

SOUTHERN BAPTIST

TEXAN

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SPRINGING TO

Life

FAITHFUL
MINISTRY IS
REPRODUCING
NEW BELIEVERS
& CHURCHES

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS MAKING
THE GRADE WHEN IT COMES TO
REACHING STUDENTS, PARENTS

MONTGOMERY CONGREGATION
IS HEALTHY, HUNGRY & READY
TO EXPAND THE KINGDOM

MASSIVE SERVICE EFFORT
OFFERS BOOST, PROVIDES
RICH GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTING IN THE GENERATION THAT COULD CHANGE THE WORLD

I recently took my youngest son fishing. We make memories I cherish every time we get the opportunity to go. These trips are often filled with laughter, serious discussions about life, and occasionally a few fish. On this particular trip, my son and I were in the boat talking about all kinds of things when it dawned on me how fast he has grown up and how quickly time goes by.

The same week, I was scheduled to speak at a conference about reaching the next generation. I had been studying Psalm 78 about passing the truths of God to the next generation. A recent poll conducted by North American Mission Board Next Gen Director Shane Pruitt showed that 77% of believers became Christians by age 18. This ignited a passion deep in my heart to reach the next generation.

Psalm 78 is an incredible chapter full of great instruction. Allow me to share three things we must teach the next generation:

1. We must teach them of the goodness of God

Psalm 78:2-4 says, “I will declare wise sayings; I will speak mysteries from the past—things we have heard and known and that our ancestors have passed down to us. We will not hide them from their children, but will tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, His might, and the wonderous works He has performed.” We must continually teach the next generation how good God has been to us. He is faithful, and we need to pass this on to our children.

2. We must point them to the hope God brings

Verses 5-7 say, “He established a testimony in Jacob and set up a law in Israel which He commanded our ancestors to teach their children so that a future genera-



tion—children yet to be born—might know. They were to rise and tell their children so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God’s works, but keep His commands.” The enemy is after the minds and hearts of the next generation. As individuals, families, and churches, we must point them to the hope Jesus gives us. We must be intentional about sharing the gospel every chance we get. They must know the only hope for peace and eternal life is found in Jesus.

3. We must teach them to know and love the Word of God

Verse 7 tells us we do these things so they would not forget the works of God and so they would keep His commands. We must teach the next generation that the Word of God must be their roadmap for life. It must be what they stake their entire lives upon. It is the inerrant and infallible Word breathed out by God! One of my mentors used to say, “It’s not enough to get in the Word; you have to get the Word inside of you.” Let’s be intentional to teach the Bible to the next generation.

The enemy is like a lion that wants to destroy the next generation. He will do whatever he can to grab their hearts and minds. Let’s rise up and be committed to share the gospel, make disciples, and teach them the Word of God. They could be the generation that changes the world.



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SBTC Executive Director

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Encourage.
Equip.

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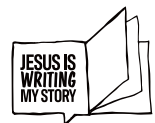
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HOW IN THE WORLD CAN I BLESS GOD?



We often think about blessings in terms of possessions, things received. It's not unusual to hear someone say, "God blessed us with this house" or, "She was blessed to receive a scholarship"—and let's be clear, we're not wrong when we credit God (which is to say, give Him glory) for the things we have.

But thinking about blessings merely in terms of possessions can skew our understanding of what Scripture means when we see instances of humans blessing God. For example, we find this command frequently in the psalms. Psalm 96:2 and Psalm 100:4 instruct us to bless the name of the Lord. Psalm 103:2 and Psalm 104:1 form the basis of what has famously been put to music: "Bless the Lord, O my soul!"

Obviously, there's no possession I can give to the God of creation who owns the cattle on 1,000 hills. So how in the world can I bless God?

These questions hit me hard recently in a most unexpected place—the gym. As I was working out, the song "Promises" by Maverick City began to play through my headphones. I've heard—and sung—this song more times than I can count, but for some reason, a couple of lines impacted me differently than they had before:

I'll still bless you—in the middle of my storm, in the middle of my trial,

I'll still bless you—in the middle of the road, when I don't know where to go ...

I've had a rough couple of weeks. There have been no major crises, but instead, a series of annoying challenges that have been labor-intensive, attention-hogging, and

frustrating to say the least. We all experience these kinds of challenges—they don't typically change the course of our lives, but they threaten to dislodge us from comfort and disrupt whatever plans we've made for ourselves. Nobody wakes up and says, "You know, Lord, I'd love a little more adversity to toughen me up this week," and yet we know God absolutely uses storms and trials to achieve His purposes.

Pain and discomfort tend to make us forget those truths, and I certainly have been guilty of that lately. My complaints have been numerous enough to fill a football stadium. If pouting was an Olympic sport, I'd be well on my way to gold. I've asked God why these things had to happen right now (as if there's a different time I'd gladly accept difficulty). And as I lay in the gym floor between sets that morning, I felt like the Lord reminded me of something: out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.

So what does all this have to do with blessing God? I think one of the primary ways we can bless God is through faith. Not the kind of faith that saves us, but the kind of faith that sustains us—the kind that says, "Lord, I don't like this but I know you are at work, and I trust whatever work that is." This is the kind of faith that delivers the peace Jesus promises.

How can you bless God today? Trust Him—and bless Him by telling Him you trust Him. You don't have to like what He is doing, and His shoulders are certainly big enough for you to be honest with Him about that, but in the end, His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. He is God, and He is doing something good.



TONY SHEFFIELD



Tony Sheffield has been leading First Baptist Church in Maypearl for more than a quarter century. After coaching high school basketball for 12 years in Wichita, Kan., he surrendered to the ministry and came to Fort Worth to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993. During seminary, Tony served as a youth pastor in Fort Worth before accepting the position at FBC Maypearl in 1996. He also serves on the executive board of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Tony and his wife, Eileen, raised their two children in Maypearl and have four grandchildren.

What is something you've been able to celebrate at FBC Maypearl recently?

Well, most recently, we had six adults and one teenager surrender their lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday. We have also just added a new worship/media pastor to our staff, and we are very excited about that. This past January, I celebrated 28 years as pastor of this great church. God has blessed me and my family with an incredible group of people here at FBC.

What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced in your ministry lately?

This is a tough question. I feel so blessed. I would say discipleship. I have learned that I cannot make people study. I can't make them attend. I can't make them serve. I am encouraged though. We are experiencing a great hunger for God's Word among our people.

What is a lesson you've learned to this point in your ministry you know you'll never forget?

Ministry is all about people. People want to be loved. There are many tasks involved in ministry, but none are more important than the people we minister to. When I came to FBC 28 years ago, I remember telling them I was a basketball coach and I did not know how to pastor, but I loved people and evangelism is my heart and that is where I was going to hang out. I challenged them to fill in around me and they have. I love people and want to see people come to know Jesus.

What is one thing you'd like to see God do specifically at FBC Maypearl this year?

We have never experienced 50 baptisms in a single year, and I want to see that happen. We are also very close to paying off our building and I'm praying that will happen this year.

How can other churches of the SBTC be praying for you?

Please pray we can reach Maypearl with the gospel. Our community is growing rapidly, and we want to reach these people God is sending our way.



NO GREATER LOVE

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” — John 15:12-13

Words cannot adequately describe the gratefulness in my heart to Jesus for His sacrificial death on the cross for my sins. If you are a Christian, you know what I am saying. The Lord is worthy of all praise and worship, for He alone went to the cross and laid down His life so we can live in freedom from the power of sin. Because He died and arose from the dead, we too will rise to eternal life with Him—all because of what Jesus has done for us!

