

SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
**TEXAN**

NOVEMBER 2024 | VOL. 23 | NO. 11

**SIDE BY SIDE**

PHILIPPIANS 1:27

**SBTC CHURCHES GATHER TO PRAY, CELEBRATE  
WHAT GOD HAS DONE OVER THE PAST YEAR**

**ANNUAL MEETING STORIES • PAGES 5-12**

A surge at Sagemont:  
Church seeing hundreds  
impacted by gospel message

How did pastor's daughters  
escape dangerous situation after  
hurricane? 'Another God moment'

Ministry is one more  
way Chinese pastor  
carries on family tradition

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# I'LL SEE YOU IN HOUSTON



**O**NE OF MY FAVORITE EVENTS OF THE YEAR is our Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Annual Meeting. It is such a joy to be with pastors and leaders from across Texas. Every year, we have an incredible time of prayer, worship, preaching, and a little business. I love our annual meeting.

This year's meeting is being held at Sagemont Church in Houston on Nov. 11-12. Our theme is "Side by Side," from Philippians 1:27. As you know, ministry can be challenging. Events like our annual meeting remind us we don't have to do it alone. We have a network of churches serving alongside one another to see Texas changed by the power of the gospel.

I want to encourage you to set these two days aside and make it a priority to attend. You will be refreshed and encouraged as you worship with other pastors and leaders. There will be plenty of networking opportunities around meals or coffee to connect with friends new and old. You will also hear great stories of how God is moving across our state. I will continue to expand on our vision of mobilizing churches to multiply disciple-making movements in Texas and around the world. You don't want to miss it!

As we gather, I would ask you to pray the Lord would use these two days as a catalyst for the gospel's advancement in Texas. Lostness in our state is rampant, and we have the answer in Jesus. Pray the Lord would capture our hearts and minds as we come together to give us a fresh sense of urgency and unity in our mission as a network of churches.

You can register on our website at [sbtexas.com/am24](http://sbtexas.com/am24). I hope to see you there and be a source of encouragement to you. I love you and am honored to serve you. I look forward to seeing you in Houston.



Dr. Nathan Lorick  
SBTC Executive Director

Engage.  
Encourage.  
Equip.

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NOVEMBER 2024

ANNUAL 2024 MEETING

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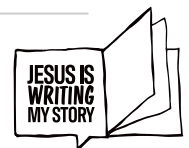
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# ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

**Y**OU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE TO BE TOLD that high school football in Texas is big. Is there a more appropriate word we can use to describe it? Mammoth? Colossal? No matter which adjective we choose, it all feels like an understatement sometimes.

Earlier this season, the grandiosity that is Texas high school football was on full display in a booming town in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. It was homecoming at a large school, and a reported 4,000 students packed into a gymnasium to celebrate with a pep rally.

It looked like a concert. Air raid sirens and loud rock music blared over the speaker system. Drums thundered in unison as students waved lasers over their heads. Colored LED lasers beamed wildly around the room. Pyrotechnic cannons—yes, fire cannons—shot flames toward the ceiling.

It was big. Huge. Monumental. Videos of the pep rally made the rounds on social media, and even a couple of local TV stations picked up on the story.

The next day, a much smaller school in a much smaller town—Mabank, located about 50 miles southeast of Dallas—did something that also ended up garnering quite a bit of attention. At the Mabank High School homecoming dance on Sept. 21, students were caught on video doing something unusual—publicly and unashamedly praising God.

As the story goes, students submitted a list of songs to the deejay working the dance that night. The list included plenty of secular songs, but also at least one Christian worship song. When that song was played—Brandon Lake's "Gratitude"—videos show many of the students lifting their hands and singing along:

*So come on, my soul  
Oh, don't you get shy on me  
Lift up your song  
'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs  
Get up and praise the Lord ...*

The Mabank homecoming dance became the talk of social media and, like the pep rally in the Dallas area the day before, was even reported on by at least one local TV station. Several Southern Baptists of Texas Convention pastors also took notice. Michael Cooper, lead pastor of Grace Community Church in Mabank, posted on Facebook, "The gospel is present in Mabank ISD. From inviting ministers to pray at the beginning of the year, the Jesus club, to spontaneous worship at the homecoming dance, God is actively present."

"Let's go!" exclaimed Teddy Sorrells, lead pastor of Living Water Church in Gladewater, on Facebook. "If this doesn't fire you up for the next generation, I don't know what will!"

This isn't a criticism of the spectacularly elaborate pep rally, but rather a celebration of what happened at the dance. It's an encouragement—God is still working. He is moving among the next generation, and He is using things like homecoming dances out in the middle of nowhere to spread His message and lead people to faith in Jesus.

Who came to faith because of what happened in Mabank? Who knows? Our job is not results, but faithfulness, and that's what a gym full of kids exhibited on a Saturday night a couple of months ago. As the world around them spins dizzily with football games and college pressures and a million other things, they elevated the name of Jesus in a space where His name isn't often elevated.

And now you're reading about it. Lots of people are hearing about it.

Isn't it neat how God works?



**Teddy Sorrells**

6h · 🌐

In Mabank at a school function. students all over the room singing praise to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Let's Go! If this doesn't fire you up for the next generation, I don't know what will!



**Tim Howard**

3h · 🌐

Don't you dare give up on this generation!!!! Proud to call **Scott** and **Randy** friends. While Kane Brown, Kendrick Lamar and Taylor were all requested and played, it's clear that this is the highlight of the night. I pulled this off of various pages. God is working all over the state! CBS 19 tonight is going to cover "the revival" that broke out at the Mabank HOCO dance last night. Also check out the Eustace Pep Rally and a Rival game between 2 high schools in College Station. All students initiated and student led!!!! Exciting days ahead!



**Michael Cooper**

September 22 at 1:23 PM · 🌐

The gospel is present in Mabank ISD. From inviting ministers to pray at the beginning of the year, the Jesus club, to spontaneous worship at the homecoming dance, God is actively present.

Behind the scenes you have youth pastors who frequently attend lunches, Good News Club at different campuses, teachers/admin who are active in their local churches, 5th quarters



SHARONDA COOPER



Sharonda Cooper is a Bible teacher whose passion is evangelism. With degrees in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she is now working toward an M.Div. in apologetics and philosophy from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to her work for a Christian non-profit, Cooper is a workshop leader, fitness instructor, and author who has contributed to *Fruitful: Cultivating a Spiritual Harvest That Won't Leave You Empty* and *Unto Us: 25 Advent Devotions About the Messiah*. She has served on the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Committee and is currently the convention secretary. Cooper is a wife, mom, and active member of Emmaus Church in Georgetown, where she enjoys serving on the praise team.

**What victory has your church been able to celebrate lately?**

One huge victory is Sports Camp, which we run every summer. We had a record number of children—185—from the area attend in 2024. Response from the community was positive. Lots of parents want their children to participate in church activities over the summer. At Sports Camp, kids receive a meal, solid Bible training, and select a sport and train in that sport all week. The theme this year was “None Greater,” where we taught kids about the attributes of God. Non-believing parents come to [a wrap-up] event. They get to hear the gospel as a pastor gets up, explains why we do this, and invites them to church. The whole church helps.

**As a member of Emmaus Church, what's one thing your congregation is praying will happen over the next year?**

One thing we really desire is an elder who is older. We are a young church ... a church plant. We also have young pastors. It's wonderful. We are asking the Lord to send us a man who has been in ministry for many years with that wisdom and life experience.

**Based on your experience as a curriculum writer, what's the connection between one-on-one Bible study and evangelism?**

After I married and moved to Texas ... I was teaching a fitness class at an Austin gym and joined a conversation with participants who complained about having to go to church on Easter because they were Catholic. [Eventually] I asked one woman if she would like to start reading the Bible with me. Over the course of the next two years, we met off and on. At the end of the time, she came to faith. Now she is a Bible study leader. Her husband and children are saved. An entire family was transformed simply because God gave me the courage to start reading the Bible with a non-believer. Most people will agree to it if you'll ask.

**What's one lesson you've learned to this point of your life and ministry you know you'll never forget?**

The easiest way to share the gospel with another person is through one-on-one Bible study. People need an encounter with the Word. They need to know the real Jesus, not the one they've seen depicted in the media.

**How can other SBTC churches be praying for your church?**

Pray that we would be mobilized to share the gospel with the lost in Georgetown, where over 60% would check “none” on a questionnaire about religion. Pray that we Christians at Emmaus will have compassion for the lost and find winsome ways to engage people who don't have Christ on their radar.



# JESUS

## JESUS IS BETTER

**I RECEIVED A TEXT RECENTLY** from my son-in-law in which he shared a video of our 3-year-old granddaughter, Riley, singing my current favorite song, “Jesus Is Better.” This text blessed me greatly. I am so proud of our children and grandchildren and how they are all loving and pursuing Jesus! If you want to be blessed, search for this video on YouTube and take a few minutes and listen to Cross Church in Springdale, Ark., as they sing this powerful song.

My favorite lyrics are these:

*More than my healing, I want the Healer  
More than direction, I want the Shepherd  
You are the Author, You are the Anchor  
You're every answer ... Jesus is better*

You may be tempted to ask, “Is Jesus really better?” The enemy of our souls would like nothing more than to make us doubt the power and goodness of God. When the devil comes and attacks my mind, I try to respond the same way Jesus did—by quoting Scripture.

So, in response to the enemy’s question, which is an accusation, “Is Jesus really better?” I think of Hebrews 7:22: “So Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant.” Eleven times the word “better” is mentioned

in the book of Hebrews. Jesus is better, superior, and He is preeminent in all things. Praise His name!

At the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Annual Meeting Nov. 11 at Sagemont Church in Houston, we will open our prayer meeting with this powerful song, “Jesus Is Better.” I am looking forward to seeing you as we gather for a wonderful time of fellowship, prayer, biblical preaching, worship, and conducting of business as a convention of churches. The theme of the annual meeting is “Side by Side,” based on Philippians 1:27, which states, “Just one thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith that comes from the gospel.”

