is on 24/7, where we can stay plugged in all the time and have our smartphones attached to our hip. I think for me to really live a great life and be an effective servant, I need to have a rhythm of life that works hard and produces, but one that also has built into it a time for rest and replenishment. Go back to the very beginning of creation, where God's model for us is this rhythm of produce, create, work, and then pause and rest. I need that rhythm because God made everything in the universe with this sense of rhythm. Noth-

ing was made to give out all of the time. I love in Leviticus when God is talking about sabbath and He says, "Every seven years, I want you to give the physical dirt a Sabbath because nothing was made to give out all the time."

So I just think we need a more developed theology of rest. We need to learn how to work hard, and then also unplug hard. I think that if we could learn to have healthy rhythms, we could actually do ministry from a place where we are filled up, in love with Jesus and in love with people. When it comes to relationships—and this will be more in my breakout session—I think the key to really effective leadership is that we need to be relational leaders. God has called us to shepherd sheep, to love on them. We can never forget that God called us to love people. I just want to challenge people to really shepherd and love the people that they are with in a very profound way. I think sometimes we are very transactional in our approach [with volunteers in the church] and it ends up feeling very utilitarian. I want my volunteers to feel that what I care about is what I want *for* them, not just what I want *from* them.

**Let's say someone pulls you aside at Equip and says, "Hey, I'm a follower of Christ, but I know my internal life is a mess. What should I do?" There's no quick and easy answer to that question, but what are a few practical, immediate steps that people can take to get their life headed in a better direction?**

**LW:** I think one would be just acknowledging that you actually have an inner life and that maybe it's not in the healthiest place right now. I always say that whatever is going on inside of me internally is always going to leak out externally. So just the fact that you are acknowledging that is a huge gift, but I would also say, make yourself begin to go on journey—and it's going to take a while—to raise your level of self-awareness. I love this quote: "Self-awareness is your best defense against self-defeat." I think if you can become a more self-aware leader and understand how your family of origin has impacted you, how people's voices over you in the past have created a narrative in your head that you tend to believe ... you will begin to better understand your identity in Christ.

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# Everybody is a missionary

**Central Texas plant** seeing fruit after 'by far the hardest' ministry season

**SAN MARCOS**

Any person or church supporting a church plant should realize the vital role they play.

"You very well could be a direct answer to prayers they're praying just to keep going another day," said Chris Millar, lead pastor of The Well, a congregation that started about two years ago in San Marcos.

The Well started with a goal of reaching students at Texas State University. He considers the first 18 months of the plant "by far the hardest" of his life.

"God graciously sustained us through all of that. We felt inescapably called by God," Millar said of himself and his wife, Ashley. He describes the work as slow and tough, but he said he could share a thousand stories of what God has done.

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At The Well in San Marcos, college students and families are being reached with the hope of the gospel.

Chris Millar and his wife Ashley persevered through a difficult first 18 months of a church plant in San Marcos, realizing they were "inescapably called by God."

**SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

Millar was the college pastor at University Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville, content to reach students at Sam Houston State University for the rest of his life, when God used a Send Conference in Dallas to stir his heart in 2017. Specifically, it was a breakout session on collegiate church planting.

"We had never heard those words before," he said. "We realized God had made our church to plant collegiate churches."

Chris and Ashley committed to being the first couple sent out from University Heights to plant, and they chose San Marcos because of its similarities to Huntsville. They moved with a team of about 10 people in January 2020 and had about two-and-a-half months of normal before COVID shut everything down.

"All our strategies went out the window," Millar said.

Through COVID, the church planting team gathered with whomever God sent their way, investing their lives in others with a short-term goal of disciple-making and a long-term goal of sending



“  
**Church planting is important because everyone has to be a missionary in a church plant. If it's going to survive, everyone has to be a missionary.**  
 ”

CHRIS MILLAR

college students out as missionaries and church planters. They've already sent their first graduate to start a church in Osaka, Japan.

