

SBTC ANNUAL MEETING SPECIAL INSERT • PAGES 6-11

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
TEXAN

VOLUME 25 | NO. 7

BUILT ON THE ROCK

SBTC churches are charting
a course for the future on the
most solid foundation of all



**Metroplex plant proves
no church is too young
to begin sending**



**Latest SBTC ministry
partnership has the
Empire State in mind**



**In Corpus, faithfully
giving through CP has
left one pastor 'in awe'**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **NATHAN LORICK**



We can't wait to see you in Forney

IT'S FINALLY HERE! One of my favorite times of the year is when the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention gather for our annual meeting. Churches from across Texas will come together for worship, prayer, preaching, and a little business. We can't wait to celebrate all that God is doing across the Lone Star State.

As you make your way to Forney, I would ask a few things of you:

First, pray that God will move among us. So many in ministry come to the annual meeting tired from the daily grind of the call. However, every year we see pastors and church leaders leave refreshed and encouraged. That is our hope—that God would move among us and it would be a great time of encouragement for our messengers.

Second, plan to participate in the sessions. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the annual meeting is connecting with friends from across the state. We certainly hope you will be able to do plenty of that. We also hope you will participate in each session as we celebrate how God is using all the churches of the SBTC to make a kingdom impact.

Finally, find an SBTC staff member while you're there and share stories of what God is doing in your church. It is such a joy to hear directly from you about how God is moving. It also helps us continue sharing those stories with other churches across our state.

I can't wait to see you in Forney. It is going to be an incredible meeting. I pray for safe travels and a time of refreshing for you.

I love you and am honored to serve you! See you soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nathan Lorick".

nlorick@sbtexas.com

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

BUILT ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24

EVERY YEAR WE
SEE PASTORS
AND CHURCH
LEADERS LEAVE
REFRESHED AND
ENCOURAGED.
THAT IS OUR
HOPE—THAT GOD
WOULD MOVE
AMONG US AND
IT WOULD BE A
GREAT TIME OF
ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR OUR
MESSENGERS.

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 25 — NO. 7 — TEXAN.DIGITAL

02 FROM THE EDITOR
Exceedingly, abundantly more

04 FROM THE PRESIDENT
A discovery from defeat



24 CHURCH PLANTING
'A gospel outpost' on the frontier of North Texas

28 PRAYER
'Filled with praise and prayer'

30 JESUS IS WRITING MY STORY
'I've gone from surviving to thriving as a pastor'

32 TEXAN Q&A WITH FRANK WILLIAMS
'Pray for God to send laborers'

34 SENDING CHURCHES
Kingdom arithmetic

36 EVANGELISM
'We believe there's still hope here'

40 WOMEN'S MINISTRY
From Mentorship to Multiplication: Rethinking Women's Discipleship

42 SHEPHERDS COLLECTIVE
Five things I have learned while church planting

BUILT ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24

ANNUAL sbtc MEETING

Messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Annual Meeting will gather for a powerful time of prayer, worship, and fellowship at First Baptist Church Forney on Oct. 26-27.

PAGES 6-7

08 SBTC AM26
God's story, told one amen at a time
'Powerful, persistent' prayer is transforming the congregation at First Baptist Church Forney

11 SBTC AM26
SBTC Constitution Article IV, Section 1 (d) Guiding Document

12 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
Big and small, all for the glory of God

15 Q&A
5 Minutes with Courtney Young



16 Every day, Vidal Flores saw a simple, familiar Bible verse posted outside his home. It eventually changed his life—and the lives of so many more.

19 SBTC EN ESPAÑOL
Yo y mi casa ...
Todos los días, Vidal Flores veía un versículo bíblico sencillo y familiar pegado afuera de su casa. Con el tiempo, eso cambió su vida ... y la de muchos más.

22 CHURCH GROWTH
Come one, come all
In an area where many are hurting, church's 'come as you are' invite resonates

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
TEXAN

✕ @sbtexan Visit texan.digital

Nathan Lorick **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Joe Lightner **ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Jayson Larson **EDITOR**
Lightner Creative **DESIGN & LAYOUT**

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST TEXAN
Official magazine of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
MAIL P.O. Box 1988 • Grapevine, TX 76099-1988
TOLL-FREE 877-953-7282 **PHONE** 817-552-2500
EMAIL jl Larson@sbtexas.com

CORRESPONDENTS
Crystal Baird, Angie Catron, Joshua Crutchfield,
Ralph Green, Gary Ledbetter, Erin Roach,
Jane Rodgers, Arlene Sanabria

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE TEXAN?
→ Scan the QR code or visit texan.digital/subscribe



TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
→ email texan@sbtexas.com



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*





Exceedingly, abundantly more

A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, Kie Bowman paced the large, well-worn area rug covering a portion of the wooden stage at San Saba's First Baptist Church. Serving as the guest preacher that Sunday, Bowman's message focused on prayer and fasting.

His sermon was one of encouragement—but it came with a challenge.

"We've seen what we can do," said Bowman, the national director of prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention. "Isn't it time for us to see what God can do?"

A few weeks later, Frank Williams, executive director/treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York, talked with the *Texan* about a forthcoming partnership with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention that will be known as Reach New York (his interview can be found in this issue). Though he likely was unaware of Bowman's challenge to a rural congregation nearly 2,000 miles away, Williams expressed a similar sentiment when asked how SBTC churches can be praying for the churches of his convention.

"Pray that God moves in ways our strategies can't," Williams said. "... The activities of the kingdom of darkness are so prevalent in this area, and that makes ministry tough. There's no strategy that you can just throw at that. It's going to take prayer."



The kind of prayer that is being experienced at places like First Baptist Church Forney, which is also featured in this issue. As the church prepares to host the SBTC Annual Meeting at the end of October, its senior pastor, Nathan Lino, talked with us about how building a culture of prayer has transformed the congregation. Further south, Bannockburn Church in Austin—featured in last month's magazine—is experiencing revitalization through heavy reliance on prayer.

"What's working is that we're praying, and we're asking the Lord to lead His people and to lead His church," Bannockburn Pastor Craig Turnbull said. "I think we are in a difficult season that the Lord is slowly walking us out of."

Prayer, we've so often heard, is to be a first response, not a last resort. As we've prepared this issue, the Lord has used testimonies like these to remind me not only of my sinful tendency to act first and then seek the Lord, but of the blessings that are exceedingly and abundantly available to those who nestle up to Him in prayer.

When you attend the SBTC Annual Meeting, which will be held later this month, you will see and experience many things: heartfelt worship, challenging messages, and meaningful connections. Business will be conducted and memories will be made.

But off in a corner somewhere, out in the exhibit hall, or even right in the middle of the worship center, you'll also see much quieter interactions happening. People will be praying—for one another, for their churches, and for lost people. They'll be praising God for those who have been found and petitioning Him for desperate situations that seem to have no earthly answer.

In those spaces, a significant work will be happening: God will be on the move—doing things only He can do.

Annual Church Profile



The Annual Church Profile is one of the tools that allows the SBTC to mobilize churches more effectively.

Why ACP Matters

- ACP is used to share and celebrate how God is moving in SBTC churches.
- ACP helps determine each church's SBC messenger eligibility.
- ACP helps determine representation for SBC boards.

How to Participate

Submit your church's ACP for the 2026 reporting year (Oct. 1, 2025, through Sept. 30, 2026). ACP reports are due Feb. 9, 2027.

Learn how to submit your ACP at sbtexas.com/acp.





A discovery from defeat

MARILEE JONES WAS THE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before she resigned from the position in 2007 after 28 years at the prestigious university. As the dean of admissions, she was responsible for overseeing the recruitment, evaluation, and enrollment process for all students. Due to the nature of her position and the reputation of the institute, Jones even wrote a sought-after book entitled *Less Stress, More Success* to assist potential students in successfully applying for college and post-graduate positions.

In her book, she warns students against “making up information to present yourselves as something you are not” and encourages them to “always be completely honest with who you are.” Unfortunately for Jones, she did not heed her own advice. It was discovered that she lied about every degree she earned, except for her bachelor’s, and had falsified documents when she first applied for an entry-level position in the admissions office to begin her career.

Jones’ story is a sobering reminder that you can only fake it for so long. There comes a time when every hidden thing will be revealed. For the believer, it is the hidden things that, like Marilee Jones, can cause us to lose everything that matters to us.

We see this reality on full display in 1 Samuel 4. Israel loses a battle to the Philistines and about 4,000 men die. Determined to keep on fighting, they decide the best course of action to ensure their next victory is to bring the ark of the covenant from Shiloh to the battlefield. There is no doubt in their minds that this act of religiosity will help them win.

I am captivated by how the Bible sets the scene for the arrival of the ark. “As soon as the ark of the

“Religion is not a replacement for relationship. God can and will fight for you, but He desires to be Lord over your life, not simply a lucky charm.”



covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all of Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded” (1 Samuel 4:5). They shouted so loudly that their voices caused the earth to shake! You just know they are about to win now. One can only imagine the confidence that went through the Israelite camp: “We have our resolve, and although we just lost 4,000 troops, we’re going to keep fighting. We have our religious relic—the ark has arrived.”

And then they are thoroughly and summarily thrashed. The Bible describes it as a “very great slaughter.” Thirty-thousand foot soldiers die, and the ark is captured by the enemy.

Resolve and religion are meaningless if there is no true relationship or repentance.

Israel made the false assumption that the presence of the ark would automatically bring about the participation and power of God. However, it learned the hard way that God cannot be manipulated. Religion is not a replacement for relationship. God can and will fight for you, but He desires to be Lord over your life, not simply a lucky charm.

We discover the root of Israel’s spiritual and militaristic losses in 1 Samuel 7:3: “And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, ‘If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroht from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve Him only, and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.’” They were resolved to win the war on the battlefield but had already lost it in their own homes. They had given their service and hearts to false gods.

It is my prayer that we do not fall susceptible to the same sin. If we do, let us repent and surrender whatever stands between us and our God.

Recognize Your Pastor This October

ENTER YOUR PASTOR TO WIN

\$10,000

**\$5,000 FOR YOUR PASTOR
+ \$5,000 FOR YOUR CHURCH**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Want to bless your pastor? Enter him to win a \$10,000 Pastor Appreciation Gift from Midwestern Seminary! Half of the gift will go toward a family vacation, and the other half will go toward a need in your church.

And there's more: The pastor who receives the most recommendations will win an all-expenses-paid retreat for him and his wife!

Take a moment to recognize your pastor and celebrate the many ways God is using him to serve His church.

RECOGNIZE YOUR PASTOR TODAY:
MBTS.EDU/PASTORS



for the Church

MIDWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY





2026 ANNUAL MEETING

**OCTOBER
26-27**

BUILT ON THE ROCK

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH FORNEY

MATTHEW 7:24

+ [SBTEXAS.COM/AM26](https://sbtexas.com/AM26)

HANDOUTS & MATERIALS

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

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Hotel cost assistance is available to senior pastors with financial need.

CHILDCARE

Available to those who pre-register.

QUESTIONS?

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

Scan for more information on the annual meeting, including how to register.



SESIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DE LA REUNIÓN ANUAL

Convención de los Bautistas del Sur de Texas

La Sesión en Español de la Reunión Anual es un tiempo para que las iglesias hispanas de la SBTC se reúnan a celebrar los logros y tener un tiempo de compañerismo.

First Baptist Church Forney • Tema: Edificado sobre la roca Mateo 7:24

Sábado, 24 de octubre

Actividades de Crossover

Domingo, 25 de octubre

5:30 p.m. | Compañerismo y comida para picar

7:00 p.m. | Culto de Celebración

Lunes, 26 de octubre

10:00 a.m. | Taller 1

11:00 a.m. | Taller 2

Talleres para mujeres y para la audiencia general.

12:00 p.m. | Lunch y Algo Más

Orador: Ramón Medina

Ramón es el pastor global de los ministerios de Español de Champion Forest en Houston. Ramón se graduó en Administración de Empresas de la Universidad ICESI en Cali, Colombia, y obtuvo una Maestría en Misiones del Seminario Bautista Teológico Southwestern, y Doctorado en Ministerio en el Seminario Teológico Bautista Midwestern Baptist. Su pasión es impulsar los ministerios multiculturales y la multiplicación de iglesias saludables que alcanzan a todo tipo de personas.



CROSSOVER

evangelism

SATURDAY CROSSOVER

8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Crossover will take place at First Baptist Church Forney and the surrounding area. Visit sbtexas.com/crossover to register.

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday Evening Session | 6:30–8:20 p.m.

Praise & Worship

Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church

Call to Order

Announcement of Appointments & Procedures

Caleb Turner, SBTC President

Constituting of the Convention

Amy Hinate, SBTC Secretary

Committee on Order of Business

Matt Darby, Campus Pastor, New Beginnings Baptist Church, Gilmer

Introduction of Motions

SBC Report

Jeff Iorg, CEO & President, SBC Executive Committee

Church Planter Recognition

Pastor Testimony

President's Message

Caleb Turner, Senior Pastor, Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church

Tuesday Morning Session | 9:00–11:55 a.m.

Praise & Worship

First Baptist Church Forney

Last Introduction of Motions

Pastor Testimony

Biblical Challenge

JR Vassar, Lead Pastor, Church at the Cross, Grapevine

SBTC Executive Board Report

Wes Hinate, Senior Pastor, Old River Baptist Church, Winfree-Dayton

Election of Officers (President)

Executive Director's Report

Nathan Lorick, SBTC Executive Director

Tuesday Afternoon Session | 2:00–4:10 p.m.

