

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
TEXAN

NOVEMBER 2022 • VOL. 21 | NO. 11

UNITED IN PRAYER

SBTC PREPARES TO MEET IN CORPUS CHRISTI, CRY OUT TO GOD FOR REVIVAL



OPEN UP THE FLOODGATES

Revival breaks out in small church
after pastor's wife gets saved



'A LOT OF WORK, TEARS & JOYS'

Mexia church plant tilling soil
and seeing Jesus claim territory

Connecting, expecting, and encouraging!

I always say it: fall is my favorite time of year. It brings some of my favorite things like cooler weather, Thanksgiving, football, and the annual gathering of our Southern Baptists of Texas Convention family. It truly is a great time of year.

This year, our SBTC Annual Meeting is being held Nov. 14-15 in Corpus Christi. It is going to be a great time of gathering together for worship, prayer, preaching, and hearing how God is using SBTC churches to advance the Great Commission across Texas and the world. I can't wait to be with our SBTC family.

Annual meetings are important in the life of a convention. They are certainly a time of reconnecting with friends from across the state. They are also a time to reengage the mission of reaching Texas and impacting the world together. There are a lot of activities and yes, some business, but the overall purpose of gathering is to realign our hearts together.

One of the greatest ways we do this is to pray. At the conclusion of Monday evening, we will have a prayer service. There is nothing that compares to followers of Jesus getting on our knees together. I am so excited for this prayer time. As you prepare to come to the annual meeting, may I suggest a few things?

Come expectant

Anytime we gather together, it is our hope to experience a movement of God. Through our time of worship, preaching, and praying, we desire for the Lord to meet with us in a powerful way. I know many of you will come weary and burdened. However, I pray the Lord will refresh our hearts together.

Come excited

This meeting should be a great celebration. Though some time will be given to necessary business, even the business time should be exciting since it is giving us the road map to be on mission together. At the meeting, you will hear stories and reports of how God is using your church to advance His kingdom through the SBTC network. These are exciting opportunities for us to celebrate together.

Leave encouraged

When the final session is complete, it is our desire that you leave encouraged. You will have been around some of the greatest pastors and leaders anywhere and reconnected with friends. You will have also heard about what God is doing across Texas. You will have spent time worshipping the Lord, praying together, and feasting on His Word. I am praying that when you start your journey home, your heart will be encouraged to be a part of the SBTC family of churches.

I can't wait to see you there. I am anticipating two wonderful days together. I am looking forward to connecting with you once again. I love you and am humbled to serve the wonderful churches of the SBTC!



Dr. Nathan Lorick
SBTC Executive Director



November
14-15

CORPUS CHRISTI

ANNUAL  MEETING

PURSUING
Presence

Jeremiah 29:12-14

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Does God have your full attention when you pray?

I had the privilege of interviewing Bill Elliff for a Q&A that is featured in this month's issue of the Texan. If you don't know him, Elliff is an Arkansas pastor, an author, and a lifelong student of historic revivals and spiritual awakenings. He will talk about these things as the guest speaker at the President's Lunch at this month's Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi.

I not only enjoyed our conversation, but the Lord used it to guide me to reevaluate some of my own personal spiritual disciplines—including prayer. Elliff and I talked quite a bit about the role prayer plays in revival and spiritual awakening. A couple of years ago, he wrote a book called “Simply Prayer,” which I began reading shortly after our interview.

Prayer can be a struggle for me. It's too easy for me to close my eyes and hastily string together a series of religious-sounding words that feel more like I'm reading them off a shopping list than the tablet of my heart. My mind during prayer is prone to wander (*Lord, I feel it!*), lining up the day's troubles and tasks while simultaneously offering a modicum of my attention to the King of kings.



“Simply Prayer” has challenged me in many ways, none more impactful than my lack of focus when I pray. “We charge into prayer,” Elliff writes, “and quickly reel off a laundry list of things we want God to do. Failing to realize who we're approaching, we never really engage God's presence consciously.”

Ouch. Yeah, that can be me sometimes. Those last words have stuck with me: *engaging in God's presence consciously*. When I pray, does the Creator of all existence have my full attention? Can I really get singularly locked in with Him and navigate Dallas traffic at the same time? Do I ever stop to listen to the Author of all things, or am I just narrating the way I want my story to play out?

One of the practices Elliff offers in “Simply Prayer” is called “entering in,” which is to say that we don't start speaking to the Lord until His Holy Spirit has carried our minds into the throne room of His presence. There's nothing complicated or mystical about this; for me it has meant closing my eyes (so you know I'm not praying in Dallas traffic), mentally picturing myself entering the throne room, and kneeling directly in front of my Lord. It's been a continual battle of swatting a swarm of thoughts away, but I feel like the practice has already benefited my prayer life.

I hope and pray you're blessed by what Elliff has to say in this month's issue. More than that, I pray that we will all take more seriously the privilege and honor of having a heavenly Father who doesn't demand our attention, but who wants it as a perfect and loving Father would.

We are fond in our Christian culture of saying things such as, “He is worthy!” Surely our full attention is one of the things of which He is worthy.

Celebrating Thanksgiving with a focus on others

We are just days away from Thanksgiving 2022. We have so much to be grateful for—much, I fear, that we take for granted. This Thanksgiving, I challenge you to turn your attention to the spiritual needs of others. Here are five ways to do that:



01

Invite an unchurched family to join you for your Thanksgiving meal

Many of us invite family members to join us on this holiday. Some extend an invitation to other believers who attend their church. In my experience, it's not often we intentionally invite an unchurched family to join us—and we miss an opportunity to show the love of Christ. Think about your co-workers and your neighbors. Pray for them and open your home to them on Thanksgiving.

02

Serve at a homeless shelter or local ministry on Thanksgiving Day

Out of gratitude for God's goodness to you, serve a meal at a homeless shelter that day. Doing so doesn't preclude having your family meal, but it does turn your focus outward toward those less fortunate than you. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to tell others about God's gift of life to you while you serve them.

03

Take time on Thanksgiving to thank God for getting the gospel to you—and pray throughout the day for an unreached people group somewhere in the world

Go to www.peoplegroups.info and learn about the thousands of people groups that still have no sustained Christian witness among them. Tell your family about the needs of the group. When you say

04

Invite an international student or family from another ethnic group or world faith to join you for Thanksgiving and ask them to prepare a dish from their culture

The Lord is bringing the world to North America—many from countries unreceptive to missionaries—and we have opportunity this holiday to get to know some of these folks. Learn about them. Listen to them. Love them. Lift them up in prayer. Look for ways to show Christ's love to them.

05

Fast for one day during Thanksgiving week and cry out to the Lord on behalf of a non-believer

I realize "fasting" and "Thanksgiving" hardly go together, but that's the point: we ought to long for our friends and loved ones to know Jesus more than we long to eat. Fasting on behalf of a non-believer during Thanksgiving week says, "Lord, I desperately want (name) to experience the grace You've given me—and for which I am so grateful this Thanksgiving season."



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.

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‘We’re just there to share Jesus’

MOVEMENT OF GOD IN NORTHEAST HOUSTON CHURCH FUELED BY HEART FOR GOSPEL, VIBRANT ESL MINISTRY

HOUSTON

A bilingual church plant is reaching a Latino population in Northeast Houston troubled by gang activity, drug cartels, and human trafficking—proving through door-to-door evangelism and a robust English as a Second Language program that gospel hope is available to all.

Del Traffanstedt left corporate America to become a missions pastor at Northeast Houston Baptist Church, where he was mentored by the church’s former pastor, Nathan Lino. Traffanstedt later served as a pastor in Odessa for three years but couldn’t stop thinking about Houston—especially inside the beltway.

“The people caught my heart. It’s just a very inner-city, urban, heavily Latino area—just great, solid people who love their community, but there’s a lack of gospel-oriented churches,” Traffanstedt said of the area where he would eventually plant. “There’s plenty of churches here, just not a lot that are actually reaching the community and trying to engage the community.”

When Lino called Traffanstedt in Odessa in early 2021 and said Northeast Houston Baptist Church wanted to plant a church in that specific area of Houston, Traffanstedt was able to share with him a specific plan God had already given him for the task should the opportunity ever arise.



The people caught my heart. It’s just a very inner-city, urban, heavily Latino area—just great, solid people who love their community, but there’s a lack of gospel-oriented churches.



DEL TRAFFANSTEDT

Traffanstedt moved back to Houston a few months later and partnered with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and several churches to plant Cross Community Church, meeting at the Northeast Houston Community Center (owned by Northeast Houston Baptist Church).

More than 10 churches helped the core team knock on doors in the six weeks leading up to the launch and for two weeks after the launch, Traffanstedt said. “The community responded. It was great. We ended up reaching in that first go-round around 5,000 homes.”

On launch Sunday in September of last year, Cross Community baptized a person who had accepted Christ during the door-to-door effort, and the plant baptized at least one person every week for the first 10 weeks, leading to 20 baptisms by its first anniversary.



“We’ve had around 60 professions of faith, and several of those are still working through the baptism process of understanding what that is,” Traffanstedt said. “The community is heavily steeped in cultural Catholicism, so we have to do a lot of discipling [about] baptism.”

About 100 people attend Sunday services now, and roughly every other Sunday the worship songs are a blend of English and Spanish—the stanza in one language and the refrain in the other. A real-time translation of the sermon is available so that those who prefer can hear Spanish through an earpiece and connected device.

The community is mainly second- and third-generation immigrants, and most of them are bilingual, Traffanstedt said.

“Everything else in their lives is integrated, and we offer a worship experience that’s integrated as well, which is different than most of the churches around here. ... That’s attractive to a lot of the unchurched young Latino couples that we’ve ministered to and baptized and are discipling,” the pastor said.