Biblical and secular history are replete with examples of heroic, sacrificial love where one individual pays the ultimate price and gives his or her life in order to save others. Every time I read of someone willingly laying down

their lives, it inspires me and points me again to what Jesus did for us on the cross.

John R. Fox was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1915 during World War I. He was 26 years old when he joined the military with the rank of second lieutenant. When World War II started, he was commissioned and joined the 92nd Infantry Division. He was ordered to stay behind in a small village in Tuscany, Italy. His job in 1944 was to keep an eye on the advancing German soldiers attempting to take over the village.

“PRAISE JESUS FOR HIS SACRIFICE FOR YOU ON THE CROSS. HE DIED FOR ALL SO EVERYONE WHO TRUSTS IN HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR WILL LIVE ETERNALLY IN HEAVEN.”

From his position on the second floor of a building, he saw how quickly the Germans were marching toward him. He sent the coordinates of his location to his fellow soldiers asking them to bomb the site. They asked if he was sure he wanted to do that because it meant certain death for him. He simply said, “Fire it.” Missiles pummeled the location and hundreds of Nazi soldiers and one American died in the attack. The one soldier was African American John R. Fox, a true American hero. Because of his sacrifice, the American soldiers were able to retreat and then return to overtake the village. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for paying the highest price, his very life.

As Jesus died to make us holy, so many soldiers in the military died to make us free. For the latter, I give my gratitude and honor, but for the former, regarding what Jesus did at Calvary, I give Him my worship and total allegiance. Will you take a moment and thank God again for the freedom you enjoy living here in America? That freedom came at a high price as hundreds of thousands of soldiers have sacrificed so you could enjoy all you have today.

Praise Jesus for His sacrifice for you on the cross. He died for all so everyone who trusts in Him as Lord and Savior will live eternally in heaven. Praise the Lord!

A personal word to all our Southern Baptists of Texas Convention family: I am praying for you and honored to serve as your president. The Lord is working mightily in and through our convention of churches. May He bless every church and continue to use us to make disciples until Jesus comes again.



Making an eternity of difference a world away

Bruno Molina, language evangelism associate for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, got good news a couple of months ago. Let's just say it was good news about the good news.

Molina received notification that the SBTC's 1Cross app had been used to share the gospel with somebody in India. In response, that person made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ—11 years to the day the app was launched by the SBTC right here in Texas.

The 1Cross app was developed as a tool churches and individuals can use to share the gospel in nearly 70 languages, including many you've probably heard of (Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian) and maybe a few you haven't (Pokomo, Zomi, Luhya-Bukusu, and Gujarati). Each video includes a gospel presentation that can be downloaded or shared, and there's even a gospel presentation in English.

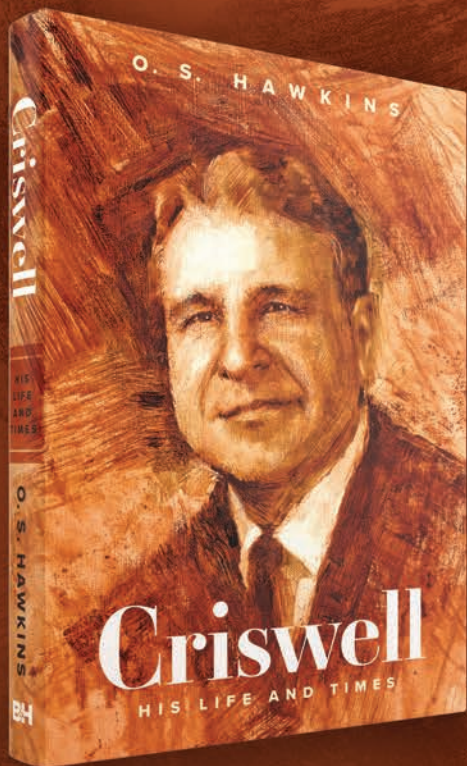
"We have had the joy of seeing God use the 1Cross app to bring people to Christ both in the U.S. and abroad," Molina said. "On one occasion, a Korean student at Southwestern Seminary used the app to lead a Spanish-speaking Mexican man to Christ and we were able to connect him to a church in Fort Worth. On another occasion, I recall with gratitude that one of our SBTC churches went on a mission trip to Thailand and led two people to Christ that I was able to connect to a Baptist church in Bangkok. Praise the Lord!"

Likewise, Molina said he was able to forward the person's name who got saved in India to an International Mission Board leader there to help connect that person to a local church.



For more information on the 1Cross app, scan the QR code





A MAN FOR MANY SEASONS

In new Criswell book, Hawkins examines the life of a man who impacted millions

O.S. Hawkins is chancellor of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, and president emeritus of GuideStone Financial Resources. He has authored more than 50 books, including the latest, *Criswell: His Life and Times*. Hawkins recently spoke with Southern Baptist Texan magazine about why he chose to write about the legendary W.A. Criswell and how others can benefit from learning about his life.

You've described W.A. Criswell as a friend and mentor. Can you talk about the impact he had on you personally and why you decided to write a book about his life?

O.S. Hawkins: I first met him back when I was a kid. In my generation he was legendary, and for some reason early on, he took a liking to me and we developed a warm friendship. I just considered him a great mentor and, in many ways, he was like a father to me. ... Really the reason I wrote the book was he was a polarizing figure in many ways, and there has been so much written about him from people who were adversarial to him, whether it was because of theological or philosophical reasons, and then there were other things written that [portrayed him as being] sort of almost without sin. So, what I tried to do was bring balance to his life and also to introduce him to a new generation of preachers who may not have known him in his greatness.

How might pastors who don't know as much about Criswell's life be encouraged or even equipped by some of the things you included in this book?

Hawkins: They will see that education is important. They will see that in the first 10 years

of his pastorate, he pastored little bitty churches in far-away places. It gave him a love for pastors. There are a lot of stories in the book about that. He ended up leading the largest church in the world for years at First Baptist Dallas, and he had no peer in his prime—I mean, no peer. But he never got away from loving pastors.

I also believe the title of the book, *Criswell: His Life and Times*, is important because this book is not just for pastors. It's for everyone who's interested in leadership or interested in history. It's about his times. Dr. Criswell lived in every decade of the 20th century, and there's a chapter on each of these decades throughout the whole book that really describes the times in which he lived. So many things were swirling around the culture in America through World War I, through World War II, through all of these decades that unfolded. So, it's really a book about Baptist history, Texas history, American history. It's not just about Criswell. It's about the times in which he lived and loved and ministered.

What kinds of insights about Criswell will readers walk away with that might inspire them or even change the way they look at the world?

Hawkins: Well, I would say one thing that gets lost in the midst of all of his notoriety was how much he loved people. He's known as a great preacher and theologian, but what many people don't know is what an incredible pastor he was and how much he loved his people—and they loved him back. He'd often weep when he preached and the people would weep with him. It was amazing.

He was an eternal optimist in many ways, which we need in Baptist life today. He was naive in the sense that, even in the midst of the great Baptist battles of his life, it never dawned on him that [certain] people didn't like him or didn't love him. He was above the fray in the fact that he didn't hold any personal animosity. He had a unique ability to realize that things are going to get better and that nothing lasts forever. Whatever he was going through, he moved forward knowing this too will pass, and he would hunker down and move on.