Praise & Worship

First Baptist Church Forney

Pastor Testimony

Biblical Challenge

Moisés Gómez, Lead Pastor, Ekklesia Comunidad Biblica, Irving

Election of Officers (Vice President)

Resolutions Committee

Matt Bowles, Lead Pastor, Ovilla Road Baptist Church, Ovilla

Election of Officers (Secretary)

Committee on Committees

Gilbert Chavez, Senior Pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, Austin

Committee on Nominations

Jeff Humphrey, Lead Pastor, Parkside Baptist Church, Denison

Committee on Order of Business: Time & Place Final Report

Previously Scheduled Business

Recognition of Outgoing & Incoming Officers

ANNUAL MEETING MEALS

Monday

12:00 p.m. | Almuerzo En Español/

En Español Lunch

Lunch y Algo Más

4:30 p.m. | Networking Dinners

Come find your network!

- Asian Pastors Network
- Black Church Network
- Executive Pastors & Administrators Network
- Missions Mobilization Network
- Pastor Wives & Women's Ministry Network
- Shepherds Collective Network
- Worship Leaders Network
- Open-seating fellowship

8:30 p.m. | Welcome Reception

Always a popular event!

Food and fellowship for everyone. Although admission is free, please sign up so we know you are planning to attend.

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. | Breakfast Gatherings

SBTC Disaster Relief Taco Truck (free)

Southern Seminary Breakfast

Southwestern Seminary Breakfast

12:15 p.m. | President's Lunch

Hosted by SBTC President Caleb Turner

Leadership Panel featuring:

Maj. Gen. Douglas L. Carver (Retired) & Cory Hines

4:30 p.m. | Prayer Service Meal

Sponsored by First Baptist Church Forney

TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE | 6:30 P.M.

Hosted by First Baptist Church Forney

Join us for First Baptist Forney's weekly prayer service. Every Tuesday night, 300 to 500 participants are led by pastors through a focused prayer experience designed to seek the Lord and draw near to Him. Dinner will be provided for those who register. Everyone is welcome!



GOD'S STORY, TOLD ONE *Amen* AT A TIME

'Powerful, persistent' prayer is transforming the congregation at First Baptist Church Forney

FORNEY

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORNEY MISSION to Malawi, Africa, didn't go as expected this summer. John Boyd, one of the church's deacons who led the trip, developed a severe kidney infection and organ failure in the "poorest country in Africa." Airlifted to a Johannesburg hospital, Boyd eventually made it home to Texas.

"I got back to America. I was doing well," he recalled. Shortly after his return, however, he awakened with severe pain one Tuesday at 1:30 a.m. The infection had resurfaced. When First Baptist Forney Senior Pastor Nathan Lino called later to check on him, Boyd readily agreed to Lino's request that the congregation pray for him at that evening's prayer service.

"There were 300 at the service. They all cried out to God, praying [for] me," Boyd said.

He went to bed not doing well, but things were different the following morning when he woke up feeling "like a whole other person," better than he had since falling ill in Africa.

"I don't know what to tell you. I don't have an explanation," Boyd's doctor exclaimed, marveling at the improvement.

"I do," Boyd said. "God is all-powerful. ... There is power in persistent prayer."

Prayer has become a first response, pervading the culture at First Baptist Forney. Over the last four years, the congregation has become more "prayer-focused individually and as a unified church," Boyd said.

Boyd, who has two sons, likened the process to children growing closer to their earthly parents as they mature. "As parents, you don't really want gifts from your kids. You want them to want to spend time with you," he said. "That's what our heavenly Father wants—relationship. He loves us so intently that He gave up His Son for us. ... He is always available through prayer."



Transformational prayer

The desire for a renewed emphasis on prayer is one reason the search committee at FBC Forney recommended Lino be called following the unexpected loss of beloved longtime pastor Jimmy Pritchard. Boyd, chairman of the deacons when Pritchard passed away, mourned the loss of his friend deeply, as did the rest of the congregation. Despite his years of experience as a CPA helping clients find CFOs and CEOs for their businesses, Boyd felt a sense of unease about the process that lay before him and the other members of the search committee charged with discerning whom God would call to lead the church.

Boyd recalled the Lord impressing upon him to pray and fast on Tuesdays, not his usual practice. He obeyed, fasting every Tuesday, a discipline he follows today by fasting each morning.

After hearing Lino speak on prayer during a radio broadcast, Boyd recognized the pastor's strong commitment to prayer. Since Lino's arrival, prayer has been a defining characteristic of the church's culture.

"[The emphasis on prayer] has changed the church. It has changed me," Boyd said.

Lino, who is beginning his fifth year leading the church, is quick to point out his limitations, saying, "I am no expert [on prayer]. I am an enthusiast. I am a student learning." Even so, he has been encouraged by the congregation's growing dependence on prayer.

First Baptist Church Senior Pastor Nathan Lino leads the congregation in prayer during a recent service. "We say that the more we learn how to pray, the more we find ourselves praying the Word more than praying a laundry list of personal items. We find ourselves listening to instead of talking to the Father," Lino said. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

Gathering around the Word is the first priority, Lino said, but gathering in prayer is also vitally important to worshiping God. When joined together with the Word, prayer becomes the first reaction in everything—the primary response to both shocking experiences and great victories.

"We don't think of prayer separately from [time in] the Word. They form a combined activity," Lino said. "We say that the more we learn how to pray, the more we find ourselves praying the Word more than praying a laundry list of personal items."

"We find ourselves listening to instead of talking to the Father," he said.

Changing things up

Prayer is emphasized at every gathering of the congregation in diverse ways.

"Change is really important to keep the prayer culture going. Predictability puts people to sleep spiritually," the pastor said. "We are constantly changing people's posture, asking them to stand, sit, kneel." Prayer modes also vary. Sometimes members are asked to pray silently, sometimes aloud in unison.

“We change who is praying. We change the form of the prayer, emphasizing praise and thanksgiving versus intercession versus supplication. This keeps people focused on faith. Prayer becomes a dialogue or conversation with the Father rather than a ritual,” Lino said.

Every Sunday morning, prayer looks different at FBC Forney, the pastor said. One Sunday per month, a time is set aside for a “one-on-one prayer line,” where people approach the altar at the front to receive counseling or pray with members of the prayer team. Other Sunday services start with a guided, pastor-led time of individual consecration or a “resetting of Jesus as No. 1 in their lives,” Lino said. Another Sunday might include an extended prayer time.

Tuesday nights are reserved for the main weekly prayer service, where a multi-generational swath of the congregation fills the Forum, the church’s former main sanctuary. Three times a year, FBC Forney and New Beginnings Baptist Church in Longview partner to host a Pastor Prayer Retreat to spread the vision among church leaders.

‘Part of the culture’

Alexis Johnson, a member of FBC Forney for 18 years, said prayer has transformed the church. Admittedly reluctant when Lino began the prayer culture emphasis, Johnson has become an eager convert to the process.

“I didn’t realize what we were missing. I was not sure I really understood how deficient I was in prayer, in understanding how to approach the Father and connect with God the Holy Spirit,” Johnson said.

No more.

“Now Tuesday is my favorite night of the church week,” she said. “The prayer service has transformed my and my children’s lives. I see how important it is in the life of our church and of our family.”

“I do admit when I am very wrong,” she added with a smile.

The changes experienced by Johnson include learning how to slow down and how to encounter the Holy Spirit, she said, adding that the congregation has learned how to consecrate itself to God and spend time talking to Him about what He wants to talk about.

“It’s not about what God does for us. It’s about what living in communion with Him and seeking His will means,” she said, noting that formerly, many of her prayers focused on



All services—from Tuesday night prayer meetings to Sunday worship—are infused with calling out to God at FBC Forney. Members adopt a variety of postures: kneeling, standing, praying individually, silently, aloud, or in groups. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**



her own needs. “I still pray for those things, but now I am seeking the Father’s will as opposed to what I want.”

Johnson’s sons, a high school senior and a college sophomore, have experienced a deepening of their relationship with God as well. “Prayer is much of the reason,” she said.

Now it is a normal thing for members of the church to pray over one another.

“It is now part of the culture,” she said. “I love it.”



Issue No. 4 (Vol. 25) of *Southern Baptist Texan* magazine included Executive Board recommended changes to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Constitution and Bylaws, which are to be considered by messengers at this year's annual meeting. To help interpret the proposed changes to Constitution Article IV, Section 1 (d), the Executive Board also approved the Guiding Document shown below. Note that the Guiding Document is interpretive in nature, is not part of the Constitution and Bylaws, and is not being recommended for messenger action.

GUIDING DOCUMENT SBTC CONSTITUTION | ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1 (d)

Interpretive Statement

This Guiding Document is intended solely to explain the Executive Board's intent and application of Article IV, Section 1 (d) of the SBTC Constitution. It is interpretive in nature and is not part of the Constitution or Bylaws. It is to be used by the Credentials Committee, the Executive Board, or messengers regarding affiliation qualifications. It does not amend, expand, supplement, or create additional affiliation requirements beyond those contained in the governing documents of the Convention. Likewise, it is not intended to amend, supplement, interpret, or supersede the Baptist Faith and Message, which remains the Convention's sole doctrinal statement as provided in the Constitution.

SBTC Constitution Excerpt: Article IV. Affiliation Section 1 Affiliation Qualifications

The Convention will only allow a church to affiliate or remain in affiliation if the church: (a) Affirms the doctrinal statement of the Convention, (b) consents to work within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws, (c) cooperates with the work of the Convention, (d) affirms the office, function, ordination and title of pastor/elder/overseer to be limited to men as qualified by Scripture. Title shall include any equivalents of the words pastor/elder/overseer, and preaching to the assembled congregation shall be an exclusive function of pastor/elder/overseer or biblically qualified men. (e) does not act to affirm, approve, or endorse the practice of homosexuality, as evidenced by actions including but not limited to the licensure or ordination of homosexuals, marriage or blessing of homosexual relationships, and endorsing homosexuality as an

acceptable lifestyle, and (f) does not engage in or encourage any other practice or conduct deemed to be inconsistent or contrary to the doctrinal statement of the Convention.

Affirmations and Denials, Article IV, Section 1 (d):

- We affirm that the office of pastor/elder/overseer is established in Scripture, with specific qualifications for men appointed to serve. We deny that Article IV, Section 1 (d) addresses roles and positions in the church other than the office of pastor/elder/overseer.
- We affirm that men who serve as pastor/elder/overseer or preach to the assembled congregation should not violate the biblical qualifications of the office. We deny that serving as pastor/elder/overseer is required to preach to the assembled congregation.
- We affirm that preaching to the assembled congregation is the proclamation of God's Word in a sermon during a corporate worship service of the local church. We deny that Article IV, Section 1 (d) is intended to address other elements of a corporate worship service or other ministries of the local church.
- We affirm that ordination refers to the local church appointing biblically qualified men to serve as pastor/elder/overseer. We deny that Article IV, Section 1 (d) is intended to address ordination to ministries other than the office of pastor/elder/overseer.
- We affirm that titles equivalent to pastor/elder/overseer encompass their historically accepted Greek derivatives and faithful translations across all languages. We deny that titles such as director, leader, or minister are equivalent to pastor/elder/overseer and further deny that those or other titles may be used as substitutes for pastor/elder/overseer to avoid the application of Article IV, Section 1 (d).

BIG AND SMALL, ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

"I wasn't born a Southern Baptist, but I became one as fast as I could."

I've said that many times. Having been raised in the home of an independent Baptist pastor who would later become a home missionary responsible to raise his own support, I hated "going on deputation." Dad would present his ministry with a parachurch mission to raise his own mission support. Sometimes churches or individuals would catch the vision, sometimes not.

Dad and Mom supported our family with small gifts received from individuals and churches. A church giving \$500 a month in those days was a huge deal for our family. I often remember thinking there had to be a better way.

Fast forward about 12 years, and I'm a young husband with a few kids and a member at First Baptist Church in McAllen under the leadership of Bill Sutton. Brother Bill constantly encouraged our church that as we gave, we were supporting missionaries in North America and

overseas through the International Mission Board, as well as at our six Southern Baptist seminaries.

I came to love Lottie Moon—after some degree of embarrassment. I remember asking in a deacon's meeting, "Who is this Lottie Moon person and why are we giving her so much money?" There was a collective gasp as the air was sucked out of that conference room. I felt my face go flush as every head whipped around and every eye

stared in my direction. Brother Bill laughed and patiently explained who Lottie was and why we give a Christmas offering for international missions. (I did not make that mistake with Annie, by the way.)

Later, God called me to be a pastor when I was 34, and we packed up our family of seven and moved to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. I graduated with an M.Div completely debt free because



**LOTTIE
MOON**
CHRISTMAS OFFERING
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

When you give, nations are transformed. 100% of your gift supports missionaries, not overhead.

Your generosity today makes an eternal impact.



lottiemoon.com



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of WMU®.

of the Cooperative Program and the generosity of Southern Baptists.

While at SEBTS, God called me to plant a church in Littleton, N.H., 60 miles south of the Canadian border in a 98% unchurched area. Our church was so small, it was us and one other couple we had reached. I didn't have live music and our offering took about one minute—if that. No offertory needed. So I showed CP, North American Mission Board, and IMB videos during our offering time. I shared how our little church of 10 was having kingdom impact as we "tithed" 10% of our offerings as a church. It was a huge leap of faith for us.

