

Celebrating the wins

Every single man,

woman and child in Texas

matters to God. Therefore.

there is enough love,

enough grace, enough

forgiveness and enough

gospel to go around.

ne of the things that I love the most is getting to celebrate what God is doing in and through our great state of Texas. I enjoy hearing what God has done, the people he has used and the lives that have been transformed by the power of the gospel.

Over and over, I hear of churches consistently pressing their people to live out the gospel in their city, this state, the nation and the world. Different strategies, different paths and different ways but the same message, Jesus alone saves!

With 19.5 million people who don't know Jesus there is plenty of work to do. Different people, different skin

colors, different nationalities, different backgrounds, different economic situations but the same need. People in Texas need Jesus.

What we can celebrate are the 2700+ churches that cooperate together to do the work in Texas and beyond. We celebrate every salvation, every baptism and every changed life. Glory to God alone for the great things he has done.

With all the celebration, the sobering reality is that there are millions who have yet to hear the good news. There are millions who need to embrace a personal relationship with Jesus. In what many would still call the Bible belt where there are literally churches on every corner, we

still have people who have yet to hear the name of Jesus.

Do we celebrate? Yes. Can we thank God for what he has done? Certainly. Can we stop now? No. We must keep pressing forward because the work is just now beginning. We need every believer, every pastor and church leader, every congregation small and large to continue to

take the light of Christ to the dark places of this world.

Here is what we can celebrate about the future. 1 Timothy 2:4 says that God desires for all men to be saved. That is every Texan by birth, transplant on purpose or by accident. Every single man, woman and child in Texas matters to God.

Therefore, there is enough love, enough grace, enough forgiveness and enough gospel to go around

So until the trumpet sounds, we celebrate what God has done but look forward to what God is going to do! Be on mission in your city, state and nation until all have come to repentance!

Until the Whole World Hears, Doug Hixson Director of Church Planting & Missions dhixson@sbtexas.com



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38-41 SBTC en Español



Over the next 10 years, you can make thousands of decisions to benefit your church, but with one decisiondeciding to invest in college students—you will benefit thousands of churches for generations to come.



If Jesus was here today, how would he display his love to people?



These are partnerships that require a small amount of time, very little expense but have amazing returns.

missions + church planting

resources



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Missions Lunch @ Empower

February 24 Irving Convention Center

ESL Training @ EQUIP

June 12-13 Kirkwood Church in Houston

August 8 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Missions Dinner @ SBTC Annual Meetina

November 10 Hydepark Baptist Church, Austin



Yes! The SBTC is looking for a few called men of God to make a kingdom difference in Texas.

Could you be the one God is calling to reach a city, a people, a community? Do you want to explore that possibility?

Three Ways to Start the Process:

- Call and talk to a member of the church planting team at 817.552.2500
- Email us at churchplanting@sbtexas.com
- To register as a a church planter with the SBTC, go to sbtexas.com/churchplanting

Join what God is doing in Texas today!



COLLEGIATE CHURCHES AS CHURCH-PLANTING LABS

"If we can win the university today, we will win the world tomorrow."

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade

re we overlooking the most fertile soil for starting and multiplying new churches? Over the last five years I've been on a trek to learn everything possible about collegiate church planting--starting churches (comprised of between 50-95 percent college students) within college/university communities. Some dismissed the idea as a waste of time and money. Others

decried collegiate churches as an attack on traditional **Baptist Collegiate Ministry** (BCM) structures. Plenty of folks focused on possible shortcomings like funding, sustainability, lack of student maturity and ecclesiological hurdles like the "monogenerational" nature of college student churches. A growing number of leaders, however, see huge potential in collegiate church planting. While they understand the challenges of planting within university worlds, those concerns are

eclipsed by the opportunity to see college students gripped by the gospel and engaged in church planting as a lifestyle. As a result, collegiate church planting is gaining momentum. Within collegiate churches, students are coming to know Christ at increasing rates. New believers are being effectively discipled. Then they are immediately challenged to leverage their lives by taking part in new plants in and around college towns. So why does collegiate church planting matter?