“We've said from the beginning that God was planting a church in San Marcos and He's invited us to be a part of it because, if we were planting this church, we wouldn't be here,” Millar said. “We would have quit.”

The Well meets in an elementary school, which Millar attributes to God opening doors with the school district and specifically the principal. The church does various things to bless the students and teachers, including egg hunts with each grade level during recess leading up to Easter.

After inviting school families to church, Millar said a child had been asking faith-related questions. The child's family—including at least a couple of family members who had never been to church—attended a service at The Well. A teacher at the school asked Millar to officiate her wedding because she said, “You're the closest thing we have to a pastor.”

“We love getting to see what God has done as we invest deeply in the city,” Millar said, “and all of this has been made possible by cooperative giving.”

The church plant's name, drawn from John 4, addresses the fact that people in San Marcos are searching.

“There are thousands of people who are thirsty, and they don't know what they're thirsty for,” Millar said. “We are longing to be a people that can help people meet Jesus at The Well to find living water and life in Him.”

To sustain a church plant in a college town, Millar was advised to reach families in the community first or at least alongside college students. That has been the focus so far, but they've done some things to reach students, such as offering two hours of free pizza rolls at a popular restaurant next to campus.

“We're preparing to formally reach the campus this fall,” Millar said. Their primary strategy will be “relational discipling, reaching one student, help-

In roughly two years, The Well has baptized nearly 20 people.

At an Easter block party, members of The Well in San Marcos extended hospitality to the community in hopes of reaching people with the gospel.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ing them grow in Christ and showing them how to make disciples of other students.”

Last summer, The Well was a church of about 60 people, Millar said, and that number has grown to 130 with an average attendance from 70 to 100. They've baptized about 20 people.

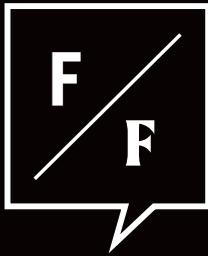
“Church planting is important because everyone has to be a missionary in a church plant. If it's going to survive, everyone has to be a missionary,” Millar said. “That helps solidify the missionary nature of the church.”

He contrasted it to being on staff at University Heights, an established congregation of 800 people.

“It felt like that church was really stable and healthy. We had so many adults, I spent a lot of time just trying to get people into groups instead of really reaching lost people,” Millar said. “In the church planting world, there's only an option to reach people.”

Millar again commended the support he has received.

“While the church planting journey has been hard, the community that has come around us through the SBTC has really helped see us through storms that I don't think we could have weathered on our own.”



# FACES OF THE FAITHFUL

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



## ED FENTON

▶ Age: **36** ▶ Spouse/Children: **Sara/Brooklyn, Bailee, & Brenna**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **18** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Malakoff (1)**

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

Results and church growth are not dependent upon my skills and abilities. I must be diligent to preach the Word of God faithfully, be devoted to prayer, and whole-heartedly dependent upon the Holy Spirit to bring about growth to His people in His time.

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

Since becoming pastor we have devoted Wednesday to prayer and have been praying specifically for salvations and baptisms. On April 27, we celebrated our first baptism as a church since June 2021 and my first baptism as a pastor, followed by another baptism the following Sunday.

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

Having been a senior pastor for only seven months, my greatest challenge has been creating a healthy rhythm for sermon preparation. I underestimated the amount of time that would be devoted to understanding processes and workings of the church and overseeing staff and daily operations of the church.



## FRANCIS CALIMBAHIN

▶ Age: **52** ▶ Spouse/Children: **Aireen/Samantha & Andrea**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **19** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Senior Pastor, Caprock Church, Arlington (19)**

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

We celebrated our 17th church anniversary on March 27.

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

To get our church attendees back to church on-site instead of being content with watching online.

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

We want to see God use our monthly outreach to bear much fruit.

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

Pray for the spiritual maturity of our church members.