I have been praying for months for our meeting in Houston. I am looking forward to all that God will do, but I am especially excited about our prayer and praise service on Monday night. Our worship ministry at Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin will lead us in worship. I want everyone who attends, especially pastors, to know they are not alone in ministry. Your presence at the annual meeting will be a blessing to others. I have no doubt you will hear something that will bless and encourage you and your walk with Christ.

It has been an honor to serve as your SBTC president this past year. I pray every day for the national Southern Baptist Convention and for the executive director of the SBTC, Nathan Lorick. We are very blessed to have godly men and women leading us and serving Jesus faithfully and effectively. See you at the annual meeting.

# SIDE BY SIDE

PHILIPPIANS 1:27

SAGEMONT CHURCH, HOUSTON

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

### MONDAY EVENING SESSION • 6:30-9:00

**Praise and Worship**

Praise team, Sagemont Church, Houston

**Call to Order**

**Announcement of Appointments and Procedures**

Danny Forshee, SBTC president

**Constituting of the Convention**

**Committee on Order of Business**

Jose Arzate, associate pastor, Northlake Church, Lago Vista

**Introduction of Motions**

**SBC Report**

**Church Planter Commissioning**

**President's Message**

Danny Forshee, lead pastor, Great Hills Baptist Church, Austin

**Prayer Meeting**

Led by Danny Forshee & Great Hills BC Band

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION • 1:30-4:10

**Praise and Worship**

Praise team, Sagemont Church, Houston

**Executive Director's Report**

Nathan Lorick, SBTC executive director

**Election of Officers** (vice president)

**Resolutions Committee**

Caleb Fleming, senior pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, Sherman

**Election of Officers** (secretary)

**Committee on Committees**

Jerry Horine, senior pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Montalba

**Committee on Nominations**

Aaron Scarbrough, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Forney

**Committee on Order of Business**

Jose Arzate, associate pastor, Northlake Church, Lago Vista

**Previously Scheduled Business**

**Biblical Challenge**

Humberto Gonzalez, spanish pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas

**Recognition of Outgoing & Incoming Officers**

**Dismissal with gavel**

### TUESDAY MORNING SESSION • 9:00-11:40

**Praise and Worship**

Praise team, Sagemont Church, Houston

**Previously Noticed Business**

**Last Introduction of Motions**

Danny Forshee, SBTC president

**Biblical Challenge**

Averri LeMalle, senior pastor, The Church at Jersey Village

**SBTC Executive Board Report**

Caleb Turner, senior pastor,

Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church, Mesquite

**Election of Officers** (president)

**Biblical Challenge**

Chuck Lawless, professor and dean,

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

### HANDOUTS & MATERIALS

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

### CHILDCARE

Available to those who pre-register.  
[sbtexas.com/am24childcare](http://sbtexas.com/am24childcare)

### SCAN CODE

For more information on the annual meeting, including how to register, scan the QR code.



### HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Hotel cost assistance is available to senior pastors with financial need.  
[sbtexas.com/am24housing](http://sbtexas.com/am24housing)

## ANNUAL MEETING MEALS

Sign up for meals at [sbtexas.com/am24/meals](https://sbtexas.com/am24/meals). Tickets are required.

### MONDAY | 12:00 PM

#### CHINESE PASTORS NETWORK LUNCH

A networking lunch designed to strengthen relationships and collaboration among the SBTC's Chinese churches.

### MONDAY | 12:00 PM

#### EN ESPAÑOL LUNCH

A networking opportunity for SBTC En Español churches to hear a personal testimony from Ramon Medina, Español lead pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church. Julio Arriola will host the lunch and interview.

### MONDAY | 12:00 PM

#### EXEC. PASTORS & ADMINISTRATORS NETWORK LUNCH

Join us for our first networking lunch for executive pastors and business administrators of SBTC churches.

### MONDAY | 4:45 PM

#### ADVANCING MISSION DINNER

We empower churches to advance the mission with giving and sending opportunities. Eric Patrick, church planter and lead pastor of Harvest Ministries in Aubrey, will share his sending story.

### MONDAY | 4:45 PM

#### RESOURCING CHURCHES DINNER

We resource churches with tools and training. This dinner will feature a panel discussion on healthy church practices and resources. Panelists include Karen Kennemur, Jeff Lynn, Anthony Svajda, and Phil Todd.

### MONDAY | 4:45 PM

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRY DINNER

Sisters Side by Side - Join us for a panel discussion on encouraging women in your church, at home, and in your community. Panelists include Spring Rutland, Melody Schmidt, and Betsy Thompson. Hosted by Laura Taylor.

### MONDAY | 4:45 PM

#### YOUNG PASTORS NETWORK DINNER

A networking opportunity for pastors and leaders under 40 looking to connect with like-minded servants as we discuss longevity in ministry. Gregg Matte, senior pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker.

### TUESDAY | 7:30 AM

#### SEMINARY BREAKFASTS

Register on seminary websites  
Southern Seminary, Southwestern Seminary

### TUESDAY | 7:30 AM

#### TACO TRUCK BREAKFAST (FREE)




Grab-and-go breakfast tacos provided by SBTC Disaster Relief.

### TUESDAY | 11:45 AM

#### PRESIDENT'S LUNCH PANEL

We network leaders through relationships and partnerships. Building on the Side by Side theme, SBTC President Danny Forshee will host a panel discussion on practical ways to support each other in ministry and avoid isolation. Panelists include Jason Crandall, Gregg Matte, Joe Ogletree, and Levi Skipper.

We are on a **Mission** to provide **Dignity** to retirement-aged pastors, workers and their widows in **need**.

-  Over 65?
-  Have 10+ years of Southern Baptist service?
-  Struggling to make ends meet?

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## SESIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DE LA REUNIÓN ANUAL

Convención de los Bautistas del Sur de Texas

### DOMINGO, 10 DE NOVIEMBRE

Iglesia Bautista Sagemont, Houston

#### Tema:

Lado a Lado • Filipenses 1:27

# LADO A LADO

#### PROGRAMA:

- 4:30 pm Concierto con Job González
- 6:00 pm Compañerismo y Comida para Picar
- 7:00 pm Sesión en Español
- 7:00 pm Bienvenida y Oración | Julio Arriola
- 7:05 pm Alabanza y Adoración | Sagemont Encuentro
- 7:20 pm Exposición Bíblica
  - Tony Miranda, Autor "Las parábolas de Jesús" y Pastor de Primera Iglesia Bautista Austin
- 7:55 pm Ministerios de la SBTC
- 8:05 pm Reconocimiento De Legado Ministerial  
Dr. Michael Gonzales
- 8:15 pm Comisión de Plantación de Iglesias
- 8:25 pm Oración de Despedida
- 8:30 pm Canto de Despedida

### Crossover Houston • Nov. 9 • 10 am-2 pm

An initiative held in conjunction with the SBTC Annual Meeting to unite SBTC churches in a powerful movement that ignites evangelism engagement. Want to know how your church can get involved? Scan the QR code for more information.



### LUNES, 11 DE NOVIEMBRE, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM:

#### Talleres en Español

- + Lázaro Riesgo, Pastor, Sagemont En Español
  - + Livan Quintana, Pastor, Iglesia Bautista Vida en Cristo en Nassau Bay
- Talleres para mujeres con Inés Pacas y Karina Vázquez, ambas ministran a mujeres en Champion Forest Español.

#### 12:00 pm Lunch y Entrevista de Testimonio

con Esteban Vázquez

**Tony Miranda** es pastor y un conferencista internacional, que equipa a pastores y líderes en América Latina y los Estados Unidos. Enseña para varios seminarios teológico bautista. También se ha desempeñado como presidente de la Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas. Completó su maestría y su doctorado en la Universidad Baylor y tiene un doctorado en Nuevo Testamento del Seminario Teológico Bautista Midwestern. Es el autor de "Las parábolas de Jesús" en su contexto.



#### CONCIERTO:

**Job González** es un cantante, productor y compositor nativo del Valle del Río Grande, McAllen, Texas. Nació en un hogar pastoral y desde muy temprana edad fue fiel al llamado de Dios. Desde entonces, se convirtió en un cantante apasionado y visionario impactando generaciones con una gran excelencia musical y sensibilidad de espíritu. Actualmente es el pastor de alabanza de Champion Forest En Español.



# GIVING THAT GROWS

Hays Hills goes above and beyond to see the gospel delivered around the world



BUDA

**HAYS HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH STRIVES** to “bring life-changing hope to an ever-changing people through the unchanging gospel.”

To make that mission statement a reality, the church is setting an example of what it looks like to engage in ever-increasing generosity.

When Aaron Kahler transitioned from a staff position to serving as lead pastor in 2017, he felt led to challenge Hays Hills to give 20% of its annual budget through the Cooperative Program by 2030.

**“It is ministry our people are engaged in because of their love for Jesus, His church, and the lost.”**

—AARON KAHLER

That effort, which the church refers to as “Neighbors & The Nations,” describes the commitment the congregation has made to support those working to bring the gospel to unreached and unengaged people locally and around the world.

The plan was for the church to increase giving by 1% annually until it reached its 20% goal. But that’s not what happened.

“In God’s grace, He did far more abundantly than we could have imagined and we went all the way over to 21% given in year one,” Kahler said. “The church just bought in wholeheartedly to giving to the cause ....”

Kahler said Hays Hills recognizes the potential to multiply its impact through CP giving, “not only in our church being effective today, but for our church and other Southern Baptist Convention churches to be effective 100 years from now.” Giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which Kahler said has increased substantially, is one of the main ways Hays Hills seeks to have a global, cooperative impact.