He owned his mistakes, which a lot of people don't do, and he was open about them and he sought to recover from them. And then, of course, you're not ready to live



O.S. Hawkins, author of *Criswell: His Life and Times*.

until you're ready to die, and I didn't see anyone ever die like he died. I mean, he died with such a sweet spirit. He would wake up his caretaker in the middle of the night preaching the gospel in his sleep.

He was such a unique individual. Had he gone into law, I think he probably would've been on the Supreme Court. Had he gone into business, he'd have built a Fortune 500 company. If he'd gone into politics, he'd have been a senator, maybe president of the United States. He was just a unique individual, greatly gifted by God. And yet he never lost the childlike wonder of it and the work of it. He never lost the wonder of God's creation. I've never known anyone that loved the Lord and depended upon Him and consistently lived for Him and served Him like W.A. Criswell. All he ever wanted to do was pastor a local congregation of baptized believers.

**K-12 SCHOOL INFUSES NEW LIFE
INTO ARCADIA FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH IN SOUTH TEXAS**

MAKING THE GRADE

BY ERIN ROACH | TEXAN CORRESPONDENT



SANTA FE

A FATHER DROPPED HIS DAUGHTER OFF at Arcadia First Baptist Christian School in Santa Fe and walked back to his car.

“I saw him look back at the office,” Pastor Joshua McDonald said, recounting what he saw watching out the window that day. “He was getting back in his car, and he shook his head and he just walked straight to the office.”

The man had no history of church involvement, but his daughter, an elementary student, had placed her faith in Jesus at the school and had been baptized at Arcadia First Baptist Church about six months earlier. The father sat down with McDonald and poured out his heart.

“He was like, ‘Man, I’ve seen a change in my

**“SHE’S BEEN TELLING US ABOUT
THE GOSPEL, AND I BELIEVE IN
JESUS NOW, AND I WANT TO KNOW
HOW I CAN DO THIS.”**

—**JOSHUA MCDONALD**, speaking about the father of a student at Arcadia First Baptist Christian School

daughter. She’s been reading the Word of God, she got saved, she got baptized. She’s been telling us about the gospel, and I believe in Jesus now, and I want to know how I can do this,” McDonald said.

The man was baptized and the pastor gave him a Bible with his name on it—the first Bible he has ever owned.

“Now he’s in my small group and he’s growing by leaps and bounds, studying the Word every day,” McDonald said.



Arcadia First Baptist Church was an aging congregation five years ago, and now 50 to 60 children attend on Sundays.

◀ Pastor Joshua McDonald said Arcadia First Baptist Church in Santa Fe has realized what ministry opportunities are available through the church's Christian school and daycare.

The growth of Texas is helping the church grow. An infusion of new life has been evident in recent years as families have found a place to belong.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

As many as 100 members of Arcadia First Baptist have died during the past five years since McDonald has been pastor, the inevitable reality of an aging congregation. Yet Sunday attendance has grown from about 200 when he arrived to more than 300 now.

"Probably 50 to 60 of those are kids," McDonald said.

One of the ways God has pumped new life into the church is through its Christian school, training about 150 students in kindergarten through 12th grade in addition to a daycare with 200 children. What once was viewed as an opportunity mainly for educating children has grown into a ministry also aimed at reaching parents, McDonald said.

"People know that we're in the community because of the school. We're on the main highway that passes through town, and everybody knows we're the last school zone before you can just take off on the highway and leave town," he said, noting Santa Fe is between Houston and Galveston.

"I think visibility has mattered a lot for revitalization. Anytime there are parents mingling around outside, like for drop-off in the morning or pickup in the

afternoon, I go out there and try to meet parents. Our staff is really good about that, too."

One of the church's best-attended events is a fall festival in partnership with the school and daycare.

"The first year we had maybe 1,000 people show up. The fire station came out, the police came out, we had food trucks, the Coast Guard parked a boat out here," McDonald said. "The second year it doubled, and this last year, we probably had 2,500 to 3,000 people come through."

Church members individually take an interest in the students, too, the pastor said.

"One of our church ladies wanted to beautify our garden area around the church where we have bushes and flowers. She said, 'I'm going to teach the kids to do landscaping,' so she made a butterfly garden with some of the younger kids.

"So our kindergartners and first graders go out there and plant flowers and then butterflies land on them. It's like a little science project for them," McDonald said.

The growth of Texas is helping Arcadia First Baptist grow. When McDonald arrived, it was a rural church,



but Houston has expanded toward Santa Fe and developers are buying up land near the coast. Projections indicate 3,000 to 6,000 new homes will be built near the church in the next few years, the pastor said, and church members have been knocking on doors and having gospel conversations.

One church member, though, realized the church didn't have to wait until new residents moved in to share the gospel. Many of the workers constructing the homes are Hispanic, so the church member took along the pastor of Arcadia First Baptist's Spanish language ministry, and as many as 23 of those who heard a gospel presentation placed their faith in Christ, McDonald said.

"In the last year we've had probably over 100 salvations," he said.

Other efforts Arcadia First Baptist has made toward revitalization include walking the campus to identify maintenance needs and transforming a seldom-used library of 3,000 books into a coffee shop where church members meet seven days a week for various reasons.

Said McDonald: "There have been more gospel conversations in the coffee shop than there have been in that room in all the church's history."



(Top photo) The Coast Guard set up a boat for people to view up close at a fall festival at Arcadia First Baptist Church in Santa Fe.

(Bottom photo) A Christian school, once viewed as an opportunity mainly for educating children, has grown into a ministry also aimed at reaching and discipling parents. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

‘Jesus saved my soul, but Elmcrest Baptist Church saved my life’

NEW EC PRESIDENT/CEO HAS STRONG TIES TO TEXAS, SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION

BY TAMMI LEDBETTER

ABILENE

THE MESSAGE OF A Four Spiritual Laws tract shared at the West Texas Fair & Rodeo transformed a 12-year-old boy whose life was filled with chaos.

The boy’s violent, alcoholic father had forced his mother to flee for her life across four states to hide out in Abilene. Her second husband also struggled with addiction and two more children were born into the family.

Neither parent had any interest in the gospel or church, though both had come from Christian families. The boy had gone by an assumed name, but that caught up with him when his Little League team advanced to state competition. Confrontation over his name not matching his birth certificate required to prove his age added to his identity crisis as he realized other people did not live like his family.

His mother decided her son needed religious instruction, dropping him off for Sunday school at Elmcrest Baptist Church in Abilene. On the day he went to the fair, the church name was on an exhibit booth and he wondered why they were taking a survey. Burtis Williams recognized him and asked if he’d like to answer a few questions.

That’s all it took for the boy to participate. Williams’ final questions were easy to answer: “Do you know for certain you have eternal life?” and “Do you know you’ll go to heaven when you die?”

“When he shared the gospel with me and told me God had a plan for my life that would give me purpose and meaning, and not only that, but I’d get to go to heaven, I prayed to receive Christ the month before I turned 13.

“And that changed everything,” said Jeff Iorg, who on March 21 was unanimously elected the eighth



Jeff Iorg was unanimously selected as the eighth leader of the SBC Executive Committee in Dallas on March 21. **BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO**

leader of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Iorg’s decision to follow Jesus began a journey from convert to disciple to intern to associate pastor at Elmcrest Baptist Church, where longtime pastor T.C. Melton—an ardent supporter and longtime consultant for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention—shepherded the young man for over a decade and remained “a mentor, supporter, and friend all the rest of my life,” Iorg said in an interview with podcaster Chad Harms.