## GAIL HENDRIX

▶ Age: **69**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **1** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Church Secretary, Community Baptist Church, Crosby (2)**

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

I would say personally the regeneration of our women's ministry to include the re-development of our women's leadership team. We were recently on a retreat to grow closer together and learn tips on leading this ministry. The SBTC was critical in this amazing retreat led by Laura Taylor.

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

COVID took a real toll on the prior Women's Ministry at our church through longterm lack of attendance, canceled events, and gatherings which led to a real loss of momentum.

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

How important it is to be both authentic and transparent with your women. Ladies need to know they are valued enough for us to share "our real" and that there is always hope in Jesus. I've also learned how important it is to bathe your ministry in prayer, to include praying for women by name.



**JOHN LOWRIE**

▶ Age: **52** ▶ Spouse/Children: **Kristi/John David**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **29** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, First Baptist Church of Terrell (15)**

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

We want to see God transform our city through the gospel proclaimed through His people at FBC Terrell.

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

The power of connection and relationship for ministry.

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

Pray for God's clear direction in impacting a culture facing chaos and darkness.



**JOE RIVERA**

▶ Age: **58** ▶ Spouse: **Nancy**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **24** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Grand Prairie (14)**

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

We are celebrating being able to worship together in our church building and people are feeling more confident about coming back. People are also more confident in sharing the gospel.

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

Finding workers to fill several leadership roles in the church ministries has been very difficult.

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

We as ministers are not indispensable and that the Lord is sovereign. Everything we do is for His glory. I've also learned to trust Him more.



**MELISSA MEREDITH**

▶ Age: **36** ▶ Total Years in Ministry: **9**

▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Director of Women's Ministry, Southcrest Baptist Church, Lubbock (1)**

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

We have an increasing number of women wanting to discover and use their spiritual gifts in the church. Women who have never served before are stepping into areas of service and flourishing.

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

I'm praying for a continued culture of discipleship across the generations. I pray God would continue to stir and embolden the hearts of older women to engage younger women in mentorship and discipleship relationships, as there is a need for both. May we be women who lean in to community, say yes to sharing our spiritual legacy, and trust God to equip us for every good work He sets before us!

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

Build and nurture a strong leadership and volunteer team! Early on in my ministry, I tried to do everything myself and quickly became burned out! I'm thankful for a seasoned pastor who taught me the art of leader multiplication.



**TIM JONES**

▶ Age: **55** ▶ Spouse/Children: **Latonya**

▶ Total Years in Ministry: **11** ▶ Church/Years at Current Church: **Pastor, Church LYFE, Allen (11)**

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

We were voted best religious organization in the city of Allen. We are celebrating a name change and grand re-opening of the church with the new name. Recently purchased and remodeled the church building. Held our first annual Good Friday Gospel Concert. We provide the MLK Drum Major award to individuals in the Collin County community.

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

Would love for God to transform us spiritually to be more of a praying church. Strong and healthy in reaching our community and providing/meeting needs of people in and around our community. Develop in us a heart for God and His people by growing our love for Him.

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

Pray that we impact our community. Pray that we exhibit love toward God and His people. Pray that we have an attitude of service in the ministry and our community.



**SALADO CHURCH PRESSING ON AFTER TORNADO DESTROYS BUILDING**

**SALADO** It wasn't church as usual, but there was much to thank the Lord for when First Cedar Valley Baptist Church met for Sunday services on May 8.

Meeting in a temporary building with only studs holding up a partial roof, the church sang hymns such as "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," prayed, and pastor Donnie Jackson did what he does every Sunday—he preached the Word of God. A little less than a month before, on April 12, an EF-3 tornado tore through Salado and destroyed 76 buildings. First Cedar Valley was one of them.

"Lord, we're facing some things ahead where we know we're going to have to work together," Jackson prayed as the service began, with a steady breeze blowing between the

studs and crinkling Bible pages.