Our fledgling little church eventually grew to over 100 members, and they caught the vision for how our little church in New Hampshire was having global kingdom impact. They got excited about CP giving, and I made sure they all knew

I'M PROUD TO SUPPORT CP AND I'M IN AWE OF HOW OUR COLLECTION OF CHURCHES—MEGA, MEDIUM, SMALL, AND TINY—CAN HAVE SUCH KINGDOM IMPACT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

and appreciated Lottie and Annie since we were NAMB missionaries. Twenty-five years later, I still pastor a small church with about 100 members in Corpus Christi, and our little church gives a tithe and offering through the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and through the Cooperative Program.

God used my independent Baptist upbringing to teach me there are many ways for mission support. My parents are both in glory, and going through their things, I see the meager support they lived on, knowing those lifelong relationships and friendships they had from families giving \$25 a

month, churches giving my widowed mother \$100 a month for 50 years. Incredible! I am thankful for that.

I love the work we do as Southern Baptists. I'm proud to support CP and I'm in awe of how our collection of churches—mega, medium, small, and tiny—can have such kingdom impact for the glory of God!



Ralph Green is pastor of Christ Central Baptist Church in Corpus Christi.

Building Tomorrow
Through Today's
Faithfulness

4.25% APY*
11-MONTH TERM

*Promo Available Through 11-30-26

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS
FOUNDATION



CALL 844-351-8804 | SBTEXASFOUNDATION.COM/CERTIFICATES

Promotional certificates will auto-renew for a daily certificate at the current APY unless the client provides other instructions before renewal. Certificates are available to a qualified class of Texas churches, ministries, and individuals.



regeneration ONE-DAY

REGIONAL • CONVENIENT • TRANSFORMATIVE

The difference between churches that plateau and churches that thrive isn't circumstance; it's having a clear pathway to activate what God has already given you.

Regenesi One-Day events are designed to help churches begin the process of developing a renewed pathway to health. These events will be held at numerous locations across Texas.



Scan to find a meeting near you
sbtexas.com/oneday

GUIDING CHURCHES TOWARD HEALTH + RENEWAL



LEGACY BUILDERS

Mobilizing the 65+ generation
in your church from maintenance to missional

2027 EVENTS

April 8 TRAINING

Old River Baptist Church, Winfree

April 15 TRAINING

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Cedar Hill

Sept. 22-23 CONFERENCE

Parkhills Baptist Church, San Antonio

One generation shall commend
your works to another. **PSALM 145:4**

As generations shift, people 65 years and older have become a large demographic in our society. Join us for one of our upcoming trainings as we equip and encourage churches to mobilizes older adults to leave a legacy by making disciples, finishing well, and passing on a Christ-centered inheritance to the next generation.

sbtexas.com/legacy

 Made possible by CP giving





5

MINUTES TEXAN Q&A WITH COURTNEY YOUNG

Courtney Young and his wife, Rosalynn, have been members of Creekstone Church in North Richland Hills since 2017. Young, a licensed social worker and specialty courts program manager in the Tarrant County criminal courts system, serves with Kenneth Roberts as co-ministry leader of Creekstone men's ministry, PROMISE: Purposefully Reaching Out to Men in Service through Excellence. Young also volunteers with the church security and small group ministries and helps out a few times each month in the children's department so those teachers can attend the service.

What's one thing Creekstone is celebrating about its men's ministry lately?

Creekstone is celebrating consistency, commitment, and servant-hearted leadership. Over the past several months, our men have stepped up in meaningful ways—serving the church, supporting major ministry events, and strengthening fellowship among one another. We have monthly meetings and weekly Sunday huddles. We do service jobs such as landscaping and installing fencing at the church. It has been encouraging to see men stepping into leadership and supporting one another with consistency and excellence. Over the past 10 years, many men have come and gone, but the original commitment remains: We promise to be there for one another, our families, and our community.

Describe the mentor program Creekstone's men's ministry is involved with at Richland High School. It's a community outreach initiative. During

the Richland High School boys basketball season, Creekstone men provide hot meals for home games and deliver meals for away games. At home games, we also share a biblical lesson on manhood and pray with the team. Players often volunteer to share peer-led lessons as well.

What's one thing you would like to see happen in the men's ministry over the next year?

I would love to see increased participation from Creekstone men—not through pressure, but through genuine engagement. Our church has grown significantly, and many men have not yet responded to outreach efforts. While some participate occasionally, consistent fellowship would allow us to grow stronger and bless many more people.

What's one thing you've learned to this point of your life and ministry that you know you will never forget?

Serving others is one of God's greatest blessings. Over the years, I've experienced achievements in sports and enjoyed successes at work, but those moments never brought the same lasting joy as serving my Creekstone family and the Richland High School community, encouraging them in their faith or meeting their needs by providing meals and mentorship. I've learned that fulfillment that comes from serving others has a deeper and more eternal value than personal accomplishments.

How can SBTC churches pray for you and your ministry?

Please pray for continued ministry growth and increased participation. Life changes can shift people's availability, and we need more men to step up and commit to the mentor program, which has blessed so many young men, coaches, and families.

AS FOR ME & MY HOUSE

By **Arlene Sanabria**

Every day, Vidal Flores saw a simple, familiar Bible verse posted outside his home. It eventually changed his life—and the lives of so many more.

MCALLEN

LONG BEFORE VIDAL FLORES PASTORED a Hispanic congregation in McAllen, he did everything he could to keep Christianity out of his home.

When he met the woman who would become his wife, Faustina, Flores was trapped in a cycle of alcohol and drug abuse. One night, while under the influence of both, he asked her to marry him. She accepted, but then confessed something she hadn't told him yet—that she was a follower of Jesus Christ.

He agreed to marry her on one condition: He didn't want any Christian literature in the house or visits from pastors or those believers he then called "hallelujahs." Faustina respected the condition—technically.

One day she placed a sticker outside the house with the words from Joshua 24:15: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." When Flores protested, she reminded him, "You said inside the house. That's outside."

She left him speechless, and he didn't argue, so he saw the sticker every day. Eventually, he memorized the verse.

More than three decades later, those words formed the foundation of a reality the young rebel would never have imagined. Today, Flores pastors the Spanish-language ministry at First Baptist Church in McAllen. Faustina serves alongside him, their

children are involved in the ministry, and the small Hispanic congregation—which survived years of transition and a pandemic—is growing once again.

A mission field on the church's doorstep

McAllen has an estimated population of 150,640, and 87% of its residents identify as Hispanic or Latino. Additionally, about 74% of residents over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home. For FBC McAllen, these figures represent much more than statistics. They represent a mission field practically on the church's doorstep.



150,640 Population

87% Residents who identify as Hispanic or Latino

74% Over age 5 speak a language other than English at home



“THEY NEED TO FEEL THE LOVE—THE LOVE WE HAVE BECAUSE WE HAVE CHRIST.”

—VIDAL FLORES

Flores describes McAllen as “a place of passage,” a border city marked by the constant movement of people and families. This dynamism presents one of the challenges of ministry, but also opportunities to share the gospel with people from different backgrounds.

The Spanish-speaking congregation at FBC McAllen gathers for Sunday school and worship on Sundays and for Bible study on Wednesdays. They recently completed a series based on Acts 2:42–47, examining the characteristics of the early church: teaching, fellowship, prayer, and the breaking of bread.

Flores wants those principles to extend beyond a Bible study. Every two months, the congregation celebrates its members’ birthdays with a time of fellowship and encourag-

(Above) Vidal Flores credits his wife, Faustina, with influencing his decision to follow Jesus. Decades later, the Lord is using many members of the Flores family to reach others for Christ.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

es them to bring guests. They share gospel tracts, pray specifically for people who do not yet know Christ, and use their digital platforms to invite others.

However, one of their main strategies is much simpler—follow-up. When someone visits the church during the week, they make a point of reaching out via letter or phone call. If the person continues to attend, they look for other opportunities to get to know them and let them know they are important to the congregation. Faustina helps coordinate this effort by maintaining a list of people with whom they want to stay connected.

“They need to feel the love—the love we have because we have Christ,” Flores said.

For him, it’s not just a growth strategy. It’s what God used in his own life.

A life touched by grace

Flores grew up in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico—directly across the Rio Grande from McAllen. When he was 11 years old, he lost his father, who had professed faith in Christ and was seriously ill. Flores recalls that some believers came to pray for him, assuring him God would perform a miracle. His father died that night.

Instead of drawing him closer to God, the experience led to rebellion.

“I fell into all kinds of vices,” he said.

Over the years, alcohol and drugs came to control much of his life. On one occasion, he suffered a drug overdose and was left near some trash cans. Faustina found him while he was convulsing and cried out to God for her husband’s life.

A few days later, around his birthday in 1991, Flores recalls having another experience that

deeply confronted him with his own mortality. That night, he began to feel physically strange, as if his life were fading away. Thinking his body needed what it was accustomed to, he tried to turn to drugs again, but he says he couldn’t do it. He tried to drink alcohol and couldn’t do that either. The same thing happened when he tried to smoke.

It was at that moment Flores realized he no longer wanted to keep running away from God.

“I said to Him, ‘God, I’m not going to fight against you anymore,’” he said.

Flores surrendered and promised the Lord he would serve Him if He transformed his life. When he left his room, he noticed something had immediately changed.

“My hands aren’t shaking anymore,” he told Faustina. “God is doing something in my life.”

Then something happened that surprised his wife even more: Flores asked to go to church.

It was a Monday—normally a night with no service—but the church was hosting a special screening of a Christian film. At the end of the screening, an invitation was extended to respond to the gospel.

Flores approached the altar, bowed his head, began to weep, and cried out to God, placing his faith in Christ. Among the words he spoke that night were the very ones he had seen printed outside his house for so long: “My house and I will serve the Lord.”

After moving to McAllen, Flores and his family attended a Hispanic Baptist church. During various periods of pastoral transition, he was asked several times to help lead the congregation temporarily. In 2005, he began studying theology for the pastorate. Three

years later, in November 2008, he and Faustina arrived as visitors at FBC McAllen. Flores was invited to teach a marriage class, and when the Hispanic ministry later went through a transition, about 12 people remained.

They continued to meet as a Spanish-language Bible study group. Twelve gradually grew into dozens. At one point, the congregation reached approximately 100 people. On June 3, 2018, Flores was ordained and began formally pastoring the Spanish-speaking congregation at FBC McAllen.

Then the pandemic struck. Like many congregations, the ministry suffered significant losses. By 2022, Flores recalls that about 20 people remained. Today, about 60 gather. The growth has been enough for the congregation to prepare to move to a larger space within the FBC McAllen facility.

The love of Christ on display

Flores doesn't speak of God's faithfulness solely in terms of experiences that turned out the way he expected. In 2020, after one of several heart surgeries he had undergone, his family began another difficult journey. One of his granddaughters began falling frequently and showing concerning symptoms.

Doctors discovered an inoperable brain tumor and gave the family a prognosis of 12 to 18 months. The news sparked a prayer chain that, according to Flores, reached believers in different parts of the world.

The girl died on Oct. 11, 2022, but Flores recalls that even during her illness, his granddaughter's faith touched those around her. On one occasion, before she was taken to receive medical care, she was the one who asked everyone to stop and pray first. After her death, people continued to share with the family how her life had touched them.

For Flores, experiences like that have deepened a conviction he seeks to convey to the congregation: God's faithfulness does not mean the absence of suffering, but rather



Pastor Flores (pictured second from left) wants FBC McAllen en Español to transform families in the community the way the gospel transformed his own. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

learning to trust Him even in the midst of it.

After 35 years of following Christ, Flores can look at his family and see that Bible verse in Joshua which for so long was posted outside his home has been fulfilled in an unexpected way. His brother is a pastor. His oldest son is also a pastor. Another of his sons serves in the church's technical department.

Faustina continues to serve alongside him.

Today, Flores wants FBC McAllen en Español to transform families in the community as well through teaching the Word, preaching the gospel, seeking the lost, and ensuring that long before anyone decides to stay, they can experience the love of Christ.

For Flores, the way his wife reached him still influences how the church seeks to reach others.

"I [once] forbade her from talking about Christ," Flores said, "but she showed me the love of Christ."



Help us spread the word. Help us spread dignity.

Mission:Dignity® exists to serve retired Southern Baptist workers struggling to afford everyday needs. Do you know a retired SBC pastor, worker or widow who could use a helping hand?

Contact Us to Refer a Recipient



[GuideStone.org/Assistance](https://www.GuideStone.org/Assistance)

YO Y MI CASA ...



Todos los días, Vidal Flores veía un versículo bíblico sencillo y familiar pegado afuera de su casa. Con el tiempo, eso cambió su vida... y la de muchos más.

Por **Arlene Sanabria**

MCALLEN

MUCHO ANTES DE QUE VIDAL FLORES fuera pastor de una congregación hispana en McAllen, hacía todo lo posible por mantener el cristianismo fuera de su casa.

Cuando conoció a la mujer que se convertiría en su esposa, Faustina, Flores estaba atrapado en un ciclo de abuso de alcohol y drogas. Una noche, bajo los efectos de ambos, le pidió que se casara con él. Ella aceptó, pero luego le confesó algo que aún no le había dicho: que era seguidora de Jesucristo.

Él aceptó casarse con ella con una condición: no quería literatura cristiana en la casa, ni visitas de pastores ni de esos creyentes a los que él entonces llamaba “aleluyas”. Faustina respetó la condición... en teoría.

