

## From the SBTC

### We are confessional

The SBTC is a confessional fellowship. The current Baptist Faith and Message (2000) is our statement of faith. Affiliated churches and ministries express their agreement by affirming the BFM2000. This provides a set of parameters. Every affiliated church or ministry is assured they are connecting with a group of like-minded believers.

## We are cooperative

The SBTC gives the highest percentage (55%) among state conventions out of budgeted receipts to the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBTC supports SBC agencies and ministries in North America and around the world. The SBTC invests the Texas budget allocation (45%) to assist in church planting, evangelistic efforts and strengthening existing churches. Colleges and family ministries also receive funding.

## We are responsive

The SBTC Disaster Relief Ministry has aided in disasters from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to Hurricane Harvey of 2017. They were the first to respond to Harvey and of the last to leave. The Disaster Relief Ministry's purpose is to prepare, equip, train and mobilize churches and volunteers to fulfill the Great Commission by meeting real needs and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ to those whose lives have been impacted by disasters.

### We are committed

The SBTC is committed to provide ministry assistance to the local church. Whether it is small groups, Sunday School, Women's Ministry, Ethics and Religious Liberty, Student Camps, Pastoral Care or over 100 different local church ministries the SBTC staff is dedicated to help the church be gospel centered.

The staff of the SBTC is here to serve you our pastors and churches. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can serve you.



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## FEBRUARY 24-25

**Irving Convention Center** 

## EMPOWER CONFERENCE



**MATT Boswell** 



Charles Jr.



**RONNIE** Floyd



**ROBBY Gallaty** 



**JOHNNY** Hunt



**LECRAE** 



**MARK** Lowry



**FRED** Luter



**CAREY Nieuwhof** 



**JEN** Wilkin

more



sbtexas.com/empower



## **Equipped at Equip**

y name is Adam Mathews and I am the pastor of Nolan River Road Baptist Church in Cleburne. We are a growing church that you can probably relate to when it comes to training ministry leaders and volunteers. We initially began attending the EQUIP Conference as a training for our Sunday School leadership and teachers.

Anyone can buy a new book, Google the latest statistics, read Dr. Rainer's latest synopsis of trends, and so on. Those are the kinds of things you can and maybe should be doing. But, the EQUIP Conference is different because you are able to select which breakout sessions will bring the most to your church, with the obstacles that you are facing and want to overcome. For us, the Sunday School leadership and teachers of Nolan River Road Baptist Church, it was about more than just information. It was about our unique situation.

Our church ended up sending any leader or teacher who wanted to go, and the leaders and teachers were able to pick and choose which sessions they felt that they needed to attend the most. They ended up asking themselves these kinds of questions:

- 1. Where do I need to grow the most, in this season of ministry?
- 2. Where am I trying to see this ministry go in the future?
- 3. What would I like to see this ministry accomplish through our local body of believers?
- 4. What can I do, as a leader or teacher, in order to see these things happen?

The leaders and teachers selected the breakout sessions that would help them the most, which meant that they were excited about the sessions they attended because it focused in on their specific need. Some of the teachers were focusing on senior adults, some on youth ministry, some on Sunday school leadership. Our leaders and teachers were able to ask questions



in the breakout sessions and gain insight for their specific situation. As a pastor, I am grateful that our leaders were able to gain fresh insight and perspective from people who are being used of the Lord in big ways and then bring it back to our church!

We have since expanded our use of the EQUIP Conference. We still take our Sunday School leadership and teachers, but we also have every department in our church attend. Last year we were able to attend sessions that ranged in topics from Sunday School, to church finances, to worship, to being a multicultural church body, to church bylaws and more.

In one day, even if I had the know-how and experience, I could not have trained my church leaders in so vast an array of topics as they were able to receive from the EQUIP Conference. I saw many pastors from sister churches there that I am close to as well. They too were taking advantage of this impactful resource and opportunity provided by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

"The EQUIP Conference has secured its place onto our church calendar for years to come. With every leadership event, training seminar, and ministry workshop jockeying for your attention and attendance you may wonder about the kind of impact you could expect from the EQUIP Conference. Allow me to briefly share my experience as a valid expectation of what you can receive at the EQUIP Conference."

## leadership training for all aspects of ministry



## **AUGUST 8**

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth

**8:45**AM-**3**PM Breakouts for staff, volunteers & lay leaders in these areas of ministry:

- preschool/children
- NextGen
- preteen
- student/collegiate
- adult sunday school
- adult home groups
- + single adult

- + men
- + women
- discipleship
- + family
- communication & tech
- worship
- + evangelism

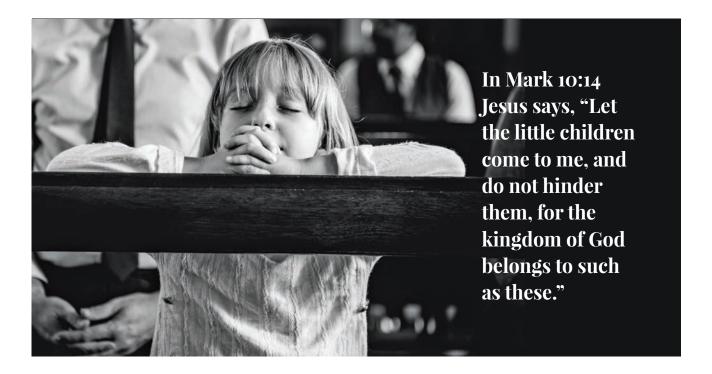
- + leadership
- library
- pastoral
- + missions
- en español
- asian equipping churches
- + black equipping churches

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



sbtexas.com/equip

## We can talk to God!



rayer is an essential spiritual discipline for Christians. This means children's ministry teachers must be careful and diligent to teach prayer to children in their care. Teachers can model prayer for their class, give kids occasions to learn how to pray, and teach that God wants to hear from them. The Bible tells us Jesus has an exceptional love for children. In Mark 10:14 Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Teachers need to communicate

to children that God values them as precious and desires for them to come near to him.

### **Modeling Prayer**

Teachers who model prayer to children help them understand the importance and the process of praying. As children's ministry teachers pray it is important to demonstrate humility and reverence for God. This teaches children that prayer is not a time to act silly but to speak respectfully to God. Teachers should also model prayer by using words children understand but slowly introducing new vocabulary for them to use in prayer.

Introduce new words slowly and teach children how to use them when talking to God. For example when teachers explain words of thanksgiving it is helpful for children to hear their teachers consistently thank God using these words of thanksgiving. As children learn words of thanksgiving, praise, and other types of wording they understand prayer is not only conversing with God but thanking him and praising him.

## Prayer Learning Opportunities

Teachers can encourage prayer in their church class-

rooms in several ways. One option is to provide a prayer box for children to write prayer requests anonymously. Children are comforted knowing their teachers are praying for their specific needs during the week. Also, many children enjoy speaking in groups, so giving them the opportunity to pray at circle time is a way children learn how to pray. Children can also gather in small groups to share prayer requests and pray for each other. Finally, some teachers enjoy using a journal to keep track of the class' prayer requests, praises, and answered prayers.

#### **Teach Kids God Cares**

Teaching children that God cares helps them understand the importance of communicating with him. When a child gets hurt in class or talks about getting hurt at school or home, take the time to stop and pray for this child. In the act of pausing all activity, teachers create a rhythm of turning to God in moments of pain. This teaches kids God cares about each little scrape or bump. Additionally, teachers can stop and pray with their class when someone shares the news of a child's family going through difficult times. Teachers

can encourage the child affected that God has his hand on them during this difficult time. Children need to see that adults turn to God when there are moments of praise as well. Teachers should make it a habit to thank God for all the blessings the children in their class receive. They should give God credit for praises such as babies born, parents' new jobs, family members healed of sickness, and other good news which is shared.

God listens to the prayers of children. It is our responsibility as teachers, ministers, volunteers, and parents to teach our children how to pray.



September 17 Houston's FBC



sbtexas.com/family



October 1
Prestonwood BC, Plano



sbtexas.com/family



March 7
SWBTS, Fort Worth
for Heart of the Child attendees



## The Heart of the Child Conference

What is the Heart of the Child Conference? It is a conference with the primary focus of training preschool, children's and family ministry leaders, teachers and volunteers.

What is unique about this children's conference? It is led by three state conventions: the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and LifeWay Christian Resources. These Southern Baptist entities come together to plan and pool financial resources to provide an excellent conference at a lower cost for these various children's and family leaders.

When is the conference? March 6-7, 2020.

Where will the conference be held? Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Historically, the conference has been held at First Baptist Church Broken Arrow, Okla., but for the first time in the history of the conference it will be held in Texas. The conference meets every other year. The plan is to return to Oklahoma in 2022, then back to Texas in 2024.

Who are the keynote speakers for the conference?