Iorg went on to serve as a children’s pastor, church planter, state convention executive director, and president of Gateway Seminary. During his tenure at Gateway, he led the school to relocate its primary campus to Southern California and to change the school’s name from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary to Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. The seminary’s endowments grew from \$16 million to \$60 million under Iorg’s leadership.

Looking back over his life, Iorg told Harms that Elmcrest Baptist Church taught him what it means to be a man, a leader, and how to get ready for marriage. Doctrine, church polity, soul-winning, and money management were a part of “10 fantastic years.”

“I’ve said many times—Jesus saved my soul,” Iorg said, “but Elmcrest Baptist Church saved my life.”

TO SERVE AND TO SHARE JESUS

**Massive NAMB day of
service makes big impact
'for generations to come'**

By Jane Rodgers | Texan Correspondent





Destiny (red dress) and her mother, Yvonne (second from left) represent two of the four generations of the same family baptized by Worthington (third from right). Other church members are also pictured. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

DALLAS

NINE-YEAR-OLD DESTINY, wide-eyed and smiling broadly, surveyed the freshly repainted sanctuary of Lake June Baptist Church as she and her mother, Yvonne, arrived at the church to see what the Lord had done.

Newly installed blue carpet covered the floors, while comfortable, upholstered chairs replaced 50-year-old rickety wooden pews. Bright can lights, rather than aging fluorescent fixtures, illuminated the space. Ceiling stains from seasonal roof leaks had disappeared under coats of pleasing white tinted with gray. Even the foyer, kitchen, bathrooms, and hallways had been refloored, repainted, and relit. Outside, volunteers put the finishing touches on flower beds, adding mulch and spring blooms.

Destiny, Yvonne, and other church members gathered that day with Lake June's bivocational pastor, Bobby Worthington, to give thanks to God and the volunteers participating in the North American Mission Board's Send Relief Serve Tour Dallas 2024.

Serve Tour Dallas volunteers participated in 38 projects to further God's kingdom in the DFW Metroplex March 15-16. For the more than 600

volunteers—representing 48 congregations from eight states including Texas—it was a spring break to remember, making an eternal impact. Projects varied widely, from assisting with block party outreaches to school facility updates to mobile dental clinics to playground rebuilds and church remodels.

Three Southern Baptists of Texas Convention churches—First Baptist Dallas, Mesquite Friendship Baptist, and Northway Church—functioned as Serve Tour hubs, with mission activities radiating from these strategic spots. A Serve Tour rally was held at First Baptist Dallas, as well.

The remodel of the historic Lake June Baptist Church in the Pleasant Grove neighborhood of Dallas grew considerably beyond the two-day Serve Tour initiative, thanks to the church's long partnership with First Baptist Dallas.

"We were once a mission church of First Dallas. We have a sister partnership, a relationship, with First Baptist," Worthington said. "First Baptist helps us with bookkeeping and things like that. They do a lot of things behind the scenes."

For example, a roofing contractor who was a member of First Baptist Dallas recently arranged for the Lake June roof to be replaced at cost.



SBTC Executive Director Nathan Lorick (far right) greets church members and volunteers at Lake June Baptist Church. Dallas Baptist Association Executive Director Ryan Jespersen is also seen second from right. (Right) Part of the project involved sprucing up the landscaping outside the church. **SBTC PHOTO**

Making connections, making it better

When Send Tour representatives approached Brent McFadden, First Dallas recreation pastor, he recommended the refurbishment of Lake June Baptist as a project.

Send Relief’s Marcus Rawls, First Baptist Rowlett Pastor Cole Hedgecock, and Worthington met weeks before Serve Tour to develop a plan. Worthington figured they might redo some floors and repaint the bathrooms and kitchen. When Rawls and Hedgecock saw the sanctuary, ideas began flowing.

“What if we do the auditorium, too?” Rawls asked, indicating that replacing the seating would be possible.

Worthington, amazed and grateful, started weeping. Rawls had described renovations that Worthington had envisioned over the long term.

“God knew what I wanted to do in three phases. ... Marcus and Cole had no way of knowing that,” Worthington said. “What I had planned to do in three phases, they got done in three weeks.”

Work started weeks before the mid-March Serve Tour, as McFadden asked a First Dallas deacon, Scott Finney, to get involved. Finney, who works for a large developer and owns an excavating company, agreed to volunteer.

What started as a job to take out the old pews and refloor and spruce up the sanctuary expanded to in-

“GOD KNEW WHAT I WANTED TO DO IN THREE PHASES. ... WHAT I HAD PLANNED TO DO IN THREE PHASES, THEY GOT DONE IN THREE WEEKS.”

—BOBBY WORTHINGTON

clude new lighting in the sanctuary—then new flooring, lighting, and painting the entire church interior, including bathrooms and kitchens.

“It grew,” Finney said.

Finney, his wife, Joan, and Worthington got to work with other helpers.

“I’ve spent the last 23 days up at the church helping,” Worthington said at the time. “I told Scott, ‘I can’t do what you do, but I can pray for you and hand you what you need.’” Church members helped significantly, also.

“We’ve been working over the last three weekends,” Joan Finney added.

Send Relief/NAMB, First Baptist Dallas, and a local doctor who has been involved with the annual Kenya mission trip led by Worthington all contributed to the project, supplementing the money Lake June had budgeted for the redo.

Finney called on friends and fellow contractors, too.

“I was able to enlist a lot of relationships I had. We’ve all known each other a long time and they were glad to do it,” he said. “The flooring was donated. The electrical was costed out, and the chairs were donated at cost. It started blossoming.”

Finney said the dozens of volunteers and vendors who contributed to the project will likely come to a Lake June celebratory service this spring.

Serve Tour volunteers were enthusiastic about their chance to participate in the change at the church. Cheri Bedford of Paris, Texas, who attends First Dallas' Servant Singles class when she is in town, said she was happy to work alongside "people with a heart for missions."

"We are just here to serve the community and share the gospel of Jesus," said First Dallas member Jonathan Parrish of Grand Prairie.

"It's all to the glory of God. We are here to volunteer to just try to make a difference in the community," said James Hurse, from Mesquite Friendship Baptist, pausing from raking a flower bed.

Raising the roof

The Kenya Mission Trip led by Worthington for a decade has focused on medical missions, evangelism, and planting churches. For the last five years, First Baptist Dallas has partnered with Lake June and the National Baptist Convention of Kenya in the effort.

"We do a clinic. We do evangelism. We plant a church," Worthington said, adding that during the following year, the church raises money in an effort called Raise the Roof. Lake June members give generously and other partners contribute.

"We hire a contractor recommended by the National Baptist Convention of Kenya and he erects a pole and roof structure so the church can meet [under a shelter]," Worthington said, estimating that the outreach has planted more than two dozen churches in Kenya over the past decade.

Essentially, Lake June members have been helping roof churches in Kenya even as their own church's roof needed replacing.

"Our people are very giving. The church loves each other," Worthington said of his 40-person congregation.

"The church exists for those who are already here but also for those who are not yet here," Worthington said when asked what the remodel will mean to his people. Nodding to young Destiny, he said he had baptized four generations of the girl's family over the decades.

"When I baptized Destiny, it was a sign of gen-

erations to come [to Lake June] long after I've gone to heaven. We're setting it up. The church is known in the community. Destiny and other of our kids and youth, our teenagers, they see this [remodel] and they know the church is going to be here."

People, not places, are the church, Worthington. "This is a place of worship for people."