Un día puso una calcomanía afuera de la casa con las palabras de Josué 24:15: “pero yo y mi casa serviremos a Jehová”. Cuando Flores protestó, ella le recordó: “Dijiste que dentro de la casa. Esto es afuera”.

Lo dejó sin palabras, y como no discutió, veía la calcomanía todos los días. Con el tiempo, se aprendió el versículo de memoria.

Más de tres décadas después, esas palabras se convirtieron en la base de una realidad que el joven rebelde nunca hubiera imaginado. Hoy, Flores es pastor del ministerio en español de la Primera Iglesia Bautista de McAllen.

Faustina trabaja junto a él, sus hijos participan en el ministerio y la pequeña congregación hispana —que sobrevivió a años de transición y a una pandemia— está creciendo de nuevo.

Un campo misionero a las puertas de la iglesia

McAllen tiene una población estimada de 150,640 habitantes, y el 87% de sus residentes se identifica como hispano o latino. Además, alrededor del 74% de los residentes mayores de 5 años habla un idioma distinto al inglés en casa. Para la FBC McAllen,

El pastor Vidal Flores, de la iglesia FBC McAllen en Español, antes no quería saber nada del cristianismo. Ahora cree que el mensaje del Evangelio es la única forma en que las familias de su comunidad podrán experimentar una verdadera transformación.

FOTO COMPARTIDA

estas cifras representan mucho más que estadísticas. Representan un campo misionero prácticamente a las puertas de la iglesia.

Flores describe a McAllen como “un lugar de paso”, una ciudad fronteriza marcada por el movimiento constante de personas y familias.

Este dinamismo supone uno de los retos del ministerio, pero también una oportunidad para compartir el evangelio con personas de diferentes orígenes.

La congregación de habla hispana se reúne los domingos para la escuela dominical y el culto de adoración, y los miércoles para el estudio bíblico. Recientemente terminaron una serie basada en Hechos 2:42-47, en la que analizaron las características de la iglesia primitiva: la enseñanza, la comunión, la oración y el partimiento del pan.

Flores quiere que esos principios vayan más allá de un simple estudio bíblico. Cada dos meses, la congregación celebra los cumpleaños de sus miembros con un momento de comunión y los anima a traer invitados. Reparten tratados, oran específicamente por las personas que aún no conocen a Cristo y usan sus plataformas digitales para invitar a otros.

Sin embargo, una de sus estrategias principales es mucho más sencilla: el seguimiento. Cuando alguien visita la iglesia durante la semana, se aseguran

de contactarlo por carta o por teléfono. Si la persona sigue asistiendo, buscan otras oportunidades para conocerla mejor y hacerle saber que es importante para la congregación. Faustina ayuda a coordinar este esfuerzo manteniendo una lista de personas con las que quieren mantenerse en contacto.

“Necesitan sentir el amor, el amor que tenemos porque tenemos a Cristo”, dijo Flores.

Para él, no es sólo una estrategia de crecimiento. Es lo que Dios usó en su propia vida.

Una vida tocada por la gracia

Flores creció en Reynosa, Tamaulipas, México, justo al otro lado del Río Grande, frente a McAllen. Cuando tenía 11 años, perdió a su papá, quien había profesado su fe en Cristo y estaba gravemente enfermo.

Flores recuerda que algunos creyentes vinieron a orar por él, asegurándole que Dios haría un milagro. Su papá murió esa noche.

En lugar de acercarlo más a Dios, la experiencia lo llevó a la rebelión.

“Caí en todo tipo de vicios”, dijo.

Con el paso de los años, el alcohol y las drogas terminaron controlando gran parte de su vida. En una ocasión, sufrió una sobredosis de drogas y lo dejaron tirado cerca de unos botes de basura. Faustina lo encontró mientras tenía convulsiones y clamó a Dios por la vida de su esposo.

Unos días después, cerca de su cumpleaños en 1991, Flores recuerda haber tenido otra experiencia que lo enfrentó profundamente a su propia mortalidad.

Esa noche, empezó a sentirse raro físicamente, como si su vida se estuviera desvaneciendo. Pensando que su cuerpo necesitaba lo que estaba acostumbrado, intentó volver a las drogas, pero dice que no pudo hacerlo. Intentó beber alcohol y tampoco pudo. Lo mismo pasó cuando intentó fumar.

Fue en ese momento cuando Flores se dio cuenta de que ya no quería seguir huyendo de Dios.

“Le dije: ‘Dios, ya no voy a luchar más contra ti’”, contó.

Flores se rindió y le prometió al Señor que lo serviría si Él transformaba su vida. Al salir de su habitación, notó que algo había cambiado de inmediato.

“Ya no me tiemblan las manos”, le dijo a Faustina. “Dios está haciendo algo en mi vida”.

Entonces pasó algo que sorprendió aún más a su esposa: Flores pidió ir a la iglesia.



Era lunes—normalmente una noche en que no hay servicio de adoración—pero la iglesia estaba organizando una proyección especial de una película cristiana. Al terminar la proyección, se hizo una invitación para responder al evangelio.

Flores se acercó al altar, inclinó la cabeza, empezó a llorar y clamó a Dios, poniendo su fe en Cristo. Entre las palabras que dijo esa noche estaban precisamente las que había visto impresas afuera de su casa durante tanto tiempo: “Yo y mi casa serviremos a Jehová”.

Después de mudarse a McAllen, Flores y su familia asistían a una iglesia bautista hispana. Durante varios periodos de transición pastoral, le pidieron varias veces que ayudara a dirigir la congregación temporalmente. En el 2005,

Daniela, la hija del pastor Vidal Flores, y su yerno, César, posan con sus hijos, el pequeño César y Arianna, junto a una foto de su hija Natalia, que partió con el Señor el 11 de octubre de 2022. **FOTO COMPARTIDA**

empezó a estudiar para el pastorado y teología. Tres años después, en noviembre de 2008, él y Faustina llegaron como visitantes a la FBC McAllen. Lo invitaron a dar una clase sobre el matrimonio, y cuando el ministerio hispano pasó por una transición más tarde, quedaron unas 12 personas.

Siguieron reuniéndose como un grupo de estudio bíblico en español. De doce, poco a poco se convirtieron en docenas. En un momento, la congregación llegó a tener aproximadamente 100 personas. El 3 de junio de 2018, Flores fue ordenado y empezó a pastorear formalmente a la

congregación de habla hispana en la FBC McAllen.

Entonces llegó la pandemia. Al igual que muchas congregaciones, el ministerio sufrió pérdidas importantes. Para el 2022, Flores recuerda que quedaban unas 20 personas. Hoy, se reúnen unas 60. El crecimiento ha sido suficiente para que la congregación se prepare para mudarse a un espacio más grande dentro de las instalaciones de la FBC McAllen.

El amor de Cristo a la vista

Flores no habla de la fidelidad de Dios sólo en términos de experiencias que salieron como él esperaba.

En el 2020, después de una de las varias cirugías cardíacas a las que se había sometido, su familia comenzó otro camino difícil. Una de sus nietas empezó a caerse con frecuencia y a mostrar síntomas preocupantes.

Los doctores descubrieron un tumor cerebral inoperable y le

dieron a la familia un pronóstico de 12 a 18 meses. La noticia desató una cadena de oración que, según Flores, llegó a creyentes en diferentes partes del mundo.

La niña falleció el 11 de octubre de 2022, pero Flores recuerda que, incluso durante su enfermedad, la fe de su nieta conmovió a quienes la rodeaban. En una ocasión, antes de que la llevaran a recibir atención médica, fue ella quien pidió a todos que se detuvieran y oraran primero. Tras su muerte, la gente siguió compartiendo con la familia cómo su vida los había impactado.

Para Flores, experiencias como esa han profundizado una convicción que busca transmitir a la congregación: la fidelidad de Dios no significa la ausencia de sufrimiento, sino más bien aprender a confiar en Él incluso en medio de él.

Después de 35 años de seguir a Cristo, Flores puede mirar a su

familia y ver que ese versículo bíblico de Josué, que durante tanto tiempo estuvo colgado afuera de su casa, se ha cumplido de una manera inesperada. Su hermano es pastor. Su hijo mayor también es pastor. Otro de sus hijos trabaja en el departamento técnico de la iglesia. Faustina sigue sirviendo a su lado.

Hoy, Flores quiere que la FBC McAllen en Español transforme también a las familias de la comunidad a través de la enseñanza de la Palabra, la predicación del evangelio, la búsqueda de los perdidos y asegurándose de que, mucho antes de que alguien decida quedarse, pueda experimentar el amor de Cristo.

Para Flores, la forma en que su esposa lo alcanzó sigue influyendo en cómo la iglesia busca alcanzar a los demás.

“[Una vez] le prohibí que hablara de Cristo”, dijo Flores, “pero ella me mostró el amor de Cristo”.



Reach Texas

SBTC STATE MISSIONS OFFERING



★ from Texans — for Texas ★

The annual Reach Texas State Missions Offering fuels ministries that advance the Great Commission efforts of SBTC churches. 100% of the offering is used for missions and evangelism.

FIND RESOURCES & DETAILS AT

sbtexas.com/reachtexas

COME ONE, COME ALL

In an area where many are hurting, church's 'come as you are' invite resonates

PAYNE SPRINGS

JEREMY SANDERS SCHEDULED A MEETING with Alan Small, executive director of the Dogwood Trails Baptist Association in East Texas.

"I took my resume and said, 'We're going to be moving to the area. I'm a pastor. I'll be looking for a church,'" Sanders recalled.

"As I sat down and handed him my resume, a gentleman had just left, and [Alan] jumped up and said, 'I need to go get this gentleman. I'll be right back.'"

"[Alan] brought him back and [the gentleman] said, 'You are the man we have been praying for for months.'"

It turned out that while an established church was closing and leaving its property and assets to the association, God was providing a new opportunity for Sanders' wife as an elementary principal nearby. The association had hopes of starting a new church in the old building. All it needed was a church planter.

"This gentleman was working with the church that was closing, and it just happened he was there the day I was there, which is a God thing," Sanders said. "I kept pushing my resume over, going, 'I'm not a church planter. I'm just a pastor.'"

"And he goes, 'Jeremy, I'm just telling you, we've been praying for you. You are the man God has called to this area.'"



As an act of service, Cedar Creek Community Church had a \$1 car wash. Instead of asking people to pay \$1, they gave \$1 to the people whose cars they washed. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

"I am a rural country pastor. I had no church planting experience at all, but God gave me a vision of the people that we would reach in this area."

—JEREMY SANDERS

“What I love more than anything is what our people tell other people: ‘You come, you’re going to be welcomed, and you’re going to be loved.’”

—JEREMY SANDERS

That was about three years ago. Sanders agreed to start a Bible study, which soon grew into Cedar Creek Community Church in Payne Springs.

“I am a rural country pastor. I had no church planting experience at all, but God gave me a vision of the people that we would reach in this area,” Sanders said. “It’s the clearest vision I’ve ever been given, and it was to reach the marginalized, the broken, the forgotten people who fall through the cracks.”

After two and a half years, the church has reached about 30 people, and many of them did not have church backgrounds.

“We’re reaching people, but it’s just little by little as we work the ground,” Sanders said.

That ground includes lives ruined by drugs, alcohol, and homelessness. Sanders had worked with the down and out before, and he knew he had to build trust.

“They go through a lot of change in their lives. People walk in and out of their lives constantly, and you have to earn the trust from them. Once you do that, it’s an amazing thing,” he said. “They are as loyal and loving as can be.”

Though residents of Payne Springs can drive to Mabank or Gun Barrel City in five minutes, Sanders said, thousands of people aren’t being



reached by any church. “Those people are not going elsewhere. They’re staying in their area, and they want to be reached where they’re at.”

One of the ways Cedar Creek Community Church has accomplished that is through a Christmas outreach. Members loaded up a wagon for an old-fashioned hayride and went caroling through neighborhoods, handing out goody bags and praying with people.

Right around the time the church was starting, an RV park was opening across the street. Sanders had envisioned the park being a prime location to meet new people and invite them to church, but, surprisingly, efforts bore no fruit.

“We prayer-walked it. We knocked on doors to pray with people, share the gospel, and invite them to church, all kinds of things,” he said.

The caroling hayride was the breakthrough. “It was by far the best outing we’ve had there yet,” he said. The pastor was able to minister to a family whose uncle had died the day before, and the church made connections with a few other people.

A recent development is that a nearby Christian school is looking for a larger place to meet, and they’re

Pastor Jeremy Sanders (right) knows God has given him a heart for the people of Payne Springs, and he is committed to reaching them for Christ. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

working out a plan to occupy the unused education building on Cedar Creek’s campus.

“The education building is two stories tall, and we had to close that building down last year,” Sanders said. “We had the water and electricity turned off. It was just costing us way too much as a very small church.”

With the activity a school would bring to the campus, Sanders hopes people in the community will realize something new is happening and investigate.

“We are the most come-as-you-are church there is,” he said. “You can come in shorts, flip-flops, and everyday clothes—not dressed up. What I love more than anything is what our people tell other people: ‘You come, you’re going to be welcomed, and you’re going to be loved.’”

“They are the most nonjudgmental people ever. You don’t have to even physically clean up. Just come. To me, that is what the church should look like.”

'A GOSPEL OUTPOST' ON THE FRONTIER OF NORTH TEXAS

Aledo church plant prays for long-lasting impact in a fast-blossoming community

ALEDO

THE FRONTIER IS A PLACE filled with untold stories and untethered growth. Often, it requires a rugged, pioneer-like determination to cross those borders and forge new territory.