David Thomas L.M.S.W. is the Director of Family Counseling at Daystar Counseling Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee. He is the coauthor of eight books, including the best-selling *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys* and *Are My Kids on Track?* 



The 12 Emotional, Social & Spiritual Milestones Your Child Needs to Reach. He is a frequent guest on national television and podcasts, including his own with Sissy Goff and Melissa Trevathan called "Raising Boys and Girls." David has been featured in publications like USA Today, and speaks across the country. He and his wife, Connie, have a daughter, twin sons and a feisty yellow lab named Owen. David is a favorite speaker among children's ministers.

Sissy Goff M.Ed., LPC-MHSP, is the director of child and adolescent counseling at Daystar Counseling Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee. Sissy spends most of her days talking with girls and their families. She also speaks to



parents across the country and is the author of 11 books including *Raising Girls* and her newest books, *Raising Worry-Free Girls* and *Braver, Stronger, Smarter* (for elementary school girls) which will be released in September of 2019. Sissy is a regular contributor to various podcasts and publications, including their own podcast called "Raising Boys and Girls." She is a favorite speaker among children's ministers.

Mark Jones is the children's pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. He is the founder of "Mr. Mark's Classroom," an online leadership development and teacher-resource company. Mark also works for the Baptist



General Convention of Oklahoma as the childhood education specialist. He is known in children's ministry circles as an exceptional, creative, and talented speaker, teacher, author and leader.

Adam Greenway is the newly elected president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is widely known in Southern Baptist circles as a committed evangelist and serious scholar. He has co-edited two books—*The* 



Great Commission Resurgence: Fulfilling God's Mandate

in Our Time and Evangelicals Engaging Emergent: A Discussion of the Emergent Church Movement—and has contributed to several others. Before becoming the president of SWBTS he served as dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Greenway has served Southern Baptists as the chairman of the LifeWay Christian Resources' Board of Trustees, assistant parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention and in other positions. Above all, he is a gifted preacher and will be bringing God's word to our worship time.

Who are the members of the leadership team? Lance Crowell, family ministry associate Southern Baptists of Texas Convention; Karen Kennemur, children's ministry associate, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention; Mark Jones, childhood education special-

ist, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; Emily

Smith, children's specialist Arkansas Baptist State

Convention, and Bill Emeott, lead childhood ministry specialist, LifeWay Christian Resources.

How do we register for the conference? Heartofthechild.net.

#### Are there any discounts offered?

- 1. The children's minister is free when five or more people register.
- 2. Senior pastors attend the conference free of charge.
- 3. Other early registration discounts may be found on the website.

**Are meals included in the cost?** Yes, dinner on the March 6 and lunch on March 7. In addition, the SBTC is hosting an optional breakfast on March 7 for up to 200 people. The cost is free. More information is available on the website.

If you have any questions please contact Karen Kennemur at kkennemur@sbtexas.com. We hope to see you on March 6-7.



## March 6-7

**Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** Fort Worth, Texas

Preschool, Children's & Family Ministry Leadership Conference

Keynotes





Sponsored by Southern Baptists of Texas Convention • Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Arkansas Baptist State Convention • Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma • LifeWay Christian Resources



## Steps to Create a Positive, Multi-Ethnic Classroom Environment



he first step in creating a positive, multi-ethnic environment in a Sunday school class is to have the teacher or leader address his/her own heart. It is important for him/her to have a heart for including all children, from all backgrounds, in their class. It is also crucial that a teacher or leader is not partial to children of a same ethnic background as himself or herself. Jesus made it very clear in the Great Commission that his followers were to "make disciples

of all nations. The purpose of the local church is to fulfill the Great Commission. Therefore, the purpose of children's ministry is to transform the lives of children and families with the gospel and teaching them to follow all Christ has commanded them. This purpose is not partial to one ethnicity, race or socio-economic status, but is for every ethnicity and every nation. Teachers and leaders in children's ministry need to have a heart that mirrors the heart of Jesus. He had a heart for all the nations, and he expects nothing less of his followers.

The second step is to make clear the classroom rules that ensure the children love one another despite physical or cultural differences. The rule may be written similar to this: "We are to treat everyone with kindness and love them like Jesus loves us." Go over the rules with the children on a regular basis, making sure they understand what it means to love 'everyone." Ask the children questions like, "What if they do not talk like me? What if they do not look like me? What if they do not act like me? Am I still supposed to love them?" After every question,

## Teachers and leaders [need] to educate themselves on the cultures and ethnicities of the children in their class.

answer with an emphatic, "Yes." Make sure the standard of love, kindness, and respect for others is being set in the classroom.

The third step is to expose children to different cultures in their surrounding communities and throughout the world. Show them there are more cultures than their own. Teach them it is important for everyone to know the saving love of Jesus, no matter where they live, what they look like, or how they act. If the classroom consists of one ethnicity,

it is even more crucial to expose them to different cultures. This will be beneficial to the classroom environment. If a student with a different ethnicity joins the class, the culturally aware children within the class will be able to welcome the new student with open arms.

The fourth step is to assess the toys and materials in the class-room. How many races are represented in the books, pictures, and toys used by the children? If there is only one, there is a

great disparity in the classroom environment. Multiple ethnicities need to be represented in visual objects. Children need toys and pictures to associate with themselves. If they do not see anything similar to them, they may feel like they do not belong.

Finally, the last step of creating a positive, multi-ethnic classroom is for teachers and leaders to educate themselves on the cultures and ethnicities of the children in their class. The more they know about the children they are teaching, the better they can relate to them. Relating to children is an important aspect of teaching and will help teachers to adjust their teaching styles to better meet the needs of their students.

# children's MINISTRY NETWORK

## We want to connect with you!

Designed for preschool and children's ministers seeking to expand their ministries, this network provides support through conferences, training, consultations, and curriculum.

Email us, we want to include you in our network.



SBTC Children's Associate Karen Kennemur kkennemur@sbtexas.com

sbtexas.com/children

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



Explore the armor of God, with four lessons focusing on each of the six elements of spiritual armor outlined in Ephesians 6, 24 lessons in all.

Designed for families to use at home, with applications for children, infants through teenagers.

Available for free in our family app, as a free digital download, or purchase a printed copy through sbtexas.com.

## sbtexas.com/armorofgod

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving



## Resource for Educating Kids on Missions in Texas

- ★ A resource for educating kids on missions happening in Texas
- ★ Features videos and stories that highlight missions in Texas
- ★ Great component for summer programs, VBS missions rotation, mission moments, Wednesday night or Sunday programs

Download the curriculum and videos at

sbtexas.com/missions4kids

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



## **SBTC State VBS Trainings**

### March 21

- Spring BC, Spring
- Southcrest BC, Lubbock

## March 28

- Friendly BC, Tyler
- University BC, San Antonio



sbtexas.com/vbs

Check the website for complete list of tracks offered at each location.

## Bible Drill

+ SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT

## **April 17-18**

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

## **April 24-25**

Spring Baptist Church, Spring

## Mau 1-2

First Baptist Church, Odessa

## May 16 SBTC State Finals

SBTC Office, Grapevine

Bible Drill is a Southern Baptist Convention program involving older children, youth and high school students in systematic memorization and location of certain scriptures. The Speakers Tournament provides opportunities for high school students to write and deliver a four-to-six minute biblical speech on provided topics.

SBC churches are welcome to participate in the regional and state finals competitions provided by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention through Cooperative Program giving.

..... 2020 is GREEN

**CHILDREN** Grades 4-6

YOUTH Grades 7-9

HIGH SCHOOL Grades 10-12

YOUTH SPEAKERS TOURNAMENT Grades 10-12

sbtexas.com/bibledrill

## The Death of Family Ministry at the Most Dangerous Time

he family is in a state of chaos in today's culture. Gender is now fluid and often separated from biology, marriage has been opened to same-gender individuals and the unique roles of moms and dads have been largely lost. Not too many years ago, family ministry was a popular focus in many church circles to combat these changes in the culture. Books were being written at a pretty fast pace, conferences like D6 were on the upswing and people were talking about faith at home and the family. Many churches developed kiosks in their lobby providing resources families could come and peruse based on their needs.

In just a few short years, things have changed. Many of those kiosks now collect dust. Family ministry events and resources are struggling to stay relevant in many churches. To be frank, this is no longer what people are talking about or even focusing on. Is this an indication of how much progress churches have made helping families? Is this because there are more important things for the church to focus on than the family? Beyond the gospel, there are not many aspects more essential to the spiritual development



and the strength of the local church than helping families. Teaching the children of God to live out the good news in their lives and pass the gospel on to the next generation in their homes is irreplaceable. In truth, family ministry has become a passé notion to many pastors and leaders. The questions arise: What happens now? How can churches refocus on the need to aid families along their faith path?