Influence

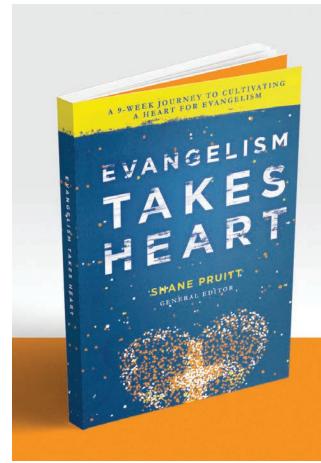
In his book, Collegiate Ministry in A Post Christian Culture, Steve Lutz argues that the college campus is the most strategic mission field on planet earth. Why? Because of the site and situation of the students living within it. Consider "who [college students] are"—academically they are "the top 1 percent of the world's population." Consider "when they are"—at the last stop of formal education before settling into the rigors and limits of adult life. Consider "where they are"—living and learning at the crossroads of ideas that ultimately shape the direction

of the world. These "who, when, where" factors make today's collegiate students influential and powerful shapers of tomorrow. What they believe, value and esteem as they leave college shapes organizations, institutions and societies for generations to come.

Inception

The two most important developmental windows in a person's life come between ages 0-5 and 18-25. That means the scripts parents set for a child stick lifelong. Just as importantly, the patterns set and decisions made during the college years impact a student's trajectory for life. (See Meg Jay's

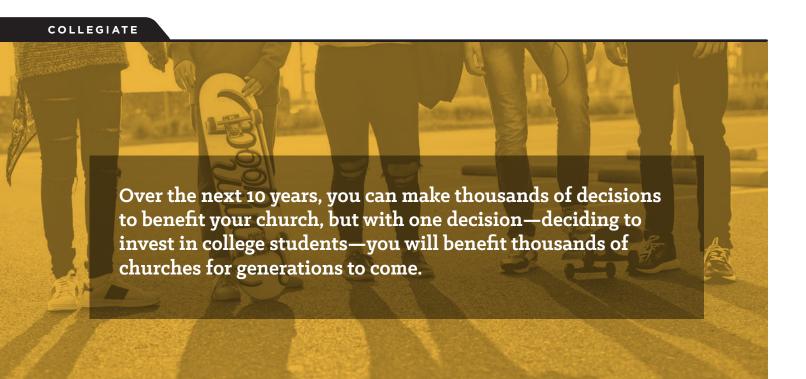
must-read book, The Defining Decade or her "Why 30 is Not the New 20" TED talk.) For ministry leaders, that means the college years are the most vital window for introducing church planting into the lives of individuals. If engaged in a church plant during college, students see church planting and the church planting mindset/skillset as normative for Christians. What if every college student took part in a church plant before graduation? How would that change North America? By cultivating church planting on or near college campuses, we are guaranteed a more thriving and robust church of the future.



A 9-week journey to cultivating a heart for evangelism

A RESOURCE OF THE





Investment

The most profitable ministry investment for the future is college students. Churches may balk at spending time on collegians because of their transient nature. Pastors may cringe at pouring dollars into students who may not stay to tithe down the road. But what happens when just a few college students are reached, discipled and trained to become reproducing disciple makers? What happens when students gain a vision for church planting? They can become a mobile, focused and valuable church planting team. Connected with a strong church planter, a team of recent graduates can move into a city, get jobs, initiate relationships and build a church community with incredible speed. How much time and energy would it take to create

this kind of team with any other group later in life? Investing in college students who are invested in church planting is like putting cash in retirement; it can be tough at moments but it benefits you and your family for life. Dollar-for-dollar there is no better return on investment than producing collegiate disciples who have a passion for church planting.

Innovation

Planting churches within the collegiate environment is the best church planting laboratory ever. By nature, successful collegiate churches are evangelizing, discipling, sending and planting churches. Just to survive, they must be focused, adaptable and gospel-centered. Collegiate churches are forced to engage a new crop of freshmen and launch their senior classes annually. They

must constantly innovate their systems to handle the challenges of moving non-believers to disciples to missionaries within four years. It's for these reasons that collegiate churches are inherently learning churches. This learning doesn't stay locked up in collegiate churches; with each graduating class, students launch out into new church plants or existing churches. When those graduates land, they are carrying a missional DNA that sees church planting (and all that it requires) as normal for every church. In this way, collegiate church planting benefits other churches on a variety of levels. Over the next 10 years, you can make thousands of decisions to benefit your church, but with one decision—deciding to invest in college students—you will benefit thousands of churches for generations to come.



THE REACH CITIES INITIATIVE is a strategic process to mobilize churches for church planting and revitalization in Texas.