For one church plant in Aledo, the frontier is exactly where the mission is.

"We feel that God is sending us out ahead to till up the soil in these fertile grounds ... and to build a church, build a congregation, [and] to allow Christ to work through us and for God to build His church," Frontier Church Lead Pastor Travis Young said as the congregation gathered to celebrate its first anniversary on Aug. 16. "We're praying for a congregation that will outlive us by generations, a church that will go forward as a gospel witness—a gospel outpost that Christ would use for His great name and glory"

Like much of God's work, Frontier Church began with a whisper. At the time, Young was serving as children's pastor for a thriving church in Arkan-



Travis Young, seen at left with his wife Ginger, has pastored churches in Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

"We believe every new home represents people who need meaningful relationships, biblical community, and the hope of the gospel."

—TRAVIS YOUNG

sas. By January 2023, Young had completed his doctorate and began to fast and pray for God to reveal his next steps in ministry. He retreated to the mountains to remove the noise. No phone, no worldly distractions, just God. While there, he thought of the location where Interstate 20 and Interstate 30 intersect. Months later, while conducting a site visit, Young realized Aledo—located about 20 miles west of downtown Fort Worth—was exactly where God was leading.

Since 2020, Aledo's population has grown more than 50% and continues to climb, with estimates exceeding 7,000 residents in 2026. It has quickly transformed from a rural area into a bustling suburban town and a fertile place to advance the gospel.

"Thousands of families are moving into the area, new neighborhoods are being developed, and new schools are opening. While the physical growth is easy to see, there is also a significant spiritual need," Young said. "We believe every new home represents people who need meaningful relationships, biblical community, and the hope of the gospel."

Young and his family migrated to Texas and began working with sister churches to pray, focus, and train for the



“We’ve celebrated baptisms and changed lives, but I think some of the greatest evidence of God moving has also been in the smaller things like people showing up for one another, stepping into leadership, serving wherever they’re needed, and genuinely wanting to reach people in our community.”

—SHARALEE TIDWELL

next steps in church planting. Churches from as close as Fort Worth and as far away as Arkansas and Oklahoma joined the effort. A core team of about 35-40 people spent 18 months training in a residency program at The Village Church in Flower Mound to prepare for the launch.

“Before our first Sunday, we spent many months praying, developing leaders, gathering a launch team, raising support, purchasing portable church equipment, building ministry systems, and introducing ourselves to the community,” Young said. “Because we launched as a portable church in a local school, preparation also included developing detailed setup and teardown systems for worship, children’s ministry, hospitality, signage, and technology.”

Ready for launch

By August 2025, it was go time.

“Our first service was held at McAnally Middle School, where 247 people attended and five people responded to the gospel,” Young said.

Sharalee Tidwell, who joined the groundbreaking team in January 2026, serves as Frontier Church’s worship and connections minister. “For me, one of the most exciting things has been watching God take a relatively small group of people and really begin to form a church family,” she said. “We’ve seen new families come, people find a place to belong and serve, kids and students get connected, and people take meaningful steps in their faith. We’ve celebrated baptisms and changed lives, but I think some of the greatest evidence of God moving has also been in the smaller things like

people showing up for one another, stepping into leadership, serving wherever they’re needed, and genuinely wanting to reach people in our community.”

Ten months into its existence and still without a permanent home, Frontier Church spent its first summer focused on outreach. With help from mission teams from across the country, the church hosted two Upward sports camps and held Vacation Bible School at Walsh Elementary School. In doing so, the church provided space for approximately 225 children and their families to hear the gospel.

“Many of these families had little or no previous connection with Frontier Church,” Young said. “The follow-up has been especially encouraging. Families have visited our worship services, children have

returned for other ministry activities, and parents have continued relationships with our leaders. Upward has helped us move beyond simply advertising the church. It has allowed us to serve families personally and earn trust within the community.”

Frontier Church is planted in an area that has little to no facilities outside of the local schools. Young expects the church to continue meeting at local schools for the next five years or until God provides otherwise.

“It’s really pretty amazing when you think about how much can change in one year,” Tidwell said. “Like most church plants, Frontier started with a small group of people doing a little bit of everything. There has been a lot of setting up and tearing down, problem solving, changing plans, trying something, learning from it, and trying again.

“But somewhere along the way, you look around and realize that ministries have formed, teams are developing, people have found their place to serve, and families who weren’t here in the beginning now call Frontier home.”

Church planting is an arduous journey that requires the fortitude of a pioneer and a will that is completely surrendered to God’s.

“There have been Sundays when attendance wasn’t what we hoped it would be, times when resources or giving were tight, weeks when we needed more volunteers than we had, equipment that decided not to cooperate, and plenty of plans that changed at the last minute,” Tidwell said. “[But] sometimes the biggest win is one person coming back, one family getting connected, one volunteer saying yes, or one conversation that you may never know the full impact of.”

Young calls upon Romans 10:14-15 for encouragement to stay the course.

“Church planting has reignited my passion for evangelism and deepened my confidence in the sovereignty of God, especially in seasons of discouragement and uncertainty,” he said. “If God is calling you to plant, trust that He will sustain you, provide what you need, and bear fruit as you abide in Christ.”



Frontier Church meets in public school buildings in Aledo, where the population has grown by more than 50% since 2020. The town has quickly transformed from a rural area into a fertile place to advance the gospel. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**



DISASTER RELIEF

PREP • TRAIN • RESPOND

For online courses, more info, & to register

sbtcexas.com/dr

Ministry advanced by **Reach Texas**



What is the purpose of disaster relief?

To prepare, equip, train, and mobilize churches and volunteers to fulfill the Great Commission by meeting real needs and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ with those whose lives have been or will be affected by disasters.

Would you like to be trained as an SBTC Disaster Relief volunteer?

**Intro to DR +
Phase 1 Training**

November 7 Mexia
Calvary Baptist Church



Student
MINISTER

GET AWAY

**DEC.
3-5**

**San Antonio
Riverwalk**

Spiritual refreshment, relaxation & networking
for student ministers & their spouses

sbtcexas.com/smg

Made possible by CP giving



'FILLED WITH PRAISE AND PRAYER'

Metroplex Korean congregation is primed for the future after celebrating a half-century of ministry



CARROLLTON

NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY HOW MANY KOREANS have moved to Texas over the last decade, but church leaders believe the numbers are considerably higher than the 110,000-115,000 reflected in the 2020 U.S. Census.

Unofficial estimates suggest that 130,000 to 150,000 Koreans now live in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, said Hyoung Min Kim, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We do not know the exact number," Kim said.

While other Texas cities such as Houston and Austin have also seen an upswing in their Korean populations, the Dallas area has possibly experienced the largest influx in recent years. Neighborhoods such as one known as Koreatown, just south of Carrollton, prove attractive. Many are drawn by the strong Texas economy, lack of a state income tax, and the relocation of major corporations that are increasingly calling DFW home.

"In DFW, the economy makes it easy to do business," Kim said. "God has been blessing this area," he added, noting that these blessings include many churches.

"In the Dallas area, there are 50-60 Korean Baptist churches alone, plus 60 of other denominations," Kim said.

Among these is New Song Church in Carrollton, which is still going strong after being founded more than 50 years ago.

"Today, New Song's membership has reached over 2,500, and the congregation is actively preparing to build a new worship center in the near future," Kim said. "The church's primary strengths are worship, missions, and education."

Those strengths define each of the three senior pastors who have led New Song since its beginning in 1975.

A Korean mother church

First came Tommy Son, who founded First Korean Baptist Church of Dallas, a church plant of First Baptist Dallas that initially met in a room at FBCD. After pastoring the church for 20 years, Son spent a decade in China doing missionary work. Daniel Park, New Song's second pastor, moved the campus to Carrollton in 2005 and also led the church for 20 years before moving to South Africa with the International Mission Board.

"These men left a legacy," said Peter Hyun, New Song's pastor since 2022.

The legacy is such that New Song is often considered a mother church among Korean Baptist churches, Hyun said. "Alongside [Son and Park], many ordained deacons and church members have faithfully planted four to five Korean churches over the years, as well as two churches in Central Asia and Latin America."

Many graduates of Southwestern Seminary also received ministry training at New Song and now serve as missionaries and pastors across the U.S. and South Korea, Hyun added.

“We place a high value on congregational prayer and congregational singing, and we focus on spiritually nourishing our members through expository preaching.”

—PETER HYUN

This was Hyun's path to the New Song pulpit as well. He started his ministry at the church while a college and seminary student. After earning an M.Div. from Southwestern, he was ordained at New Song and pastored in the Washington, D.C., area before accepting the call as the Carrollton church's third senior pastor.

In the meantime, Hyun met and married his wife, Hana Lee, a hospital nurse and the daughter of a South Korean Baptist pastor and church planter. The couple has two sons.

A week at New Song

The church offers five worship services each Sunday.

“Each has its own unique feel,” Hyun said. The 8 a.m. service is traditional, attended mostly by senior adults. The 10 a.m. and noon services attract young families and feature blended worship. A separate noon service is in English only, while a 2 p.m. service focuses on young adults.

“We place a high value on congregational prayer and congregational singing, and we focus on spiritually nourishing our members through expository preaching,” Hyun said.

Fridays include a large prayer gathering that lasts over 90 minutes.

“It's filled with praise and prayer, not just for personal requests, but for the U.S., Korea, and the whole



world. It's a very passionate prayer time done in a traditional Korean style,” Hyun said.

The church actively tries to meet the needs of all age groups, including its senior citizens—a growing group enjoying an increased life expectancy for a variety of reasons, including healthcare advances. To help church seniors recharge spiritually, New Song hosted a Golden VBS. About 150 attended what became a “wonderful and meaningful time,” the pastor said.

While the inaugural Golden VBS was limited to church members, plans are to expand it. The church has already shared ideas and curriculum with other churches.

Bible education programs tailored for all age groups are available at New Song, including a Gospel Life class. Every offering is designed to encourage the concepts of missional church and missional life, Hyun said.

What's next?

The church is preparing to build a new sanctuary and additional classrooms, the pastor said, explaining that the current sanctuary was originally designed as a worship space for youth and members attending English-language services.

“With our growing congregation,

New Song Church is experiencing tremendous growth as it reaches the Korean population in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

we can simply no longer accommodate everyone,” he said.

The new sanctuary will free up space in Grace Chapel, allowing the English ministry to expand and make room for another ethnic church plant.

“When our church was first planted and had nowhere to worship, Texas Southern Baptist churches let us use their space. That became the foundation for the New Song Church you see today. We want to be that same foundation for another ethnic church now,” Hyun said.

It was fitting that during New Song's 50th anniversary celebration, Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of First Baptist Dallas, sent a message to be played for the congregation gathered that Sunday in the church gym for a special service featuring local dignitaries.

Hyun noted that Koreans continue to move from other states like California and New Jersey, and he said he expects the Korean market and community to grow substantially in the future.

New Song intends to be ready as that Korean footprint expands.

'I'VE GONE FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING AS A PASTOR'

Editor's note: Jeremy Roberts is lead pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Marshall. He recently shared part of his testimony with the *Texas*'s Gary Ledbetter.

**JESUS IS
WRITING
MY STORY**

IT WAS NEAR THE BEGINNING of my second year as a lead pastor that I came to the end of my rope. That first year was intense to say the least. I faced spiritual warfare within myself and tension within the church. We lost about a third of our church, 120 people. I just didn't know what to do or if I could even do this anymore.

By then, I knew Immanuel Baptist Church pretty well. My wife, Katy, and I went to East Texas Baptist University here in Marshall and, after serving a church down the road in Carthage for a time, I answered a call to serve in discipleship ministry at Immanuel in 2008. I later moved into administrative roles in the church before being called as lead pastor in 2024.

My new ministry role coincided with a really tough time in the church. There was division within the congregation that affected everything, including my confidence in ministry. By the summer of 2025, Katy and I were praying about whether God would have us stay at Immanuel. But God kept holding me here and He wouldn't let me leave. It was clear to me I had to stay and see this through. This was what He was calling me to.

Around that time, Steve Cochran [regional East Texas catalyst for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention] came by and visited with me. He said, "Hey, we're looking at starting something and I really want you to look into it and think about it. It's a new ministry called Thrive that Jeff Lynn [SBTC senior strategist for Church Health and Leadership] is putting together." I had been praying for God to intervene in some way. I was in a real struggle, [but] I was praying for God to provide something in my life that would help sustain me in this.

So I went to that Thrive meeting, and the presence of the Lord was there. I felt it walking into the room, meeting the guys that were there. Jeff explained his vision for pastoral wellness, helping



us through tough times in ministry, and pastors wrapping their arms around each other. It was like a direct answer from the Lord saying, "Jeremy, this is a gift that I'm giving you right now." It was exactly what I needed when I needed it.

I've never so quickly connected with a group of guys like I did with this particular group. You could tell God ordained each person to be there. Each meeting that we had, I was just praising the Lord. I was like, "Thank you, Lord, that I have this group of guys so I can grow and produce a little bit more spiritual health in my life." The book studies we had guided our conversations, but the most important part to me was just sharing our struggles. The prayer times we would have were sometimes emotionally intense, but they were purposeful.