The reinvention or reinvigoration of "family ministry" would most likely lead to short-term change, but a clear focus to disciple and develop families in the church must remain at the center of every church's ministry. Here are four basic steps churches can take to

ensure this ministry stays central to their vision:

#### 1. Don't Listen to the Noise

Just because many leaders have ceased an active focus on family ministry does not mean that each individual church should stop focusing on families. The culture is attacking the home at an unprecedented level. Many households are falling apart, and the church must continue to love, lead and develop families. Southern Baptists must be attentive to the building up the next generation and that begins by aiding families to develop faith at home.

#### 2. Know Families Deeply

One of the greatest things the

leadership of the church can do is get to know the families in the church. No, not the casual and surface-level conversations which often happen on Sunday morning, but conversations so you can get to truly know them. The church leadership should not be the last to know about a couple considering divorce. They need to be engaged with families to such an extent that on the front end of marital issues, they are able to interact and encourage them.

#### 3. Provide Simple Steps

Most families are busy and feel overwhelmed. They struggle to focus on changes they need to make. In addition, they often don't know what to do first. Churches must work to provide basic and attainable spiritual steps for families to follow which allow them to make spiritual progress.

### 4. Evaluate Regularly

Churches often struggle to evaluate the progress they are making. Questions like: Are the lives of families changing in the church? Are they becoming more connected to the church with better attendance? Are they serving more? Are there "God stories" about life change working their way through the church? These are difficult to quantify but are a regular part of true-life transformation churches must evaluate

and ask on a regular basis.

The widespread focus on family ministry may be a thing of the past for most churches. Chasing the latest trends and popular topics of the day is a fleeting and often fraudulent approach. Churches must stay focused on the needs of their people and their families. With so many plateaued and declining, it is essential for churches to focus on the foundational components. There are plenty of areas for churches to grow. That being said, helping families must remain central to the ministry of churches today and for generations to come. The SBTC Family Ministry can help with resources like these. www.sbtexas.com/family.



Designed for Every Family

life applications for children infant through teenager

- Library of Family + Marriage Helps
- Family Devotionals
- How-To's for Family Devotions
- Marriage Devotionals

A Free Resource

Search: SBTC Family

sbtexas.com/familyapp







**amazon**kindle

## Why Summer Camps? Do They Still Work Today?





hristian summer student camps have a long storied history in the church world, especially the Southern Baptist Convention. Many pastors, leaders and lay people still tell stories of their times of going to camp as teenagers with their friends, hearing the gospel, and how their lives were changed. Culture has shifted so fast in recent years as we no longer live in a Christianized culture but

a post-Christian culture. Many people ask the question: Do camps still work today and what is their future?

In nine years at the SBTC we've seen our student camps, called "M3:Moment, Mission, Movement" grow from one camp starting in 2010 with 600 students in attendance to four camps with close to 4,000 students in attendance, plus their leaders. Since then over 1,000 students have given their lives to Jesus! The past several years we've seen the

Holy Spirit move countless times in miraculous ways as students have had moments with Jesus that led to movements of God in their communities and cities back home. Here are five reasons why we believe in camp and why you should take your students to camp:

## 1. Camp is a refuge for students

Many students today have fractured families, dark home structures and environments. One

student told me at camp, "I love camp because it is so much better than my home environment." Camp is a chance for students to get away from brokenness for a while and experience loving, and Christ-centered community where they will receive the truth and tools to go back and impact their home environment.

### 2. Camp is a soul-detox

Detox is a strong word, why use it? With social media and smart devices, students are dealing with sensory overload and are bogged down with too much information. Many experts and creators When students come to camp where their phone use is restricted and limited, they can spend undistracted time with the Heavenly Father and hear from him through his Word.

of smart devices have admitted that the human brain isn't made to look at artificial light for 24 hours a day. With their phones in their bedrooms, many students are staying up all night on social media. Experts and doctors say this is leading to depression and anxiety in students, creating more brokenness. This makes camp more necessary than ever. The

Bible says Jesus often escaped the crowds and went into the wilderness to spend time with the Father showing us the necessity and importance of getting away to experience the Father. When students come to camp where their phone use is restricted and limited, they can spend undistracted time with the Heavenly Father and hear from him through his



june 15-19

highland lakes, spicewood

june 22-26

camp zephyr, sandia july 6-10

highland lakes, spicewood

july 14-18

glorieta, new mexico

## For the unchurched student with no Godly influence, camp is even more vital as they get to be around Christ-centered influences for the first time.

Word. We are seeing serious life-transformation happen in the camp environment. One young lady came into the week of camp with a pornography addiction through her laptop. During the week of camp, Jesus transformed her heart and after camp she got rid of her laptop and began pursuing Jesus. One year later she is still free from addiction and has led many of her friends to Christ and started Bible studies in her school and community.

## 3. Camp is instrumental in discipleship

When I was a student, I had about three adults that poured into my life on a weekly basis that made all of the difference, but before that it was my experience with camp that drew me into a daily pursuit of Jesus. Today at 32 years of age, I still do a quiet time everyday where I pray and study the Bible. I first learned and experienced this at youth camp when I was 14. I surrendered to vocational ministry at the age of 16 at a youth camp. For students, camp can be that benchmark moment that propels them into a daily walk with Jesus, which will lead them to starting movements of Jesus. Camp is a

place where spiritual disciplines can be learned and practiced in an undistracted environment. We want students to taste and see that the Lord is good so they will follow him the rest of their lives. Camp also exposes students to some of the strongest Christian leaders in the nation. This outside influence is a great reinforcement to what their parents, pastors, student pastors and adult leaders are teaching them on a weekly basis. For the unchurched student with no Godly influence, camp is even more vital as they get to be around Christ-centered influences for the first time.

## 4. Camp is an evangelism strategy

In a post-Christian world many students are less likely to go to a church building for an event. They are more likely to go if they trust a friend or have friends that go there. We've seen that camp is a fun escape that many un-reached students will go to when their friends invite them. A lot of churches use camp as a time to bring un-churched students to hear the gospel. Camp doesn't have to be just discipleship or just evangelism focused. It can be a combina-

tion of both in one week. At our camps we equally challenge both churched and unchurched students. There is something that every student can walk away with. Our prayer is that students that don't know Jesus will go back home with a relationship with Jesus. Camp is a great place to celebrate the gospel and be intentional with the message. It's a great opportunity for response times to be given and spaces provided where students can talk to adults and each other about how God is moving in their lives.

## 5. Camp is a Kingdom Gathering

Students desire to be a part of something bigger than them. This is one of the most cause-oriented generations. It's important for them to see that the world is bigger than their local context. It's inspiring for them to be gathered in room with hundreds or thousands of other students from different parts of the state or nation that are going through the same things they are and are experiencing the same call from Iesus that they are. When churches from different local contexts gather together to inspire each other and to reach a generation together that is the kingdom of God. This is a great way to teach them how important Christian cooperation is such as the Cooperative program of the SBC and SBTC. God uses these moments to inspire passion and creativity to reach the state, nation and the world!



4 cities, 1 weekend to reach 6 million teens

Jan 17-18 San Antonio

Jan 19-20 Dallas, Houston, Amarillo

sbtexas.com/m3



**AUGUST 3-7** 

Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose

Students who have completed six through twelfth grade are challenged to develop and strengthen their relationship with Christ through his Word. Youth Week is a high-energy camp experience that includes fun-filled activities, inspiring worship services, team building times and biblical seminars.

It is our goal to see students return to their homes transformed into devoted followers of Christ.

sbtexas.com/youthweek

## The Reason Your Church is not Reaching College Students

get the great privilege of watching churches and ministries in Texas from a 30,000-foot view. It's really a position of grace. I get to learn and see how churches are reaching college campuses all over the state that most people don't get to see. I've learned quite a bit from this role. I think more than anything I've learned a few principles to reaching college campuses with the gospel.

There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to reaching a campus. We must contextualize, but I do believe there are some evergreen principles out there. One of the reasons your church may not be reaching college students is that it is simply not meeting the college students where they are. A principle I've seen in churches with significant spiritual impact on campus is that they don't wait for college students to come to them; the church goes to them.

I've been researching churches affiliated with the SBTC that are in a five-mile radius of the 22 most strategic campuses in Texas and very few are having a deep impact on the college campus next door. Why is that? I would argue in most cases they are not going to



the campus. Some of this may be out of lack of leadership, fearful of ideas coming out of the university, or the belief that college students don't produce enough ROI. Whatever the reason might be, many churches aren't going to the campus.

If we are to reach the most strategic mission field we need to recalibrate the way we reach them. In most cases, the days are gone of the come-and-see model. We must go to them.

This may seem scary, but it's really not; not when we do ministry the way Jesus did. If God is a missionary God then we are a missionary people. We go. Is there risk? Yes. Will it cost resources? Yes, but not much. Is it worth it? Yes. A great first step to take in order to go to the campus is to ask: "How can we add value to this campus?"

## What needs can we meet in order to add value to the campus?

Before you meet a need, make sure it's a need. Pray for your campus and study it. What is the mission statement? What is administration trying to accomplish? What are students trying to accomplish? Ask the Lord where you can begin to minister to your campus. And remember, you're there to love and serve people regardless if they come to faith in Jesus or not.