Church Planting + Replanting





Church Revitalization Mission Team Opportunities

REACH **AUSTIN**

- Area Population of 2,000,000
- 11th largest city in the **United States**
- 34% speak a language other than English at home
- 68% White, 35% Hispanic, 8% Black, 6% Asian/Other
- 41% lost & unchurched

Steve Cochran

Austin Strategist scochran@sbtexas.com

REACH EL PASO

- Population of 885,226
- 82% Hispanic 13% White. 3% Black 2% Asian
- 98% lost & unchurched

Jorge Diaz El Paso Strategist jdiaz@sbtexas.com

REACH **HOUSTON**

- The most diverse city in North America (2010 Census)
- Population of 5,000,000
- 39.8% Hispanic, 31.9% White, 18.7% Black, 9.5% Asian/Other
- 68% lost & unchurched

Ben Hays Houston Strategist bhays@sbtexas.com

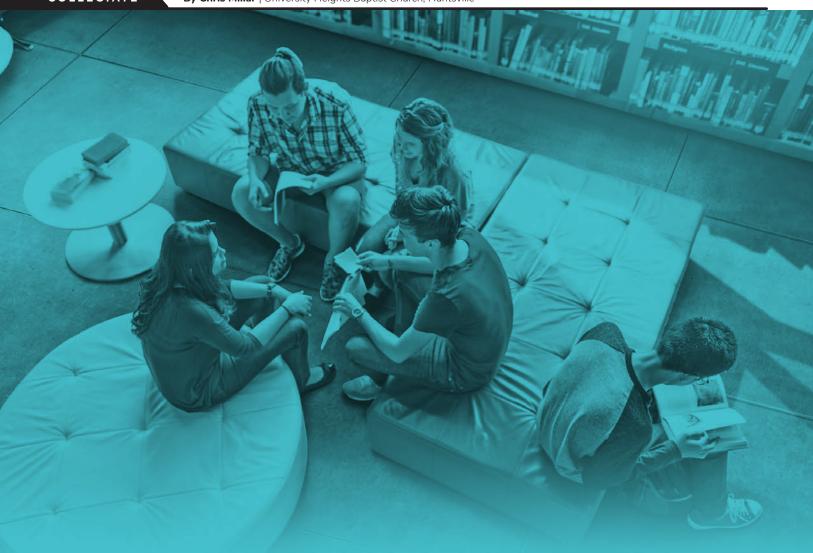
REACH RIO GRANDE VALLEY

- Population of 1,353,541
- 90% Hispanic 1.2% Asian 0.5% Black
- 81% Catholic
- 11% claim no faith

David Ortega Valley Strategist dortega@sbtexas.com

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FROM GROWING A COLLEGE MINISTRY TO COLLEGIATE CHURCH PLANTING

each some students. Disciple them. Help them graduate and find a job (ideally as virgins that don't cuss that much). This was our mission when University Heights Baptist Church first began college ministry over four years ago in Huntsville, at Sam Houston State University. I look back at that and know that God did great things in that time, but I had no idea of what was to come.

I attended Sam Houston as a freshman and had known and followed Jesus, but was quickly crippled with the struggles of depression, isolation and a difficult transition to a new context and community. In the midst of that struggle, I connected with a local church that had a large presence on our campus and had a passion for reaching students.

In May 2017, our pastor, Richard Rogers, led a team from our church, to the SEND Conference in Dallas. In the breakout session we attended, the speaker shared how God was using their local church and college ministry to train up and send out church planters into new collegiate contexts. Another speaker shared a story of God mobilizing college students for the purpose of planting new churches in unchurched collegiate contexts. As we sat there in this breakout session, God began to stir our hearts with a vision of what could be. Language that we had never

heard before, like "pipelines" and "collegiate church planting," began to put words to some of what was already taking place in our church and our hearts.

Much of this was my own story. I attended Sam Houston as a freshman and had known and followed Jesus, but was quickly crippled with the struggles of depression, isolation and a difficult transition to a new context and community. In the midst of that struggle, I connected with a local church that had a large presence on our campus and had a passion for reaching students. Over the next four years, this church invested heavily in my life and in my following of Jesus. In the midst of this journey, I knew

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



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On April 28, 2019, our church unanimously voted to plant a new church in San Marcos, the home of Texas State University, where there are currently around 40,000 students. As we have met with pastors and campus ministers, their current data shows that total Christian engagement is only around 1,000 students.

God was calling me to be a part of the larger story that was taking place around me: the local church taking responsibility for reaching the college campus with the good news of Jesus Christ.

At University Heights BC, we were doing some things instinctively, but we knew we needed to be equipped to do ministry intentionally. In the midst of the transition, from being a college ministry that wanted to grow larger, to a sending church that wanted to multiply everything, we knew we needed to learn. It was around this time that I met Mitch Tidwell, the Collegiate Associate at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and Brian Frye with NAMB. They helped me connect to churches and practitioners that would help us with our next steps. Through regular conversations with Mitch and events like Texas Round Up, we have a more intentional ministry in our church and have seen God do things far beyond our dreams. Stories are popping up from students such as starting missional communities in

dorms and seeing freshmen come to know and follow Jesus, meeting brand new students on campus and having gospel appointments with them—even students transferring colleges to help start a new church.