After four or five months of this, everything in ministry started changing for me. I felt more courage in ministry, I felt more supported, and I felt the prayers of those meetings holding me up. It was something I looked forward to every month. I still have those relationships today. I think we were supposed to end in February, but we just kept going because it was such an important experience for all of us. It truly has become an iron sharpens iron type of experience for us.

Now, a year later I've gone from surviving to thriving as a pastor. It's a totally different experience for me, and I attribute a lot of that to what God provided through Thrive. Sure, it's been tough in different seasons, but it's just a totally different environment in my church—and it's bearing fruit. We're on track



to baptize more people in 2026 than we have in any of the past 10 years. And we've added as many people as we lost during the hard years. I think God blessed my staying.

I can truly say we are a totally different congregation than we were even two years ago. And just the health, the energy of the church, the spirit in the church is just alive.

I'm not attributing everything to Thrive, of course, but God has moved within our church over the past year. For me, I truly believe I would not be in the ministry today if it wasn't for that group of guys I met in Thrive. The biggest thing for me by far was the feeling that I was not alone in this. No one around me could understand what I was going through. I needed some guys who were going through some of the same things. It's given me confidence in my ministry.

I learned in the past two years that God is faithful to provide in His timing. He knows when to provide and what I need when I need it, and God is able to sustain me through those difficult times. He provided relationships. That's what it came down to for me—relationships with other men in my life. That's exactly what I needed. My takeaway is to not try to do this alone. I should not isolate myself, but continue to persevere and be obedient to the Lord no matter what that looks like.

Want to share a story of what God is doing in your life or your church?

Scan the QR code or email jlarnson@sbtexas.com to tell us your story.



THRIVE

A PASTOR WELLNESS INITIATIVE

Cohorts begin January 2027

Thrive is an initiative to support pastors in achieving holistic wellness. Through regular networking, pastors will connect with local peers to explore and address crucial aspects of pastoral health, fostering a supportive community.

To join a cohort, contact Jeff Lynn at jlynn@sbtexas.com

 Made possible by CP giving

sbtexas.com/thrive



'Pray for God to send laborers'

SBTC partnership will create opportunities to mobilize churches to serve alongside the Baptist Convention of New York



Earlier this year, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention entered into a ministry partnership with the Baptist Convention of New York. Frank Williams, BCNY's executive director/treasurer, recently spoke with the *Texan* about the challenges churches in his convention face and the powerful opportunities that exist through the partnership, an effort that will be known in the SBTC as Reach New York.

Talk about the churches that make up the Baptist Convention of New York.

FRANK WILLIAMS: The Baptist Convention of New York is truly a diverse state convention. Our territory is made up of about 530 churches and 10 associations. It includes the states of New York, northern New Jersey, western Connecticut, and we have a handful of churches sprinkled in Massachusetts. It's a territory that encompasses rural communities, especially in the upstate [New York] area, and some really densely populated cities. Throughout our territory, there are pockets of diversity, whether you're looking at upstate New York or at the New York City area, which is known for its diverse cultures and nationalities.

New York City is just one small portion of our area, geographically speaking. Population-wise, notoriety-wise, it's a global city. It's a financial hub. It's a real estate hub. When people hear New York, [New York City] is the first thing they think, but we do want to make sure that when people think about the Baptist Convention of New York, they see the larger convention and the churches that serve a much larger territory.

What are some of the challenges BCNY churches face?

FW: The greatest challenges, I think, exist in three areas. The first is location. Whether located in suburban areas or in a bustling place like New York City, people keep to themselves. So churches have to really be intentional about engaging them at some event, maybe at the mall or at a shopping center. There is apathy among some in those communities, a sense that, "Oh, I don't need [organized religion]." Some churches are located in economically depressed neighborhoods, which makes sustainability difficult. In Rochester, N.Y., we have the largest deaf population per capita in the country. It's been challenging establishing a church plant for this community. On the other hand, you can go into Midtown Manhattan at two o'clock in the morning and you're going to see hundreds of people walking around, the lights are bright ... but even in that context, people will see you and not hear you. The challenge to reach people is apathy.

The second challenge is vision. If a community is changing and the church does not have a vision to reach that community and relate to their changing context, they start to become their own community within a community. I believe our churches feel the Great Commission is an essential part of their existence, but sometimes that doesn't get translated into an actual vision that focuses on reaching the people who are moving into a neighborhood. If there's no vision, it eventually produces a church that is plateaued or declining, and revitalization is going to be on the horizon. And if revitalization does not happen, that church is just counting the days to possible closure.

The third challenge is capacity. The church is established at a location and they don't plan to move, they have a vision, but they don't have capacity to actually execute their vision. They have a heart for it, and so they're praying for the Lord of the harvest to raise up laborers for His harvest.

How do you see this partnership with the SBTC addressing some of those challenges?

FW: Revitalization is going to be such a key part of our partnership, because we have quite a few churches in that category. I think that's one of the ways this partnership can serve the churches of the Baptist Convention of New York, in that they can come alongside a particular congregation in a particular neighborhood that has a vision but lacks some capacity to execute [its strategy], whether it's a Vacation Bible School, a community outreach, a neighborhood cleanup, or other outreach opportunities of that nature.

I think church planting is always something we need. When you look at the residents in places like New Jersey and Connecticut, you have millions of people coming to New York City daily for work and then going back home to their respective neighborhoods. So when you do church planting in different parts of our state convention, it's going to look different. Our Send Network partners who have been church planting in New York City for decades know this well. But this partnership [with the SBTC] could connect and greatly benefit our convention to church planting work—especially in the rural areas [in] upstate [New York] and in some of our New Jersey counties.

How do you see this partnership encouraging BCNY pastors?

FW: As a state convention, we have three vision values or focus areas: engaging for unity, equipping for ministry, and encouraging for continuity. That third focus area deals with the encouragement of pastors. We encourage pastors to remain faithful to their commitment to Christ, to their families, and to their calling in ministry. But sometimes when the calling feels overwhelming or unfruitful for pastors, it trickles into their relationship

Want to know how your church can mobilize as part of Reach New York? Scan the QR to learn more.



with Christ. It trickles into their family. Sometimes it can even cause pastors to quit. So we are building a counseling network to assist pastors with their mental and emotional health needs—and not just pastors, but their spouses, because what affects the pastor affects his wife. One of the other things—we haven't done this yet—is we want to have a retreat for pastors and their families. There's discouragement all across the kingdom of God when it comes to pastors and their families, and if [this partnership] can provide some kind of support in very real and tangible ways to pastors and planters and their families ... I think it will be critical.

How can SBTC churches begin praying right now for the churches of the Baptist Convention of New York?

FW: Pray that God moves in ways our strategies can't. The church is called to be a house of prayer, but sometimes we strategize more than we pray. Certainly, strategy is needed, right? We can't minimize that. But pray that our churches are houses of prayer. The activities of the kingdom of darkness are so prevalent in this area, and that makes ministry tough. There's no strategy that you can just throw at that. It's going to take prayer. Pray also for God to send laborers. The harvest here is plentiful, but the laborers are few. We need church plants in rural and urban areas alike. And pray for our churches to receive this partnership with openness and a collaborative spirit. In everything we do, we engage for unity. We don't just want to be on the receiving end of this partnership. We want to be an asset to the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention as well.



**AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
OCTOBER 2026**

SCAN HERE OR VISIT
[BOGARDPRESS.ORG/
VBS2027](https://BOGARDPRESS.ORG/VBS2027) TO VIEW
PROCLAIMERS VBS!



KINGDOM ARITHMETIC



Sending out one of its best young leaders isn't about subtraction for one North Texas church—it's about multiplication

CELINA

IS IT UNUSUAL for a three-year-old church plant still putting down its own roots to become a sending church? Yes.

It is necessary? Absolutely.

Such urgent replication of churches is needed, according to church planter Brandon Self, because Texas is growing so quickly with people moving in from around the world. Legacy Hills Church, located in the North Texas city of Celina, has sent Self to Lubbock in West Texas to get started reaching people there.

"Lubbock is a city of about 400,000 people now, and only 30,000 people go to church. That's not good math," said Self, who is developing a core team for Church House in Lubbock.

"People from the West Coast are moving here in droves, and they don't know Jesus.

They don't have a faith journey," he said. "There's such a lostness in Lubbock that didn't exist even five years ago, and there are not enough churches to reach the people that are out here."

Legacy Hills launched in 2023 and meets in a middle school. They hired Self as a worship and student ministry leader—almost from the beginning with a simultaneous goal of training him up to send him out as soon as possible.

"He got to see it very closely here at Legacy Hills and learn from our mistakes and successes," said Robert Welch, Legacy Hills' lead pastor. "As he goes to plant, he's gotten over two years of planting experience already."

With Celina consistently listed among the fastest-growing cities in America, Legacy Hills has already grown to 200 people on Sundays. Welch hopes other churches will realize that not only is God calling planters, but that they need churches to support them.

"If a little church like us can do that, then what could God do through even larger churches that are more established to give away resources, to give away members, to give away mission teams?" Welch said.

Churches in Texas, he said, "have got to really understand that this is our Judea. We're focused on our Jerusalem, but just outside of that are rapidly growing areas where there's a need." Plants may be needed only 20 or 30 minutes away, Welch said.

"In all of our major cities, there are planters and guys who are doing the hard work. They're sacrificing a great deal. They're there, and for churches to come alongside them and provide support is incredibly important," Welch said.

One unique aspect of Church House spinning off Legacy Hills, Welch said, is that churches that helped launch Legacy Hills now are involved in a second-generation church plant in a different region of the state. Some of those churches in the Metroplex have partnered with Legacy Hills by sending volunteers to lead camps for children during the summer.

"These are people that might not ever go overseas on a mission trip or they might not go out of state because of time, but they could take half a day off work and serve in our city," Welch said.

Legacy Hills Lead Pastor Robert Welch (pictured at left with microphone) has led his relatively young church plant to become a sending church itself. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

South Asians of Indian descent in particular are relocating to Celina, he said, and it's a community where people feel like they can get away from

the city while staying close enough to commute to work. Others work remotely and find Celina appealing.

'Give us a pastor ... we can send'

Once God led Legacy Hills to Self as a planter, they let God lead him regarding where to plant. He has a history in Lubbock, and God used the time at Legacy Hills to confirm that's where he was to go.

After moving to Lubbock in August, Self has been getting acquainted with Southcrest Baptist Church, which he considers a receiving church and where Church House will meet. Monthly preview services have started and weekly house groups are up next with a goal of launching in January. A core team of about 30 people is in place already.

"We couldn't do it without them," Self said of Legacy Hills. "Pastor Robert was at my house both days helping me move and sweating and

loading my trailer with me It's just a sweet experience and connection to know that these people are for you. They're in the process of doing it as well, so what they're telling you is in real time things that they're walking through. That's valuable.

"I think as a church planter it can be a lonely journey if you're not afforded the opportunity to partner with a church that's helping send you and believing in you," Self added. "The financial side of it is great, but there's also so much to be said about the experience side of it and being on the journey with you."

Churches must consider equipping planters and not holding so tightly to good leaders that they won't send them out, Self said.

"We haven't even launched a Sunday service," he said, "and I'm already asking the Lord, 'Give us a pastor that can come in here who can be trained that we can send.'"

Building Tomorrow Through Today's Faithfulness

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS
FOUNDATION



NEW MONEY DEPOSITS

4.55% APY*

7-MONTH TERM

*Promo Available Through 11-30-26

CALL 844-351-8804 | SBTEXASFOUNDATION.COM/NEW-DEPOSITS

Promotional rate is not available for funds already on deposit at the SBTF. New Money Certificates receive above-market rates and are NOT eligible for the SBTF's tiered rate bonuses for account volume. Promotional certificates will auto-renew for a daily certificate at the current APY unless the client provides other instructions before renewal. Certificates are available to a qualified class of Texas churches, ministries, and individuals.

'WE BELIEVE THERE'S STILL HOPE HERE'



Southside Fellowship sees progress as it makes deep relational investments in Houston's Third Ward

HOUSTON

A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH PLANT has emerged from a historically Black area of Houston that now has seen Hispanics and South Asians move in, and the diversity of God's creation is reflected in a body united by Christ.

"We do not benefit from trying to all be the same," said Raphael Peters, lead pastor of Southside Fellowship. "You don't come into our church and get your preference. If you prefer a certain style of preaching, you probably won't get that. If you prefer a certain style of worship, you probably won't get that. If you prefer a certain style of community, we're all fumbling through doing life together."

God saved Peters from giving up on life when failing to achieve his football and relationship goals left him devastated. After a season as a Christian hip-hop artist and after earning a biblical studies degree, Peters realized a call to reach people with the gospel in hard places.

In 2019, he and his wife found themselves considering a move to Houston's Third Ward.

"Our real estate agent didn't want to show us any homes here. She was like, 'This is not a safe place, especially with your young family,'" Peters recalled. "I was like, 'We want to be in the darkness. We want to see the Lord do something in this area. We believe there's still hope here.'"

When everyone else was moving out of the neighborhood, the Lord called them to move in. What they learned, Peters said, was that fear of crime in the community caused people to fortify their homes like a military base and bunker down. That, in turn, seemed to discourage interaction among neighbors.

Peters first partnered with a nondenominational church planting collective that didn't survive the pandemic, and he almost packed

“We’ve had to walk really intentionally with those folks just to see them come from unbelief to belief, and it has been something to praise God for.”

—RAPHAEL PETERS

up and moved back to Mississippi. Then he got connected with Send Network SBTC, the church planting ministry partnership between the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the North American Mission Board, and Cameron Whitley, lead pastor of West Lake Church in Houston.