#### In what areas do students need help?

This could be move in, tutoring, coffee during mid-terms and finals, or even food. Meeting these needs adds value to the student body. It also creates relational equity between the church/ministry and the student body. Don't just plug-and-play a need, but pray and seek how God wants your church or ministry to

uniquely minister to the students; and if you need help, just ask the students "How can we help you?"

#### In what areas does administration need help?

What is it that your local campus is looking to accomplish? What is their mission statement and values? Approach them and ask "How can our church/ministry help you carry out your mission statement and values?" Take a posture of humility and ask the campus how your church can help fulfill what they're doing. Just as with the students, this will create relational equity between the church/ministry and the university

#### **Practical insight**

When we begin to think of reaching the campus by this principle, the church/ministry goes from being a stranger, and even competitor, to a loving neighbor. We start to look a whole lot more like Jesus.

# collegiate

Texas has over 450 colleges and universities with nearly two million students. That's alot! These students are leaders of today and tomorrow. They are both moldable and malleable. What is impressed upon them today sets the trajectory of the rest of their days.

Connect with SBTC Collegiate to reach the campus, develop leaders and build the kingdom.

@sbtccollegiate





sbtexas.com/collegiate

## 6 Disciple-Making Helps for Leaders in Established Churches

## I was so busy!

I remember several years ago when I was a youth minister and completely worn out. I was new to the church, attempting to start things and clean up messes. I realized after finishing a big event that was emotionally taxing that I was planning yet another one and drained even thinking about it. The students under my care were largely busy with what I had planned and were soon to be pawns in my next play. But I had to keep going. I needed to keep established events and programs going strong, attend a host of church functions, keep my budget up to date and turn in receipts on Monday. On top of that, I had to prep to teach my next lesson and train leaders. Sigh.

But I wasn't making disciples. I knew I had to make disciples, real disciples. I wanted to see spiritual maturity and not just one more t-shirt. I wanted to see students have depth, to pray, to evangelize. I wanted to see something spiritually tangible at the end of six months or a year. How about you?

Ironically, I knew how to make disciples. I read the books



and had made disciples in the past, but it wasn't translating into my new church.

I was in a full-menu, established church. Established churches have a DNA filled with people hard wired to think a certain way about events and programs based on a long history. Those big events and programs are like giant rocks in a ministry river with attendance,

emotion, money and values anchored deep in the sediment.

You can't just uproot people in a church like this all immediately, nor should you. For most in your church, the scorecard of your job is not how many people you are discipling, but rather how well you keep your programs going. Deep down you know this and you feel the tension.

Don't make excuses that you can't make disciples because of the machinery of the church. Reevaluate your work week and carve out time.

If you find yourself in that tension, here are six practical reminders.

## 1. Know that Jesus didn't uproot all the rocks.

Jesus didn't make his entire ministry the temple. He certainly cleared the temple (John 2:13-22), taught in the temple (Matthew 21-23) and fulfilled requirements (Luke 2:27), but his ministry was very much his

disciples and reaching people. They were with him always, observing and being trained.

We should take the same approach.

If you are in an established church with lots of big rocks to navigate around, don't fret! The beauty of disciple-making is that you don't have to launch a program, or even ask for budget money. You just have to have

passion and courage to start. Don't make excuses that you can't make disciples because of the machinery of the church. Reevaluate your work week and carve out time.

#### 2. Pastor, listen up.

Whether you are a minister leading from the middle or a pastor leading from the top, change is hard.

If you're leading from the middle, talk to your pastor about how you would like to incorporate disciple-making into your ministry area and into the church. Do you know that direction? Does the plan make sense when you explain it to others?

## DISCIPLE MAKING FORUM

April 2
FBC, Colleyville



### Bill Hull

Speaker and author of disciple-making resources including The complete Book of Discipleship and The Disciple-Making Church



### Craig Etheredge

Pastor at First Baptist Colleyville, author and disciple-making speaker

9:30am - 3:30pm • \$10 Lunch Provided

Move all programs to a disciple-making pathway. Most programs and events are never tied to each other. They begin and end in an exhausting fashion, with the purpose of each divorced from one another.

Stop that madness.

You must be as specific as possible. If you're foggy, the pastor will be too. If he's foggy, the church will be too. Have a specific, clear, understandable plan before proceeding.

Ask for the pastor's blessing and guidance. Give any resources you've been reading on the subject. Ask him if there are any specific red flags, he has about the methods you are presenting in making disciples. Listen to any concerns he has and adopt that into your plan. Most likely, he simply wants the full plan and no surprises. Pastors hate being flat footed.

If you are the pastor, do the same with your staff, elders, deacons and other leaders. Staff also hate being flat footed. Share your hopes and dreams in making disciples and the books you are reading. Don't hide this. Put the vision out there for your staff and leadership to understand and join you.

## 3. Start passionately making disciples.

Meet with 2-3 individuals of the same gender each week and begin pouring into them. Make your primary ambition to see these 2-3 grow in incredible ways. This is the heart of disciple-making. As you meet weekly, you will begin to fall in love with discipleship and find what you've been missing in years and months of polishing programs. Let your love for disciple-making become contagious and others will want to get in on what you're doing. It will set the course of your entire ministry.

## 4. Don't get rid of programs, change the direction of them.

Move all programs to a disciple-making pathway. Most programs and events are never tied to each other. They begin and end in an exhausting fashion, with the purpose of each divorced from one another.

Stop that madness.

Instead, explain to all your leadership what the intended purpose of the event is and how this event is designed to lead people to your discipleship pathway.

A discipleship pathway shows the direction of how you want people to move towards spiritual maturity. That pathway will become a strong current as life change starts happening.

For example, at my church we want events to move people to engage the text (hearing the word preached and personal Bible reading), join an Acts 2 Community (Sunday School) and make disciples in a small discipleship group (D-Group). Every event or program moves people towards our path. For example, how does VBS make disciples? We want many people to come to VBS, then to engage the text Sunday morning, join an Acts 2 Community and make disciples in a D-Group. With the path clearly defined, VBS becomes a vehicle for disciple-making rather than two bookends of a single year. Depending upon your position, you may not be able to make a churchwide discipleship path but you can make a pathway in your particular ministry.

Do some programs need to go? Sure. But remember, rocks lift up easier as the current of discipleship gets stronger in the congregation.

## 5. Have disciples join you in the river.

At the heart of disciple-making is training people to do what you do. Use your big rock events and programs as vehicles to train others. Give specific roles to those you are discipling and guide them into service. Have them with you as you lead meetings and train others. When we are intentionally discipling people and prepping for an event, you are adding rapid value to the event, doubling your efforts.

Not only that, but make it a goal to have everyone in any leadership position train someone to do what they do. Intentional training is the secret sauce of discipleship.

## 6. Celebrate and communicate the new values!

Bring up the progress of disciple-making in all staff and leadership meetings. Of course, don't share personal information, but explain what you're doing and why it matters. What growth have you seen? As you demonstrate disciple-making as a serious value, others begin to as well.

Ministries adopt the true values of the minister.

If the values are primarily attendance, decisions, or events, it will be discussed at leadership meetings and celebrated in the congregation. People will begin to follow the cues of leadership.

Ask yourself, "What could happen if everyone on staff added disciple-making into their week as the major component of their job?"

If that question excites you, it's time to get started communicating and celebrating the new DNA of your ministry. Yes, you may be a children's minister. You are not defined by camp or an event, but what you are attempting to

do: make disciples. You may be a youth minister. You are not defined by how many are showing up on Wednesday night, but by your passion: make disciples. If you're a pastor you're not defined by your clever illustrations or leadership pizzazz; you are defined by true pastoral calling: make disciples. Share the stories, asking your team to do the same. Keep that in front of people as much as you can.

Above all, remember that you are called to make disciples. Called. Think about that. You already have the current behind your back pushing you forward. Grab the rudder and get moving.



A free resource that lays the foundation for understanding your identity in Christ and your impact in the world. A great tool to begin a disciple-making ministry or develop new disciples in an already established ministry. For a free copy go to sbtexas.com/rhythms

## Improving Your Women's Ministry Health



ost of us have a physical check-up once a year to evaluate our health and to make sure we don't have any problems or miss any warnings from our body. Sometimes those check-ups require a few changes in our routine and choices to be healthier.

In order to have a growing and healthy women's ministry, it is always good to have a check-up. The best place to start is with your leaders:

## Restore Leaders to Spiritual Health

I have a rose bush that my mother-in-law brought me from Alabama. We planted it in good soil and every year my hubbie prunes it ... sometimes pretty aggressively! We fertilize it and spray for disease. Then in the spring, new leaves and branches come out and flower beautifully! The bush seems to survive the brutal cut-

ting and is restored to its grandeur. We, as leaders, need to do some evaluating and maybe even allow God to do a little pruning to become healthy leaders.