On a more local level, Kahler said the impact is evident in the support provided to missionaries from Hays Hills who have served with the International Mission Board, in guidance provided to church leaders on multiple occasions by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, and even in how he has been personally equipped to preach by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. All are entities supported by CP giving.

Though the gospel work never seems to be accomplished as fast as he’d like, Kahler said he is more encouraged now than he has been in his 13 years serving at the church because of God’s faithfulness. Planted in one of the fastest-growing suburbs of Austin, the church has seen Buda’s population more than double to over 15,000 residents over the past decade. Hays Hills has advocacy groups for each of its missionary partners, which has strengthened the missions culture within the church in an effort to reach the growing population.

Additionally, Hays Hills is beginning to see more evangelistic fruit through its college and career ministry and through its young couples ministry.

“All of those areas of ministry that the Lord is blessing are areas I do not touch at all,” he said. “It is ministry our people are engaged in because of their love for Jesus, His church, and the lost.”

# THE GREATEST KIND OF LEGACY

Family passes on legacy of faith to reach multiple communities in need

## MANY YEARS AGO, THE GOSPEL CHANGED THE GAMEROS FAMILY.

It started with Javier Gameros, who grew up in a Mexican Catholic family that, as he says, taught him the rites and practices of religion without helping him understand that God wanted a personal relationship with him. Over time, God used a series of people and circumstances to help Javier come to know that truth. He heard the plan of salvation for the first time at age 8 from a Baptist pastor hosting a Bible club in his neighborhood. At age 19, Javier accepted Christ after hearing the gospel again from his sister, Susana.

Javier later met and married Margarita, and soon they answered a call to vocational ministry. While Javier and Margarita committed to serve the Lord with all their hearts, they knew their greatest influence would happen at home among their five children.

“Ministry was something I saw and learned every day,” said Vidraael Gameros, one of the family’s three sons. “My parents taught us how to love and serve the Lord through a life of obedience and sacrifice. ... The same leader I saw [from my father] in the pulpit

“[The SBTC] has helped us find connections we need to facilitate challenges in ministry ...”

—JAVIER GAMEROS

was the same leader I saw in the home, and that impacted my life in a big way.”

Javier eventually was called to pastor a church in Manvel known today as Un Nuevo Comienzo Venciendo Con Dios, which means, “A new beginning, overcoming with God.” It’s a fitting name, Javier says, noting a severe economic and moral decline has caused what he calls “spiritual poverty” in parts of the city.

Even as he served his own community, Javier was burdened by other nearby communities suffering in similar ways—one of which was Holiday Lakes, a predominantly Hispanic community located about 30 miles south of Manvel. At the time, Holiday Lakes had no Hispanic Southern Baptist church.

“I saw the urgent need to not stop, but to expand the gospel and see more souls saved since society, the family, and the church are being attacked and their precepts are being erased,” Javier said.

But who would be willing to plant a church in Holiday Lakes? He looked no further than his son, Vidraael, who had sensed a calling to ministry since childhood. Vidraael began a church planting residency training program through Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston and also received training through Send Network SBTC, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention’s church planting partnership with the North American Mission Board.

After working with his father, Vidraael was sent to plant Iglesia Bautista Holiday Lakes about three years ago. The church officially launched about a year ago and is seeing fruit despite many challenges, including natural disasters, a large drug trade, and the presence of witchcraft.

The work is challenging, but Vidraael said he feels like he is never alone because of his family and the connections and equipping offered through the SBTC.

“It is a blessing to have access to a family that is running the same race,” he said. “[The SBTC] has helped us find connections we need to facilitate challenges in ministry, and it has connected us to other brothers and sisters who love the work of the Lord. ... We are celebrating the transformation God is doing in the families in Holiday Lakes.”

In other words, the same gospel that once changed the Gameros family is now changing families across the region.

# ONE MISSION, MANY HANDS

Churches from near and far are pitching in to assist Celina plant at the center of a population boom



CELINA

**AS ROBERT WELCH LOOKS AROUND** the middle school where Legacy Hills Church meets each Sunday, he sees the faces of people who otherwise might not be there if it weren't for the churches across Texas that have worked alongside his.

Over the past year, Legacy Hills members have deeply invested in the community, hosting kids camps, community events, and outreaches to build relationships in one of the fastest-growing regions in the state. But when

you've planted a church in a city that has more than tripled in population over the past five years, you can never have too much help.

To date, 17 Southern Baptists of Texas Convention churches and two associations have in some way helped Legacy Hills solidify its gospel footing in the city. Some of those churches have sent volunteers to Celina, sending missions teams and financial support. Others have taken up offerings at their own vacation Bible schools and sent the proceeds to Legacy Hills so it could host its own outreaches to kids. Still others have committed to pray weekly, asking God to bless the gospel work happening there.

The results have been tangible.

"The majority of families that are now deeply involved with Legacy Hills have come through community events, camps, and outreaches that our partners have helped with," Welch said. "Our partners were the first to share the gospel with their children. Many of our families are literally the result of the opportunities that our partners helped us create."

New Beginnings Baptist Church in Longview is Legacy Hills' sending church. George Willis, NBBC's pastor of missions, said the relationship has been mutually beneficial to the kingdom.

◀ Welch, pictured at left, is seen baptizing a man during a recent service. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

"We believe in equipping and empowering members of our congregation," Willis said. "We want them to understand their kingdom platform, their giftings. So when we partner with other church planters, they get the opportunity to see what it looks like to be part of kingdom growth all over. If we just stayed here in East Texas, it would be a disservice to the church to not be utilizing our people to be sent out and serve all over the world."

Added Todd Kaunitz, New Beginnings' lead pastor/elder: "We believe the church is the number one vehicle God is using to take the gospel to the world ... so everything we do with our missions ministry is aimed toward either partnering to strengthen [existing] churches or to plant churches—whether that's in East Texas, East Africa, or in Celina. ... This is about the kingdom of God, so whatever we can do to expand the kingdom, we want to be all in."

That mindset, Welch said, reaffirms what he believes the SBTC is all about.

"It's not just about one church or one kind of church," Welch said. "The mission that God has called us to cannot be done by one church. The mission Jesus has called His church to is accomplished by churches of every shape and size working side by side to accomplish one singular mission."

# FOSTERING STRONG PARTNERS

## Churches forge special relationship that benefits residents in two areas

**WHEN AN ESTABLISHED CHURCH PARTNERS** with a plant, conventional wisdom says the younger church reaps most of the benefits. Old River Baptist Church in Dayton and Cross Community Church in Houston are working together to show that the benefits can flow both directions.

The relationship between the two churches originated in the friendship between their pastors. Old River's Wes Hinote said he and Cross Community planter Del Traffanstedt have known each other for years—"through pastor circles"—dating back to when Traffanstedt served an Odessa congregation.

"We knew each other through Southern Baptists of Texas Convention pastor retreats, and today, our two congregations are within an hour of each other," Traffanstedt noted.

When Hinote came to Old River seven years ago, he found a loving congregation primed to adopt a missional focus. He recognized an opportunity when he learned of Cross Community.

"When Del planted Cross Community in an underserved area of Houston, I was able to speak with my congregation about the needs," Hinote recalled.



Old River began financially supporting Cross Community. When the urban church's vibrant English as a Second Language program encountered problems through the loss of its curriculum provider, Old River stepped in to assist.

"They were caught off guard," Hinote said. "I got wind that they were having problems and told Del, 'Hey, this is what we are here for. What do we need to do to make sure ESL doesn't take a step back?'"

Cross Community's ESL outreach (pictured below) is a vital part of its ministry. The program was started only six months after the church launched. The ESL ministry attracted more students than anticipated to its multi-semester Wednesday evening program which incorporates Bible stories and prayer. Now more than 70 participate. Nearly half attend the church and several have joined.

But the loss of their curriculum provider threatened to disrupt all that. Students pay a nominal fee for the course, affirming dignity but not covering the \$180 per person cost.

"We count on our church partners to subsidize that cost.

Our students cannot afford the whole amount. Our church plant in an urban area cannot afford it.

We need churches like Old River to come alongside us," Traffanstedt said. "Wes and his church pray for us and help fund ESL."

Recently, Cross Community began playing an important role in its sister church's new family ministry.

It began when a church family, who had both fostered and adopted children, came to Hinote about starting FAM, or Family Advocacy Ministry, at ORBC. Hinote immediately thought of Traffanstedt, who also had fostered and adopted children.

"We have fostered 10 children and adopted three," Traffanstedt said, adding that he had started family ministries at two previous churches in addition to Cross Community.

"We were able to coach the family and Old River's lead volunteers," Traffanstedt said. "We prayed for them and recommended resources from the North American Mission Board."

"The first call I made was to Del and [wife] Charmaine to pick their brains," Hinote recalled when the family in his church approached him. "Cross Community was a big help. It's all part of the blessing of being part of a mission that is not your own. Our SBTC churches have a lot to offer one another. Size doesn't matter. Location doesn't matter. Mission matters."

# GIVING THEIR BEST IN THE WORST OF TIMES

Spring Baptist Church has become a 'go-to' when it comes to helping others following disasters

SPRING

**WHEN HURRICANE BERYL SLAMMED** into Southeast Texas in early July, Spring Baptist Church was already prepared to work side by side with Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Disaster Relief and its partners to serve survivors.

This wasn't the church's first hurricane.

"Hurricane Harvey [in 2017] was terrible, but Beryl was in some ways worse, with extensive tree damage," said Spring Baptist Church Pastor Mark Estep. "Because of Harvey, we were ready to help."

In Harvey's immediate aftermath, the church converted an unused building into a laundry facility through a chain of events that saw God's provision of skilled workers and materials. An electrician and plumber "happened by" to offer their services free of charge, and then seven washers and dryers were donated.

"God provided a laundromat within a few hours," Estep said. Soon after, the church added four RV slips with electricity and sewer hookups to serve DR trailers, bunkhouses, and mobile command posts.