Last year, West Lake helped relaunch Southside Fellowship and has provided the support that Peters didn’t have in his previous efforts in the Third Ward. The plant meets in a YMCA, and “in the type of neighborhood that we’re in, what happens is you just have a lot of people who have needs,” Peters said.

One way the church engaged the community was to start a garden at a nearby apartment complex.

“We were going to teach them how to plant some fruits and vegetables, to help them become self-sustained so they can save money and utilize resources and change some of their economic situation,” Peters said.

The garden was so successful, the church added a second garden. “It’s been really cool to see the church surround these residents and love on them,” he said.

Such love is needed in the Third Ward, Peters said, because some people have negative perceptions



of churches. One way Peters counters such perceptions is by opening up his home on Sunday nights for what he calls hangouts for men. “At one point I think we had more guys from the neighborhood coming to this hangout than we had people at the church,” he said.

Some of the men are believers and some are not, but they’re all able to talk about theology while playing card games and dominoes. “I think it’s our front door in a lot of ways because a lot of guys won’t

[Top] Five people have been baptized since Southside Fellowship launched in Houston last year.

[Bottom] Church members of Southside Fellowship started two gardens at an apartment complex in Houston to show residents how to grow food. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

come to church, but they’ll come to the hangout.”

When Peters considered planting a church several years ago, he assumed it would be a Black church. Now he realizes he doesn’t get to

decide what God's church looks like: "He sends who He wants."

Peters doesn't speak Spanish, but God sent a Spanish-speaking man to Southside Fellowship, and the man started bringing his friends.

"Then we had a South Asian guy come, a solid brother, and he became a leader in the church, and he started bringing in families," Peters said. "Then we had a White couple who had adopted Black kids, and they started bringing other families similar to them."

Since last year, Southside Fellowship has grown to about 60 people, including five who have been baptized. "We've had to walk really intentionally with those folks just to see them come from unbelief to belief, and it has been something to praise God for," he said.

Peters is emphasizing the gospel with his congregation, and "it just seems like our people are really hun-

A pastor doesn't get to choose what God's church looks like, Raphael Peters has learned as God has built a multicultural community.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



gry for that." They are walking through questions such as, "Who is God? Who are we? Where did we go wrong? What do we need?" The church has foundation classes as well as one-on-one discipleship and small groups.

"It's slow work, but that's the work that we knew we were getting into," Peters said. "We're committed to doing very intentional work."



OCTOBER 23

PREVIEW DAY

Preview Day is your opportunity to see first-hand all that Texas Baptist College has to offer, from classroom experience to campus community. When you come on October 23, you'll meet faculty, explore the campus in Fort Worth, and learn about specific degrees and scholarships.

Sign up for free at:

TEXASBAPTISTCOLLEGE.COM/PREVIEW





GoSummit

Mobilizing Churches for Effective Evangelism

November 7

San Angelo Glen Meadows Baptist Church

8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (check-in at 8:00 a.m.)

Lunch is \$15 paid in advance at registration
Breakout sessions and materials are free • No childcare



sbtexas.com/gosummit

GoSummit emphasizes the vital importance of sharing the gospel through practical training and resources. This event aims to:

- + Ignite a movement of evangelism in your church as you learn to effectively communicate your faith in everyday situations
- + Build meaningful connections with others for the purpose of leading them to Christ
- + Cultivate a culture of discipleship and evangelism that will impact your community and the kingdom



2.06.2027

sbtexas.com/equipetx



EQUIP EAST TEXAS

NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, LONGVIEW

The SBTC's one-day regional training providing ministry and volunteer leaders with practical, trusted tools to transform their effectiveness in ministry, all while maximizing their limited time and resources.

OTHER EQUIP
2027 TRAININGS

Equip Conference Aug. 7, Houston
Equip Central Texas (regional) Oct. 2, Georgetown

A REGIONAL EQUIP EXPERIENCE CLOSER TO HOME

From Mentorship to Multiplication:

Rethinking Women's Discipleship

IN MARCH 2022, our church's ladies leadership team began something new: discipleship groups.

Before launching these groups, our leadership team read *Disciple Her: Using the Word, Work, & Wonder of God to Invest in Women* by Kandi Gallaty. As we read and discussed the book together, we began praying specifically about the ladies in our church we believed were ready to be discipled and grow deeper in their walk with Christ.

We started small with five groups of fewer than five ladies each. Each lady signed a one-year commitment, recognizing that discipleship requires commitment, consistency, and accountability.

Our goal was not simply to offer another Bible study. Our ladies ministry already provided several opportunities throughout the week for ladies to gather and study Scripture. Instead, we wanted these smaller groups to meet at least twice a month to read biblically sound books approved by our elders, pray together, encourage one another, and pursue biblical accountability.

Over the last four years, we have watched ladies grow in their pursuit of Christlikeness, faithfully live out God's Word in their marriages and homes, develop deeper relationships with sisters in Christ, and willingly invite biblical accountability into their lives.

These groups have been fruitful in the Lord, and we are grateful. But there was one thing we did not adequately plan for: multiplication.

This past year, members of our leadership team attended the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Women's Ministry Leadership Summit, which focused on evangelism and discipleship. The teaching and conversations at the summit caused our team to come home asking an important question: Are our discipleship groups truly making disciples who are equipped to make other disciples?

As we talked and prayed together, we realized that many of the groups we had called discipleship groups functioned more like biblical mentorship groups. That is not a criticism of what we have been doing. Biblical mentorship is valuable. Titus 2 gives us a beautiful picture of older ladies teaching and investing in younger ladies.

But discipleship carries an additional responsibility—multiplication.

Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19–20 is clear: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” A disciple is not simply someone who is learning more about Jesus. A disciple follows Jesus, grows in obedience to His Word, shares the gospel, and is equipped to help others follow Him.

The summit helped our team begin thinking differently about what intentional discipleship could look like for our Graceview ladies.

What if our groups were designed from the beginning to last approximately one to two years and then multiply?

What if we intentionally taught ladies not only what to believe, but how to read and study God's Word for themselves?

What if we helped ladies understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, equipped them to clearly share the gospel, modeled biblical prayer and accountability, and then challenged them to take what they have learned and invest it into one or two other ladies?

That changes the goal.

The goal is no longer simply, “Come grow with me.” It becomes, “Come grow with me so you can go and help someone else grow.”

Our leadership team is still praying through what this will look like for our ladies. We do not have every detail figured out yet, and we are taking our time to seek the Lord, search Scripture, and have thoughtful conversations as a team. I am especially thankful for the biblical leadership of Penni Boot, our Graceview ladies director, who faithfully leads and encourages our ladies and leadership team to remain grounded in God's Word.

We are thankful the SBTC Women's Leadership Summit challenged our team to evaluate what we are doing rather than simply continuing something because it has been successful. We are also grateful for Laura Taylor, SBTC women's associate, and her commitment to equipping and encouraging ladies and women's ministry leaders across Texas to faithfully carry out the work of evangelism and discipleship. The investment of biblical leaders who continually point us back to Scripture is a gift to the local church.

We want to steward well the ladies God has entrusted to our church. We want ladies who know God's Word, love Christ deeply, understand the gospel, live in biblical community, and who are equipped to disciple others.

Four years ago, we began by asking, “Who can we disciple?” Now we are learning to ask another question: “Who are we equipping them to disciple next?”

That is the beauty of biblical discipleship. It was always meant to multiply.



Angie Catron is a member of the ladies leadership team at Graceview Baptist Church in Burleson, where she also serves as director of operations and communications.



WINTER/SPRING 2027 EVENTS

Empowering Women

TO LEAD + SERVE

sbtexas.com/women

The SBTC is dedicated to empowering women in their faith journey and ministry roles by fostering growth, collaboration, and support.



Connection Night

January 21

Mansfield

March 4

Conroe

A time to engage with and be encouraged by other pastor wives

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Leadership SUMMIT

Training & networking for women's ministry leaders

Personal + Ministry Development

January 22-23

Christ Fellowship Church, Mansfield

March 5-6

West Conroe Baptist Church

FIVE THINGS I HAVE LEARNED WHILE CHURCH PLANTING



Editor's note: This column was written by a member of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Shepherds Collective. For more information, visit sbtexas.com/sc.

AUG. 31, 2020, is a day I will always remember. My wife and I were well into the application process with the International Mission Board. I was working through the six-month New Testament reading plan, *Deepen Discipleship*.

That morning's reading was Matthew 13–15, highlighting a progression of faith. I prayed the Father would strengthen my faith and help my unbelief. About 10 minutes later, I received a text encouraging me to pray about whether the Lord would have me be the next senior pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, a church plant.

I thought God was leading my family to the mission field. He was—just not in the way I expected. Now, by God's grace, we have served alongside Emmanuel Baptist Church for nearly six years, and in this time, the Lord has taught me many things. These lessons are true and useful for any pastor, whether he is pastoring a legacy church or preparing to launch in the coming months.

Supernatural work requires supernatural means

Church planting and pastoring are supernatural work. We call people out of darkness and into God's marvelous light. Salvation and sanctification are supernatural work and require supernatural means. Fortunately, God has given His church the supernatural resources needed to carry out these tasks: the Bible, the gospel, and prayer. Consistent expository preaching leans into God's supernatural provision, producing supernatural change. A church committed to

proclaiming the gospel is a church committed to trusting God to produce an abundant harvest. And prayer is our direct line of communication to the one who works wonders. Do you want your church to take part in the miraculous? Then lead your church to pray.

The church is built for offense

Defense may win championships, but it does not plant churches. The church exists to make God's glory known. This mission happens not by the church simply existing for Sunday services, but by intentionally taking the good news to others. As the church obeys the Great Commission, it lives on the offensive, witnessing kingdom victories along the way. However, a church is doomed to die the moment it moves toward defense. Instead of leaning into the missional work left to the church, the congregation focuses its efforts inwardly, falling into a status quo of contentment. A church that fights change, fails to engage its community, and struggles to welcome outsiders may soon see conversions plummet and the baptism dry up.

Intimacy with the Lord is priority

Church planting is leading a kingdom invasion, and the enemy does not idly sit back and watch as his territory is plundered. He fights back. If the pastor is not prioritizing intimacy with the Lord, he will be susceptible to the enemy's attacks. Time in God's presence strengthens our faith, assures our calling, and empowers us to keep going. Time with the Lord equips us for the spiritual fight. When I am spiritually dehydrated, I lead with confusion. My words become dry and

empty. My effort is lethargic and tired. But when I take time to be with the Lord and drink deeply from the fountain of living water, I am rejuvenated, my speech reflects His Word, and my energy demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit.

Don't pastor in isolation

Shepherding can be a lonely business. You move into a community, but enjoy no immediate community. People may be slow to accept you. Then you add spiritual warfare to the mix, along with household struggles as you try to adapt to your new environment. Suddenly, you find yourself on an island with no support. We are most vulnerable when we are most isolated. We need other pastors in our lives to hold us up and keep us going. Our wives need other pastor wives who understand the immense dif-

ficulty of struggling alongside their spouse. I am thankful for the close friends the Lord has placed in our lives. I am also grateful we have a convention that works hard to foster ways for pastors to network and connect. We have enough transactional relationships in our lives. We need transformational ones that will help us keep the faith, stay the course, and finish well.

God desires faithfulness

I admit I never felt as insecure in pastoral ministry as I did in 2021 when I first started church planting. I read numerous books, reviewed the benchmarks the "professionals" told us to look for—and I panicked. I basically moved away from the four things I mentioned previously. I depended on church-planting fads, not the supernatural. I took a more defensive approach, trying to

preserve what we had instead of pursuing the growing community around us. I became more sporadic in my time with the Lord. One day, God clearly reminded me through a song and through His Word that what He desires is faithfulness. He will work out the rest. Many things can weigh us down and cripple our efforts. But when faithfulness is the goal, we are living out God's desire. There is freedom in that. At the end of it all, when I stand before my Savior, my greatest pleasure will be to see His face and, by His grace, hear these words: "Well done. You were faithful."



Joshua Crutchfield
is senior pastor of
Emmanuel Baptist
Church in New Caney.



Send Network
SBTC

Churches Planting Churches

Everywhere for Everyone

If your church is looking to plant churches or if you want to explore becoming a church planter, contact us for more info. We can help you fulfill the mission God has called you to.

sendnetworksbtc.com



817-552-2500 • churchplanting@sbtexas.com

Church Positions



PASTOR

Calvary Baptist Church in Gladewater is seeking a FT lead pastor. Resumes will be accepted through Oct. 31. Please email resume to pastorsearch@calvarygladewater.com.

First Baptist Church in Point Blank is seeking a bivocational pastor. Please submit resume to First Baptist Church of Point Blank, P.O. Box 409, Point Blank, Texas 77364.

Bayou City Fellowship in Houston is seeking a FT associate campus pastor for our Spring Branch location. We exist to be radically focused on Jesus, serve our city and world, start new churches, live in authentic community, grow in God's Word, and make disciples who make disciples. Please forward your resume to barb.vanderhey@bayoucityfellowship.com.

Bayou City Fellowship in Houston is seeking a FT executive pastor at our Spring Branch location. We exist to be radically focused on Jesus, serve our city and world, start new churches, live in authentic community, grow in God's Word, and make disciples who make disciples. Please forward your resume to barb.vanderhey@bayoucityfellowship.com.