The book of Colossians highlights points for good spiritual health:

- 1. Go to the physician in personal prayer. Stay connected to the source for healthy growth—the life-line—God. Prayer is our source to stay connected to the Lord we serve and to hear from his spirit. Call upon him (Col. 1:9-12).
  - → Pray for knowledge of his will—"real knowledge" not just an impression or feeling but a deep, complete knowledge of his will that is revealed in the Word of God.
  - → Pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding of his will—wisdom is the ability to gather and organize principles from Scripture and to under-

- stand—apply those principals to life.
- $\rightarrow$  Pray for a renewed vision of his will
- → Listen for his voice

## 2. Count your steps in Christ, a walk patterned after his.

- → Step worthy in our actions/ heart attitude pleasing to God, firmly grounded in Christ, seeking God in humility, approaching the Scriptures with a desire to know God and his plan for you.
- → Step worthy by good works (James 2:17-Faith without works is dead).
- → Step worthy by growing. When we are teachable and are constantly seeking, and applying we will grow—kind of like the rose bush, we are being pruned, confessing sin, repenting and growing in faith and knowledge of God

As leaders, we need to allow God to examine our lives and see if we are growing and healthy. We can't pass on something we have not experienced.

that produces fruit evident in our responses to life with fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control, and the fruit of other followers of Christ.

→ Step worthy by exercising his strength, drawn from his might

not our own—In our weakness he is strong.

→ Step worthy by our steadfastness and patience endurance patience to endure difficulties, knowing that they are producing more godliness and steadfastness in dealing with difficult people—being steady, positive, loving consistent in our dealings with others.

→ Step worth by joyously giving thanks. Recognize the source of all the above. Only through his Spirit can any of us walk in a manner worthy of our wondrous Lord! Be thankful for the inheritance promised, which gives us security in our leadership; we know whose we are and where we are going.

As leaders, we need to allow God to examine our lives and see if we are growing and healthy. We can't pass on something we



## 1.11 College Station

Central Baptist Church
Talleres en Español

## 3.21 Longview

Mobberly Baptist Church

## 5.2 Amarillo

The Church at Quail Creek

Provides encouragement for all women, emphasizing training in ministry & leadership. Breakout sessions cover a variety of topics that equip, enrich & give creative ideas to aid them & their ministries.

God's desire is to have women who are following him and leading others to do the same. Give him the opportunity to examine you and your ministry and give direction for changes that may need to take place to be healthy in your life and ministry.

have not experienced. We are all a work in progress; we are all growing, constantly being renewed. Part of that process is giving constant attention to our own walk with the Lord, allowing God to evaluate our hearts, making changes that honor him and then in return encouraging women in our sphere of influence to do the same. In order to lead, we have to be growing, moving forward in our relationship. Sometimes it may feel like you are taking two steps forward and three steps back but rest in knowing that God has begun a good work in you and he is perfecting it. Just like my rose bush, we confess the old sin, and begin again in a new way.

Are you growing as a believer in Christ? What area do you struggle in? What steps needed to grow and be a healthier leader?

## Examine Your Church's Women's Ministries Health

"Before you are a leader, success is about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others."
Jack Welch

Once you have healthy leadership in place, here are steps to grow a healthy women's ministry in your church. If you have a women's ministry, go for a check-up in these areas to see if you are still healthy or in need of some adjustments.

- 1. Choose team leaders that exemplify the same qualities we just reviewed—healthy, growing believers that have special gifts they bring to the group (e.g. one who is organized, one who is creative). SBTC has leadership training all around the state to help equip and enrich your leaders. "Great Leaders are always looking to add the right personality, the right passion, the right skill sets and the right mix of diversity to the organization." Tony Dungy
- 2. Go back to the Word of God, providing solid, sound Bible teaching to the women in your church. SBTC has a library of studies available for you to borrow.

## 3. Pray for God's heart and vision to:

- → engage women of all ages
- → equip women to walk worthy
- → encourage women through accountability and prayer
- $\rightarrow$  expand influence to the lost

Pray through the details to do his ministry in your church. God is into the details of women's ministry. Plan events that have purpose and that have these elements.

- 4. Make discipleship a primary part of your women's ministry. SBTC has online training in discipleship at sbtexas.com.
- 5. Access the needs or reassess needs in your church, asking the Lord to bring to light what can best minister (e.g. parenting for young moms, grief classes for widows, connecting generations, engaging singles).

"Women's ministry harnesses the gifts, skills and resources of women to advance God's Kingdom." Selma Wilson

God's desire is to have women who are following him and leading others to do the same. Give him the opportunity to examine you and your ministry and give direction for changes that may need to take place to be healthy in your life and ministry.

Check out sbtexas.com/women for more helpful information in women's ministry or contact Laura at Itaylor@sbtexas.com.

# Mother + Daughter RETREAT

September 25-26

Lakeland Baptist Church, Lewisville

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

sbtexas.com/women

## WOMEN'S

sbtexas.com/women

### 1.28 Grapevine SBTC Office

3.3 Lubbock Redbud Baptist Church

3.26 Mesquite Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church

3.31 Cedar Hill Hillcrest Baptist Church

4.14 Beaumont First Baptist Church

4.21 Corpus Christi Yorktown Baptist Church

6:30pm • Meal provided

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## Women's Ministry: Discipleship Fever



he almost gave up.

With teary-eyes and a quivering voice, she said, "For almost six years I prayed that God would send someone to me who would teach me how to walk deeper with him. I had prayed for so long with no answer that I thought God was not hearing my prayers. I almost gave up. Then, a woman in my church asked me if I would like to learn how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. She began

to invest in my life and point me toward the kingdom. For this, I will be forever changed and eternally grateful." This is a portion of a bold and unashamed testimony from a precious young wife and mother who is diligently walking, with five other ladies, through a discipleship journey. She is a changed woman, all because of discipleship.

## Discipleship – it's not a Bible study; it's a lifestyle.

For years, I had it all wrong. I thought growing closer to God was all about doing Bible stud-

ies. My shelves are lined with workbooks, journals and printed material designed to take ladies through a six to twelve-week Bible study experience, which is all well and good, but in the end that's it. The end. I would place that completed workbook on the shelf (beside all the others), and go out to purchase the latest study with the greatest reviews, always expecting results that I could never quite obtain. I finally realized I was using the wrong focus to accomplish the end goal. Leading women to study the Bible and develop an intimate relationship

Once I began to lay aside everything else and teach women to develop a relationship with God through his Word first, I started seeing a change in women's hearts like I've never experienced.

with Christ by applying God's truth to their life was my goal, but I was not focusing on the main tool—God's Word.

## I have a heart for women. I also have a heart for God's Word.

The more I minister to women (and people in general), I find that many do not actually read the Word on an engaging level. According to a 2019 Barna research study "State of the Bible" (conducted in January and February), "Bible Centered adults (those who interact with the Bible frequently and it is transform-

ing their relationships and shaping their choices) have decreased from 9 percent to 5 percent in the past year. Additionally, more than one-third of the surveyed adults (35 percent) report never using the Bible in 2019, which is a 10 percent increase since 2011." This helps confirm that where I need to focus is helping women to fall in love with God's Word and read it for themselves. Bible knowledge will not change lives, Bible application will.

## Falling in love with God through his Word is more than filling in the workbook blanks.

Don't hear me incorrectly, I admire great Bible study curriculum writers and various studies developed specifically for women. My desire to see women hunger and thirst for righteousness through studying God's Word has not changed. What has changed is the realization that I have been relying on too many outside sources to take the place of the one source—God's Word. Once I began to lay aside everything else and teach women

## discipleship MINISTRIES

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#### Start making disciples

by beginning with an individual or small group.

#### It's more than learning about God,

it's growing in a relationship with God (worship, Word, prayer) and living that out in the world (missions, evangelism, ministry).

Signup to receive SBTC discipleship updates, resources, event info and other opportunities.

## sbtexas.com/discipleship

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

I failed to teach women how to read the Bible for themselves and read it in such a way to embrace the character of God and make practical application from every page. No more.

to develop a relationship with God through his Word first, I started seeing a change in women's hearts like I've never experienced. I saw the Word literally become Hebrews 4:12 before my eyes: "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

## The power and application of the Word is what changes lives.

I saw the Word of God change the young mother who was mentioned at the beginning of this writing. Little did she know when she started this journey that she would encounter one of the biggest challenges she had ever faced in the life and health of one of her young children. Had she not been in a discipleship group developing the habit of being in the Word every day, memorizing Scripture, being held accountable for the level of her integrity and receiving encouragement and prayer from women who truly loved her, she testifies she believes she would have crumbled. But she didn't. Praise God—she didn't! She stood strong, relied on the faithfulness and provision of the Lord, and in the face of trial and heartache, she ran to God's Word as her stronghold and strong tower where she found comfort and guidance. Her story is only one of many from the ladies who have benefited and been forever changed from participating in a discipleship group—all changed by the Word and the discipleship process.