Cross Community is partnering with two local schools to show Christ’s love, primarily through giving teachers Starbucks and Amazon gift cards. They’ve bought uniforms for students, and—partially with the North American Mission Board’s help—distributed more than 600 backpacks, which include gospel tracts in English and Spanish.

The church plant’s main community outreach is its ESL program, which at more than 30 members its first semester is among Houston’s largest. More than 15 family units from the program have visited the church, and school partners have asked Cross Community to start an ESL program for children.

Though they weren’t quite ready to support a full class for children, Cross Community hosted a weeklong ESL camp for kids before the start of school.

“It looks maybe like a VBS, only with some intentional English instruction on basic classroom vocabulary,” Traffanstedt said. About 40

The English as a Second Language program at Cross Community Church, a church plant in Northeast Houston, is among the largest in the city.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



children attended, most of them in kindergarten through third grade.

Traffanstedt is half Salvadorian, he said, though he didn’t grow up with his first-generation immigrant father. “I have studied Spanish, but I’m not conversational. I do understand it very well, and I can communicate at a basic level.”

When he needs to communicate evangelistically with someone from the 20 percent of non-English speakers in the surrounding community, Traffanstedt has five members of his core team who can translate. “Between me, my translator, the individual, and the Holy Spirit, we’re just able to work it out,” he said.

Traffanstedt can’t point to a bad experience the church has had going door-to-door in the community. People there are more receptive to a gospel witness than people in suburbs, he has found, and though crime is high, his groups are careful and have earned a good reputation.

“We don’t try to be the police,” he said. “We’re just there to share Jesus.”

REVIVAL BURSTS OUT AT EAST TEXAS CHURCH AFTER PASTOR'S WIFE GETS SAVED

OPEN UP THE FLOODGATES

BLACKFOOT

Jaclyn Horine missed a trip to the Holy Land a few years ago when she started a new job. Now, unexpectedly, she has seen Jerusalem through the eyes of a new believer.

Her coming to faith as an adult—and as a pastor's wife—has stirred the congregation of Friendship Baptist Church in Blackfoot, where her husband, Jerry, serves as senior pastor. Since her decision to truly follow Jesus, baptisms at the church have multiplied.

"I thought for years that I knew God," said Jaclyn, a self-described preacher's kid from Indiana. Both she and Jerry believed she was a Christian. Jerry remembered an occasion when Jaclyn had some trouble articulating her testimony, but she had been raised in the church and surely knew Jesus.

Except she did not.

"Her hope wasn't in Christ. It was in her religion and herself," Jerry said.

"My religion was me," Jaclyn said.

When a professor from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where Jaclyn is pursuing a master's



degree in counseling, suggested that she might be building a foundation on her family background rather than Christ, Jaclyn initially disagreed. Yes, the move away from family in Indiana to Texas had been difficult, but she had been involved in church all her life, hadn't she?

Then the truth dawned on her on Sunday, March 6, as Jerry preached from Romans 3 at Friendship. Jaclyn had recently been studying Romans 3:21-25 for a seminary hermeneutics class, and suddenly, in the middle of her husband's sermon, it all made sense.

"My husband is preaching on the hope we have in Christ. I basically realized I didn't have that hope," Jaclyn said. Admitting she "just felt broken" as Jerry issued an invitation at the close of the sermon, Jaclyn recalled, "God just picked me up and took me to the altar. It was a beautiful moment."

Both husband and wife could tell the Spirit of God was moving. Women from the church surrounded her at the altar. Jaclyn felt embarrassed at the thought of the other women hearing her admit she had sinned and needed a Savior.

"As I was praying to God for a new heart, I heard

Jaclyn's baptism has helped spark revival at Friendship Baptist Church in the small community of Blackfoot. **PHOTOS SUBMITTED**



people praying for me,” Jaclyn said. She opened her eyes and “woke up, surrounded by my church family.” Members of the congregation had risen, moved forward, and laid hands on the young woman, their own eyes streaming with tears in a display of support and affection that lasted “a good 10 minutes,” Jerry said.

“God gave her a new heart. Salvation was just so real that day,” he added.

Since then, the church has experienced nothing short of a revival, with 32 people baptized since Easter. The church is rejoicing about all those baptisms, but number 31, on Sept. 11, was extra special, Horine said. A local young man whom “everyone had written off” as “too far gone” in substance abuse came forward for baptism.

“Now he comes to our prayer services and he is starting to lead his circle of influence to Christ,” the pastor said, adding that he believes more conversions and baptisms would follow this young man’s actions.

An ongoing revival

Growth continues at Friendship. The historic church, founded in 1860, had about 60 members when Jerry, formerly a church planter in Indiana, was called there five years ago at age 23 after attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Now some 200 attend the church and every children’s class is “busting at the seams,” Jaclyn said, noting that the congregation had prayed for children to come. The couple’s four-year-old foster daughter was recently overheard “baptizing” her Barbie doll, now that baptisms are a regular event at Friendship.

Jerry and Jaclyn Horine renewed their vows at the Sea of Galilee during the recent SBTC-sponsored trip to the Holy Land. The exchange of vows symbolizes the renewal of their marriage after Jaclyn’s salvation.

The growth is all the more remarkable when one realizes that Blackfoot, an unincorporated community of 33 according to the 2000 census, is nestled on a back road seven miles off the two-lane highway that connects Corsicana and Palestine. It’s not a place one will just happen upon.

Jaclyn’s profession of faith has inspired many of the baptisms that are a part of the growth.

“God is opening eyes. It’s beautiful,” she said.

“It’s an ongoing revival,” Jerry added.

“Well, if you came to know Jesus, Lord knows I need to come to know Jesus,” one older lady told Jaclyn. Jerry had been praying for the woman’s husband, and both came to faith during lunch with the pastor one day.

Renewal of vows in Israel

As for the journey to Israel in 2022—a trip sponsored for pastors and their wives by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention this past July—Jaclyn is thankful she could go and even grateful that she was not able to accompany Jerry on his original trip in 2017.

“The Lord opened my eyes to so much in Israel,” she said, admitting that her initial expectations of experiencing the places where Jesus walked had been replaced by a sense of mission to Israel.

Now she has a heart for the lost for whom Jesus wept: “We should be weeping for those people [over] the things that made Jesus weep.” She also understands the legalism and tradition enveloping many in Israel.

“I had been following tradition in religion all my life,” Jaclyn said. “I assumed if the letter of the law was intact, the Spirit would follow.”

Her salvation has brought renewal to their marriage as well, the Horines said.

“I am still super thankful for the quick sanctifying that showed me things in my married life, like pride. It really changed things in our marriage,” Jaclyn said.

Along the Sea of Galilee, the couple renewed their vows as Matthew Timmons, pastor of Norwood Heights Baptist Church in Palestine, officiated.

The ceremony was Jerry’s idea: “After her salvation, the Lord laid it on my heart to renew those vows.”

They rebraided the cord of three strands that they had braided in their original wedding.

“This shows there are truly three in our marriage,” Jaclyn explained, referring to the fact that mutual faith in Christ now characterized their union.

Said Jerry: “It’s God’s providence, knowing that she just came to Christ and got to experience that.”



The satisfaction of sharing

In John 4, we see a woman whose life has been marked by one broken relationship after another in an attempt to find something to satisfy the thirst of her soul. She is desperately seeking something to satisfy her soul but has come up empty time and time again. Yet, through a divine encounter with Jesus, she discovers that what she has been looking for is ultimately found in Him. She drinks the “living water” and is never the same again. What an amazing story of life change through the power of the gospel!

What makes this moment in her life possible is simple—Jesus cared enough about her to take the time to share with her the hope that is found in Himself. You may think, “It’s Jesus—of course He’s going to share with her.” What I love about this passage is that Jesus is described in a way that highlights His humanity. He is exhausted, thirsty, hungry, and sitting by the well resting his weary legs for a few moments. Despite the fatigue of His travels and the busyness of His ministry, Jesus recognized the spiritual condition of this woman and was willing to share the gospel with her.

In this story, we see that the singular focus of Jesus was to proclaim the “good news” of who He is and what He came to do with those who desperately need Him. In v. 31-34, Jesus reveals to us both the urgency of evangelism and the satisfaction that comes when we engage in it. The disciples know Jesus is tired and hungry, so they offer Him food. Notice His reply: “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” In other words, “I’m

already full, boys!” The disciples are confused and ask one another, “Who gave Jesus food?” They are clueless as to what Jesus is referencing.

Jesus goes on to tell them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.” What Jesus declares here is that the will of the Father and the work of the Father is for us to engage in personal evangelism. Don’t miss this: evangelism isn’t just a part of our calling as disciples—it’s primary. If we are not engaging in evangelism, we are not walking in the will or doing the work of the Father.

WE MUST FOLLOW JESUS’ EXAMPLE.

HE DID NOT LET HIS FATIGUE OR BUSYNESS CAUSE HIM TO BE DISTRACTED FROM HIS PRIMARY MISSION.

RATHER, HE SEIZED AN ORDINARY MOMENT AND THROUGH A SIMPLE CONVERSATION CHANGED A WOMAN’S LIFE FOREVER.



There is a spiritual satisfaction that we experience when we share our faith. When we neglect the call to evangelize, we are subsequently missing out on the spiritual food that brings satisfaction to the soul. We must follow Jesus’ example. He did not let His fatigue or busyness cause Him to be distracted from His primary mission. Rather, He seized an ordinary moment and through a simple conversation changed a woman’s life forever.

Since we are entrusted to shepherd and lead those in our churches, we must emphasize evangelism! We must lead by example, lead through equipping and training our people, and lead through celebrating when we see people bold in their evangelism. Imagine the kingdom impact if our collective body of believers truly embraced our everyday, woman-at-the-well moments. As we pray for revival in our churches, community, state, and beyond, we must recognize both the personal responsibility but also the exceeding joy that comes with connecting people to Jesus.