Despite the challenging circumstances, the ministry of the church carries on. At the service on May 8, Jackson reminded the congregation that they were continuing their campaign to donate funds to a local pregnancy center. Immediately following the tornado, the church met outside, then in a tent, and now is meeting in a temporary building.

"You've got to accept what is. Don't look at what was. Look at what is to come," Jackson told the Texan last month. "It's been hard in the flesh, but I believe Romans 8:28. I don't know what God's purpose is, but we'll be stronger. We'll reach more people than we would have been able to reach."



**SVAJDA JOINS SBTC AS PASTORAL MINISTRIES ASSOCIATE**

**GRAPEVINE** Anthony Svajda has been named pastoral ministries associate in the Church Health & Leadership department of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. He was officially hired by the SBTC Executive Board in April and began work in May.

Svajda has served as lead pastor at Harvey Baptist Church in Stephenville since 2015 and has also served as an associate pastor, collegiate pastor, and student pastor in locations including Jewett, Colleyville, Keller, and Watauga. He received his Ph.D. in evangelism and church vitalization from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2018 and his Master of Divinity in evangelism from SWBTS in 2013.

Svajda and his wife, Kristen, have two children. In addition to his pastoral duties, he currently serves as a member of the SBTC Executive Board.

**TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT  
MARCH 31, 2022**

	<b>YTD Totals</b>
Cooperative Program	7,245,051.67
SBTC Reach Texas Offering	239,264.16
SBTC Designated	173,105.72
SBTC Special Gifts	143,970.94
Grants from SBC Entities	3,285.74
Pass Thru Giving:	
Lottie Moon	4,662,284.43
Annie Armstrong	396,912.53
SBC Designated	71,613.76
SBC Special Gifts	72,364.48
Special Gifts to Other Ministries	36,002.29
<b>TOTAL (Report in TEXAN)</b>	<b>13,043,855.72</b>

**DEADLINE FOR SBTC COMMITTEE/BOARD NOMINATIONS**

The Committee on Nominations is receiving nomination forms to fill upcoming vacancies on the SBTC Executive Board and committees. Nomination forms can be completed online or downloaded at [www.sbtexas.com/nominations](http://www.sbtexas.com/nominations). The deadline to receive nomination forms is August 1, 2022. The vacancies to be filled are as follows:

**Executive Board** – 12 vacancies (5 eligible for renomination). Note: The composition of the Executive Board is based on certain considerations: 1) one-fourth of the membership must be laypersons, 2) one-fourth of the membership, at the time of election, must be a member of a church of 400 or less in membership, 3) at least five representatives from each quadrant of the state.

**Texas Ethics and Religious Liberty Committee** – 3 vacancies; Credentials Committee – 2 vacancies; Committee on Order of Business – 3 vacancies.

**Also:** Criswell College Board – 3 vacancies (all eligible for renomination); Jacksonville College – 1 vacancy (eligible for renomination); Texas Baptist Home for Children – 1 vacancy (eligible for renomination); Southern Baptists of Texas Foundation – 5 vacancies (2 eligible for renomination).



## CP GIVING AMONG SBTC CHURCHES IN 2021 IS HIGHEST EVER

Cooperative Program giving in 2021 was the highest it has ever been in Southern Baptists of Texas Convention history, Executive Director Nathan Lorick said in April.

Lorick attributed the record amount—\$27,283,572.03—to two things: a belief in cooperative missions work that encourages faithful giving, and also the quality of missionaries, church planters, disaster relief workers, and all other efforts “that the Cooperative Program fuels and sends.”

The record giving, he noted, happened in the midst of uncertain times that some felt might lead to a decrease in giving.

“Let’s not miss that today,” Lorick added, “that in the midst of people saying the sky is falling, I think God’s just getting started.”

## SBTC EXECUTIVE BOARD TAKES ACTION TO SUPPORT LIFE INITIATIVES

**GEORGETOWN** The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention executive board unanimously approved two motions that will provide ministry for the most vulnerable at its April meeting.