#### Embrace Jesus' discipleship model.

I have not thrown all Bible study material out the

window, but what I have done and what my church is embracing is Jesus' model of discipleship. For the past year, we have seen discipleship positively change our church. What started out with 12 being trained in how to be a disciple and how to disciple others, has now grown into over 50+ people who are meeting in groups of five or less on a weekly basis. They are reading God's Word throughout the week and following a simple outline of reading with an eye to find a characteristic of God to embrace, a truth to learn, a command to follow or a sin to confess and making these applications in their day-to-day activities. In addition to looking at God's Word through a disciple's lens, they are doing life together. Through the ups and downs, highs and lows, these groups are committed to each other to hold each other up in supportive prayer, hold each other accountable, and hold the Word of God as the standard by which all decisions are made in their personal lives. This is changing marriages, families, workplaces, and churches—for the better. And the best part is still evolving—it is growing!

#### **Discipleship Fever and Duplication**

Our church is catching the discipleship fever. We have seen and experienced enough personal, positive change that we desire to see more people get on board with Jesus' command, "Go and make disciples." We are duplicating ourselves for the kingdom and teaching others to do the same.

Sadly, that is where I missed it for so many years. I was not duplicating myself and I was not teaching others to "go make disciples." I led others through great Bible studies, we all read the same commentary material and studiously filled in the blanks, but I failed to teach women how to read the Bible for themselves and read it in such a way to embrace the character of God and make practical application from every page. No more. I have developed a new mantra. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ who is duplicating herself and teaching others to do the same. I know there are more women out there who are on the brink of giving up who are desperately praying, "God, please send me someone who will teach me."

# 2020 annual meeting

november 9-10 hyde park bc, austin





## **Engaging Men in an Overly Busy Culture**



f your community is like mine, there is always something happening. We live in an overly committed culture.
Family, activities, work and extracurricular activities are all competing for the time and attention of our congregation, especially of men.

#### Consider these statistics:

- → Three out of four American families with school-aged children have at least one playing an organized sport— a total of about 45 million kids.
- → The average man accepts the reality of Jesus Christ, but fails to see any value in going to church.
- → Every weekend parents are on the sidelines with kids of all ages. Ninety percent of parents

attend at least one game a week if their children play sports.

- → More than 90 percent of American men believe in God, and five out of six call themselves Christians. But only one out of six attend church on a given Sunday.
- → Millennials attend church an average of three times a month as compared to the Builder generation, who attended three times a week.

More than 90 percent of American men believe in God, and five out of six call themselves Christians. But only one out of six attend church on a given Sunday.

How do we, as the church and individuals, engage men in an overly busy culture? This is not an article that will totally solve this challenge in your church, but the goal is to give you a few ideas to consider. There is not a silver bullet program which will completely solve the challenge of engaging men. Very few churches have a

vibrant ministry to men. The solution is found in relationships.

Our church's ministry to men is designed to take place within the context of our small groups. We have on-campus and off-campus coed small groups. Within those small groups, the goal is to break down relationships into smaller, same-sex groups. These smaller same-sex groups meet at another time outside the coed group time.

We encourage our men to get in one of these groups, a campus group or men who seek out men to disciple on their own. There needs to be intentionality in inviting other men to be a part of a group. Initially, this may be intimidating to some men. However, men do not have to possess all the answers. They just need to be one step ahead of those they disciple. We have a few resources we encourage our men to use in the off-campus groups: Right Now Media (rightnowmedia.org),



Gives men a proper framework of what it means & what it looks like to be a biblical man. This free resource is designed for men of all ages, single or married. Get your copy of the DVD & leaders guide at SBTEXAS.COM/MEN

"Living the D-Life" (livingthedlife. com) and the Four Priorities book (thetolsongroup.com).

Many of our coed groups have activities outside the church to get men together: fishing, going to the gun range, ax throwing, hunting, eating out, construction projects, etc. These activities provide opportunities where men can invite other men who are not connected in a group. We also have some organized church events, one of which is "Man Church." We do Man Church three to four times a year to bring the small groups of men in the church together to be encouraged and challenged. Man Church also provides an opportunity for these small groups to get together and connect men to groups and the church.

Relationships matter! People make time for what is important to them. If men see the value of relationships, they will create time to get together with other men. Some men are waiting for an invitation to join. Do your men invite un-churched or de-churched men to be part of their group? Are they intentional about building relationships outside of church?

Another way to engage men in a busy culture is to encourage them to redeem their time. In what are they already involved? As a church Relationships matter! People make time for what is important to them. If men see the value of relationships, they will create time to get together with other men.

leader, we need to challenge men to use their time to engage other men. For men who enjoy exercise, invite other men to join in workouts. This is another way to build relationships. If there are some construction projects to be done, invite other men to be a part of the construction team. Most men desire to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They value that in which they can make a difference.

Social media is another relational aspect some of our group leaders use to engage men. These leaders ask questions each week leading up to the group time. The questions go along with the lesson for the coming week. They keep people connected throughout the week and also serve as a way to draw interest to the group study.

The key in engaging men in an overly busy culture is through intentional relationships. Men have to be intentional in reaching out to other men. There are many different ways to communicate: phone

call, text, email and social media. The key is to find out which works best for the person with whom you are inviting. Staff members have to be intentional in setting this example and expectation of men engaging other men.

It all begins with prayer. Have you prayed about who you need to be intentionally inviting to your group or activity? Have you prayed for the men who are influencing other men and young men to be more strategic in their influence? Has the Lord placed someone on your heart and in your mind you need to extend an invitation to join you? If he has, have you been obedient in following through? We must be intentional in building relationships and reaching men for the kingdom. Men are not going to come to our church building just because we have a men's event. Most will come when you invite them and invest in their lives. We must be intentional in building relationships and reaching men for the kingdom!

i. https://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/2014/05/03/how-parents-are-ruining-youth-sports/vbRIn8qYXkrrNFJcsuvNyM/story.html

ii.https://www.activekids.com/football/articles/youth-sports-participation-by-the-numbers

iii. https://churchformen.com/men-and-church/

iv. Reaching the Millennials: Course 3: Millennials, Dropouts, and Generation Gaps, thomrainer.com

v. https://churchformen.com/men-and-church/



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# Why Are Senior Adults Important to the Local Church?

he question is asked, "How do we as a church use our senior adults to minister?" The answer to that question depends on your church and your church structure.

A small to mid-size rural church might have a membership of mostly senior adults. They probably teach Sunday School and perform jobs of responsibility—visiting the hospitals and at-home members, performing maintenance and/or custodial tasks, working in the kitchen or bringing food to the sick, and even helping the pastor with any jobs they can. Senior adults are usually the first to volunteer for a task when asked.

A mid-size church located in the city limits will usually have someone to minister to senior adults. This might be a staff position or a lay person with a heart for ministry. This might be a full-time position, or it could be a part-time position. With a person in charge of senior adult ministry, more activities are usually made available to senior adults. When the senior adult population is regarded as a ministry,



most of the activities for senior adults revolve around ministry with fellowship functions as a part of the ministry and not the whole of the ministry. Seniors are happy to visit others in nursing homes and assisted living facilities as well as the homebound members of their church.

A large church will normally have a senior adult minister as a full-time position. Weekly and monthly activities are planned, publicized and have the budget to accommodate this ministry. Mission trips are sometimes planned as well as mission opportunities to

help the homeless or those in need in the community.

As the three church sizes indicate above, senior adults are needed in all churches. Any size church should utilize senior adults to help out in Sunday School, whether they teach, take roll, make announcements, or provide outreach. Seniors tend to be aware of people's needs and ready to help out by organizing or actually performing the task. Vacation Bible School and youth departments always need volunteers to help out with tasks that senior adults can perform—volunteering as hall

Utilizing the time, resources, and talents of our senior adults to perform ministry in any area of the church encourages them by making them feel useful and appreciated.

monitors, administrative tasks such as taking roll or enrolling new students, sharing life experiences and the faithfulness of God in all situations and bringing food and serving. The nursery and pre-school areas welcome senior adults as the younger children look at them as grandparents and pay close attention to what they say. Senior adults have a vast amount of knowledge and experience that can be an amazing resource for our churches.

Since our senior adults were brought up with the importance of faith in God and responsibility, they have a vast knowledge of the bible. This knowledge and life experience makes them remarkable Sunday School teachers. They normally spend many hours studying the lesson and researching to bring new information to the class on a Sunday.

Multiple activities in the church are available for senior adults. Greeters, ushers, Sunday School teachers or class officers, outreach to new members, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, current members, hospitals, or even helping out in the church office. Senior Adults usually are retired and welcome helping out in ministry.