Church members were trained, as well. Spring Baptist has 50 credentialed SBTC DR volunteers among its members. Just about all of them pitched in during Beryl.

Like many SBTC churches, Spring Baptist is a "go-to" church when disaster strikes nearby, SBTC DR Director Scottie Stice said.

"During Beryl, they housed teams, provided a kitchen, made their laundry facility available," Stice said, adding that Spring Baptist maintains a quick-response unit mobile kitchen and a recovery unit which are "very active." Southern Baptist DR teams are housed in the church's renovated youth building, to which showers and bathrooms were added after Harvey.

"It's not like home, but we want to make volunteers comfortable," Estep said. The church even erected a new pole barn to store SBTC DR trailers and equipment plus a church bus.

During the six weeks after Beryl, Spring Baptist received over 380 requests for help with downed trees, said Jason Mayfield, the church's associate pastor. "SBTC DR responded with SBDR cleanup and recovery teams from Texas, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee." Teams completed 121 jobs, with the remaining requests handled by others. Five salvations occurred among survivors and many gospel conversations ensued.

"SBTC DR is not only a blessing to our whole church, but to our whole community," Mayfield said.

"I don't know what we would do without the SBDR teams coming here. They minister in such a powerful way. They are the hands and feet of Jesus," Estep said. "It's not just talk with them."

Estep explained that he, too, has been a beneficiary of DR ministry.

As Beryl's winds raged, Estep and his young grandson sat in a recliner, watching a tree in the yard whipping back and forth until a huge branch broke off and burst through a large plate glass living room window.

"It sounded like a shotgun," Estep said. DR crews helped secure the window, temporarily sealing the void where the glass had been.

That assistance "meant the world to us," Estep said. "When you are victimized during a disaster, you realize how important DR is."

Several hurricanes and serious storms have pummeled the Spring area since Estep arrived as pastor in 1997. Working with SBTC DR, Estep's staff and congregation embrace the opportunity to minister to survivors.

"God knows we are a church that is going to help," Estep said. "It's in our DNA."



# GIVING, GOING & SENDING

NUEVA VIDA DALLAS CONTINUES TO MAKE RICH GOSPEL INVESTMENTS IN MEXICO AND BEYOND

By Arlene Sanabria | Texan Correspondent

## DALLAS

**WHEN VICENTE ACOSTA SPEAKS**, the people of Motho—a small town in the state of Hidalgo, Mexico—listen.

Acosta is a respected leader among the 350 or so residents of Motho, which has a majority Catholic population. Once upon a time, he used his influence to keep the gospel from being preached in his town, as he was strongly opposed to Christians who might come spreading anything that might be opposed to his Catholic religion.

But that was then. Things for Acosta—and for Motho—have changed.

gospel,” Acosta said, “but now that I have given my life to Christ, I have a mission to spread the gospel to my people.”

Three years ago, Acosta joined forces with Primera Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida in Dallas to make Jesus’ name known in Motho. This past summer, Nueva Vida went on a mission trip to Motho, furthering an advance of the gospel that started several years ago.

### New commitment, new life

At age 18, Acosta began traveling to the U.S. to work during the hot season before returning home to his family in Mexico. Many people shared the gospel with him during those years, which gradually softened his heart and led to him accepting Christ. It was something his wife, Marisela, had been praying for since they got married.

Acosta began attending a house church every time he came to the U.S., but in 1999, that church ceased to exist. That same year, he was working on a house when a Hispanic neighbor invited him to Nueva Vida in Dallas. There, Acosta rededicated his life to the Lord, was baptized, and committed himself to doing whatever God called him to do.

One of the things on Acosta’s heart was to take the gospel back to his people in Motho. So, he approached



**“UNLIKE OTHER MISSION TRIPS I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO ON, WE WERE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE A SPECIAL MOVE ON THE STREETS BY HAVING FOCUSED SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS.”**

—NELSON FONSECA



Nueva Vida’s leadership to share his vision for his hometown. Together, they began to pray about a way to do mission work in Motho.

One of the primary ways they felt led to do that was through planting a church, Misión Bautista Nueva Vida—named in honor of the support and partnership of Nueva Vida Dallas. This past summer marked the third year Nueva Vida Dallas has sent a team to Mexico to help the mission extend the reach of the gospel in Motho.

Nueva Vida Dallas helps the mission church to further the work already being done in Motho through training, education, and evangelism. Misión Bautista Nueva Vida has an interim pastor, Agustín Velasquez, who preaches there once a week, with the church meeting in Acosta’s home until it can find a permanent location.

Ironically, it’s not the first time Velasquez and Acosta have crossed paths. Velasquez once taught at a local seminary and would send students to evangelize Motho—efforts that were often frustrated by Acosta.

Now Acosta uses every opportunity to spread the gospel. During the mission trip, he held a birthday party for his granddaughter, renting a tent, providing food, and inviting the community. About 200 people

(Left) Nelson Fonseca, senior pastor of Nueva Vida Dallas, shares the gospel with a group of men on the church’s recent mission trip to Mexico. Nueva Vida’s support has helped plant a church in the city of Motho. The church (right) is called Misión Bautista Nueva Vida, in honor of the Dallas church. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

showed up and, in the middle of the celebration, they heard a gospel presentation.

#### **Not only giving, but sending**

Nueva Vida Dallas Senior Pastor Nelson Fonseca preached several times during the mission trip and, with trip leader Oscar Saenz, taught members of the mission church how to share the gospel. The church also held a vacation Bible school and invited children and families from all over town.

“Unlike other mission trips I have had the opportunity to go on, we were able to experience a special move on the streets by having focused spiritual conversations,” Fonseca said, noting that children were especially filled with joy after seeing vibrant decorations and materials teaching them about Jesus during several events. “The gospel was proclaimed, and we were able to share the love of Christ with the little ones.”





God is strongly at work among the children in Motho, Saenz said. One day during the trip, he said Fonseca asked a group of children if any felt called to serve God or even pastor someday. One child boldly stood up and said he felt called to serve God.

Nueva Vida Dallas is making heavy gospel investments not only in places like Motho, but in people. The church supports missionaries and church planters in Dallas and Arlington, in Nicaragua, and across Mexico in places like Durango, Actopan, and Ixmiquilpan.

“Not only do we believe in giving,” Fonseca said, “but we also send and we pray for them and their families every day in our morning prayer.”

Saenz, who led the singles ministry at Nueva Vida Dallas in addition to serving in teaching and discipleship roles, said he now feels called by God to serve in evangelism.

“You have to be faithful to God’s call,” Saenz said. “There will be persecution in many places, but you don’t have to focus on that. You have to focus on the impact God is going to make.”

# DANDO, YENDO Y ENVIANDO

## NUEVA VIDA EN DALLAS CONTINÚA HACIENDO VALIOSAS INVERSIONES DEL EVANGELIO A TRAVÉS DE COLABORACIÓN EN MÉXICO Y MÁS ALLÁ

Por **Arlene Sanabria** | Corresponsal del Texan

### DALLAS

**C**UANDO VICENTE ACOSTA HABLA, la gente de Motho—un pequeño pueblo en el estado de Hidalgo, México—escucha.

Acosta es un líder respetado en Motho, una pequeña ciudad (con una población de unas 350 personas) de mayoría católica. Hubo un tiempo en que utilizó su influencia para impedir que se predicara el evangelio en su pueblo, ya que se oponía firmemente a que los cristianos vinieran a difundir algo que pudiera oponerse a su religión católica.

Pero eso era antes. Las cosas para Acosta—y para Motho—han cambiado.

“Yo me oponía a que vinieran a mi pueblo a predicar el evangelio”, dijo Acosta, “pero ahora que he entregado mi vida a Cristo, tengo la misión de llevar el evangelio en mi pueblo”.



Hace tres años, Acosta unió fuerzas con la Primera Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida de Dallas para dar a conocer el nombre de Jesús en Motho. El verano pasado, Nueva Vida realizó un viaje misionero a Motho, impulsando un avance evangelístico que ha estado sucediendo desde hace varios años.

### **Nuevo compromiso, Nueva Vida**

A la edad de 18 años, Acosta comenzó a viajar a los Estados Unidos para trabajar durante la temporada de calor antes de regresar a casa con su familia en México. Muchas personas compartieron el evangelio con él durante esos años, lo que poco a poco fue ablandando su corazón y le llevó a aceptar a Cristo. Era algo por lo que su esposa, Marisela, había estado orando desde que se casaron.

Acosta empezó a asistir a una pequeña iglesia que se reunía en una casa cada vez que venía a Estados Unidos, pero en el 1999, esa iglesia dejó de existir. Ese mismo año,

(Desde la izquierda) Motho es una pequeña ciudad de Hidalgo, México. Oscar Sáenz, abajo a la izquierda con un pañuelo azul, se divierte con un grupo de niños de Motho durante el viaje misionero en el verano de la Primera Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida. Los miembros de la iglesia tienen un gran corazón para compartir el amor de Cristo con la comunidad. **FOTOS COMPARTIDAS**



## “HAY QUE SER FIELES AL LLAMADO DE DIOS”.

—OSCAR SAENZ

estaba trabajando en una casa cuando un vecino hispano le invitó a la Iglesia Nueva Vida de Dallas. Allí, Acosta volvió a dedicar su vida al Señor, fue bautizado y se comprometió a hacer todo lo que Dios le llamara a hacer.

Una de las cosas en el corazón de Acosta era llevar el evangelio a su gente en Motho. Así que se acercó a los líderes de Nueva Vida para compartir su corazón por su ciudad natal. Juntos, empezaron a orar sobre la manera de hacer trabajo misionero en Motho.

Una de las principales formas en que se sintieron guiados a hacerlo fue a través de la plantación de una iglesia, Misión Bautista Nueva Vida, llamada así en honor al apoyo y la asociación con Nueva Vida de Dallas. El verano pasado marcó el tercer año en que Nueva Vida de

Dallas ha enviado un equipo a México para ayudar a la misión a extender el alcance del evangelio en Motho.