One of the motions approved a reserves funding grant to be given to the Psalm 139 Project, a pro-life ministry of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. The funds specifically will be used to purchase six ultrasound machines and training for pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) in Texas.

Each of the six PRCs have made urgent requests for the machines, as there has been a drastic increase in the number of women being served since the passing of the Heartbeat Bill in Texas. One clinic in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex has reported a 48% increase in clients over the previous year.

On the other end of the life spectrum, the board approved another reserves fund grant to Mission Dignity, a ministry of Guidestone Financial Resources which serves to honor retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers, and widows struggling to meet basic needs through advocacy and financial assistance.

Mission Dignity funds 12 monthly gifts to approximately 263 individuals in Texas, of which 178 are widows or widowers. The reserves fund grant approved by the executive board will be used to provide a 13th check as a bonus/love gift over and above the normal 12 monthly gifts.



## FBC SEAGOVILLE MARKS 150 YEARS OF MINISTRY

**SEAGOVILLE** First Baptist Church of Seagoville celebrated its 150th year of ministry with a ceremony held at the church on April 24.

The church, pastored by Don Cole, was founded in 1872. “I was not the founding pastor,” Cole joked during the ceremony, which was attended by church members, former pastors and staff, and longtime friends, among others. Many of those in attendance testified to how God has used the church for the betterment of their faith, their lives, families, and the community.

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and Dallas Baptist Association were among those on hand to present plaques or proclamations to the church.

“God has blessed,” Cole said. “He’s touched a lot of families through this church.”

PHOTO BY ANDREW HANCOCK (GOOGLE)



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.



## GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT BEYOND MY COMFORT ZONE

I have served in children's ministry for over 20 years, from Sunday school teacher to Vacation Bible School and even seven years as the children's ministry director at my home church, Nolan River Road Baptist Church in Cleburne.

I stepped out of that role in 2019 to become the founder and executive director of Hope is Strong Ministries. Our ministry primarily does relief and education work in Tanzania. We have recently had a door open to also work in Zambia.

It took a few years of praying and preparation for me to come to the point of launching a ministry. For me, the biggest challenge was feeling unequipped. My life verse is 2 Corinthians 12:9. It reminds me that because of my weakness, it's obvious that it's His ministry. So, even though I don't feel equipped with the right education or the gift of speaking, I know that He is sufficient. And if I'm just faithful in going, as we're commanded to do, then He's the one who's prepared the way.

During a 2021 Bible Club in Tanzania, Hope is Strong team members, seen here scattered through the crowd from left to right: Nathan Benke, Southcliff Baptist Church, Taylor Willyard and Alley Fuller from Nolan River Road Baptist Church, Stephen Agnew from Hill Church, Cleburne, Becky Willyard from Nolan River Road Baptist Church, Tim Johnson from Southcliff Baptist Church and Connie Russek from Nolan River Road Baptist Church.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

You see, each time the Lord has called me to serve, He has always been faithful about bringing others alongside me who would train and encourage me. As a kid, even, I remember having a strong desire to learn more or even go to Africa one day. In 2011, I learned that our local Baptist association, Southwest Metroplex Baptist Association, was taking mission trips to Tanzania. I joined them on their second trip in 2012.

It was on that trip that the Lord planted. And I knew even then this challenge was going to require me to not just step out of my comfort zone, but to really, completely, jump out of my comfort zone. As we traveled to a village one day, one of our translators on the bus, a pastor in Tanzania, said to me, "Beck, please pray of a way to help our orphans." And I just remember telling him I would pray, but I took it very seriously.

I could only pray though, because I had no idea even where to start. So, I

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## What's my story? In the face of my shortcomings, I'm reminded of God's grace. His grace is sufficient for me.