Utilizing the time, resources, and talents of our senior adults to perform ministry in any area of the church encourages them by making them feel useful and appreciated. The church also benefits due to their vast knowledge of the Bible, God's faithfulness and life experiences.

If you are not using senior adults in your church, let me encourage you to start. They are available and ready to serve.

# 55+ Adults MINISTRY TRAINING

**3.5** FBC New Braunfels

**3.12** SBTC Office, Grapevine

3.19 Red Bud BC, Lubbock

9.3 Denman Avenue BC, Lufkin

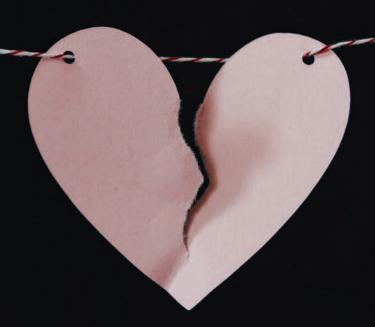
9.10 Bay Area Church, League City

9.17 Victoria Parkway BC, Victoria

Boomers and seniors are one of the fastest-growing segments in our society. Learn to engage this group to impact churches, cultures and communities.



## When Abuse Hits Home



"That would never happen here!"

"Not on my watch!"

"He would never do something like that."

hose are oftenheard refrains
from ministers,
staff members
and church
members related to those in
our midst accused of sexual
abuse. If you are tempted to
stop reading this article, know
that this is written in part for
you and those in your circle of
influence. Your staff, church
members, neighbors and friends

look to you to see how you will respond to the devastating onslaught of reports of sexual abuse in our churches, and how you will care for the victims and their families left in the wake of trauma and betrayal. The churches where these travesties occur are not just some "out there" group of churches—they are churches in Texas. An internet search using the words "Baptist church sex abuse in

Texas" will reveal the latest long list of those from Texas who have been accused and/or convicted of sexual abuse. What is even more alarming is that numerous reports tell us that well over 90 percent of abusers never work their way through our criminal justice system. So the ones we know about are just the tip of the knife that is cutting many lives, families and churches apart.

In June 2019, the Southern Baptist Sexual Abuse Advisory Study released a report, including testimonials from survivors of sexual abuse in Southern Baptist Churches. The report calls for the education of churches concerning the ongoing problem of abuse, the equipping of churches to respond to reports of abuse, to care for victims in a compassionate manner and the preparation of churches to position themselves to prevent abuse.

A striking quote from the report related to sexual abuse within church context is one from which we cannot turn away:

Most alarming, for the purposes of this report, is the rate of incidences of abuse that have been reported within a church setting. According to three insurance companies that insure a majority of Protestant congregations in the United States, there are approximately 260 annual reports of children being sexually abused by ministers or other church workers.15 Additionally, researchers Donna Eshuys and Stephen Smallbone<sup>16</sup> found that, contrary to what many Christians believe, the sex offenders who are most committed to church throughout their life (what the researchers

called "stayers") accumulated the most victims and the youngest victims of all sex offenders. They found that a perpetrator's involvement in a church community did not seem to deter their criminal sexual behavior, in fact it seemed to worsen it. It is dangerous to assume that we don't have offenders in our congregations.

It would be worth your time to read the full report for yourself. You can find it on the SBTC Sexual Abuse Awareness webpage, sbtexas.com/saa. The concluding pages of the report detail an eight-step process that all SBC churches are encouraged

### **Provide + Protect**

Protect the infants, preschoolers, children and students in your ministries - provide sexual abuse awareness training to the adult volunteers in your church.



#### We must all do whatever we can to protect the preschoolers, children, students and adults in our care.

to take to work towards education, prevention and responding appropriately and compassionately to victim. If you are still not convinced of the need for awareness training, prevention training and the need to be prepared to respond to victims

with compassion, you will want to read the Houston Chronicle's six-part series, "Abuse of Faith."

In February 2019 SBTC Executive Director Jim Richards announced a multi-faceted response to sexual abuse, in partnership with MinistrySafe. This included an allocation to fully fund training for five people per church in as many as 1,000 SBTC churches through the end of 2019. Richards exclaimed, "Business as usual is not acceptable." In addition to the training events, we worked all year to provide additional training. Hundreds of SBTC churches have already taken advantage of either the live or online training made available by the SBTC. This initiative is available through the end of 2019. Beyond this dead-



# sexual abuse awareness

#### INITIATIVE ---

For the last 10 years the SBTC has been working with MinistrySafe to provide protection from sexual abuse in our churches.

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"Business as usual is not acceptable."

Jim Richards

#### training options for 2019

One-year access to the MinistrySafe Protection System will be granted to the first 1,000 SBTC churches that apply, which includes teaching modules from the MinistrySafe Institute.

In addition, churches are able to sign-up for any combination of the following two trainings for up to five individuals.

#### sexual abuse awareness training

(Online • 1.5 hours) Should be taken by leadership (paid staff and volunteers). Includes certification.

#### MinistrySafe institute training

(Online • 16 hours) Comprehensive, seminary-level content dealing with the risk of child sexual abuse. Contains six modules, including Skillful Screening, for those who interview volunteers and paid staff who work with minors. Includes certification.

#### training options for 2020

The SBTC will be providing limited funding assistance for SBTC churches.

sbtexas.com/saa

lines, limited funding assistance may be requested. Please visit the SBTC Sexual Abuse Awareness webpage for more details.

Responding to the multiple reports of sexual abuse in Baptist Churches, as quoted by the Houston Chronicle, "Greear said it might be tempting for some critics to believe the numbers 'aren't really that bad' compared to other religions. 'That's a terrible way of thinking,' Greear told the crowd. 'First, we know that incidents of abuse are underreported. We know it takes an extraordinary amount of courage to step forward. And for everyone who steps forward, we know there are others, maybe countless others, who have never come forward. Let me ask you, what if one of those reports was your son?' Greear added. 'What if one of those data points was your daughter? Would you say, 'Well, it's not that bad of a problem?"

We must all do whatever we can to protect the preschoolers, children, students and adults in our care. As Greear noted during the annual convention, "The credibility of what we actually believe about the gospel is at stake."

Here's what some of your Texans have to say about the training provided to them by the SBTC:"

"Going through MinistrySafe has certainly been eye opening. It has emphasized to me the urgency of being intentional to establish safeguards for our children. It created awareness of many areas in our ministry that are vulnerable, and we are looking to establish an effective system that would preempt any sexual abuse issues in our ministry. For me probably the greatest need for our ministry involves establishing an effective screening system for our volunteers. We have got to protect our children and make our church a place where parents and children feel safe and protected. I highly recommend the training to any ministry leader."

#### —John Lowrie

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Terrell

"The MinistrySafe training was informative, heart-breaking and necessary. As a pastor, I attempt to see the good in people and give them the benefit of the doubt, but I was reminded that protecting innocent children is too critical of an issue to simply hope that a volunteer would work out in the long run. Each step along the way, I learned so much and now I do feel better equipped to handle a problem I pray I, or anyone else, would ever encounter. I will take this training to our team, so that we are all better informed and ready to provide a safe, nurturing place for children and adults alike."

#### —Kevin Welborn

Pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Weatherford

"The presenters were experts in their field. They were excellent communicators, and clearly have a wealth of experience dealing with these issues specifically in the context of churches. The thing I appreciated most about the training is that while they gave participants the tools necessary to protect their organization, the most important issue was always the protection of children. Their priorities were always in the right place."

#### -Matt Hogan

Pastor of Worship and Discipleship, Heights Baptist Church, Alvin

<sup>15 &</sup>quot;Data Shed Light on Child Sexual Abuse by Protestant Clergy," The New York Times, June 16, 2007, https://www nytimes com/2007/06/16/us/16protestant html

<sup>16</sup> Donna Eshuys and Stephen Smallbone, "Religious Affiliations Among Adult Sexual Offenders," Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment 18, no 3 (July 2006): 279-88



#### SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

#### **Workshops & Seminars**

Check out www.sbacs.org for more dates and locations or call (407) 808-9100.

sbacs.org

SBACS is a national alliance of schools from preschool through university and includes churches, foundations, corporations, educators and families who want to advance a nationwide system of Christian schools to reach and disciple America's children for Christ.

The SBTC supports and encourages Christian schooling and homeschool families by partnering with SBACS to:

- · Help pastors and congregations start new Christian schools
- Strengthen existing Christian schools by providing information, training, consulting services and resources
- Promote kingdom education and Christian schooling as a powerful emerging model for reaching and discipling lost children and families, equipping them for service in the body of Christ
- · Advance a biblical worldview and understanding of education
- Assist Christian colleges and universities in finding and recruiting Christian school and homeschool students



# administration consultations

- Need help knowing how to complete your IRS Form 941?
- Budget is shrinking, but not your staff?
- From collection to spending, how should you protect your money?

The SBTC will send a specialist to review your practices and train your assistant on how to handle offerings, request funds, along with accounting and handling payables. Our specialists are seasoned church business administrators who understand churches.