Emory Baptist Church is seeking the FT senior pastor God has chosen to shepherd our healthy, growing church. Please send resume to pastorsearch@emorybaptist.org.

Faith Family Church in Nevada is seeking a FT senior pastor who will faithfully lead the church in glorifying God by making disciples of Jesus Christ through biblical preaching, intentional discipleship, compassionate pastoral care, evangelistic outreach, community engagement, and Christ-centered leadership. Contact info@faithfamilytx.com.

First Baptist Church in Jasper is seeking a FT pastor. Please email resume to FBCJasperTxPastorSearch@gmail.com.

Central Baptist Church in Kirbyville is seeking a FT pastor. Submit your resume, personal testimony, statement of faith, references, and a recent sermon link (if available) to the church office, cckirbyville@att.net. For more information or questions: 409-423-2555.

First Baptist Church in Rio Grande City is seeking a FT pastor to lead our small church in deep South Texas. A bilingual (Spanish) pastor would be a plus but not required. We are a simple/casual church eager for a pastor to lead our biblically conservative congregation. Contact: blgmusicstudio@earthlink.net.

Sluismayd Baptist Church seeks a PT bivocational pastor to help revitalize a small church founded in 1894. Area is growing rapidly, offering continued growth and ministry to the community. Send resume to smaydbaptist@gmail.com.

Calvary Baptist Church in Dumas is seeking a bivocational (open to discussion) lead pastor. We are looking for the man the Lord has set aside for us. Contact cbcdumas@outlook.com. 806-935-3145.

Calvary Baptist Church of Hughes Springs is seeking a bivocational senior pastor searching for a church home to shepherd. The church grounds offer plenty of room for growth and a parsonage. Please see Facebook page. Contact 903-720-8772. Send application to brandoncalcote21@gmail.com.

Old North Baptist Church in Nacogdoches, a historic Southern Baptist congregation, is seeking a bivocational/teaching pastor who meets the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Send resume, testimony, and sermon links to onbnac@outlook.com.

Baptist Temple Church in Edna is seeking a pastor. 1001 N. Wells St., Edna, Texas 77957. Contact Loyd Chase: 361-676-3602 (cell).

MUSIC

Friendship Baptist Church in Cleburne is seeking an interim and/or PT worship pastor to lead our music ministry with the goal of exalting Christ. This individual will report to the senior pastor and be responsible for planning, coordinating, and leading congregational worship. Contact Pastor Michael at michael@friendshipcleburne.org.

Bayou City Fellowship in Houston is seeking a FT campus worship pastor for our Tomball location. We exist to be radically focused on Jesus, serve our city and world, start new churches, live in authentic community, grow in God's Word, and make disciples who make disciples. Please forward your resume to barb.vanderhey@bayoucityfellowship.com.

Bayou City Fellowship in Houston is seeking a FT worship pastor at our Cypress location. We exist to be radically focused on Jesus, serve our city and world, start new churches, live in authentic community, grow in God's Word, and make disciples who make disciples. Please forward your resume to barb.vanderhey@bayoucityfellowship.com.

Frontier Church in Aledo is seeking a PT worship minister. For questions or to apply, contact Travis Young at travis@frontierchurch.org.

Timber Crest Baptist Church in Waco is searching for a PT music minister. This would entail Sunday worship services for the immediate future and further duties upon growth. Please send

resume to tcbcwaco@aol.com, or you may call the church for more information at 254-799-5551.

Cross & Crown Church is seeking a PT worship minister who can join the team and help cultivate a healthy, Christ-centered culture of worship. We are a growing church plant in Roanoke helping people meet and follow Jesus. Email james@crossandcrown.tx.church or visit crossandcrown.tx.church.

Pine Drive Baptist Church in Dickinson is seeking a music minister. Contact Pastor Cory Page at 903-649-4656 or call the church office at 409-354-2741. Email: pinedrivechurch705@gmail.com.

Shady Oaks Baptist Church in Hurst is seeking a PT (10-12 hours) worship leader. If interested, contact Lead Pastor Jay Fannin, jayfannin@shadyoaks.org, 817-874-5741.

First Baptist Church in Queen City is seeking an associate pastor of worship. The focus of the ministry at FBCQC is to honor God by fulfilling the mission the Lord gave His followers to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to follow His ways. Contact: musicsearch@fbccq.org.

Calvary Baptist Church in Nacogdoches is seeking a FT worship pastor. 3732 NE Stallings Dr., Nacogdoches, Texas 75964. For questions or to submit a resume, email worship-pastor-search@googlegroups.com.

Nolan River Road Baptist Church in Cleburne is seeking a FT/PT music minister. Please submit resume to mpsqueda@nrbc.org and include a video or link to you leading worship.

First Baptist Church in Hico is seeking a PT minister of music/worship to lead a blended worship ministry and help our church fulfill its mission to love God, love others, and make disciples. If you have a heart for worship and discipleship, send your resume to firstbaptisthico@gmail.com.

STUDENTS

The Mount Church in Keller is seeking a FT minister to lead the student ministry, carrying out the church's mission of "Following Jesus Together" among students in 7th-12th grade and their families. Contact: marci@themount.church.

Friendship Baptist Church in Cleburne is seeking a PT minister to lead our students in grades 7-12. This role focuses on reaching students with the gospel of Jesus Christ and discipling them to become mature followers of Jesus. Please send resume to Angela Upchurch at office@friendshipcleburne.org.

FiveStone Community Church in Garland is seeking a student minister to lead discipleship for our 7th-12th graders and equip parents to lead spiritually at home. If you love teenagers and believe the local church changes lives, we'd love to talk. Send resume and cover letter to resumes@fivestonechurch.com.

Nolan River Road Baptist Church in Cleburne is seeking a FT student minister to help lead our students (6th-12th). Please send resume to mpsqueda@nrbc.org.

Westland Heights Baptist Church in Fort Worth seeks a PT youth pastor. We are looking for someone to develop a Christ-centered ministry for grades 6-12. This position offers an opportunity to build a ministry from the ground floor. If interested, please contact Gary Rhudy at garyrhudy@msn.com or call 817-774-7398.

Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Rockdale is looking for a youth minister with a passion to reach students with the gospel and help them grow in their faith. Please send resume to youthsearch@meadowbrookrockdale.org.

CHILDREN

The Mount Church in Keller is seeking a FT kids minister to carry out the church's mission of "Following Jesus Together" among children from birth through sixth grade and their families. Contact: marci@themount.church.

FiveStone Community Church in Garland is seeking a FT kids minister. We're looking for a leader to equip parents and oversee discipleship for children (birth-elementary). Help us "Enrich the Family" and shape the next generation. Contact us at resumes@fivestonechurch.com.

First Baptist Church in Rusk is seeking a PT children's ministry director. Interested applicants can email info@ruskbc.com or mail resume/cover letter to P.O. Box 258, Rusk, Texas 75785.

Living Water Christian Fellowship in Canyon seeks a FT children's ministry director with a passion for children and families to lead our ministry (birth-4th grade), equip volunteers, and partner with parents in helping children know, love, and follow Jesus. Email resume and cover letter to dbagwell.lwcf@gmail.com.

COMBINATION

Calvary Baptist Church in Dayton is seeking a PT youth and children's minister. Please contact Pastor Ken Davis at 832-643-5828 for more information.

Shady Oaks Baptist Church in Hurst is seeking a minister to children and preschool. If interested, contact Lead Pastor Jay Fannin, jayfannin@shadyoaks.org, 817-874-5741.

ChristCentral Baptist Church in Corpus Christi is seeking a FT associate pastor of youth and family ministries to assist the senior pastor by leading the church's youth and family ministries, providing intentional discipleship, pastoral care, and administrative support focused on children, students, and families. Send resume to Pastor Ralph Green, rgreen.ccbc@gmail.com.

OTHER

First Baptist Church in Kerrville is seeking a FT associate pastor who is gifted in administration, education, and pastoral care. Applicants can send a resume to resumes@fbckerrville.com.

First Baptist Church in New Braunfels is seeking a FT discipleship pastor. This role provides leadership for churchwide discipleship strategy, leadership development, and ministry oversight. Candidates must complete the online application and screening questions. Questions: hiring@fbcnbr.org.

Crossroads Baptist Association is looking for a bivocational director to run our Hospitality House in Big Spring. Great for a retirement couple. Free two-bedroom apartment with all utilities paid. \$1,500 monthly salary. Contact Crossroads Baptist Association at 432-263-1673.

First Baptist Church in Wimberley is seeking a FT pastor of ministries and operations to assist the lead pastor in strengthening the spiritual health, unity, and engagement of the congregation, as well as overseeing day-to-day operations of the church. Email cover letter, resume, and contact information to elders@fbcwimberley.com.

Huntington First Baptist Church is looking to hire a FT associate pastor of discipleship to lead groups, assimilation, and help with pastoral care. huntingtonfbc.org/hiring.

Frisco First Baptist Church is looking for a PT paid college intern for the college ministry during the 26-27 school year. To apply, please contact Kade McDonald at kade.mcdonald@friscofirstchurch.org.

First McKinney Baptist Church is seeking a FT student ministry administrative assistant. Applicants can go to firstmckinney.com/jobs to see job opening and to apply.

Cross City Church in Euless is seeking an art and design director to create compelling visual communication across ministries, events, campaigns, and digital platforms. Bring your creativity and skills to work that supports a greater mission. Apply at crosscitychurch/jobs.

Sagemont Church in Houston is seeking a FT executive pastor of next gen ministries to provide visionary, strategic, and pastoral leadership for all next gen ministries, including kids, students, and college-leading day-to-day work of these ministries and the development of the leaders who carry them. Send resume to HR@sagemontchurch.org.

First Baptist Church in Rowlett is prayerfully seeking a Christ-centered associate pastor with a servant's heart to partner closely with our pastor, love our people, and invest in families as we reach the lost and make disciples. Contact: Cole Hedgecock, cole@fbcrowlett.org, 972-475-3510.

San Saba's First Baptist Church is seeking a discipleship pastor. This is a pivotal leadership role in a church that is experiencing a genuine move of the Holy Spirit and a season of remarkable growth. Please send your resume, a cover letter, and at least three references to ssfbcjobs@sansabafbc.org.

Crosswell Church, a church plant in Arlington, is seeking a dedicated and reliable worship drummer with a heart for church planting. This is a unique opportunity to help build, shape, and grow a vibrant, Christ-centered church in the heart of the DFW metroplex. Contact: Anatoliy Orgunov, crosswellchurch@gmail.com, 469-278-4943.

First Baptist Church Forney Christian Preschool is seeking a Christ-follower as FT leader of a well-established preschool of 150 children. Send cover letter and resume to Head of Schools Cindy Rogers at crogers@fbcforney.org.

Victory Life Church in Lubbock is seeking a FT college minister. Find more information at victorylife.net/hiring. Send resume and a cover letter introducing yourself, or, in lieu of a cover letter, a short, unedited video, by email to stephanie.thames@victorylife.net.

Cross City Church in Euless seeks a next steps associate who is self-motivated and servant-hearted to coordinate ministry operations, events, volunteers, and guest engagement. If you're organized, dependable, teachable, and passionate about advancing ministry through excellent execution, we'd love to hear from you. Apply at crosscitychurch/jobs.

Southcrest Baptist Church in Lubbock is seeking a FT college pastor to lead our growing college ministry while helping develop our student ministry team and serving on the Sunday teaching team. Apply by sending your resume to katrinab@southcrest.org.

Event Calendar



For more information about SBTC events,
visit sbtexas.com/events or scan the QR code

OCTOBER

CROSSOVER *evangelism*

24 First Baptist Church Forney

- 1** Pastor Wives Connection Night, Corpus Christi
- 2-3** Women's Ministry Leadership Summit, Corpus Christi
- 4** Cooperative Program Sunday
- 6** Pastors Masters, Flower Mound
- 6** Evangelism Connections (online)
- 9-10** Retiro de Mujeres Florece, Aquilla
- 12** Disciple-Making Leader Workshop, Lewisville
- 13** Disciple-Making Leader Workshop, Burkburnett
- 25-26** Sesión en Español de la Reunión Anual, Forney
- 26** Interim Pastor Equipping, Forney
- 26-27** SBTC Annual Meeting, Forney

DECEMBER

Student MINISTER GET AWAY

3-5 Hilton Palacio Del Rio, San Antonio

NOVEMBER

DR DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

7 Calvary Baptist Church, Mexia

- 2-11** Reach Europe Fall Vision Tour
- 7** GoSummit, San Angelo
- 14** Conferencia de Alabanza y Adoración, Houston
- 29-12/6** Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Week of Prayer



Resource LIBRARY

The SBTC is committed to
assisting churches, associations,
and individuals with digital tools
to help share Jesus, multiply
disciples, and much more.

To learn more, visit
sbtexas.com/resources

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
TEXAN

Do you receive the Texan Digest in your inbox?

Sharing the stories of how God
is moving through the SBTC.

Scan the QR code or
visit texan.digital/subscribe.





ADVANCING MISSION

Mobilizing churches with giving
opportunities that multiply impact



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The Cooperative Program is the SBTC's primary funding source. As churches give, 45% remains in Texas to mobilize SBTC churches, and 55% is forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and international ministry and missions.

Reach Texas OFFERING

The annual Reach Texas State Missions Offering fuels ministries that advance the Great Commission efforts of SBTC churches. 100% of the offering is used for missions and evangelism.

sbtexas.com/advance



MOBILIZING CHURCHES



MULTIPLYING IMPACT