Now, thanks to a coalition of partners and the involvement of Serve Tour Dallas, it's a much more inviting place to worship.



Contractor Scott Finney volunteered to oversee the project at Lake June Baptist Church. JANE RODGERS PHOTO

SERVE TOUR DALLAS

BY THE NUMBERS

48

CHURCHES INVOLVED

38

TOTAL PROJECTS SERVED:
4 SCHOOLS,
16 CHURCHES,
18 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

600+

VOLUNTEERS

1950+

PEOPLE SERVED

2050+

CONSTRUCTION HOURS

34+

SALVATIONS

520+

GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS



SOMETIMES THE WAITING ROOM IS THE BEST CLASSROOM WHEN IT COMES TO PRAYER



Prayer frequently requires waiting. The trouble is, we're not patient. In fact, Americans are so impatient that recent studies can pinpoint what we're most impatient about and how long it takes us to grow agitated when waiting.

For instance, the majority of us grow quickly irritated with slow Wi-Fi. It's our No. 1 complaint, guaranteed to ignite our impatience. In addition, on average, we find it intolerable to wait as much as 10 minutes for sluggish customer service.

Do people of prayer reflect the power of prayer when ordinary circumstances test the fragile limits of our patience? Our impatience reminds us of the oft repeated adage, "Man microwaves, but God marinates."

Waiting has a bad reputation in America, but Scripture is filled with positive examples of waiting. For instance, Isaiah reminds us that if we wait on God we will fly like eagles and run without exhaustion (Isaiah 40:31). Jesus instructed His eager but powerless disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). The psalmist testified that the Lord heard his cries only after he was willing to wait (Psalm 40:1). Many of the biblical invitations to wait are directly connected to prayer.

It sounds extreme, but waiting is an inescapable factor in a praying life. In fact, Jesus insisted that we learn the discipline of waiting in prayer.

In one of His most well-known parables in which He taught the importance of patience in prayer, Jesus contrasted a powerful, malevolent judge to a vulnerable, abused widow (Luke 18:1-8). The judge in the parable had no compassion for the widow's legal or personal complaints. The widow, on the other hand, refused to stop showing up to court to demand justice. Finally, the corrupt judge conceded because the widow refused to stop asking for his assistance.

Jesus contrasted the heartless judge to our loving God by demonstrating that, unlike the crooked judge, God desires to answer the cries of His people—the people Jesus compared favorably to the persistent widow. The parable is introduced with this instructive preamble, "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1).

From this well-known text we notice some principles about patience in prayer. Sometimes the waiting room is the best classroom.

Wait in prayer even when the outcome appears unlikely

The two characters in the parable—a widow and the judge—were on opposite ends of the power and privilege scale in ancient society. The judge was a local official with authority appointed by Rome. The widow was a symbol of vulnerability in Scripture; she had no social standing. This widow had only one power—persistence! Jesus described her as one "who kept coming." The tense of the Greek verb means continuous, repeated action.

Her request was ignored numerous times, but she kept making the appeal. The frequency of her appeals in the face of the judge's indifference toward her plight is a reminder to us of a

basic principle of prayer: God's delays are not necessarily God's denials. There is nothing in the circumstances of the story that suggest the widow had a chance of success, except for her persistent asking.

Wait in prayer because God hears

In the parable, the widow's persistence won the judge over. Her resilience wore down his reluctance. Jesus urged His followers to cry out in unceasing prayer, because God will intervene for those who "cry to Him day and night" (v. 7).

No matter how much time passes between our request and God's response, we should never conclude that God does not care. God wants to respond. God wants to answer. In His perfect timing, no matter how long we've waited, no matter how big the long shot, God answers prayer. He specializes in results that can be achieved in no other way.

Wait in prayer because an answer is coming

When does waiting in prayer reach a conclusion? Jesus said God will answer His pleading people "speedily"

(v. 8). In other words, God's answer comes suddenly. Why is it necessary to wait if the answer comes suddenly?

The Greek word translated "speedily" occurs in the New Testament seven times. It is obviously a reference to a narrow window of time. Three of the usages of the word refer to a speedy or sudden action in time. The other four usages of the word refer to the nearness in time of the action. Those instances are translated with words like "shortly" or "soon" (Acts 25:4, Romans 16:20, etc.).

In any case, the word means that action is imminent. God will answer. You are justified in waiting, because when the answer comes it will be in a timely manner. So, our job is to prayerfully wait on God's timing.

Perhaps the testimony of George Müller best exemplifies our goals in patient prayer. He said, "When once I am persuaded that a thing is right, and for the glory of God, I go on praying for it until the answer comes." If your classroom is the waiting room, God is teaching you. So, keep praying!

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in Baptist Press.



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TEXAN BRIEF

FAITHFUL DEACON FEATURED IN TEXAN PASSES AWAY AT AGE 91

ERA Don Mode, who served Era First Baptist Church for more than five decades, passed away in March. He was 91.



Mode's testimony was included in the Texan's monthly "What's Your Story?" feature in its March 2023 issue. He talked about his love for people, including those he worked with at the Era school district, and his wife of 62 years, Patsy, who preceded him in death. He also spoke about his service to the church as a deacon. Even in his advancing years, Mode said he always tried to find a way to serve the Lord.

"God is my boss," he told the Texan last year, "and I serve Him in any way I'm able. As I get older, I'm blessed to have God's people serve me, as well."

—TEXAN STAFF



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WHAT WILL IT COST YOUR CHURCH TO INVEST IN MY GENERATION?

About four years ago, I was a student heavily involved in collegiate ministry, growing in my understanding of Scripture, and being discipled by a woman in our church. However, even as I grew and learned more about the church, I remember asking myself, “Where do I fit in to all this?”

This question is one my generation poses often—and one for which the local church can provide a clear answer.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the illustration of the body and its many parts to describe a functioning church body. The body does not have only one type of part, but a variety of parts that help the entire unit function as one. This is where college students and young adults can be a tremendous asset to the local church—lending their youthfulness, gifts, Bible fluency, and more to its overall mission.

So what do young adults look for in a church? Most importantly, they desire a gospel-centered church that keeps Christ at the forefront of fulfilling the Great Commission. But what else is important to my generation as it looks to connect with a body of believers?

Quality over quantity

Many believe young people only want to be part of a church with a trendy building that offers lots of cool graphics in its presentations and attracts hundreds of other young people. However, the more people I interact with my age, the more I realize how many value quality over quantity when it comes to the local church. One place this is evident is in small group settings, where young adults who have a sincere need for quality relationships can grow deeper with others. If given a choice, I believe many young adults would choose a Bible study with a few people over a massive gathering with hundreds of people.

Service opportunities

When college students and young adults are given a wide range of opportunities to serve, it not only offers them a chance to experience the fulfillment of helping others, but provides them with a training ground to learn more about the gifts God has given them. This is one of the best ways a local church can serve young people—by providing them with a place to serve. Service challenges young people to be selfless, but it also creates an incredible path for assimilation into your local church as they serve their fellow members.

Multigenerational exposure

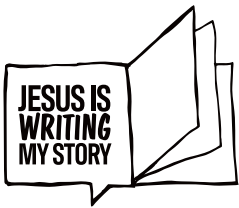
Part of deepening community for many college and young adults is developing friendships with those of older generations. They truly value the wisdom and experience older generations offer, and in my experience, those older generations love pouring into and sharing wisdom with younger people. At my church, we have three young adults who meet weekly with a multigenerational women’s Bible study. Those young adults have said often this study was one of the main reasons they decided to continue to come to our church and eventually join.