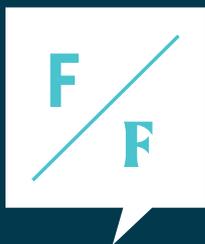
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An aerial photograph of a university campus during sunset. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light. In the foreground, there's a large, light-colored building. To the left, a white church with a steeple is visible. A large parking lot filled with cars is in the middle ground. The background shows a mix of green trees and campus buildings under a hazy, orange sky.

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FACES OF THE FAITHFUL

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

Aaron Sanders

Age: **40**

Spouse: **Holly**
Church/Years at
Current Church:



**Lead Pastor, Coastal
Community Church,
Galveston (10)**

Total Years in Ministry: **17**

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

We're adjusting to the benefits and challenges of owning and operating our own facility, which we opened in March 2022.

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

The best pastors see the big picture of what God is doing in their city. The "win" is not simply to build a bigger church, but to work cooperatively to see the kingdom of God expand in the geographic footprint God has given you. What good is it to grow a big church if the percentage of people engaged in a Bible-believing gospel community remains flat or declining?

HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

Pray for God to raise up a new generation of leaders at Coastal so we can continue to reach the community and send out laborers into the harvest.

Brad McLean

Age: **51**

Church/Years at
Current Church:



**Senior Pastor,
First Baptist Church,
New Braunfels (15)**

Total Years in Ministry: **23**

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

During the pandemic, as a staff we evaluated the scope of our ministries. We found that it is easy to just add to what the church does without being strategic with those additions. That led us to clarify core values then consider ministries that enhance those values. Working from a set of clear values has really added to the ease of decision making.

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

When, as a preacher, I allow God's Word to speak, then I can preach with confidence knowing that I am presenting His truth and not man's opinion. My responsibility is not to make Scripture fit the culture, but to allow Scripture to call the believer to live a godly life in the culture.

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

Each week, we pray as a congregation for unsaved people by name. My personal prayer is that God will move in the lives of and bring to salvation all the people specifically prayed for during our time of worship. I would love to see FBCNB encouraged through God eternally changing the very lives for whom we have prayed.

Debbie Stuart

Age: **57**

Spouse: **John**
Church/Years at
Current Church:



**Women's Minister, Green Acres Baptist
Church, Tyler (4)**

Total Years in Ministry: **30**

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

Over the last three months the Lord has opened prison doors that have been closed for about two years due to COVID. We have seen 97 women give their lives to Christ and almost 30 baptized in prison. Out of a place of brokenness, shame, regret, and defeat the Lord is bringing about great victories and changed lives. My own son was incarcerated for 10.5 years, and the redemptive power of Jesus Christ has been overwhelming.

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

God has put me in a particular place for a specific reason to accomplish an important thing. The Lord has not done without cause all that He has done (Ezekiel 14:23). God turns the valley of trouble into a gateway of hope (Hosea 2:15).

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

Not just this year, but we have a vision at Green Acres Baptist Church to see 10 new campuses planted over the next 10 years and 10,000 baptisms—10-10-10!

Marc Minter

Age: **40**

Spouse/children:

Cassie/Micah & Malachi

Church/Years at Current Church:

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Diana (8)

Total Years in Ministry: **20**



WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE AT YOUR CHURCH RECENTLY?

We have recently celebrated the progress and health of Harleton Baptist Church, which meets about 12 miles east of us. Brent Lowry is the senior pastor, and he's been leading that church very well over the last several years.

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

Everyone in East Texas thinks they are already Christian, they all think they already know what a church should be and do, but almost no one knows what the Bible says about the gospel, the church, or what it means to convert to Christianity. Please pray for fruit from this hard soil as we minister here.

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

The Lord Jesus Christ will build His church. There's nothing I can do to change my own heart, much less anyone else's. It is for me, especially as a pastor, to simply be faithful. I must preach and teach with patience (2 Timothy 4:1-2), live openly and honestly among my fellow church members (1 Timothy 4:11-16), and trust that Christ will do the work by the power of His Spirit (Ephesians 4:11-16).

George Willis

Age: **39**

Spouse/children:

Lindsey/Jalen, Noah, Mason, Willow & Ruby

Church/Years at Current Church:

Missions Pastor, New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview (9)

Total Years in Ministry: **5**



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

Our new mission statement and vision for the church, and the church family making it a priority to attend the prayer meeting.

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

Not planning events in a silo. Also, thinking about how each event touches all ministries and then bringing in the other ministries in planning conversations.

HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

Pray that I can shepherd my family well and spend intentional time with them.

Eric Shin

Age: **58**

Spouse: **Lynette**

Church/Years at Current Church:

Pastor, New Life Fellowship Church, Houston (28)

Total Years in Ministry: **34**



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

Love the congregation members and do the things for them that you would have your pastor do for you if you were a lay member of the church. If you do ministry based on this, which is Jesus' golden rule, the church will be just fine. Pastoral ministry done based on common sense and human decency will get a pastor very far.

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

We have 75 house churches which make up New Life Fellowship, and our house church attendance every Friday is larger than our Sunday worship attendance. We have 550 people coming to our house churches and 500 to our Sunday worship. I would like to see at least five house churches multiply by the end of this year so that we would have 80 house churches.

HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

Please pray that we will be greatly used by God in sharing and spreading our house church ministry.

Eliel Diaz

Age: **36**

Spouse/children: **Sharon/Marina & Esteban**

Church/Years at Current Church:

Spanish Pastor, United City Church, Humble (<1)

Total Years in Ministry: **7**



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

Recently, United City Church started a new Spanish ministry and I have the privilege of being the Spanish pastor at this amazing church. Since we started a couple of weeks ago, we have been seeing exponential growth in the Spanish ministry.

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

I want to see the Spanish community around the area find here at United City Church the message of hope and salvation. We want to see diversity and unity in our community.

HOW CAN OTHER SBTC CHURCHES BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

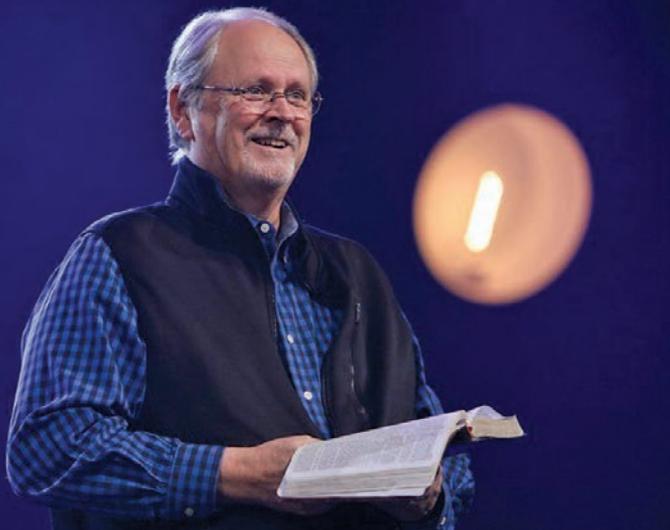
Please pray for wisdom, direction, and that we may be intentional about reaching out and impacting where God has placed us. Pray that leaders continue to be raised up in the church so that together we can be effective in accomplishing the work of Christ.

PURSUING *Presence*

Jeremiah 29:12-14

‘I just think it’s coming’

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER BELIEVES CONDITIONS
ARE RIGHT FOR NEXT GREAT REVIVAL



Bill Elliff is a pastor (The Summit Church in North Little Rock, Ark.) and author who has pursued revival since experiencing the Jesus Movement on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University in 1970. On Nov. 15, he will be the President’s Lunch guest speaker at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Annual Meeting. Elliff recently spoke with Texan editor Jayson Larson about what revival is, what it isn’t, and why he is more hopeful than ever that the next great movement of God could be just over the horizon.

REVIVAL IS A WORD THAT IS OFTEN USED AND SPOKEN ABOUT IN OUR CHURCHES, BUT WHAT IS REVIVAL?

BILL ELLIFF: Well, I love Richard Owen Roberts’ definition that I’ve used for years—revival is the extraordinary work of the Spirit of God among His people that produces extraordinary results. In other words, there’s the ordinary movement of God that’s happening all the time ... but then there’s the extraordinary movement of God, those seasons in a life or a church or even a region or nation when God seems to open the heavens and come down and manifest Himself, what we talk about as the manifest presence of God—clear, visible, unmistakable. It’s when God’s people come back to life again.

We use the term spiritual awakening to refer to something that happens after revival. That is when lost people begin to just wake up, by the grace of God and the activity of His Spirit, and come to Christ in amazing, record numbers. We often tie revival and spiritual awakening together, but they’re two separate components of the same activity of God—one in the church and one in the world.

IF THAT IS WHAT REVIVAL IS, WHAT IS REVIVAL NOT? IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT IS MISUNDERSTOOD ABOUT REVIVAL?

BE: It's certainly not a series of meetings. That's what we often think of. We think, "Well, we're having a revival tonight" or "we're having a revival this week." That word has lost its meaning to so many because the idea for some people is, we're going to have a series of meetings when we set aside some time to seek God. That may result in real revival or it may not, but revival is a God word. It's when God chooses to revive His people. So it's not humanistic. It's not man-made. It's not orchestrated by us. It's divinely orchestrated, but we cooperate. In order to see that, we need to cooperate with God in what He's doing.

WHAT IS THE ANATOMY OF A REVIVAL? WHAT COMMONALITIES HAVE YOU FOUND AMONG THE REVIVALS THAT HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN HISTORY?

BE: Well, it's really fascinating. First, there is always what I call the preparatory work of God in revival. R.B. Jones, who was a pastor in the Welsh Revival and wrote a book 20 years after that, said revival is never of sudden origin. In other words, it doesn't just happen in a moment. When you study the five nationwide revivals in America, you can very clearly look at the eight to 10 years prior to that revival and see certain identifiable marks.