”

prayed for years. In fact, I fast forward all the way to 2017 when this pastor, Pastor Jeremiah, contacted me on Facebook Messenger. He sent me a picture of three children he was feeding. They were about 10 years old and under. The youngest, probably about 3 years old, had showed up at his house that day looking for food.

Their dad had lost hope and left a few years earlier. Mother had been gone for three days and was looking for ways to provide for her children. So, these children had been at home for three days, no mom, no dad, and no food.

I knew then, when I received that message and that picture of those sweet children, that was the moment God said, “Are you ready?” And I still was in denial that He was calling me to something big. I reached out to a few others, including Rick Hope, the pastor at First Baptist Lillian, at that time. And together we raised enough money to send this mom and her children some corn. So that's really where the initial call was, to start from there.

We put together a plan, providing meals through Pastor Jeremiah's church in Bunda, Tanzania, but God had already gone before us. And we have been given amazing opportunities to just be the ones to serve. Our hope is to reach vulnerable children and widows, both physically and spiritually.

So, the way it works is as they come for Sunday service, they receive a meal. Many of the children attend church without their parents. We saw this as an opportunity to unite the families in Christ. When we provide a meal for the children, it opened doors for the leaders. As they would go follow up on the children, the children would recognize them and tell mom and dad, “Hey, I know



them. They can come in, let's talk to them.” And the leaders are able to share Christ with the entire family.

We started in 2017. By 2020, we were a 501(c)3 and opened the doors to our first kindergarten, serving about 80 children. We hope to open a full Christian school one day. We serve widows and children through four churches in Bunda, and hopefully soon, in Zambia.

In 2021, we led our first mission trip as Hope is Strong Ministries. We hosted a Bible club and had almost 400 children attend. It was so much fun to see, just to be able to play with these children, and develop relationships. We had a day of ministry with the widows, hosted leader training, and we walked door-to-door in the community sharing Christ with families. Our second trip is planned for this August.

What's my story? In the face of my shortcomings, I'm reminded of God's grace. His grace is sufficient for me.

Alley Fuller, Taylor Willyard, and Connie Russek from Nolan River Road Baptist Church hand out pipe cleaners that the children will use to create evangelism bracelets during the first Hope is Strong Ministries mission trip to Tanzania in 2020.

**SUBMITTED PHOTO**



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

**First Baptist Church of Dean** is looking for a FT pastor to help us grow and minister to the community. We are a country church desiring to grow. Please send your resume to [dpmurphy1980@yahoo.com](mailto:dpmurphy1980@yahoo.com). Please include links to your sermon information.

**Calvary Hills BC in San Antonio** is seeking a FT senior pastor. Send resumes to [calvaryhillspsc@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryhillspsc@gmail.com).

**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 "builder's" 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](mailto: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](mailto:psc@cornerstonecommunity.com).

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

**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](mailto:lakeway12748@gmail.com).

**Piney Grove BC in Leesburg** seeks a PT pastor. Send resume to [pineygrove4942@gmail.com](mailto:pineygrove4942@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rmhtax@gmail.com).

**Birth of Hope BC** in Cottonwood Shores, a small church in a town of 1,800 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](mailto:BOH@nctv.com) or Birth of Hope BC, 621 Magnolia Ln, Cottonwood Shores, TX 78657.

## MUSIC

**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](mailto:dustin@brashearbaptist.com).

**Coastal Oaks Church in Rockport** is in search of a PT choir director. Send resume to [racetteguyjen@msn.com](mailto:racetteguyjen@msn.com).

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

**Frost BC** is seeking a PT or bi-vocational worship leader to lead on Sundays and special events (funerals, etc.). Contact [frostbaptist@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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@fbcponder.org](mailto:kimb@fbcponder.org).

**Southmayd BC** is seeking a PT worship leader. Send resumes to [smaydbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:smaydbaptist@gmail.com).

**Cleburne Community Church** is seeking a PT worship leader. Send resumes to Ryan Michels at [cleburnepastor@gmail.com](mailto:cleburnepastor@gmail.com).