Nueva Vida se unió a esta misión para promover el trabajo que ya se está haciendo en Motho a través de la formación, la educación y la evangelización. La misión tiene un pastor interino, Agustín Velásquez, que predica allí una vez a la semana, y la iglesia se reúne en la casa de Acosta hasta que pueda encontrar un lugar permanente.

Irónicamente, no es la primera vez que Velásquez y Acosta se cruzan. Velásquez enseñó durante un tiempo en un seminario local y enviaba estudiantes a evangelizar a Motho, esfuerzos que a menudo se veían frustrados por Acosta.

Ahora Acosta aprovecha cualquier oportunidad para difundir el evangelio. Durante el viaje misionero, organizó una fiesta de cumpleaños para su nieta, alquilando una carpa, proporcionando comida e invitando a la comunidad. Se presentaron unas 200 personas y, en medio de la celebración, escucharon el evangelio.

### No sólo dar, sino enviar

El pastor principal de Nueva Vida de Dallas, Nelson Fonseca, predicó varias veces durante el viaje misionero y, junto con el líder del viaje, Oscar Sáenz, enseñó a los miembros de la misión en Motho a compartir el evangelio. La iglesia también celebró una escuela bíblica de vacaciones e invitaron a niños y familias de toda la ciudad.

“A diferencia de otros viajes misioneros en los que he tenido la oportunidad de participar, pudimos experimentar un mover de Dios especial en la calle al tener conversaciones espirituales con propósito”, dijo Fonseca, también señalando que los niños estaban especialmente llenos de alegría después de ver decoraciones vibrantes y materiales que les enseñaban acerca de Jesús durante varios eventos. “Se proclamó el evangelio y pudimos compartir el amor de Cristo con los más pequeños”.

Dios está obrando con poder entre los niños de Motho, dijo Sáenz. Un día durante el viaje, dijo que Fonseca preguntó a un grupo de niños si alguno se sentía llamado a servir a Dios o incluso a ser pastor algún día. Un niño se levantó con valentía y dijo que se sentía llamado a servir a Dios.

Nueva Vida de Dallas está haciendo grandes inversiones en el evangelio, no sólo en lugares como Motho, sino también en las personas. La iglesia apoya a misioneros y plantadores de iglesias en lugares como Dallas y Arlington, en países como Nicaragua, y a través de México en lugares como Durango, Actopan, e Ixmiquilpan.

“No sólo creemos en dar”, dijo Fonseca, “sino que también enviamos y oramos por ellos y sus familias todos los días en nuestra oración de la mañana”.

Sáenz, quien dirigió el ministerio de solteros en Nueva Vida, además de servir en funciones de enseñanza y discipulado, dijo que ahora se siente llamado por Dios para servir en la evangelización.

“Hay que ser fieles al llamado de Dios”, dijo Sáenz. “Habrá persecución en muchos lugares, pero no hay que enfocarse en eso, si no en el impacto que Dios va a hacer.”



# 'ANOTHER GOD MOMENT'

CONROE PASTOR PRAISES THE LORD AS DAUGHTERS NARROWLY ESCAPE—TWICE—AFTER HURRICANE

By Jane Rodgers | Texan Correspondent

CONROE

**T**HE HENRY GIRLS DID NOT PANIC, although there was reason to do so.

Winds and rain from Hurricane Beryl pummeled Conroe in early July. Although weakening to a tropical storm after sweeping through Houston, Beryl gave college students Hannah, 21, and Bethany, 19, cause for concern as the sisters sat in the living room of the family home at McRae Lake.

That day, the girls' parents, Erin and Josh Henry, pastor of Trail of Life Cowboy Church in Conroe, were returning from Louisiana where they had picked up their son, Cole—who had been serving with an evangelistic organization sharing the gospel through horse training demonstrations.

"We called the girls before the hurricane and told them to make sure to get plenty of fuel for the generator and to come on back home," Josh recalled.

Hannah and Bethany did so, stopping to bring the family's cow dogs and the pet corgi inside as winds roared and rain poured down. Shortly after they settled in to wait things out, Bethany glanced outside and saw a massive oak tree leaning precariously toward the home.



**“Our three kids are all followers of Christ. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit prompted the girls to move when they did.”**

—JOSH HENRY

“Hannah, we’ve got to get out,” Bethany said to her sister. “This tree looks like it is going to come down on the house.”

The sisters gathered the dogs and hurried to the side door just as a loud crack resounded. The tree fell, splitting the house in two, landing on the sofa where the girls had been less than a minute before.

“That was just God saving our girls,” Josh said.

Little did they know they would need the Lord’s help again—and very soon.

Piling into Bethany’s pickup with the dogs, the sisters headed down the driveway only to be stopped by a vehicle blocking their way.

“You’ve got to move,” they called to the driver.

“Can’t,” the driver replied, “Road’s blocked. Trees are down everywhere.”

Bethany fetched both of the family’s chainsaws and enlisted the help of a neighbor to cut up the tree on the driveway enough to permit them to exit. They drove to that neighbor’s home and, within three minutes of arriving, saw that a second massive oak tree had fallen, taking out a powerline.

They were shocked: The tree fell exactly where Bethany’s pickup had been parked and where the girls had stood mere minutes earlier.

“It was another God moment,” Josh said. “Our three kids are all followers of Christ. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit prompted the girls to move when they did.”

Their house was split in two, but the family was thankfully intact.



The Henry family (from left): Hannah, Erin, Bethany, and Josh, pastor of Trail of Life Cowboy Church in Conroe. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

### Meeting the challenge

“We have a small neighborhood, really quiet. It was hit hard by the storm,” Josh said.

Days after the hurricane, the pastor drove around McRae Lake and saw a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief truck and trailer, its yellow-shirted volunteers cutting up logs for a neighbor. It was, he admitted, a good feeling to see Southern Baptists helping in a time of trouble.

The Henry family’s experience underscores the importance of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. Although SBDR teams were not called to help at the Henry residence, they were there for the pastor’s community.

SBTC DR volunteers arrived in Southeast Texas immediately after Beryl made landfall and continued to serve into August, joining their SBDR brothers and sisters in assisting survivors and sharing Christ’s love.

Want to learn more about how to get involved with SBTC Disaster Relief? Scan the QR code.





# COME ONE, COME ALL

**SAGEMONT EXPERIENCES GROWTH SURGE AMID EMPHASIS ON GOSPEL INVITATIONS, EVANGELISM**

By Erin Roach | Texan Correspondent

**P**eople are responding to the gospel in a way Bob Crites has not seen in the nearly 30 years he has been at Sagemont Church.

“It’s almost like a revival mentality,” said Crites, the church’s chairman of deacons.

“We expect to see people saved every time we go to church.”

Sagemont is a historic congregation located in Houston, the fourth-largest city in the country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, that is also one of the nation’s most diverse metro areas. The church’s attendance has increased by about 800 people since March, and so far this year it has baptized more than 260 and tallied at least 450 professions of faith—not counting the 400 recorded on Easter Sunday alone.

“We’ve been very intentional at encouraging the church to pray for lost people by name and to learn how to share the gospel,” said Levi Skipper, Sagemont’s senior pastor. He added that church leaders have sought to cultivate a welcoming culture so people will want

to invite their friends, coworkers, and neighbors to church.

“My commitment to them is that I’m going to preach Jesus every single Sunday,” Skipper said. “You will not come in and hear me preach and not give an invitation to accept Christ.”

Skipper, who most recently served as a vice president at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, preaches verse by verse through books of the Bible and always ends up at the cross, he said. “I share the gospel, I encourage people to pray to receive Jesus, and then I encourage them to come forward.”

An average of 20 people have been going forward each Sunday to signify a commitment to Christ, and Sagemont has been ushering them onto a disciple’s pathway defined by four steps: worship, connect, grow, and go.

On Easter, each person who entered the worship center received a card with three options to indicate a level of commitment. During the sermon, Skipper asked everyone to take out their cards and respond. Some indicated they were already members of Sagemont, others noted they had prayed to receive

Christ that day, and others wanted more information.

Everyone dropped their cards in buckets on the way out of the service, and Sagemont began following up on those that needed to take the next step.

Sagemont also has been intentional about leveraging events to move people along the disciple’s pathway, Skipper said. In July, 300 volunteers were trained to share the gospel with thousands of people at a patriotic event on campus.

“You train them how to do it, but then you have to give them an opportunity to do it,” he said of evangelism. At the patriotic event, the pastor and volunteers walked around sharing the gospel conversationally.

Another way Skipper teaches the congregation to share Christ is by using a similarly worded invitation during the sermon each week. “I do that on purpose

◀ The Holy Spirit has moved in hearts at Sagemont Church in Houston as if the field is white unto harvest, the chairman of deacons said.

▼ Sagemont Church in Houston has focused on evangelism this year, including writing the names of spiritually lost people on a fabric wall and praying for them. **SUBMITTED PHOTOS**

**“WE’VE  
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HOW TO SHARE  
THE GOSPEL.”**

**—LEVI SKIPPER**





Ken Heibner (right) was baptized this year after Pastor Levi Skipper took him to lunch, invited him to a discipleship group, and befriended him. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

because in doing that, I'm actually training believers how to share Jesus. They probably don't even realize they're being trained."

Some older men in the congregation have told the pastor they pray every Sunday specifically for the invitation. "I would not want to underestimate the fact that the Lord could just be answering one of those guys' prayers," Skipper said. "Their prayers mean more than they would ever imagine."

Crites is among those praying.

"I'm always in the service—before the invitation and while the pastor is preaching—asking the Holy Spirit to move in our midst and seek out people who are lost or those who are stagnant in their faith and convict their hearts and move them to more fellowship in Jesus," Crites said.

Ken Heibner responded to the invitation earlier this year. "If you could see the change in Ken, it's pretty remarkable," Skipper said. "... It's amazing what the Lord has done."