I like to think of how John the Baptist came [prior to] the manifest presence of Christ. He was a voice crying in the wilderness. So when revivals come, God starts raising up voices, which is exactly what He is doing right now, and there's a message of repentance and coming judgment and the hope of Christ. There is desperation—an urgent, desperate cry begins to come from God's people, crying out to Him to do something that they can't seem to do. Then you start hearing of these little outbreaks of the movement of God, just these extraordinary mercy drops. We're seeing exactly that right now.

You can't find revival in the Bible or history, and certainly not in our American history, where real revival is not preceded by desperate, increasing levels of unified prayer. When people start calling us to pray, they're not just telling us we ought to pray. No! God is showing us our need, bringing us to desperation and turning us to the one place where that can be resolved.

When revival comes in the church, there's always repentance, because the thing that's pulled us away and made us unrevived and distant and calloused is our sin. God reveals our sin, and there's always repentance and a

return to Christ. Real revival is always Christ-centered. The emphasis is not on revival. The emphasis is on Christ and coming back to Him.

Then a final result of revival is testimony—people start witnessing and telling. People can't stop telling what they've seen and heard. That leads to spiritual awakening among lost people. This is why every great missions movement in history has come out of seasons of revival. That's provable.

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING IN OUR WORLD TODAY THAT LEADS YOU TO BELIEVE WE COULD BE READY TO EXPERIENCE THE NEXT REVIVAL?

BE: I've been studying it for 50 years, ever since the Jesus Movement. I am more hopeful right now than I've ever been. The reasons are, number one, the condition of our nation and world. Revival doesn't come when everything's great. It comes when everything is dark. God's people get desperate and they cry out. This decade reminds me so much of the 60s. There was a spirit of anarchy, there was rioting, there was a whole new level of sexual perversion that was happening. There was real discontent on the campuses ... and that's exactly the season we're in right now. [The circumstances of the 1960s] resulted in the Jesus Movement in the early 70s, which was the last significant movement of revival and awakening that we've had in our nation.

Number two, I see God raising up voices all across America. Fifteen years ago, you couldn't scare up a conversation about revival. Now, every thinking pastor I know is talking about revival and awakening and prayer. God is raising up voices. That's what He has always done. There's a call to repentance about the coming judgment of God if we don't repent. The role of the Holy Spirit and the role of prayer, that has by and large been lost, is being returned. That really encourages me. The desperation that is happening, I think, is a sign. The extraordinary prayer that's going on [is a sign]. The National Prayer Committee chairman, Dave Butts, said to me not too long ago that they believe more people are praying right now in America than any time in American history.

So I think the signs are right. This is completely subjective, but I'm telling you, I feel it in my spirit so deeply and I'm so moved when I talk about these things, I get overcome. I've had seasons where that was not the case. I just think it's coming.

Register for the President's Lunch
at sbtexas.com/am22.

PURSUING *Presence*

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Monday Evening Session

6:30-9:00 PM

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise Team, Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston

CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Todd Kaunitz, SBTC President

CONSTITUTING OF THE CONVENTION

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS

Blake White, pastor, South Side Baptist Church, Abilene

INTRODUCTION OF MOTIONS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Todd Kaunitz, pastor,

New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview

PRAYER SERVICE

Todd Kaunitz & Matt Boswell

Tuesday Morning Session

9:00-11:50 AM

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise Team, Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston

LAST INTRODUCTION OF MOTIONS

Todd Kaunitz, SBTC President

BIBLICAL CHALLENGE

Jason Paredes, pastor, Fielder Church, Arlington

SBTC EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

Mark Hogan, member, Mission City Church, San Antonio

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (President)

REPORT FROM SEXUAL ABUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nathan Lorick, SBTC

BIBLICAL CHALLENGE

Nathan Lino, pastor, First Baptist Church, Forney

Tuesday Afternoon Session

1:45 - 4:45 PM

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise Team, Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston

SBTC EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESENTATION

Mark Hogan, member, Mission City Church, San Antonio

BIBLICAL CHALLENGE

Matt Boswell, pastor, The Trails Church, Prosper

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Vice President)

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Madison Grace, member, First Baptist Church, Mansfield

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Secretary)

TEXAS ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMITTEE

Nathan Loudin, pastor, Milwood Baptist Church, Austin

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Andy Hill, associate pastor, Mobberly Baptist Church, Longview

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Irma Ramos, member, First Baptist Church, Galena Park

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS FINAL REPORT

Blake White, pastor, South Side Baptist Church, Abilene

PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BIBLICAL CHALLENGE

Chip Luter, senior associate pastor, Franklin Avenue

Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING OFFICERS & INCOMING

OFFICERS

DISMISSAL



Register Today

Scan to see more details on this year's annual meeting

Messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention will gather for a powerful time of prayer, worship, and fellowship at the annual meeting. Churches can now pre-register messengers at sbtexas.com/am22.

Scan QR for listing of SBTC presidential appointments



CHILDCARE

Childcare is available at sbtexas.com/am22childcare.

QUESTIONS?

Email aminfo@sbtexas.com or call 817-552-2500.

+ SBTEXAS.COM/AM22

HANDOUTS & MATERIALS

Only SBTC ministries and approved exhibitors may hand out material to the messenger body on the premises hosting the annual meeting.

MEALS & EVENTS

American Bank Center, Corpus Christi
Meal registration is required at sbtexas.com/am22.

SUNDAY

Spanish Session & Reception

6:00-9:30 p.m.

MONDAY

Interim Pastor Equipping

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

En Español Lunch Panel

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Missional Ministries Dinner

4:45-6:00 p.m.

Come meet your Missional Ministries team and hear about the gospel work being done in Texas and beyond. Special guest speaker is Bryant Wright, president of SEND Relief for the North American Mission Board.

Regenesis Dinner/Church Revitalization

4:45-6:00 p.m.

Each church can benefit from a time of spiritual renewal and rebirth. The SBTC has launched a new strategy with the exclusive goal to help jumpstart this Regenesis process in your church. Join the Church Health & Leadership team for a time of encouragement, good food, and to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

Young Pastors Network Late Night

9:00-10:30 p.m.

Dessert reception and conversation with SBC President Bart Barber.

TUESDAY

SBTC Disaster Relief Taco Truck

7:30-8:45 a.m.

Alumni & Friends College/Seminary Breakfasts

7:30-8:45 a.m.

President's Lunch

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Guest speaker Bill Elliff is a frequent conference speaker, writer, and consultant to churches drawing from his 50+ years of pastoring and revival ministry. This will be very special time as Bill speaks to the churches of the SBTC on the history of revival and spiritual awakenings, continuing our theme of Pursuing Presence. Attendees will also have an opportunity for Q&A. Complimentary box lunch provided to all attendees.

10-day CLERGY FAMILIARIZATION TOUR OF GREECE

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

JULY 17-26, 2023



Hosted by

SBTC Executive Director
Nathan Lorick and his wife, Jenna

\$3,199

Cost for Pastor

\$3,499

Cost for Wife

\$1,200

Scholarship for pastor's first trip

\$1,500

Scholarship increases if accompanied by wife

What's Included

- + Roundtrip airfare
- + Deluxe motor coaches
- + First class hotels
- + Guided sightseeing
- + Entrance fees to sites visited
- + Breakfast & dinner daily
- + Lunches and beverages on cruise
- + Tips for guide, local host, driver, local guides and/or ships' crew
- + Taxes and fuel charges
- + 3 night cruise (cabin)
- + Shore excursions included for group to Patmos, Ephesus, and Crete on board Celestyal Cruises

What's Not Included

- + Vaccinations
- + COVID-19 tests
- + Passports
- + Lunches on land
- + Travel insurance (available at additional cost)
- + Excess baggage fees
- + Shore excursions offered on cruises to Mykonos and Santorini



+ For more information, visit

sbtexas.com/footsteps

PASTORS MASTERS

Fellowship, Fun, *Fore!*

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention pastors and friends took to the links on Oct. 4 to participate in the Pastors Masters golf tournament held at Tour 18 in Flower Mound. Golfers enjoyed a friendly (but competitive!) day on the course and, at a banquet the previous evening, heard from Wally Armstrong—a former PGA Tour golfer and author who spoke about the intersection of faith and golf.



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PASTOR WHO MOVED FROM
BIG CITY SEEING THE LORD
MOVE IN RURAL AREA

‘I know God has great things for these little towns’

BY ARLENE SANABRIA
Texan Correspondent



LOCATION
MEXIA

CHURCH
IGLESIA BAUTISTA
ALCANCE HISPANO

In the midst of planning his retirement and trips to enjoy with his family, Jose Luis Hernandez never imagined he would receive a call from God that would change the course of his life.

GOD BEGAN TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THIS CHANGE when Hernandez and his family decided to move to a small, rural town—taking him from a life in the city that he loved to living and ministering in a rural setting for the first time in his life.

“I always liked to be surrounded by people and the hustle and bustle of the city,” Hernandez said, “but today I love this place.”

Hernandez and his family moved to Itasca and are planting a church about an hour’s drive away in Mexia, a town with a population just shy of 7,000 people located about 40 miles east of Waco.



Before planting in Mexia, Hernandez received an offer to pastor a church in Fort Worth. That same day, he sought direction in prayer to find God's plan for his family and him.

An hour after praying, Hernandez received a call from the leader of an association of churches affiliated with the SBTC expressing interest in starting a Mexia church plant.

That phone call led Hernandez to plant Iglesia Bautista Alcance Hispano (Hispanic Outreach Baptist Church). The church plant is part of a larger vision that aims to plant more Hispanic churches among the 22 Anglo churches in the small towns bordering Mexia.

Hernandez says he had never worked in a rural area before, but after discussing the idea with his wife and their children (who range in age from adults to teenagers) and continuing to pray about the opportunity, he felt God's call and accepted the challenge.