## STUDENTS

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

**Grace Baptist of Groves** is seeking a FT student pastor. Parsonage available, provided, 3/2/2. School districts: Port Neches/Groves, Nederland, Port Arthur, Bridge City, and Hamshire/Fannett. Send resume to [philsigman@gmail.com](mailto:philsigman@gmail.com).

**Central Church, College Station** needs a FT student ministry associate who will report to the student pastor. Position includes salary with benefits. Email [jlewis@centralbcs.org](mailto:jlewis@centralbcs.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; master's preferred, 2 years minimum experience. Send resumes to [rob@porterfirst.org](mailto:rob@porterfirst.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 expositionally, love unconditionally, and must affirm the BF&M 2000. Send resume to Matt Carey at [mcarey@madisonvillefbc.org](mailto:mcarey@madisonvillefbc.org).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:fbcrogers@fbcrogers.com).

**Inglewood BC in Grand Prairie** is seeking a PT student minister with a heart for discipling youth. The youth minister coordinates Sunday School and Wednesday night Bible study, oversees regular youth events, and builds relationships with youth and their families. Submit resume to [jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com](mailto:jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com)

## CHILDREN

**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](mailto:childrensminister@highlandterrace.org).

**Harmony Hill BC in Lufkin** is searching for a children's pastor or director. Should have 4 years experience and a degree in childhood education. Send resume and cover letter to [humanresources@harmony-hill.org](mailto:humanresources@harmony-hill.org).

**Inglewood BC in Grand Prairie** is looking for a PT children's minister with a passion for growing a children's program. The children's minister arranges curriculum, schedules and trains teachers, organizes annual events, and maintains relationships with the children's families. Submit resume to [jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com](mailto:jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com).

## COMBINATION

**FBC Crane**, a growing rural church that has 100+ in Sunday worship and 45-50 students on Wednesday nights, is looking for a FT worship & student pastor. Visit [fbccrane.com](http://fbccrane.com). Send resume to Pastor Farrell at [chris@fbccrane.com](mailto:chris@fbccrane.com).

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

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

**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).

**Broadview Baptist Church of Abilene** is looking for a FT (with benefits) associate pastor of student & family discipleship. For more information or to apply visit [broadview.church/search](http://broadview.church/search).

## OTHER

**South Side BC Abilene** is looking for a FT college minister who will lead the college ministry by teaching, overseeing, planning, and developing leaders. We are looking for someone who is passionate about discipling college students and training them to disciple others.

# Church Positions

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

Please send resumes to [blake@ssbaptist.org](mailto:blake@ssbaptist.org).

**South Side BC Abilene** is looking for a FT family minister/pastor who will set vision, recruit, equip, and encourage leaders and volunteers within our Children's Ministry. This person needs to be passionate about training and equipping parents as the primary disciplinarians of their children. Please send resumes to [blake@ssbaptist.org](mailto:blake@ssbaptist.org).

**Inglewood BC in Grand Prairie** is looking for a FT financial secretary who will handle financial responsibilities such as payroll, budget, and maintaining church financial records. Previous financial experience needed. If interested, submit resume to [jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com](mailto:jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com).

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

**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).

**FBC Celina** is looking for an administrative assistant to partner with our ministry. This individual needs to have great people skills and good computer skills ranging from Word processing, Database, and website abilities. Contact Kevin Lykins. His email: [pastorkevin@firstcelina.org](mailto:pastorkevin@firstcelina.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 [jdumas@sbtxas.com](mailto:jdumas@sbtxas.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).