Heibner's children, ages 12 and 8, had accepted Christ at Sagemont, and the youngest was being baptized on Skipper's

first Sunday as pastor. Though his wife usually took the children to church, Heibner was there that day for the baptism.

Skipper soon took Heibner to lunch and shared Christ, but he wasn't ready to commit. The pastor then invited Heibner to a small discipleship group with other men. Eventually, Heibner decided to follow Jesus.

"The reason why I liked Levi is there wasn't any kind of pressure to accept things," Heibner said, noting that it took time for his eyes to open to what he had been missing. The group of men encouraged him by telling their stories of coming to Christ and by helping him feel like he could ask questions, he said.

Before he was saved, what seemed like hypocrisy from churchgoers had kept him away, Heibner said. "My experience with Sagemont hasn't been that way. It's like everybody that I've met is pretty genuine, and they're all there for the same reason."

Crites—and the entire congregation—is excited to see the changed lives.

"Only the Holy Spirit can do that, and we're so thankful that He's moving in our midst right now," Crites said. "It's been fun."

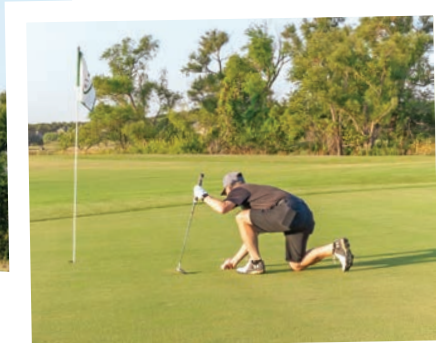
**"I'M ALWAYS  
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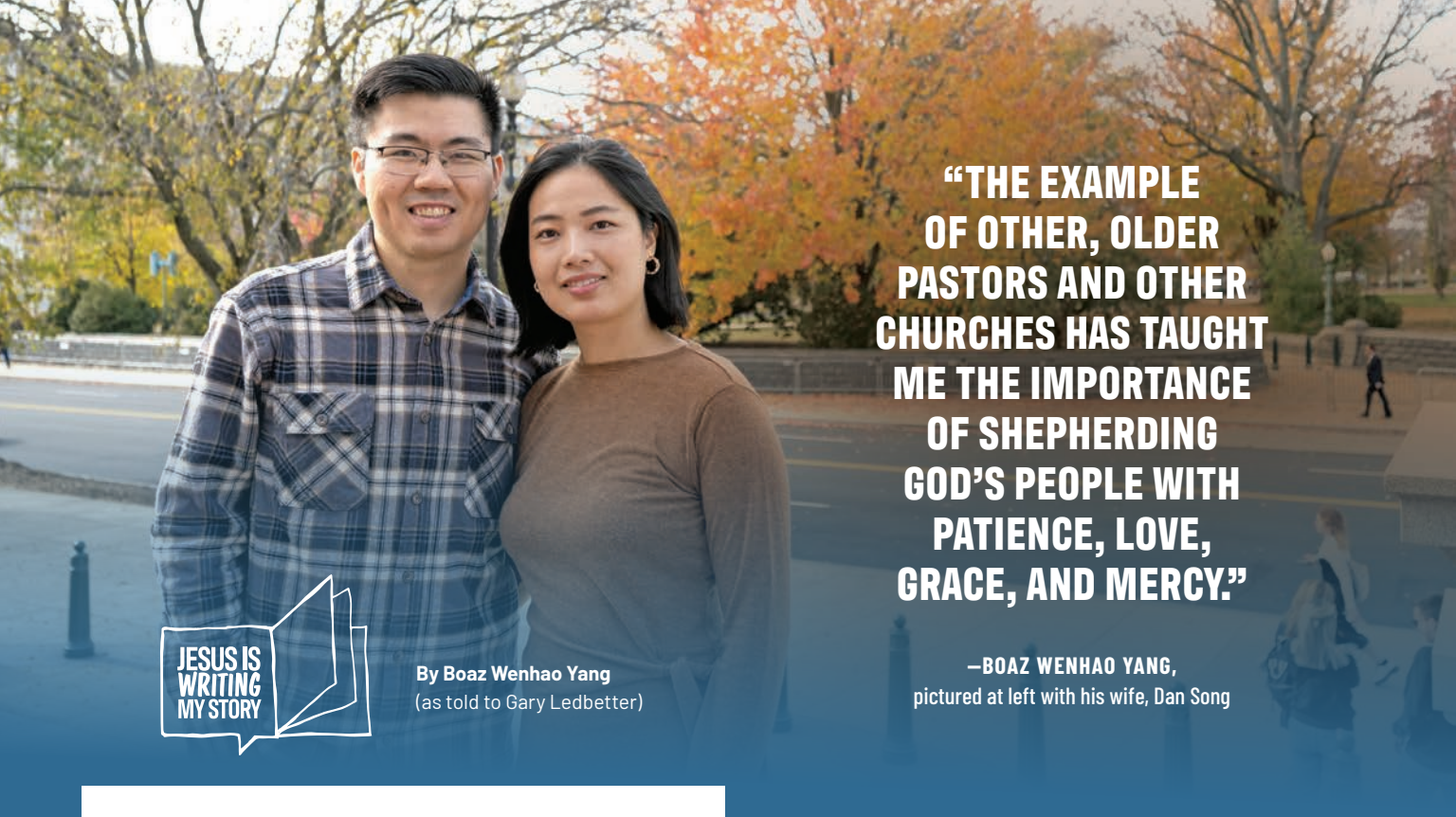
**—BOB CRITES**



# FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FORE!

Pastors, church staff members, and lay leaders gathered for a day of fun and fellowship at the annual Pastors Masters Golf Tournament held Oct. 8 at Tour 18 in Flower Mound. The four-person scramble gave pastors a chance to network, laugh, and encourage one another on a beautiful day at the golf course. **SBTC PHOTOS**





**“THE EXAMPLE OF OTHER, OLDER PASTORS AND OTHER CHURCHES HAS TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF SHEPHERDING GOD’S PEOPLE WITH PATIENCE, LOVE, GRACE, AND MERCY.”**

—BOAZ WENHAO YANG,  
pictured at left with his wife, Dan Song

**JESUS IS  
WRITING  
MY STORY**

By Boaz Wenhao Yang  
(as told to Gary Ledbetter)

# GOSPEL SEEDS, FAMILY ROOTS, AND A LEGACY OF SERVING

**I** grew up in Southeastern China and was raised in a Christian family. My parents and grandparents attended an underground church with me every Sunday in my hometown. My grandma would read a Bible story to me every night and we would talk about it, sometimes until midnight. And I remember my family teaching me to memorize Scripture. In my childhood, my parents would prepare a small whiteboard with a verse on it every week, and then I would read that very short verse every day until I memorized it. Then they would change it to a new verse. I think more than half of the Scriptures in my mind now were those I memorized when I was a child.

My mother’s parents also emphasized family worship. They had begun that during the 1970s. If you know Chinese history, you know China had a cultural revolution from 1960 until the 1980s. Chinese Christians were facing great persecution during those years. Families of my mom’s generation would secretly find brothers who knew the Bible well and invite them to teach every Friday evening and then teach their children. Now, 50 years later, they still keep that family worship tradition.

I was in fifth grade, about 10 to 11 years old, when I became a Christian—I raised my hand at an evangelistic meeting. During my teenage years, I began to be interested in helping others discern biblical truth after a close friend fell into a cult and I began to research Christian doctrine. I also began to play piano and minister in other ways in our church as I grew older. I very clearly remember when I was 17 years old, when I was in 11th grade, a Sunday school teacher asked us, “Hey, what’s your dream? What do you want to do in the future?” I answered that I wanted to be a pastor. It was a serious answer, though now I realize I did not know clearly what it meant to be a pastor.

During my college years, I studied microbiology and later anthropology, but I always knew I wanted to be a pastor, so I studied theology alongside these majors. My college years were also a time of



# WELCOME TO VBS 2025



maturing in my faith. Our church was influenced by Tim Keller and his City to City ministry. We tried to teach our congregation to have a gospel-centered view of our faith and the Bible. Through this, I was challenged at the point of pride and self-righteousness. It helped me go back and think about what grace is, what salvation is, and it helped me start to know the gospel is good news for me. It's not just for other people—it's my good news.

There were seminaries in Taiwan and Singapore available to me, but I felt led to search among U.S. seminaries. At that time, I was not a Baptist because my home church was underground and we didn't have any denomination background, but I found Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. I saw a lot of "gospel-centered" phrases on the website like, "We provide gospel-centered theological education. We want to build gospel-centered

churches," and so forth. I graduated in 2020 and was married to my wife, Dan Song, at Third Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville.

Northwest Chinese Baptist Church in Houston is my first pastorate, and I have been here since January 2022. As a young pastor, I am still learning. The example of other, older pastors and other churches has taught me the importance of shepherding God's people with patience, love, grace, and mercy. My ministry is a heritage of so many who have taught me through the years—family, pastors, my seminary professors and president, and men like Tim Keller and Mark Dever.

My grandparents have all passed away now, but my mother and my uncle still keep this family worship as a family tradition every Friday. Following that heritage, my uncle, my cousin, and now me—we three are the only male members remaining in my mother's extended family, and we are all full-time pastors now.



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# Church Positions

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

## PASTOR

**FBC Flat** is prayerfully seeking a bivocational or FT pastor in a rural community. Faithful congregation, financially stable. Parsonage provided. Email resumes to [fbflat.bookkeeper@outlook.com](mailto:fbflat.bookkeeper@outlook.com).

**Freedom Fellowship** in Roanoke is seeking a lead pastor to guide our church into the future. Located in a rapidly growing area, our church is in an excellent position to expand evangelistically in the coming years. Submit cover letter with resume and links to resumes@fforinfo.com. For more information, visit [fforinfo.com/lead-pastor-job-description](http://fforinfo.com/lead-pastor-job-description).