Chuy Avila, SBTC en Español's lead associate, encouraged the Hernandez family to look for intentional ways to meet and interact with the people of Mexia.

"We didn't know anyone," he said. "We were just told to start working and get to know the people in the area."

They started in January 2022 and for two months dedicated themselves to driving around the streets of Mexia, praying and declaring the Word of God around town. Every Sunday, they visited different churches in the city and surrounding towns to make connections and let them know about the new church they would be planting.

"At first it was hard for me, but looking at the life of the apostle Paul, we see that he intentionally went and talked with the people and stayed with them," Hernandez said. "The people got to know him until he could teach them the gospel, they accepted Jesus, and then they did what Paul had taught them."

Beginning in March, Hernandez and his family handed out evangelism tracts at gas stations, laundromats, and outside stores for several months. On other occasions, the family would play music in parking lots where people were gathered and offer to pray for those who passed by.

It wasn't long before they began to see God move.

"People began to accept Jesus and were asking where our church is, but we still had no place to meet," he said.

They began to pray for God to provide a place while they continued to do evangelistic work, until one day they had a special meeting with four young men at a Walmart parking lot. As he had been doing for months, Hernandez approached the young men to give them a tract and to pray for them.

This time, something different happened. One of the young men asked Hernandez if he would be willing to lead a Bible study at his apartment. Hernandez happily agreed, and in that apartment, the seeds of what could be known as Iglesia Bautista Alcance Hispano were planted.

"THIS IS NOT EASY. THERE IS A LOT OF WORK,

TEARS, AND JOYS. BUT WE ARE VERY EXCITED

ABOUT WHAT GOD IS DOING.

I KNOW THAT GOD HAS GREAT THINGS

FOR THESE LITTLE TOWNS."

Later, already in urgent need of a place to congregate before holding a block party, Hernandez established contact with Nic Collins, the minister of youth and education at First Baptist Church of Mexia. Through that contact, and a subsequent meeting with the church's missions ministry, FBC Mexia provided a house that could be used as a meeting location for the church plant.

Alcance Hispano holds prayer meetings on Fridays and worship services on Sundays. The church already has about 25 people, many from different countries, who have gone from death to life by accepting Christ, meeting every week, growing in faith, and reaching other Hispanics.

"This is not easy. There is a lot of work, tears, and joys," Hernandez said, "but we are very excited about what God is doing. I know that God has great things for these little towns."



PASTOR SE MUDÓ DE UNA GRAN CIUDAD VIENDO
AL SEÑOR MOVERSE EN ÁREA RURAL

“Yo sé que Dios tiene grandes cosas para estos pueblos pequeños”

POR ARLENE SANABRIA

Texan Correspondent



En medio de la planificación de su jubilación y de viajes para disfrutar con su familia, José Luis Hernández nunca imaginó que recibiría un llamado de Dios que literalmente cambiaría el curso de su vida.

DIOS COMENZÓ A PREPARAR EL CAMINO PARA ESTE CAMBIO CUANDO Hernández y su familia decidieron mudarse a un pequeño pueblo rural, llevándolo de la vida de ciudad, donde amaba vivir y ministrar, a un entorno rural por primera vez en su vida.

“Siempre me ha gustado estar rodeado de gente y el bullicio de la ciudad”, dijo Hernández, “pero hoy amo este lugar”.

Hernández y su familia se mudaron a Itasca y están plantando una iglesia a una hora de camino en Mexia, una ciudad con una población de poco menos de 7,000 habitantes situada a unas 40 millas al este de Waco y a una hora y media al sur del Metroplex de Dallas-Fort Worth.



Antes de plantar en Mexia, Hernández recibió una oferta para pastorear una iglesia en Fort Worth. Ese mismo día, buscó dirección en oración para saber cuál era el plan de Dios para él y su familia.

“Una hora después de orar, recibí una llamada del líder de una asociación de iglesias afiliadas a la Convención de los Bautistas del Sur de Texas diciéndome que le gustaría que los apoyara en Mexia”, dijo Hernández.

Esa llamada telefónica llevó a Hernández a plantar la Iglesia Bautista Alcance Hispano. Esta plantación de iglesia es parte de una visión más amplia que pretende plantar más iglesias hispanas entre las 22 iglesias anglosajonas de los pueblos pequeños limítrofes a Mexia.

Hernández dice que nunca había trabajado en una zona rural, pero después de platicar la idea con su esposa por 31 años y sus hijos (que van desde adultos hasta adolescentes) y continuar orando sobre esta oportunidad, sintió el llamado de Dios y aceptó el desafío.

“No conocíamos a nadie”, dijo Hernández. “Solo nos dijeron que empezáramos a trabajar y a conocer a la gente de la zona”.

Comenzaron en enero de 2022 y durante dos meses se dedicaron a recorrer las calles de Mexia, orando y declarando la Palabra de Dios por el pueblo. Todos los domingos visitaban diferentes iglesias de la ciudad y de los pueblos aledaños para hacer conexiones y darles a conocer la nueva obra que estaban comenzando.

Chuy Ávila, asociado principal de SBTC en español, animó a la familia Hernández a buscar formas intencionales de conocer e interactuar con la gente de Mexia.

“Al principio fue difícil para mí, pero mirando la vida del Apóstol Pablo, vemos que él intencionalmente iba y platicaba con la gente y se quedó con ellos”, dijo Hernández. “La gente conoció al apóstol Pablo hasta que pudo enseñarles el evangelio, aceptaron a Jesús y luego hicieron lo que él les había enseñado”.

A partir de marzo, Hernández y su familia comenzaron a repartir tratados en gasolineras, lavanderías y fuera de las tiendas del pueblo por varios meses. En otras ocasiones, la familia ponía música en un estacionamiento y se ofrecían a orar por los que pasaban.

“ESTO NO ES FÁCIL. HAY MUCHO TRABAJO, LÁGRIMAS Y ALEGRÍAS PERO ESTAMOS MUY EMOCIONADOS POR LO QUE DIOS ESTÁ HACIENDO. YO SÉ QUE DIOS TIENE GRANDES COSAS PARA ESTOS PUEBLOS PEQUEÑOS”.

No pasó mucho tiempo antes de que comenzaran a ver a Dios moverse.

“Personas comenzaron a aceptar a Jesús y preguntaban dónde estaba nuestra iglesia, pero todavía no teníamos un lugar donde reunirnos”, dijo.

Comenzaron a orar para que Dios les proporcionara un lugar mientras podían seguir haciendo la labor evangelística, hasta que un día tuvieron un encuentro especial con cuatro jóvenes en un estacionamiento de Walmart. Como había estado haciendo durante meses, Hernández se acercó a los jóvenes para darles un tratado y orar por ellos.

Esta vez, algo diferente sucedió. Uno de los jóvenes le preguntó a Hernández si estaba dispuesto a dirigir un estudio bíblico en su apartamento. Hernández aceptó con gusto, y en ese apartamento se plantaron las raíces de lo que se conocerá como Iglesia Bautista Alcance Hispano.

Más tarde, ya con la necesidad urgente de tener un lugar para congregarse antes de realizar una fiesta en la cuadra, Hernández estableció contacto con Nic Collins, el ministro de jóvenes y educación de la Primera Iglesia Bautista de Mexia. A través de ese contacto y de una reunión posterior con el ministerio de misiones de la iglesia, la PIB de Mexia proporcionó una casa que podría ser utilizada como lugar de reunión para la plantación de la iglesia.

Alcance Hispano celebra reuniones de oración los viernes y servicios de adoración los domingos. La iglesia ya cuenta con unas 25 personas, muchas de ellas de diferentes países, que han pasado de la muerte a la vida al aceptar a Cristo, reuniéndose cada semana, creciendo en la fe y alcanzando a otros hispanos.

“Esto no es fácil. Hay mucho trabajo, lágrimas y alegrías”, dijo Hernández, “pero estamos muy emocionados por lo que Dios está haciendo. Yo sé que Dios tiene grandes cosas para estos pueblos pequeños”.



SBTC DR RESPONDS TO FLORIDA IN WAKE OF HURRICANE IAN

FORT MYERS, Fla. After Hurricane Ian tore through Florida, killing 105 people and resulting in billions of dollars in property damage, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Disaster Relief volunteers quickly joined first responders in serving the survivors in early October.



SBTC DR teams arrived in Fort Myers Oct. 2-3 to set up a mass feeding kitchen from Lufkin staffed with volunteers from across Texas. The Lufkin unit, stationed at McGregor Baptist Church in Fort Myers, supported the feeding efforts of the Texas division of the Salvation Army there. On Oct. 4, feeding volunteers prepared 5,100 meals in the unit's first operational day.

A second SBTC DR feeding unit from Pflugerville also established operations at Riverside Baptist in Fort Myers, assisting the American Red Cross there. Additionally, SBTC DR chaplains, assessors, communications, incident management personnel, and a quick response kitchen were sent to Florida.

—JANE RODGERS

POMEROY PREACHES FAREWELL MESSAGE AT SUTHERLAND SPRINGS

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS Frank Pomeroy, who pastored at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs for two decades, preached his final sermon at the church on Sunday, September 25.



Pomeroy, who announced his intent to retire earlier this year, preached about Paul's farewell message to the elders at Ephesus in Acts 20.

"As I stand here this morning, I think about how God has had me standing here before you for 20-plus years," Pomeroy said to the congregation. "We've had a lot of really great times, and we've had some really, really hard times together—times of laughter, tears, and great mourning. We've done all this together, with Christ at the forefront."

In November 2017, a gunman opened fire inside the church, killing 26 people and injuring 20 more. Pomeroy's 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle, was among those killed in the shooting.