**FBC Mansfield has 3 portable buildings for sale:** Portable Buildings 1 & 2: 64 x 25. Beige and brown trim color. Used as youth ministry area. Concrete siding outside material. Two entrance doors. Windows in unit. Insulated and with lighting. Two HVAC units. Recently remodeled. Entrance ramp and steps. \$14,500 each. Portable Building 3: 90 x 25. Same attributes as Buildings 1 & 2. With front and side entrances, 4 locations. Entrance ramp and steps for front

and side locations. \$19,500. Please send direct inquiries about all 3 buildings to the Facilities Director, [Tray@firstmansfield.com](mailto:Tray@firstmansfield.com), at First Baptist Church, Mansfield. (817) 463-1161.

**Christian Outdoor Ministry** will hold a youth & parent/adult dove hunt Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Coleman, TX. \$290 per person. Deadline to sign up Sept. 15. Spots filling fast. Contact [www.christianoutdoorministry.org](http://www.christianoutdoorministry.org) or Deana Tabor, COM, 682.226.2773.

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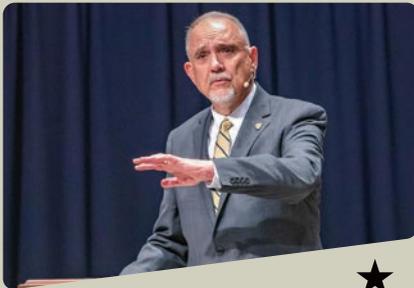


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# SBC CANDIDATES



Last month, the Texan conducted written Q&As with all three announced candidates vying to serve as the next president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Messengers will vote during the Annual Meeting in Anaheim on June 14-15. Full interviews with the candidates can be found at Texan.Digital by scanning the QR codes next to the corresponding candidate.



**TOM ASCOL**

Senior Pastor, Grace Baptist Church (Cape Coral, Fla.)

“ I am willing to be nominated for president because I love the SBC and believe that it matters. We educate a third of all seminary students in the USA across a variety of denominational affiliations. We have the largest missionary sending force in the world. Our disaster relief ministry is second to none. Southern Baptist churches—who own all our SBC entities and agencies—have a stewardship to protect and keep mobilized all of these cooperative efforts for the glory of our king, the Lord Jesus. ”



**BART BARBER**

Pastor, First Baptist Church of Farmersville (Texas)

“ You can't love the Bible without loving efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. You can't love efforts to fulfill the Great Commission without loving what God has used the Southern Baptist Convention to do. The Baptist Faith & Message is a wise and helpful statement of faith. The Cooperative Program is a work of genius that has helped us to accomplish so much more together than we could accomplish on our own. ”



**ROBIN HADAWAY**

Senior Professor of Missions, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

“ I heard Adrian Rogers say once, 'Southern Baptists, we are many, but we're not much.' Indeed, in 2020, Southern Baptists numbered about 14 million persons worshipping in a little over 47,500 churches. It took all of us to send and maintain a little less than 4,000 missionaries overseas. ... We need to do better. I plan to herald the need for more Southern Baptists to drop what they are doing, listen to God's call on their lives, and surrender to a career in home missions, foreign missions, and church planting. ”



# 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)



## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

**JUNE 12-15** ANAHEIM, CA

[sbcannualmeeting.net](https://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)



## SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY SUNDAY

**JULY 10**

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



## EQUIP CONFERENCE

**AUGUST 13** SWBTS, FORT WORTH

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

## June

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

## July

<b>10</b>	Special Needs Ministry Sunday
<b>14-18</b>	Student M3 Camp (Glorieta)
<b>19-23</b>	Student M3 Camp (Glen Rose)

## August

<b>4</b>	Young Pastors Network Regional Gathering, Marshall
<b>12</b>	Interim Pastor Equipping, Fort Worth
<b>27</b>	She Stands Women's Conference, Conroe



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



EQUIP IS DESIGNED FOR ALL LEADERS IN THE CHURCH



Saturday **AUGUST 13, 2022** 8:45 AM–3:00 PM

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Theological Seminary

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Theme: Reset | Replenish | Rebuild



[SBTEXAS.COM/EQUIP](https://SBTEXAS.COM/EQUIP)