Your church doesn’t need to be a trendy, social-media-famous church to attract my generation. What we desire is depth, service, and connection with the diverse body of Christ. That kind of investment can be practiced by any church of any size and costs nothing more than intentional investment.

Looking to equip your church to reach the next generation for Christ? Scan the QR to learn more about Roundup:



Kayla Green is a member of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth. She serves the church, performing various duties.



By Dane, Kellie, and Diran Lancaster
(as told to Gary Ledbetter)

Sometimes the Lord is all you have, and He is enough

Editor's note: The Lancaster family—Dane and his parents, Diran and Kellie—recently shared the story of how Jesus has worked miraculously through a tragic event that impacted each of their lives. They are members of First Baptist Church in Bowie.

Dane Lancaster: My passion in life is calf roping. When I gave my heart to the Lord when I was 8 years old, I prayed He would give me ways to honor Him through what I loved. I really thought that someday I would be a world champion calf roper. I'd say as they interviewed me on TV, "First I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for blessing me with this world championship." But God had a different purpose in mind.

When I was 11 years old [in May 2014] at a junior calf roping in Shawnee, Okla., I suffered a traumatic brain injury. A part of the barrier rope swung back and tripped my horse so that he flipped over and crushed me. I had multiple brain bleeds and a dissected carotid artery. I broke every bone in my face, fractured the base of my skull, and crushed the small bones of my right ear. Ninety percent of people who've had this injury don't live.

I had to learn how to walk, talk, and eat all over again. My parents were told that speaking would be the hardest thing for me to overcome and that it was probable that I would never speak. The day they told my parents this news, my dad stayed awake praying over me all night long. The very next day in therapy, the therapist asked me, "Dane, what color is your horse?" I answered her saying, "Brown." My speech came back like a flood after that.

Kellie Lancaster: The day Dane started speaking we were so overwhelmed because it was a miracle. We kept talking to him and talking to him. It was the evening and he was getting tired, and his dad said, "I know you're tired, and I'm sorry I keep asking you all these questions. I've just missed your voice so much." He said, "Is there anything I can do for you?" Dane said, just so matter of fact, "Yes sir, go saddle my horse."

It was the hardest and most blessed time in our lives. It sounds like a paradox, but Natalie Grant sings a song called "Held." That's what we were, we were held. It's a place where the road meets the rubber and you have an opportunity to either trust the Lord in what He says and who He is, or you don't. For us, it was not an option to do anything else. Not that it was easy.





(From left) Pierce, Diran, Kellie, and Dane Lancaster

Diran Lancaster: You learn the importance of your daily walk with the Lord. You learn the importance of your church home and your church fellowship. I don't know how people walk through something like that without those people, without those prayers, without those meals ... you come home and your yard's mowed. The Lord will often require your words from you. We sit in the safety of our church pew, and we sing songs praising God. We call him "the God who heals." That's easy when you're sitting in a church pew, but sometimes the Lord has you in an ICU with your child requiring that you have faith. It's all you have. It's all you have.

Kellie: [The doctors] didn't want him back on a horse. But for Dane, his motivation to work so hard to overcome unbelievable odds—he was paralyzed on one side—was to get back on a horse and rope. So we convinced the doctors that he could do equine therapy. After two weeks, they said, "Why are you even here? He can do all this."

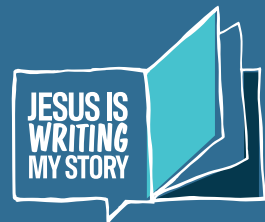
We went home to our own arena, put him in a helmet, and he started riding. He returned to rodeo about 13 months after his injury.

Diran: Last year he finished No. 3 in the Ultimate Calf Roping all-world standings.

Dane: It's humbling to consider that we were told I would never speak, but God now uses my voice to tell others about a miracle-working God. The Lord has allowed me to return to calf roping. I rodeo competitively, train horses, and I teach other people how to rope and ride. I feel God's calling to ministry, especially in evangelism. I'll be starting at [Texas Baptist College] this fall. I know God has called me for a purpose, that He saved my life as an answer to my prayer that He would allow me to glorify His name as a calf roper.

Diran: You raise your children in the church knowing they're going to face uncertain times. When Dane faced uncertain times, he clung to everything he had been

taught in the church. He believed everything. Everything he said he believed in Vacation Bible School, when you think the worst thing that's going to happen is that you have a bad day or something, he just clung to all of it. It was a real testament to him and his faith. Many times, as a dad, I've been in awe of Dane's faith.



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

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Church Positions

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PASTOR

FBC Winnsboro is seeking a FT lead pastor. Email resume to search@fbcwinnsboro.org. For more information, call 903-342-3538.

Southside Baptist Church Wichita Falls is seeking a God-fearing, energetic FT or bivocational pastor with a compassionate heart and vision to shepherd our small church that has the desire to reach others for Christ. Email resumes to jiford48@hotmail.com.

West End Baptist Church in Beaumont seeks a FT or bivocational pastor. We are a financially secure, loving congregation that enjoys traditional worship. Email resume to webcbeaumont@gmail.com.

Maplecrest Baptist Church in Vidor is prayerfully seeking the man God has for us to serve as FT or bivocational pastor. Our congregation is moderately small and our church plant consists of large, updated, debt-free buildings. A 5-bedroom parsonage is available onsite. Please submit resumes to maplecrestbc@outlook.com.

Mission Dorado Baptist Church in Odessa is seeking a FT senior pastor. Anyone wishing to be considered can email their resume to mdbcpscsearch@gmail.com.

Golinda Baptist Church in Golinda, near Waco, is seeking a FT head pastor. If interested, please call 254-396-7514 or email golinda.search@gmail.com.

New Hope Baptist Church in Big Sandy is seeking a PT senior pastor. Please email resume to Mike at NHBCBS@gmail.com or call and leave a message with our church secretary at 903-636-4711.

FBC Dawson is seeking a PT pastor. Please submit your cover letter and resume to fbcdawsonTX@gmail.com. Submitting your resume is an indication on your part that you meet all biblical qualifications to be a pastor.

Hainesville Baptist Church in Mineola seeks a man of God to pastor our flock in beautiful East Texas. FT or bivocational applicants considered. Visit HTXBC.com/Pastor-Applicants to learn more. Send resume to htxbcas@yahoo.com.

Indian Rock Baptist Church in Gilmer is seeking a bivocational pastor for growing rural community. Active local elderly ministries, faithful small traditional congregation, financially stable. Parsonage provided. Contact Alton Bradley altonandlind@juno.com.

Lamar Baptist Church in Wichita Falls is searching for a PT pastor to serve in a senior pastor role. Apply online with SBTC or mail resume to 1100 Harrison St., Wichita Falls, Texas 76309.

Second Baptist Church of Jacinto City, located in Houston, seeks an ordained Southern Baptist minister to fill the position of bilingual (English/Spanish) bivocational pastor to shepherd our church to the next chapter of God's plan. Please respond by submitting a resume to SecondBaptistJC@outlook.com.

FBC Mobeetie is seeking a FT pastor. Send resumes to fbcmoebetiepastorsearch@yahoo.com.

Trinity Pines Baptist Church in Trinity is seeking a FT pastor. TPBC is seeking someone wanting to reach people for Christ and make a kingdom impact. Our

worship is contemporary. We are affiliated with the SBTC and have a parsonage. Email resume, salvation story, call to ministry, and any helpful information to TPBCsearchteam@windstream.net.