—JAYSON LARSON

Evangelist Tim Lee

Celebrating 50 Years Preaching, 45 Years as a Full-Time Evangelist

Finishing our Schedule for 2023

- HARVEST SUNDAYS
- REVIVAL CRUSADES
- BEAST FEASTS
- MENS CONFERENCES



Contact Evangelist Tim Lee today
www.timlee.org/contact/schedule-meeting

SWBTS ACCEPTS GIFT OF \$250,000 FROM SBTC

FORT WORTH Nathan Lorick, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, presented a \$250,000 gift to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on October 3.



The gift was accepted by O.S. Hawkins and David S. Dockery, who were appointed to interim leadership positions at the seminary following the late-September resignation of president Adam Greenway.

"It's our honor and joy to partner with you, Southwestern, and to present to you a check for \$250,000 to help with the expenses, and to come alongside your faculty during this time of transition," Lorick said in presenting the gift. "The SBTC stands with you and we're for you, and we love our partnership alongside you."

Hawkins, who acknowledged that the seminary is facing "serious financial challenges," said the gift would be used to "free up much-needed funds as another step in reestablishing our school on sound financial footing."

—SWBTS

ANNIE ARMSTRONG GIVING REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH, NAMB SAYS

ALPHARETTA, Ga. Southern Baptists gave a record \$68.9 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 2022, breaking the giving



record for a second year in a row. Giving to the offering has exceeded records in five of the last six years.

"This is incredible news for our missionaries," said North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell, "and it is an incredible testimony to God's faithfulness and to the generosity of Southern Baptists."

The Annie offering accounts for half of NAMB's budget, and every dollar of it goes directly to the mission field in the year the money is given. The offering's total is tallied based on giving during the fiscal year, October 2021 through September 2022.

The giving increases have allowed NAMB to expand missionary efforts and increase care for missionaries. In February 2022, NAMB announced that it would provide health care benefits and establish retirement accounts for first-year church planting missionaries through a partnership with Guidestone Financial Services.

—BAPTIST PRESS

2.10%

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**'I WAS NOT
LOOKING
FOR GOD ...**

**HE WAS
LOOKING
FOR ME!'**

I was born in Monterrey, Mexico, and grew up in a very nominal Catholic family. We did not own a Bible and I had never heard a clear gospel presentation. My mom left Monterrey when I was young and came to Dallas to start working there at a nightclub to make money to send back home. My dad stayed with us—me and my three sisters—in Monterrey, and we waited about a year. Then my dad told us he wanted us to come to the U.S. for the sole purpose of learning English so we could be bilingual and then come back to Mexico.

So back in 1985, we left Monterrey and came here with a tourist visa, which is only supposed to last six months. We extended our stay in '85 and reunited with my mom. We lived in South Dallas. My mom was working at a nightclub, and then my dad started working there. I started helping clean the nightclub, and that was what we did on the weekends to make money. And then my sister and I started going

to school and learning English. I actually stopped speaking Spanish because I received a lot of discrimination from other Hispanic kids because I didn't speak English. That made me want to stop speaking Spanish and avoid Hispanic kids; I would only speak Spanish at home.

We moved to Garland when I was 15, and one Saturday morning, two students from Criswell College in Dallas were going through the neighborhood and knocked on my door. They asked me if I died that day, where would I spend eternity? I really didn't know how to answer them. And then they shared with me that God loved me and had a special plan for my life, and that eternal life was offered to me in Christ. That was the very first time that I ever heard the simplicity of the good news of Christ.

I did not make a decision to follow Christ that day, but they did invite me to go to their church, Northridge Baptist Church in Richardson. They even came to pick me up the next day. I walked into this medium-size church, predominantly Anglo, but felt right at home, loved, and accepted. Dr. John Avant was the pastor there. I don't remember anything about the sermon, but when he gave the invitation to come to Christ, I did that. A few weeks later I was baptized at Northridge.

When I graduated from high school, I thought God was leading me to go to medical school, but because

“
**When I was not
 looking for God at all,
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 ”

of my immigration status, I was not able to receive scholarships. Unbeknownst to me, the deacons at Northridge Baptist Church and the pastor, Manley Beasley Jr., had arranged to pay for my first semester at Criswell College. They met with me one night after service and said they knew God had called me into the ministry. They wanted me to prepare and thought Criswell College was the best place for me to be. I had no idea what a Bible college was. I had no clue what Criswell was. But at 19, that's where I started my first semester, studying systematic theology with Dr. John Pretlove.

Once I began to take that class, I just fell in love with Scripture and doctrine and learning to interpret it correctly. I finished in five years. By that time I had completed the 12-year process of gaining U.S. citizenship and was able to spend a year on the mission field, then I came back and started my master's at Criswell and working at local church-

es—Hispanic churches. God allowed me to fall in love with the Spanish language and Hispanic culture all over again after I had been ashamed, really, for many years to be a Hispanic, or specifically Mexican, because of the hurt I faced as a young man.

Once I did that, the Lord opened up the doors for me to do mission trips, partnerships with Hispanic churches, Vacation Bible Schools, evangelism—it was just amazing. It was on a mission trip to Mexico that I met Wendy, who was serving as a translator for another team. Wendy's pastor in Brownwood was John Avant, the pastor who baptized me. Wendy and I were married 19 years ago!

After I graduated from Criswell, I served in a Presbyterian church for a couple years, and then I served at an Anglican church for another two years. A friend of mine from Criswell College encouraged me to pursue PhD studies at Southwestern Seminary. At that time, there was a special scholarship for Hispanic PhD students, and that program was directed by Dr. Mike Gonzales at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC).

I had no idea what the SBTC was. I didn't even know what a convention was. When I met with Brother Mike, he started asking me questions about my life and testimony. He gave me a little translation project. I thought that was all being done so I could get the scholarship, but he told me he had been looking for an associate to help them with Hispanic ministries at the convention. That was in March, and then by May, I was accepted as an associate with the convention. It's been about 11 years now that I've been serving with the SBTC.

God also saved my family during these years. My mother came to faith in Christ about eight years after I did, and then all my sisters came to Christ, as well. They were all baptized at Northridge Baptist Church. My dad had not believed, but he was always introducing me at his job and to his friends as “the pastor.” I think after many years, he learned to respect the calling that God had on my life. Then God placed a pastor at his job, serving as a security guard, and this pastor shared the gospel with him. I rejoice that my dad gave his life to Christ before he passed.

I've kept up with those men who first shared Christ with me. One's a pastor in Mineral Wells and the other one is a lay leader at a Presbyterian church in Plano. So many people have been used by God to help me. Just looking back, I realize that God was orchestrating all of this, and it's a very humbling thing.

So what's my story? When I was not looking for God at all, He was looking for me, and He used His servants to share the hope of salvation. I long to have that same burden, the same compassion that those two young men once showed me.



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 to tell us your story.



Church Positions

For the latest listings, visit texan.digital/church-positions

PASTOR

Trinity Hills Baptist Church, Benbrook is seeking a FT senior pastor. Send resume to pastorsearch@trinityhills.org.

First Baptist Church, Skidmore, a traditional Southern Baptist Church is seeking a FT pastor. Send resume to: fbcskidmorepsc@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church China is seeking a FT pastor. Email resume to: fbccchinaps2022@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church Wimberley is seeking a FT senior pastor. Email resume to searchteam@fbcwimberley.com, or call 512-847-9035. Deadline for submission: November 15, 2022.

Highland Terrace BC in Greenville is seeking a FT senior pastor. Please send resumes to PastorSearch@HighlandTerrace.org.

West End Baptist Church, Beaumont seeks a FT or bi-vocational pastor. We are a financially secure, loving congregation who enjoys traditional worship. Send resume to WEBC, 8180 Phelan Blvd., Beaumont, TX 77706, or email webcbeaumont@gmail.com.

Second Baptist Church of Amarillo is seeking a FT lead pastor. Email resume to sbcpsc@sbcama.org.

Pinecrest Baptist Church Linden is seeking a FT pastor with at least 3 years of staff experience and a seminary graduate. Please send resume to PO Box 1002, Linden, TX 75563.

Hope Reformed Baptist Church in Port Lavaca is seeking a permanent FT pastor. We are a 50-person church located on the Gulf Coast of South Texas. For more information email ruston.raybon@outlook.com.

FBC Cameron is seeking God's man for FT pastor. Send resume to firstbaptistcameron@gmail.com.

New Hope BC in League City is seeking a FT pastor. We are a SBTC church that adheres to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. NHBC is a loving, caring, and financially secure church looking for the man whom God is calling to lead us. Send resumes to PSCNHBC@gmail.com.

Trinity Baptist Church in Bonham is seeking a FT pastor. He will be responsible for preaching God's Word, be the spiritual leader for the staff and congregation, and give leadership to the ministry of the church. Email resume to: trinitybaptist1955@gmail.com.

North Woods Baptist Church, Spring is seeking a bi-vocational/PT senior pastor. We are located 25 miles north of Houston. We are a church family bound through Christ looking for a compassionate leader who stands firmly on the Word of God. Please send resume with references to: resume@northwoodsbbaptistchurch.org.

Birth of Hope Baptist Church in Cottonwood Shores is prayerfully seeking a bi-vocational pastor to lead it in reaching the unchurched of Cottonwood Shores, Horseshoe Bay, and the surrounding area. Email resume to Ed Necker at neckers3ed@gmail.com.

Marcelina Baptist Church, Floresville is looking for a bi-vocational pastor. Email resume to marcelinabaptistchurch1875@gmail.com.

Calvary Baptist Church in Euless is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. We are a small SBTC Church and adhere to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Send resume to calvaryeuless@outlook.com. Website: <http://www.calvaryeuless.com>.