**Tye Baptist Church**, located in a bedroom community of Abilene, is seeking a FT pastor for a congregation averaging 75 in attendance on Sunday mornings. Strong preaching/teaching skills and a shepherd's heart toward pastoral ministry is sought. Parsonage is provided. Mail resume to P.O. Box 235, Tye, Texas 79563.

**Cherokee Baptist Church** is seeking a FT pastor to shepherd our congregation through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and lead in carrying out the Great Commission. Submit resume to [cbchurchpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:cbchurchpastorsearch@gmail.com) or mail to Cherokee Baptist Church, Attention Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 117, Cherokee, Texas 76832.

**Trinity Pines Baptist** in Trinity is seeking a FT pastor who is passionately devoted to expository preaching, outreach visitation, relationship building, disciple-making, and has a servant's heart. Worship style is contemporary. Salary range: \$42,000 to \$48,200. Parsonage & utilities provided. Submit resumes to [tpbcsearch@gmail.com](mailto:tpbcsearch@gmail.com) until Nov. 15.

**Rock Hill Baptist Church** is seeking a FT pastor. RHBC, the oldest SBC church in Henderson County with 2,300 members, is located between Brownsboro and Chandler. It is associated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Preaching and pastoral experience are required. Email resume to [kevin@rockhillbc.com](mailto:kevin@rockhillbc.com).

**Timber Crest Baptist Church** is seeking a FT pastor for an SBTC-affiliated church. Located at 1625 Crow Drive, Waco, Texas 76705. Our church secretary is in her office Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Call 254-799-5551 to receive information about the position.

**United Baptist Church** in Laredo is seeking a FT senior pastor who is a servant leader with vision and passion for people and for God's work. Needs strong bilingual communication skills in English and Spanish, at the pulpit and interpersonally. Call 956-727-7729 for more information. Email resume to [ubcinlaredo@gmail.com](mailto:ubcinlaredo@gmail.com).

**Galveston County Church** in Hitchcock is seeking a FT shepherd with a vision and leadership skills as defined in God's Word to guide us to reach our world for Christ. Please email resume to [gccsearchteam24@gmail.com](mailto:gccsearchteam24@gmail.com).

**FBC Hemphill** is seeking a FT pastor. The role of the pastor is to place God first, love Jesus, and be a born-again believer. He should be a strong leader, personable, approachable, and have a compassionate heart to counsel those in need and provide spiritual guidance. Email resume to [home@fbchemphill.org](mailto:home@fbchemphill.org).

**Lone Camp Baptist Church** in Palo Pinto County is seeking a FT pastor. Salary and benefits are flexible and competitive, with a newly remodeled parsonage available for housing. Call Mike Shelton at 817-937-8645 or email your resume to [LCBC24Search@gmail.com](mailto:LCBC24Search@gmail.com).

**Bannockburn Baptist Church** in Austin is seeking a FT senior pastor. Please send inquiries to [pastorsearch@bbcfamily.com](mailto:pastorsearch@bbcfamily.com).

**Brazos Bend Baptist Church** in rural southern Fort Bend County seeks a bivocational pastor who desires to build into a full-time position. We are a small church in an exploding area near the Austin Point development. If interested, send a resume to [bbchchurchpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:bbchchurchpastorsearch@gmail.com).

**FBC Fruitvale** is seeking a bivocational lead pastor for our mid-size church located in a rural East Texas town approximately 65 miles east of Dallas. Our active programs for children and youth each have part-time staff. We also have an active senior adult group. Email resume to [fbcfuitvale@gmail.com](mailto:fbcfuitvale@gmail.com).

**Rehoboth Baptist Church** in Mansfield is seeking a bivocational or FT pastor to grow with us. We are a small KJV church. Our pastor recently retired. If interested, please send a resume to [wksanders@att.net](mailto:wksanders@att.net).

**Winfree Baptist Church** in Orange is seeking a bivocational pastor. We are affiliated with the SBC, with our foundation based on the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. A man with proven experience in ministerial leadership skills, discipleship, and a heart for evangelism, outreach, and missions is desired. Send resume to [pastorsearch@winfreebaptist.org](mailto:pastorsearch@winfreebaptist.org).

**North Oaks Baptist Church** in Spring is seeking a PT or bivocational Spanish ministry pastor. Spanish speaking. Two years experience, two years theological education, or pursuing theological degree. Email resume to [rossjavier2@gmail.com](mailto:rossjavier2@gmail.com).

**Northside Baptist Church** is seeking a FT or bivocational pastor. NSBC is a small, financially secure congregation. We are looking for a pastor committed to the Bible's authority, dedicated to prayer and text-driven exposition. Send resume by mail to Northside Baptist Church, 406 N. 12th, Lamesa, Texas 79331. If you prefer, you may email resume to [northsidebaptistchurchlamesa@gmail.com](mailto:northsidebaptistchurchlamesa@gmail.com).

## MUSIC

**Broadview Baptist Church** in Abilene is seeking a FT contemporary worship minister. Salary with benefits. Please send resumes to [taylor@broadview.church](mailto:taylor@broadview.church).

**FBC Carthage**, a Baptist Missionary Association church dually aligned with the SBTC, is seeking a FT worship leader. Ideally, this man would have a bachelor's degree in a related field and at least 3 years of experience in leading worship. Submit resume to [janet@firstbaptistcarthage.com](mailto:janet@firstbaptistcarthage.com).

**FBC Mt. Vernon** is seeking a FT minister of music. Prefer experience with choir and orchestra. Send resumes to [pepper@fbcmv.com](mailto:pepper@fbcmv.com) and attach video file of service, if available.

**FBC Henderson** is seeking a FT minister of music. Worship service attendance of 500. Music style is a contemporary blend with praise team, praise band, orchestra, and choir. Send resumes to [musicministersearchcommittee@thefbc.org](mailto:musicministersearchcommittee@thefbc.org).

**Wedgwood Baptist Church** is accepting resumes for a FT worship minister. Wedgwood is located at 5522 Whitman Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76133. 817-292-1400. Please send resume to [worshipsearch@wedgwoodbc.org](mailto:worshipsearch@wedgwoodbc.org).

**Inglewood Baptist Church** in Grand Prairie is seeking

a PT or bivocational minister of music. Send resume to [jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com](mailto:jobs@inglewoodbaptist.com).

**FBC Sabinal** is seeking a PT worship leader. Blended worship style. Email [pastorfbcsabinal@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfbcsabinal@gmail.com) if interested.

**LifePoint Church** in Lufkin, a growing church, is seeking a PT worship leader for blended music. We have services Sunday morning and Wednesday night. We have a praise team and numerous musical instruments. We are currently averaging in the 80s on Sunday morning. Email [pastor@lifepointch.org](mailto:pastor@lifepointch.org).

**New Faith Baptist Church** in Aledo is seeking a PT worship leader with required availability for Sunday and Wednesday. Must have the ability to plan, coordinate, and lead worship music for services. Strong performance voice and ability to play a musical instrument is preferred. Contact Donna Boone at [boonedonna1820@gmail.com](mailto:boonedonna1820@gmail.com).

**Fellowship Church** in Royse City is seeking a PT worship leader to grow into a FT position. We are located in a fast-growing community 30 miles east of Dallas. All interested applicants should send resume and videos to Jeff Hays at [jhays@fbrc.org](mailto:jhays@fbrc.org).

**Clay Road Baptist Church** in Houston seeks a PT worship minister to lead our worship ministry. Our worship services are a blend between contemporary music and traditional hymns. Compensation will be based on experience and ability. Please submit your resume and salvation testimony to [rex@clayroad.org](mailto:rex@clayroad.org).

**Western Hills Baptist Church** in Wichita Falls is seeking a bivocational worship pastor to provide spiritual leadership for worship services through a blended worship on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. This could be a FT position if you feel called to youth ministry also. Please send your resume to [whbcwfresume@gmail.com](mailto:whbcwfresume@gmail.com).

**Siloam Baptist Church** in Simms is seeking a bivocational worship leader to serve a growing, multi-generational church that is focused on reaching the community for Christ. For additional information, visit [siloambaptistsimms.com](http://siloambaptistsimms.com) or email [pastorjustinking@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjustinking@gmail.com).

## STUDENTS

**Holly Brook Baptist Church** in Hawkins is seeking a FT youth minister. Email resume to [robby.hargrave@hollybrookbaptist.org](mailto:robby.hargrave@hollybrookbaptist.org).

**FBC Carthage**, a Baptist Missionary Association church dually aligned with the SBTC, is seeking a FT student pastor. Ideally, this man would have a bachelor's degree in a related field and at least 3 years of experience in leading ministry. Submit resume to [janet@firstbaptistcarthage.com](mailto:janet@firstbaptistcarthage.com).

**FBC Borger** is seeking a FT student pastor. Mail resume to FBC Borger, 100 South Hedgecote, Borger, Texas 79007, or email to [nikki@firstborger.com](mailto:nikki@firstborger.com).

**Wellspring Church** in China Spring is seeking a FT student minister. Send resume to [wellspring@ws.church](mailto:wellspring@ws.church).

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

**Meadowbrook Baptist Church** in Rockdale is looking for a FT youth minister that will connect with the students of our community and equip them to grow and practice their faith. Please send resumes to youthsearch@meadowbrookrockdale.org.

**FBC Queen City** is seeking a FT youth minister. Submit resume to youthpastorsearch@fbcqc.org. Visit fbcqc.org for church insights.

**Heights Baptist Church** in Alvin is seeking a FT student pastor. Salary is \$60,000+. Email resume to pastorlee@heightschurch.org.

**Calvary Baptist Church** in San Marcos is seeking a FT student minister. Salary is based on experience and personal finance requirements, such as family size. Applicants may send their resume to dennis@calvarysanmarcos.com. A subsequent interview with pastor and staff may be scheduled via phone or in person.