MUSIC

Emmanuel Baptist Church in New Caney/Houston is seeking a FT or PT worship leader to join our team. We are looking for a passionate individual who has experience leading worship, strong musical abilities, and discipleship skills to build a team. If you are interested, please contact us at info@ebc.life.

FBC Wimberley is seeking a FT minister of music and media. We are a friendly congregation of devoted followers of Christ in the Texas Hill Country. Email resume or questions to mike@fbcwimberley.com.

Windom Baptist Church in Windom is seeking a PT music leader. For more information, call 903-623-2215 or email resume to WindomBaptist@gmail.com.

Blanchard Baptist Church in Livingston is prayerfully seeking a bivocational music minister/leader. Please send resume and letter of interest to blanchardbaptchurch@livingston.net or Blanchard Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 2450 FM 2457, Livingston, Texas 77351.

Calvary Baptist Church in Kemp is searching for a PT worship leader. We expect the position to require 5-10 hrs per week to prepare and lead Sunday worship and occasional special events. You may contact the church at 903-498-8185 or email cbckemp@gmail.com for more information.

STUDENTS

Redeemer Church in Midland is seeking a FT youth pastor. For more information, visit vanderbloemen.com/job/redeemer-church-youth-pastor or email resume to Patricia Crabtree at Vanderbloemen Search Group: patricia@vanderbloemen.com.

Highland Terrace Baptist Church in Greenville is seeking a FT youth pastor. Email resume to connect@highlandterrace.org.

Houston's First Baptist Church is seeking a FT high school pastor. Email resume to vanderbloemen.com/job/houston-first-baptist-high-school-pastor.

New Hope Southern Baptist Church in Kaufman is seeking a man who fulfills the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 to serve as a PT youth minister. Contact Jeff Campbell at jeffery.c.campbell@gmail.com for more info.

Shady Grove Baptist in North Richland Hills is seeking a PT student minister. Send resume and cover letter to sgbcyouthsearch@gmail.com.

Cottonwood Baptist Church in Lorena is seeking a PT youth pastor. Email resume to thecottonwoodbc@gmail.com.

The Parish Church in Denton is seeking a FT student director. The Parish is a thriving church plant ready to make a lasting impact on young lives. Interested candidates, please email your resume to jobs@dentonparish.com.

[dentonparish.com](mailto:jobs@dentonparish.com).

North Garland Baptist Fellowship in Garland is seeking a PT student ministry director responsible for a comprehensive program for grades 7-12, including discipleship, evangelism, enrichment activities, camps, and retreats. Will also be asked to recruit, train, and supervise volunteers and ensure parent involvement. Complete job description upon request. Bachelor's degree preferred. Email resume to scalhoun@ngbf.org.

Siloam Baptist Church in Simms is seeking a bivocational worship leader to serve a growing, multi-generational church focused on reaching the community for Christ. For additional information, visit siloambaptistsimms.com or email pastorjustinking@gmail.com.

Journey of Faith Church in Farmers Branch is seeking a PT worship leader to join our team. We are looking for a passionate individual who has experience leading worship, strong musical abilities, and discipleship skills to lead a team. If you are interested, please contact us at jofrecruiting@gmail.com.

CHILDREN

Trinity Hills Baptist Church in Benbrook is seeking a childcare worker to help in nursery 3-6 hours a week. Salary will be \$18 an hour. If you have any questions or interest, please email Kyle Harris at youth@trinityhills.org or call 817-249-0704.

Wylie Baptist Church in Abilene is seeking a FT children's minister. Mail resume to 6097 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, Texas 79606, or email lwest@wyliebaptist.org.

COMBINATION

Lake Fork Baptist Church in Alba is prayerfully searching for a FT minister to students and young families. Primary work will be with students and volunteers. Additional responsibilities will include young families and church discipleship. For a full job description, visit lakeforkbaptist.org and go to Careers. Send resumes to tbartley@lakeforkbaptist.org.

FBC Sutherland Springs is seeking a FT youth pastor/family life associate to help fulfill our mission through leading and serving in all areas of ministry to further the kingdom of God. Email: pastor@sutherlandspringsfbc.org. \$45,000 salary. Deadline is May 10, 2024.

FBC Wellington is seeking a FT or possibly PT youth and children's pastor to shepherd the ministries related to children, youth, and families through discipleship and gospel teaching. Email resume to fbcwsearch2023@gmail.com.

FBC Olney is seeking a FT associate pastor to work with youth and to assist the pastor. Salary: \$35K-\$40K+, nice parsonage. Email resume to fbcjan@brazosnet.com.

FBC Centerville is looking for a FT youth/worship pastor. This is a combo position. We are looking for a person who can lead a blended type worship service with a contemporary lean, and also loves working with teenagers. If interested, please email resume to Tony at decree777@yahoo.com.

Southwest Chinese Baptist Church in Stafford is

seeking a FT minister of children and junior high youth. We are one church with English, Cantonese, and Mandarin congregations with about 200 adults and 40 children and youth. Contact Pastor Henry Kwan by email at barbaralolem@gmail.com or at henrykwan@swcbc.org. Mobile: 516-467-6869. Website: swcbc.org.

OTHER

Legacy Church in Plano is seeking a FT next-gen pastor. For more information, visit vanderbloemen.com/job/legacy-church-next-gen-pastor. Email resume to Patricia Crabtree at VanderbloemenSearchGroup@vanderbloemen.com.

FBC Georgetown is seeking a FT mobilization pastor focusing on outreach, missions, and small groups. Be a part of our dynamic team impacting lives in our community and around the globe. Apply now by sending your resume to searchteam@fbg.church.

FBC Forney is hiring a head of school for a new Christian school in Forney. FT with paid benefits. For more info, visit fbcforney.org/jobs.

New Faith Baptist Church in Aledo is seeking a PT associate pastor of family ministry to oversee youth and children's ministries and create strong personal connections within the church and the community. Salary commensurate with experience. Prefer bachelor's degree or enrolled in ministry program. Send resume to boonedonna1820@gmail.com.

Trinity Baptist Church in Fort Worth is seeking a PT secretary. Call 817-732-5566 or email pastor@trinityfortworth.org. Website: trinityfortworth.org.

Trinity Baptist Church in Fort Worth has paid internships available. For more information,

call Clint Hopson at 817-732-5566 or email pastor@trinityfortworth.org. Church website is trinityfortworth.org.

FBC Forney Christian School is seeking a PT administrative assistant. For more info, visit fbcforney.org/jobs/.

Central Baptist Church in Itasca is looking for a PT minister to families to work with parents and families to strengthen and lead our youth and kids ministries. Send resumes and inquiries to matt@itascacbc.org.

FBC Forney is growing and hiring an administrative assistant. PT M-Th, flexible schedule, paid holidays. Email jjordan@fbcforney.org for more information.

First Steps Preschool at Katy's First Baptist Church (600 Pin Oak Road, Katy, Texas 77494) is seeking a PT admin assistant/assistant to the director. Contact June Lee at jlee@katysfirst.org.

Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, a large multi-site congregation, is seeking interns who are called to ministry, desiring hands-on experience in ministry practice in preparation for a lifetime of effective ministry leadership. For more information, email internship@prestonwood.org.

Longbranch Community Baptist Church in Midlothian is seeking a PT parent's day out director to run the program consisting of over 100 children and 20 staff. Email resume to brent@lcbcmidlothian.org.