Community Baptist Church, Wink is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Salary \$200 weekly services/\$200 weekly housing. Address: PO Box 996, Wink, TX 79789; Email: ccwgw9403@att.net; Office 432-527-3453; Contacts: Jennafer Newcomb 432-290-5444; Bill Anderson 620-952-0359; Brig Bueno 432-208-4045; Shelley Mayberry 432-208-2216.

Sylvester Baptist Church, McCaulley is seeking a bi-vocational senior/lead pastor. Small SBTC church in rural area. Quiet community. Parsonage available. Reply to dpippin38@yahoo.com or Sylvester Baptist Church, PO Box 8, Sylvester TX 79560.

Central BC, Baytown is seeking a bilingual/ bi-vocational pastor to lead 100-year-old church with no debt to transition the church to reach the Hispanic community with the message of Christ. Mail resume to Central Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 1800 King St., Baytown, TX 77520 or email pastorsearch@sanjacintobaptist.com.

Crystal Lake Baptist Church, Leander is seeking a PT senior pastor. About 30-40 regular attendees. Fast-growing area, attractive 9600 sq. ft. building, 30 acres property,

great potential. Contact Joe Thornhill, PhD, at thornhill@crystalakebc.net or (512) 656-1120. Resumes will be received until November 30, 2022.

Calvary Baptist Church, Woodville is seeking the pastor God has chosen to lead us into the future. The position is bi-vocational, but with opportunity for a status change as the church grows. The compensation includes use of a parsonage, as well as paid utilities. Email resumes to bk.harding@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Splendora is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Church is located just outside of Houston in a rural area with great potential for growth. Send resume to wecare@fbcsplendora.org.

Second Baptist Church, Bridge City is searching for a co-vocational pastor, Southern Baptist by conviction, biblically qualified, with staff or volunteer ministry experience. Send resume and recommendations to the Pastor Search Committee at: EMAIL: secondbctx340@gmail.com or MAIL: Pastor Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 340 Bland Drive, Bridge City, TX 77611.

Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church 1233 State Highway 66 Garland, TX 75040 is seeking a PT interim pastor. Email resume to pastoralsearch@onthemount.org.

Second Baptist Church of Jacinto City located in Houston seeks a bilingual (English/Spanish) bi-vocational pastor to shepherd our church to its next chapter of God's plan. Please respond by submitting resume to SecondBaptistJC@outlook.com.

MUSIC

Sherwood Baptist Church, Odessa is seeking a FT minister of music and outreach to lead Christ-centered worship, reach people with the gospel, and connect them to our church family. Send resumes to: personnel@sherwood.church.

FBC Fairfield seeks FT associate pastor of worship. Send letter of interest and resumes to worshipsearch@fbcfairfield.org.

Highland Terrace Baptist Church, Greenville is seeking a FT minister of music. Email resume to connect@highlandterrace.org.

Birth of Hope Baptist Church, Cottonwood Shores is in need of someone to lead the music for the Sunday morning worship service. Ability to play the piano, a keyboard, or guitar is a plus. Email resume to Ed Necker at neckers3ed@gmail.com.

Calvary Baptist, Rosenberg is seeking a PT worship pastor who is willing to incorporate Christian worship music from various styles and generational tastes. Music degree preferred. Please submit a resume and samples of you leading worship to church@calvaryrosenberg.org. Check out www.calvaryrosenberg.org to learn more about us.

First Baptist Church of Smithfield is seeking a PT worship pastor. We are located at 7912 Main Street, North Richland Hills, TX 76182, 817-281-1820, fbcsmithfield.com.

First Baptist Church of Rogers is seeking a PT bi-vocational worship leader/music minister. Please send resume to fbcrogers@fbcrogers.com.

Travis Avenue BC in Fort Worth is in search of a PT Spanish-speaking worship minister to lead worship for the Spanish service. Se busca un ministro de alabanza part-time que dirija la adoración para el servicio de español. Send resume to jose.arzate@travis.org.

LIFEChurch, Leona is praying for God to send our church a PT contemporary style worship leader. LIFEChurch is located on I-45 halfway between Dallas and Houston. Please contact Mark Gray: mark@lifecyclechurch.com or 903-344-2283.

FBC Alta Loma in Santa Fe is looking for a PT minister of music. Santa Fe is located in between Houston and Galveston. Apartment with paid utilities available. Call 409-925-3505 for more details.

The Endeavor Church in Forney is seeking a PT worship leader. Young, multicultural, contemporary, and growing congregation of about 70 + is a 1½ year old church plant. For more details text Pastor Kyle at 214-773-8000.

STUDENTS

Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pittsburg is searching for a FT student minister. Please visit our website for application and more information: www.emmanuelpittsburg.org/staffapplications.

FBC Carthage is seeking a FT student pastor that is passionate about leading the youth of our church and implementing biblical teaching, discipleship, and evangelism. We are looking forward to partnering with someone who will be committed to the shared vision of our church. Email resumes to james@firstbaptistcarthage.com.

FBC Sealy is seeking a FT youth minister. Join us as we "Be the Church" for our community! Feel free to email us if you have any questions before applying. Email questions and resume to YouthSearch@fbcesealy.net.

FBC New Braunfels is seeking a FT student and college pastor. He will teach students (7th grade - college) the essential doctrines of the Christian faith and to communicate and apply the truth of Scripture. To apply please visit: www.fbcbn.org/student-pastor-search.

First Baptist Church, Jacksboro is seeking a FT student pastor with a passion for making disciples and a desire to guide students to make a difference for Christ's kingdom in our church, schools, and community. Those interested in joining our staff team may submit resumes or inquire at info@fbjacksboro.net.

First Baptist Church, Stowell is seeking FT or PT youth minister to reach students with the gospel and disciple them, seek out service projects for youth and their families, and support the core values of FBC Stowell. Contact Daniel Andrews at dandrew10@yahoo.com or Shane Frederick at dandsshane@gmail.com.

First Baptist, Burkburnett (fbcburk.com) is seeking a FT associate pastor of students. Healthy church and staff culture. Competitive salary & full benefits (health + dental) for entire family. Send resume to office@fbcburk.com.

FBC Sherman is seeking a FT student minister who will lead, shepherd, and manage all aspects of student-aged programming for students from 6th-12th grade. Please email questions on full job description and resumes to our search committee at studentministersearch@fbcsherman.org.

Sherwood Baptist Church, Odessa, is seeking a FT minister of youth to introduce young people to Christ, teaching them to become spiritually mature followers of Christ, and equipping them to become disciple-makers. Send resumes to: personnel@sherwood.church.

First Baptist Mason, a growing, revitalizing church in the Texas Hill Country, seeks a FT student pastor. Apply at www.fbmason.org/studentpastor.

New Hope FBC, Cedar Park is searching for a FT student pastor to minister to and disciple students (6th-12th grade and college) to accomplish the purpose and vision of the church. Email resume to Tina Christie at tinac@discovernewhope.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.

Piney Grove BC in Atlanta is seeking a PT minister to students to lead and organize an effective youth ministry, including fellowship, worship, biblical teaching, and discipleship. The objective of the minister to students is to make Christ-like disciples of our youth. Send resume to jeff.footer@icloud.com.

First Baptist Church, Wills Point is searching for a PT minister to students. The ministry schedule is designed to work with someone pursuing educational goals. Wills Point is a small community 45 minutes east of Dallas. Please submit resumes to search@fbwp.org

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

First Baptist Jewett 509 West Division Street Jewett, TX 75846, is seeking a PT youth minister. Contact Allen Crosby at allenc@fbcjewett.org.

CHILDREN

First Baptist Church, Katy is seeking a FT children's minister to lead in vision casting, coordinating, and developing

Paid Classifieds

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authentic community of discipleship for children and their families within K1 Kids Children's Ministry. Submit resumé via info@katysfirst.org.

Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth is seeking a FT children's minister. Seminary grad, 5 year exp. or more. Complete package. Send resume and questions to johnny.derouen@travis.org.

The Church at Quail Creek, Amarillo is searching for a FT children's minister. Resumes should be submitted to kclayton@tcqc.org.

FBC Ponder is seeking a PT minister to children. Job description: planning and coordinating all aspects of ministry to children (1st-6th graders), including children's church, educational and discipleship ministries, and special events. For questions or to submit a resume, email the senior pastor, Kim Broadstreet, at kimb@fbcponder.org.

The Mount Church, Keller is seeking a FT children's minister to bring strategic leadership to our next generation of kids from birth-6th grade and to develop volunteer teams. Our big vision is to see our families form Christ-centered homes. Send resume to jobs@themount.church.

FBC Sherman is seeking to hire a PT assistant to director of children's ministries. If you love Jesus and are passionate about working with infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children, please prayerfully consider joining our team. Email resume to Shannon.Rosas@srosas@fbcsherman.org.

Trinity BC, Amarillo is seeking a FT children's director/pastor to oversee ministry to ages birth-5th grade. Email resume to Nate.Magloughlin@nate@tbcamarillo.org.

COMBINATION

Chapel of the Hills BC, Buchanan Dam is seeking a FT associate pastor of youth and worship. Chapel of the Hills is a growing church with a blended service, seeking an individual to continue building its youth program and lead the congregation in worship. Please send resume to staffing@hillcountrychapel.com.

FBC Waskom is seeking a FT youth/worship pastor. The church style is a blend of contemporary worship and modern versions of hymns. Send resume to ivyshelton@fbcwaskom.org.

Redeemer Church in Denton/Corinth is seeking a FT pastor of worship and discipleship. The role includes weekly worship, AV management, overseeing community groups, Denton County outreach ministry, and men's ministry. Visit redeemerdenton.com for more information regarding position. Resumes can be emailed to lead pastor: micah@redeemerdenton.com.

Boyd Baptist Church, Bonham is searching for the man God would have serve as our FT associate pastor of worship and discipleship. Email resume to boydbaptist@cableone.net.