**Fellowship Church** in Liberty Hill is seeking a FT youth pastor. Email resume to Tim McIlhany at tim@fellowshipch.com.

**Western Hills Baptist Church** in Wichita Falls is seeking a bivocational youth pastor to provide spiritual leadership for our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and for our outreach to local schools. This could be a FT position if you feel called to music ministry also. Please send your resume to whbcwfresume@gmail.com.

#### CHILDREN

**Woodlands First Baptist** is seeking a FT preschool minister. To apply, visit vanderbloemen.com/job/the-woodlands-first-baptist-preschool-minister.

**West Conroe Baptist** in Conroe is seeking a FT children's minister. Visit vanderbloemen.com/job/west-conroe-baptist-childrens-minister for more information. Email resume to resumes@vanderbloemen.com.

**Oak Grove Baptist** in China Spring is seeking a PT children's ministry director. Email resume to kody@myoakgrovechurch.com.

#### COMBINATION

**Galloway Avenue Baptist Church** in Mesquite is seeking a director of youth/worship associate to assist in worship and lead our youth ministry. If you have a heart for youth and evangelism, the fields

are white unto harvest. Email resume to gary@gallowayavenue.com.

**FBC Brownsville** is seeking a FT student and children's minister who is a committed follower of Christ and strong leader passionate about sharing Jesus and making disciples. We are a conservative, cross-cultural ministry on the Texas/Mexico border. Contact Steve Dorman at stevedorman57@hotmail.com.

#### OTHER

**Grace Bible Church Midtown Campus** in Bryan/College Station is seeking a FT teaching pastor. For more information, visit vanderbloemen.com/job/grace-bible-church-midtown-teaching-pastor. Email resume to resumes@vanderbloemen.com.

**Second Baptist School** in Houston is seeking a FT head of schools. To submit resume, visit vanderbloemen.com/job/second-baptist-school-head-of-schools.

**Cross City Church** in Euless is searching for a FT film & story associate to craft moving stories using video & film formats. Please submit your resume to hr@crosscity.church.

**Cross City Church** in Euless is searching for a FT communication assistant & project coordinator to provide admin support & project management to our Comms Dept. Please submit your resume to hr@crosscity.church.

**Grace Life Baptist** in NW Houston is seeking a FT director of discipleship & worship ministries. Position will oversee adult ministries, midweek small groups, and weekly worship. Grace Life is a multi-ethnic, Christ-centered, gospel-driven church that practices meaningful membership & consecutive expository preaching. Weekly attendance: 300+. Send resume to jmosier@gracelifebaptist.org.

**FBC Brownsville** is seeking a Christian school director for our mission-minded, conservative Baptist church serving on the Texas/Mexico border. This person will oversee our K3-12<sup>th</sup> fully accredited Christian school. Contact Steve Dorman for further details at 956 266-2982.

**FBC Paris** is seeking an experienced interim director of administration to oversee church operations and lead office staff. Schedule is 32 hours weekly, Monday

through Thursday. Interim administrator would be eligible for director role when created. Send resume to john.darst@gmail.com.

**Christ Central Baptist Church** in Corpus Christi is seeking a FT associate pastor. Salary package TBD. Website is christcentralbc.com. Email resume including references to Pastor Ralph Green at rgreen.ccbc@gmail.com.

**FBC Keller** is seeking a PT media associate. Please send inquiries to abearden@fbckeller.org.

## Paid Classifieds

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

**FBC Hatfield in Arkansas** is prayerfully seeking a FT or bivocational pastor who preaches the whole counsel of God. A parsonage is provided. Please send a resume and include a link to three recent sermons to FBC Hatfield, P.O. Box 108, Hatfield, Ark., 71945, or email fbchatfield@gmail.com.

#### STUDENTS

**FBC Pineville in Louisiana** seeks a FT student minister to lead our growing ministry to junior high, high school, and college students. With reach into 15 local junior high and high schools attended by our students, two local college campuses, and a nearby vo-tech campus, the potential is great for a thriving ministry. Learn more at [fbcpineville.net/news/student-minister-position-description](http://fbcpineville.net/news/student-minister-position-description).

**Cullendale First Baptist Church in Camden, Ark.**, is seeking a FT or PT worship pastor to lead and develop the music ministry in a way that is consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message. If interested, please send a resume to [cfcmusicsearch24@gmail.com](mailto:cfcmusicsearch24@gmail.com).

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# 3 REASONS TO TAKE SOUL CARE SERIOUSLY

**S**OUL CARE IS A VERY POPULAR SUBJECT among pastors and their advocates, but what does it actually mean? The soul is often used as a synonym for the individual person and commonly translated as “life” (104 times) and “person” (38 times) in the Christian Standard Bible. Basically, soul care is self-care. So why should pastors and church leaders should take soul care seriously?

## 1. Soul care is a scriptural issue

The most important reason to take soul care seriously is because God told us to. In Acts 20:28, Paul says, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.” In 1 Timothy 4:16, Paul tells Timothy, “Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

Pastors who pay attention to their teaching and flock while neglecting their own lives (souls) are ignoring God’s plain-spoken Word. It was Jesus who told us the most important things we will do today and for the rest of our lives is love Him, our neighbors, and ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).

## 2. Soul care is a stewardship issue

A minister’s job description found in 1 Timothy 3–4 compels us to lead our lives, homes, and ministries intentionally. Scriptural soul care is stewarding our limited time and energy instead of always reacting to others’ emergencies and priorities. We are stewards, not saviors, of our churches. Unless Jesus is the true hero of your church, you may be neglecting yourself by over-reaching ministerially.

For example, if you consistently skip the Sabbath because you are afraid

your church will fall apart without you, you have become an enabler instead of an equipper. Instead, deputize your deacons to lead in the care of senior adults. Help the dads in your church embrace their role in discipling their own kids.

Since Jesus is our king, we need to make sure He alone is the hero of His local church and our homes. At the height of his popularity, John the Baptist made it crystal clear to the crowd: “I am not the Christ” (John 1:20). Is that the message you are giving your church?

## 3. Soul care is a strategic issue

You are likely familiar with the following instructions offered by flight attendants before a plane takes off: “Should the cabin lose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the overhead area.

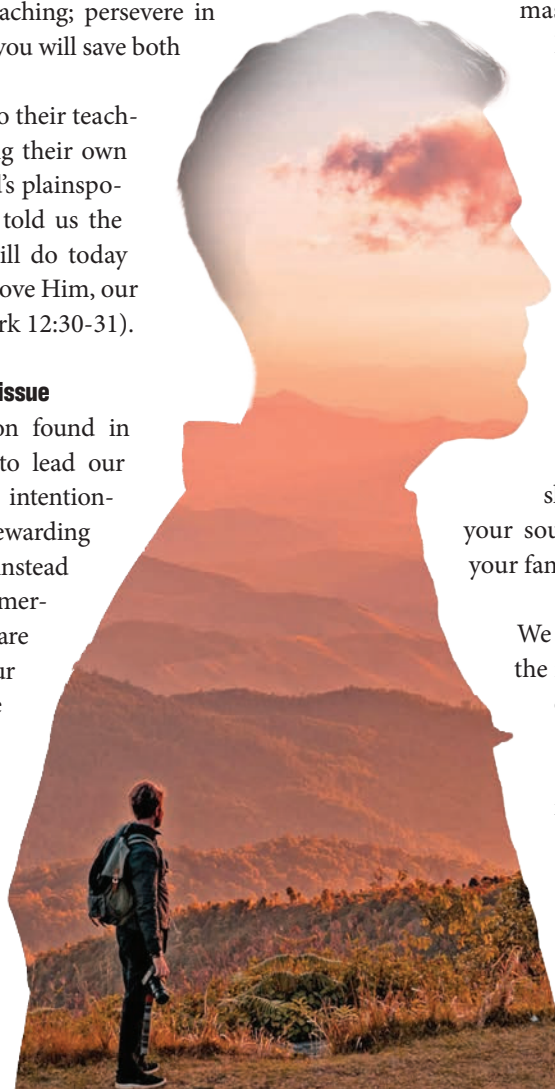
Please place the mask over your own mouth and nose before assisting others.” Those instructions are important because you cannot help anyone on an airplane if you have passed out in your seat. Pastor, you can’t help anyone from the pulpit if you are passed out in the parsonage.

It is crucial for us as pastors to discern the difference between denying ourselves (biblical) and neglecting ourselves (unbiblical). Neglecting ourselves to help others is short-sighted. Pay better attention to your soul so you can pay better attention to your family, ministry, and self.

We practice soul care when we recapture the rhythm of work and rest God strategically put into place on the first day of creation. We practice soul care when we stop stress-pastoring through ministry week after week. We practice soul care by leading our families and ministries as though we are not the hero of either.



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](https://sbtexas.com/events) or scan the QR code



**NOV. 11-12**

Sagemont Church, Houston

## NOVEMBER

- 4** Bivo Pastors Network Remote Gathering
- 9** Crossover Houston
- 10-11** Sesión en Español, de la Reunión Anual, Houston
- 11** Interim Pastor Equipping, Houston



**DEC. 1-8**

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
Week of Prayer

## DECEMBER

- 5-8** Student Ministers Getaway, Austin



**JAN. 7-9**

Houston's First Baptist Church

## JANUARY

- 7** Regensis One-Day, Corpus Christi
- 10-11** M3 WKND, Houston
- 13** Evangelism Connections (online)
- 17-18** M3 WKND, DFW
- 18** Equip West Texas, Lubbock
- 21** Regensis One-Day, Abilene
- 21, 23** Tax Seminars (online)
- 25** Women's Roundtable Conversations (multisite)
- 27** Bivo Pastors Network Regional Gathering, Waco
- 28** Regensis One-Day, Diboll
- 1/31-2/1** Women's Ministry Leadership Summit

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