FBC Forney is seeking paid summer interns in areas of kids, students, worship, AV, tech, photography, and communications. Contact James Jordan at jjordan@fbcforney.org or by phone 832-758-2341.

Paid Classifieds

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

PASTOR

Vallecito Baptist Church in Bayfield, Colo., is seeking a FT pastor. Call Robert Tate at 361-649-2914 for more information. Email resume to bobct53@gmail.com.

FBC Stillwater in Oklahoma is seeking a FT senior pastor. Mail resume to Pastor Search Team, First Baptist Church, 701 S. Duncan, Stillwater, Okla. 74074, or email to fbc.mail@brightok.net.

First Baptist Church in Erick, Okla., is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage included. Candidate must be Bible-preaching, willing to visit community & relate well to all ages in spreading the gospel. Must work well with others & have administrative knowledge. Email resume to mdurham@dobsontelecom.com, or mail to Box 664, Erick, Okla., 73645.

MUSIC

First Baptist Church of Rio Rancho, N.M. is seeking a FT music pastor to lead our large music program. Please send your resumes to fbcrrresumes@gmail.com.

Texoma Southern Baptist Church, located at Buncombe Creek Marina/Lake Texoma area in Kingston, Okla., is seeking a PT or bivocational music minister or director to lead our congregation and choirs. Handbell experience helpful. Send your resume and/or inquiry to texomasouthern@sbcglobal.net.



SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION

2024 SBTC
Annual Meeting
November 11-12
Houston

2024 EXHIBIT QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

McFadden (smcfadden@sbtexas.com) at the SBTC prior to July 1, 2024. Entities or individuals may share exhibit space with approved exhibitors only with the approval of the Committee on Order of Business. For-profit entities that have no formal relationship with the SBTC shall not be granted exhibit space. All exhibit material must be in agreement with the SBTC Constitution and Bylaws, which includes the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Fundraising or sales that do not conflict with SBTC priorities will be allowed in the exhibit area.

SETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

WE MAY NOT HAVE MUCH CONTROL over when we leave this planet, but we do have a say in how we leave and the impact it will have on our families. When King Hezekiah became terminally ill, the prophet Isaiah said to him, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Put your affairs in order, for you are about to die’” (2 Kings 20:1).

Abraham is an even better example of how to put our houses in order because he didn’t have a heads-up like Hezekiah—and neither do we. I can think of at least three ways Abraham showed us how to put our houses in order:

Update your financial affairs

Very few people can relate to the size of Abraham’s vast estate, but we all have something of value to leave our family. Sentimental value is as important to some people as financial value. I have too often seen friction surface during a time of grief, which is always unfortunate and usually avoidable.

A 2013 survey conducted by LifeWay Research found 37% of Southern Baptist Convention pastors do not have a trust or will of any kind. More than half (55%) of all Americans will die without a will or trust, according to the American Bar Association. Almost half do not have any life insurance for that matter.

Scripture instructs us this way: “But if anyone does not provide for his own, that is his own

household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8).

Abraham’s sons had an awkward reunion at their father’s funeral. Neither dickered over the details because Abraham had it all pre-arranged (Genesis 25).

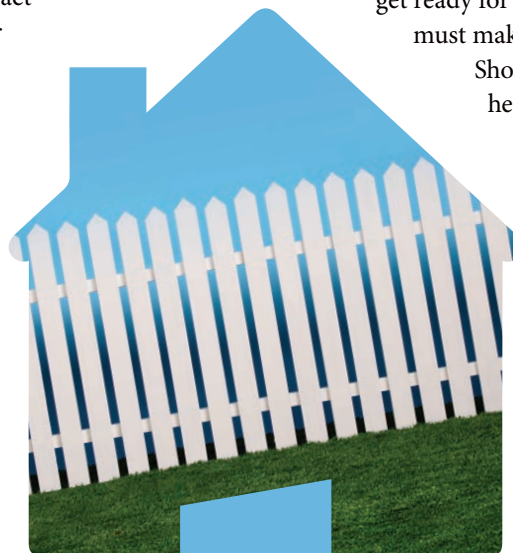
Formalize your funeral plans

Some pastors don’t like to talk about death, which is strange considering how often we help others through it. You don’t have to like death to get ready for it. The fewer decisions your family must make when you die, the better.

Shortly after Abraham’s wife Sarah died, he not only bought a funeral plot, but he also bought a whole cemetery!

It was a nice cave, which was the upscale equivalent in that culture. Many family members were likely buried in Abraham’s family cemetery, including his great-grandson, Joseph.

Does your family know what your funeral preferences and plans are? A few minutes of your time will save several tough hours for your family.



37%

OF SBC PASTORS DO NOT HAVE A TRUST OR WILL OF ANY KIND

LIFEWAY RESEARCH

55%

OF ALL AMERICANS WILL DIE WITHOUT A WILL OR TRUST

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Mend your family fences

Abraham did not have a perfect track record, especially at home. He lied to, and about, Sarah more than once. Sarah pushed him into fathering an illegitimate child because they both grew tired of waiting for one. Favoritism between sons ran rampant and became a family tradition, which was passed down to succeeding generations.

Pastors are called to lead their homes as well as their churches. Since your family is your most important ministry, what do you need to do to put your house in order? Abraham’s family benefited not only from how he lived, but also how he died, as can yours.



Mark Dance is director of pastoral wellness for Guidestone Financial Resources.

WHAT'S UP NEXT?

2024 CALENDAR

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



roundup

MAY 15-17

Collegiate Roundup

CrossCreek Church, Colleyville

MAY

- 1** Regenesis Online Interest Meeting
- 4** Mujeres Firmes, Austin
- 4** Bible Drill and Speaker Tournament Finals, Fort Worth
- 6** Regenesis One-Day, McAllen
- 6** Bivo Pastors Network Remote Gathering (online)
- 9** Regenesis One-Day, Angleton
- 13** Regenesis One-Day, Conroe
- 16-18** Breathe Deep Retreat, Austin
- 16** Regenesis Online Interest Meeting
- 17-18** Retiro para Adultos Mayores, Belton
- 28-1** M3 Camp, Mt. Lebanon
- 28** Evangelism Connections (online)



JUNE 9-12

**Southern Baptist Convention
Annual Meeting** Indianapolis

JUNE

- 1** Mujeres Firmes, Laredo
- 3** Regenesis One-Day, El Paso
- 17** Kingdom-Building Roundtable, New Braunfels
- 21** Noche de Cita, Grapevine
- 24-26** Asian Pastors Family Retreat



Southern Baptists of Texas
Reception at SBC

Monday, June 10

Immediately following
the evening session.

EQUIP conference

JULY 27

Equip Conference

Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano

JULY

- 1** Evangelism Connections (online)
- 1-5** M3 Camp, Highland Lakes
- 8-12** M3 Camp, Highland lakes
- 11-15** M3 Camp, Glorieta
- 14** Disability Ministry Sunday
- 16-20** Youth Week, Glen Rose
- 26** Interim Pastor Equipping, Plano
- 27** Equip en Español, Plano
- 29** Bivo Pastor Network Regional Gathering (Dinner & Dialogue), McAllen

EQUIP IS DESIGNED FOR ALL LEADERS IN YOUR CHURCH



EQUIP

conference

SBTEXAS.COM/EQUIP

THEME **ABOVE & BEYOND** EPH. 3:14-21

JULY 27 **2024** **PRESTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, PLANO**



Keynote
NATHAN LORICK
SBTC Executive Director



Scan code or register at
SBTEXAS.COM/EQUIP