For a FREE one-day consultation, complete the request form at Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

sbtexas.com/administration



## facilities consultations

Our specialists are seasoned architects and building contractors who understand churches, having both seminary degrees and actively pastored churches.

Complete the facilities request form at

sbtexas.com/facilities

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



### church constitution & bylaw help

For help, complete the request at

sbtexas.com/administration

Does your church have a documented constitution & bylaws?

Are they up to date & are you operating by them?

Are you aware that some county tax accessors will tax your church unless your constitution and bylaws are on file with the state of Texas?

The SBTC will help a church write or rewrite its constitution and bylaws. The specialist will work with the church about the various changes that need to be made and then walk them through filing these new documents with the state of Texas. Our specialists are seasoned church business administrators who understand how to work with churches.

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



## CHURCH SECURITY

Can my church be prepared?

How do we avoid an incident?

What's our first line of defense?

sbtexas.com/security

The SBTC will send a security specialist to review the security measures in place and recommend procedures you might want to consider.

We will help cover the cost to train your staff, lay security team and church to prevent a tragedy.

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

### ASSISTANTIVE Assistants Retreat

#### **MAY 11-13**

**EMBASSY SUITES SAN MARCOS** 

Church and denominational assistants will have the opportunity to learn from instructors and others in their field, with free time to relax, shop and fellowship.

Early Bird by 3/2 \$169 Two Nights Double Room \$189 Two Nights Single Room

General by 4/1 \$199 Two Nights Double Room \$219 Two Nights Single Room

Space is limited. Registration closes when all guestrooms have been taken or by April 13. Daily breakfast and lunch on Tuesday are included with registration.

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

sbtexas.com/assistants

### church tax SEMINARXVI

Informing and educating church leaders and administrators about church and pastoral tax laws, tax seminars include new or revised laws and procedures for the upcoming year.



10am - 3pm · Lunch provided

sbtexas.com/tax

**1.13** SBTC Office, Grapevine

1.14 University BC, San Antonio

1.15 Clay Road BC, Houston

1.15 Friendly BC, Tyler

**1.16** Denman Ave, Lufkin

1.22 Sherwood BC, Odessa

1.23 Redbud BC, Lubbock

1.28 Hyde Park BC, Austin

1.29 Hillcrest BC, Nederland

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

## there's training for that.

A training platform enabling churches and leaders to receive and provide basic leadership tools for their ministries.

#### all videos are FREE. no user account needed.

However, you can set up account to bookmark favorites and access our free Learning Paths portion.

#### learning paths

Curated video courses and tools created to further the spiritual development of church leaders and Christians.

#### paths include:

- Disaster Relief Phase 1 Training
- Church Revitalization Teaching & Preaching Series
- Stand Firm Apologetics Course (English & Spanish)
- Saving Men in a Hyper Sexualized Culture Helping Men with Pornography and Sexual Addiction

To see a library of free courses, visit the on online training page and click the Learning Paths tab.

sbtexas.com/onlinetraining



Next level worship and ministry leadership development FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

iuly 6-10 tate springs baptist church, arlington

early registration - \$80 by may 31 general registration - \$90 by july 1

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

sbtexas.com/lead

Spiritual refreshment, networking, giveaways + relaxation

# Student Ministers GETAWAY

December 3-5, 2020 Jordan Ranch Retreat Center



**sbtexas.com/smg**Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



Your partner in ministry. Search: SBTC iLead

ideas • leadership • education • application • discipleship



sbtexas.com/ilead



#### "Even though we are flawed people, God still loves us and wants to use us."

From the SBTC Family @ Home series God Uses Flawed People. 13 lessons focusing on flawed people in the Bible that God used for great things.

#### Check out this series + others.

- Over 200 lessons and devotionals for families
- Age graded for every member of your family

#### Coming in 2020

New family discipleship series with tools for parents to help disciple their children



#### sbtexas.com/familyapp







amazonkindle

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

retiro para la

Familia

3 y 4 de julio

Camp Copass

conferencia para la

Familia

27 y 28 de marzo

Summers Mill Retreat Center, Belton

Para más información, comuníquese con Juani Shelton sshelton@sbtexas.com • 817.552.2500 ext. 2668
1.877.953.7282 Número de teléfono gratuito

sbtexas.com/espanol

Hecho posible por el Programa Cooperativo

florece retiro de mujeres

1-2 de mayo

Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose

Conferencia de mujeres

13 de septiembre

Para más información, comuníquese con Juani Shelton sshelton@sbtexas.com • 817.552.2500 ext. 2668 1.877.953.7282 Número de teléfono gratuito

sbtexas.com/mujeres

Hecho posible por el Programa Cooperativo.

### **Hombres** de Impacto CONFERENCIA

# River Bend Retreat Center

Nuestra conferencia de Hombres de Impacto está diseñada para que los hombres puedan ejercerse en el servicio a los demás y a entregar sus vidas para convertirse en los líderes siervos que Dios los ha llamado a ser en sus hogares, iglesias, y comunidades. Saturado con enseñanza bíblica, instrucción pertinente y actividades competitivas que fomentan un espíritu de compañerismo, esta es una oprtunidad que no se puede perder.

9-10 de Octubre

Para más información, comuníquese con Juani Shelton sshelton@sbtexas.com 817.552.2500 ext. 2668 1.877.953.7282 Número de teléfono gratuito

sbtexas.com/hombres

# conferencia EQUIP 8 DE AGOSTO Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth sbtexas.com/equip

La conferencia EQUIP capacita a líderes para todos los aspectos del ministerio en la iglesia local. Este entrenamiento es para el beneficio de las iglesias pequeñas e iglesias grandes. Se ofrecen más de 200 sesiones de talleres para preescolares, infantiles, jóvenes, adultos, y adultos mayores.

Se ofrecen sesiones especiales para la tecnología de la Iglesia (sitio web y redes sociales), y para diáconos, y seguridad para la iglesia. También se ofrecen talleres en español que incluyen temas del ministerio de varones, mujeres, discipulado, familia, y adoración.

Hecho posible por el



#### recursos disponibles en español

sbtexas.com

#### **DISCIPULADO**

#### **RITMOS ESPIRITUALES**

Un manual diseñado para servir como herramienta en la multiplicación de discípulos. sbtexas.com/rhythms

#### **UN DISCIPULADO VIBRANTE**

Este webinar con los pastores Eddie Lopez y Philip Levant examina el mandato, modelo, y los desafíos del discipulado. sbtexas.com/online

#### **EVANGELISMO**

#### 1 CROSS APP

El 1 CROSS app está diseñado para facilitar compartir el evangelio con personas de diferentes culturas, idiomas, y religiones. El app contiene más de 45 testimonios en diferentes idiomas de personas que han sido transformados por Cristo. sbtexas.com/1cross

#### **IGLESIA**

#### MANUAL PARA BÚSQUEDA DE PASTOR

Un recurso esencial para la iglesia local y el comité de búsqueda de pastor para ayudar en encontrar el siervo de Dios para su congregación

#### **REVITALIZACIÓN DE IGLESIA**

Un programa que ayuda a las iglesias que están declinando o experimentando estancamiento. Le ayudará a renovar la visión, misión, y propósito de la iglesia.

#### **EL PROGRAMA COOPERATIVO**

Visite nuestro sitio web para descargar videos, estudios, sermones, y testimonios sobre este mecanismo de recaudación de fondos de los Bautistas del Sur, que por más de 90 años ha apoyado los ministerios de la SBC. whatiscp.com/spanish/

#### CAPACITACIÓN

Para ver otras ayudas ministeriales por favor visite nuestro canal

de ministerios hispanos por la web donde encontrará videos de conferencias y entrenamientos en evangelismo, discipulado, ministerio, apologética, liderazgo y mucho más.

sbtexas.com/onlinetraining

# Hispanic Leadership

sbtexas.com/espanol

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

#### **May 12**

Oak Meadow BC, Austin

The Hispanic Leadership Summit exists to create a network for pastors and leaders to share ideas, challenges, and resources in reaching the second and future generations of Hispanics in Texas effectively.

For more information please contact Juani Shelton al 817-552-2500 or sshelton@sbtexas.com



# Apoderados

21-22 de febrero cross city en español

sbtexas.com/apoderados

Hecho posible por el Programa Cooperativo.





reaching texas & touching the world

Among state conventions, the SBTC gives the highest percentage (55%) of budgeted receipts to the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBTC invests the Texas budget allocation (45%) to assist in church planting, evangelistic efforts and strengthening existing churches.



38.81%

#### missional

Missions Evangelism Church Planting 31.28%

#### leadership

Church Ministries
Pastor/Church Relations
Hispanic Ministries
Church Revitalization

23.65%

#### supporting

Operations & Finance Ministry Relationships Communications 6.26%

#### in state special allocation

SBTC contribution for church/assoc. staff retirement & protection benefit