First Baptist Church, Ponder is seeking a FT minister to youth/associate pastor/or other ministry combination (music, small groups, missions, etc.) For questions or to submit a resume, email the senior pastor, Kim Broadstreet, at kimb@fbcponder.org.

Ector Baptist Church, Ector is looking for a PT student/music pastor. More info is available at www.ectorbaptist.com. Resumes can be emailed to ectorbaptist@gmail.com.

Meadows Baptist, 3301 Los Rios Blvd, Plano 75074 is seeking a FT worship and communication pastor. Send resume to searchteam@meadowsbaptist.org.

Nolan River Road Baptist Church is praying for an experienced FT associate pastor to lead our Next-Gen Ministries. This person will serve as the primary support person for the senior pastor and as the primary overseer of the youth and family ministry of NRRBC. Email Adam Mathews at office@nrrbc.org.

OTHER

First Baptist Church of Keller is seeking a FT (Monday-Thursday) HR/administration ministry assistant to support our HR/administrative team. Email BJ Cranford at bjcranford@fbckeller.org.

South Side BC Abilene is looking for a FT associate pastor who is passionate about teaching, overseeing, planning, and developing leaders. You will assist the lead pastor especially in areas of college, men and adult discipleship ministry. Please send resumes to blake@ssbaptist.org.

First Baptist Church, Vidor is seeking a FT executive director of Nehemiah's Vision to lead our organization in response to future disasters helping families and churches rebuild after disasters such as storms and floods. To receive a job description or send resume email andynarramore2@gmail.com.

North Richland Hills BC, North Richland Hills is seeking a FT business services coordinator for their financial office - FT bookkeeper, payroll, HR, office support. Send resume to nrhbc.org/jobs.

First Baptist Church Dallas is seeking a FT associate director of women's ministry. Contact Sarah Meggers: smeggers@vanderbloemen.com.

College Baptist Church of Big Spring is seeking a FT pastor of family ministries. Direct report to the senior pastor. Email resume to Derek.Wash@cbcfamilypastor22@gmail.com.

Bethel Baptist Church located next to Chapel Hill High School, east of Tyler, is seeking a FT associate pastor whose main focus will be ministering to students and their families. Parsonage provided. Send resumes or recommendations to gilpbc@icloud.com.

First Baptist Church Pittsburg has a PT family ministry assistant position available, which includes Sunday and Wednesday responsibilities in the children's ministry and office hours on Tuesday and Wednesday (26.5 hours weekly). Salary range is \$20,250-\$23,868 based on experience and qualifications. For more information, please email eezell@fbcpittsburg.org.

PASTOR

Monterey BC, Albuquerque, NM is seeking a FT senior pastor who is a Bible-based, Jesus-centric preacher. We are a mission-minded, community-centered, multigenerational, multiethnic congregation praying for the pastor to lead us to the next level of Christ-centered living. Must be Southern Baptist, preferably with a master's degree from a SBC seminary. Please send a cover letter and resume to MBC Pulpit Committee at pastorsearch@montereybaptist.church.

Texoma Southern Baptist Church in Buncombe Creek, Kingston, OK is prayerfully seeking the right man of God to serve as FT pastor. Parsonage is included. Located on Lake Texoma and presently rebuilding after severe storm damage. Submit resume to: texomasouthern@sbcglobal.net.

Alice Drive Baptist Church, Sumter, SC is seeking a FT campus pastor for their Pocalla campus. Email resume to brett@vanderbloemen.com.

One Church Elk City, OK is actively searching for the next FT lead pastor whom God has chosen to lead us into the future. One Church is a unique, thriving, mission-focused church located in western Oklahoma. We are a multi-generational church with a strong foundation of ministry. Our loving and compassionate congregation needs a dynamic visionary to lead us, while being a strong equipper and mission-minded. His gifting should also include practical, biblical, and relevant teaching. Please send resumes along with ministry references to onechurchelkcity@gmail.com. You can visit our website (www.onechurchelkcity.com) to learn more about us.

FBC Hollis, OK is prayerfully seeking a FT pastor. Small town that is close to Amarillo, OKC, and Lubbock. Parsonage is provided. Please send resume to: FBC, P.O. Box 589, Hollis, OK 73550 or fbchollis@pldi.net.

Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church of Harrison, AR is now taking resumes for a FT pastor. Resumes may be sent to bcbscpastorsearch@gmail.com or mailed to Attn: Pastor Search Committee 179 Devitos Loop Harrison, AR 72601. Our website can be found at www.bearcreekspringsbaptist.org.

MUSIC

First Baptist West, Lawton, OK a growing multi-cultural and multi-generational church family, is accepting resumes for a FT associate pastor of worship. First Baptist West averages 300 in worship on Sunday mornings. Please send resumes to worship@firstbaptistwest.com.

YOUTH

FBC Flippin, AR is accepting resumes for a FT student pastor to lead our growing ministry. God is doing big things in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. More info can be found at <http://fbc-flippin.com/>

Trinity Baptist Church in Searcy, AR is seeking a FT youth pastor. Send resumes to ypst@tbcsearcy.org.

COMBINATION

FBC Idabel, OK is searching for a FT music/youth minister to join our staff team in beautiful SE OK. We are committed to blended worship and creating a discipling culture in our teens. Competitive salary with parsonage. Send resume and worship leading video links to fbcidabel@sbcglobal.net.

First Baptist West, Lawton, OK, a growing multi-cultural and multi-generational church family is accepting resumes for a FT associate pastor of worship and missions. First Baptist West averages 300 in worship on Sunday mornings. Please send resumes to worship@firstbaptistwest.com.

OTHER

Cash paid for large and small libraries. Baker Book House has been buying and selling used Christian books since 1939. Please email us at greg.stevens@bakerbookhouse.com or call 616-957-3110.

FBC Mansfield has 4 portable buildings for sale: Portable Buildings 1 & 2: 64 x 25. Beige and brown trim color. Concrete siding outside material. Used as youth ministry area. 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. Portable Building 4. 24 x 44. Same attributes as Buildings 1 & 2. Used as annex office area. Front and rear entrances with porch. HVAC unit and water heater. Restroom with shower. Two office rooms with seven workstations, total. Large common area room with a separate private room. Entrance ramp and steps for front and rear locations included. \$24,500. Please send direct inquiries about all 4 buildings to the Facilities Director, Tray@firstmansfield.com, at First Baptist Church, Mansfield, (817) 463-1161.

Pastoring our own families well as we pastor others

Ministry is a team sport. Our wives and children do so much to support our ministries to the local church. As we pastor everyone else's families, we can also establish healthy rhythms in pastoring our own families.

Dedicate your children to the Lord in prayer

I was not looking forward to the carpool line when my son started middle school, but my perspective completely changed when I used this as an opportunity to pray daily with my son and his friends. Since we know that God works through prayer, the best thing we can do as pastors is to regularly dedicate them to the Lord in prayer.

Our children are gifts given by God for us to steward and we cannot pastor them properly in our strength, so “let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 14:6). Consider when you can privately and publicly pray over your children—for their salvation, interceding for them, for their friends, and even for their future spouses.

Debrief everything from a biblical worldview

Prior to pastoring my church, I was a college minister for 10 years and had dozens of students spend their summers serving with CentriKid and Fuge camps. One skill these students learned is the art of “debriefing everything.” These college students could take any activity or any situation and point it back to a scriptural truth about God. They could seriously take a game with shaving cream, rubber chickens, and



water balloons, then have a group of wild kids take a knee as they debriefed the game in a way that pointed the kids to God and shared the gospel.

This is a skill that will serve us well as we pastor our children. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 says, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Consider how you pastor your kids by pointing them to scriptural truths about God. As we do this consistently, we help our children develop a biblical worldview by putting their days and experiences in proper perspective.

Devote time to family worship

In 2006 my wife and I bought our first little house, and it included the most pitiful little oak tree. For three years, I consistently watered that tree and saw no growth or improvement. This past summer, I drove the family by our first little home where, to my amazement, that little tree had grown into a towering oak tree that now canopied over the home and gave shade to the whole yard.

When we pastor our homes by consistently leading our children in family worship, it may seem like a fruitless task, but over time, we can trust God to grow our children into “oaks of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:3). In his book “Family Worship,” Donald S. Whitney encourages families to spend about 10 minutes daily reading narrative passages in Scripture, praying, and singing together.

With family worship, it's the faithful and consistent pastoring of our homes that we pray will result in God making oaks of righteousness. Consider how you can pastor your children by consistently incorporating family worship at home.



John Aaron Matthew is lead pastor at Clear Lake Baptist Church.

WHAT'S UP NEXT?

2023 CALENDAR



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LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

DEC. 4-11

lottiemoon.org



TAX SEMINARS

JAN. 17,18,24,26 VIRTUAL

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



M3 WKND

JAN. 13-14 EULESS

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

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Young Pastors Network Regional Gathering, Odessa |
| 13 | SBTC Annual Meeting Spanish Session, Corpus Christi |
| 14 | Interim Pastor Equipping, Corpus Christi |
| 14-15 | SBTC Annual Meeting, Corpus Christi |

DECEMBER

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Student Ministers Getaway, Austin |
| 9 | Pastor/Wife Date Night, San Antonio |

JANUARY

- | | |
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| 21 | Women's Roundtable (multisite) |
| 23 | Bivo Pastors Network Regional Gathering, Grapevine |

EMPOWER Conference

FEB. 27&28

2023

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER

FIND MORE [sbtexas.com/empower](https://www.sbtexas.com/empower)



Upcoming **EVENTS**

EMPOWER
Conference

EMPOWE
CONFERENCE

FEB.
27&28

2023

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER

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Saturday
AUG. 5
2023

EQUIP
conference

HOUSTON
Sagemont Church

sbtexas.com/equip

25TH ANNIVERSARY

2023 annual meeting

november 13-14 Cross City Church, Euless

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sesión en español 12 de noviembre