While I have loved my time serving in college ministry, I felt like God was stirring something different within our church, calling us to begin a new work. Over the next few months, God clarified not only what he was calling us to, but also where he was calling us to go. On April 28, 2019, our church unanimously voted to plant a new church in San Marcos, the home of Texas State University, where there are currently around 40,000 students. As we have met with pastors and campus ministers, their current data shows that total Christian engagement is only around 1,000 students. Partnering with the SBTC and continuing to be equipped in both college ministry and church planting, we are asking God for the opportunity to see a multigenerational church that

serves as a bridge between the community of San Marcos and the campus of Texas State.

Our prayer is that this is the first of many as we seek to move from a church family to a family of churches. God has given us a heart for the campus, but we know that church was always meant to engage the full community. So by leveraging the local church and the campus, we hope to have the opportunity to send college students and community members wherever God might lead us next. There are over 1.4 million college students in Texas alone! One of the thoughts that keep me up at night is that the 1.4 million are completely new almost every four years. What could it look like for the local church to take responsibility for not only reaching this people group, but mobilizing college students for the purpose of reaching the nations? I am currently praying for 15 more local churches in Huntsville because there are over 21,000 students in our city and I know that our church will not reach them all. Could God be calling your church, or even you personally, to play a role in reaching the campus? It won't be done by one church or one demographic. It will take the body of Christ intentionally pursuing the most sendable people in the world.

I would love you to pray for us, and if you have any questions or want to hear more about what God is doing in us and among us, I would love to personally connect with you. May God be glorified through our lives until Christ returns!



Texas Churches Plant Texas Churches

Why Plant in Texas?

19.5 million

1000

lost people in Texas

move to Austin weekly

1,750

2,700

move to Houston weekly

move to DFW weekly

- We could plant a mega church every week and not keep up with the new population growth
- + 900 churches in the SBC close every year
- + New Church plants baptize 1 for every 11 people

sbtexas.com/churchplanting

Made possible by your Cooperative Program Giving

How can my church be involved?



Planter Discovery

The next church planter may be sitting in your church. Provide regular opportunities for people to surrender to ministry, to church planting and missions.



Partnering with an existing church plant

- + Pray for planters Your church can be regular prayer support for our church plants.
- **+ Serve** Take your church on a mission trip to help the work of a new church.
- **+ Give** Consider financially supporting a new work through your church.



Plant a New Church

Work with other churches or your local association to adopt and start a new church plant.



Planter Care

Adopt a church planter couple to pray for and send encouraging cards with gift cards.

Raising Up Next Generation Leaders



doubt you would be impressed if you visited Coastal Community Church on a Sunday morning. We meet in an old middle school gymnasium. We don't have volunteers wearing orange vests greeting people in the parking lot and our portable signage is looking a bit worn. Our plastic blue chairs are uncomfortable and the LED overhead lights are painfully bright. The air conditioner doesn't always work the way it should, and even when it does, it's super loud. Overall, we operate with a pretty simple setup. We don't even have a fog machine (gasp).

And yet God has done some pretty amazing things over the past seven years.

Coastal is a thriving congregation with an impact that extends far beyond the island. This little church plant has become a multi-generational, kingdom-advancing force with a growing influence around the Texas coastline. Visit on a Sunday and you'll be sure to see plenty of families and empty nesters, but most notably you'll see row after row of college students and young adults.

Every pastor and church planter wants to reach the next generation for Jesus Christ. We love seeing teenagers, college students and young adults actively engaged in worship, serving in ministries and connected to the body. Pastors dream of leading a church where young adults become true disciple-makers. But how do you make it happen?

There are no silver bullets in ministry, but churches that successfully identify, develop and engage the next generation of leaders share some common traits.

How to Raise Up the Next Generation of Leaders

Be Legit

Embody the type of Christ-like servant leadership you hope to develop in others. The next generation can smell a fake. A white hot passion for the gospel and unwavering personal integrity will have far greater influence than your preacher sneakers, knowledge of pop culture and snapchat skills. John Piper and Tim Keller don't wear skinny jeans and yet they have a strong young adult following. You don't need to wear them either.

Let Your Worlds Collide

Shepherds smell like sheep. You can't develop leaders if you spend all your time hunkered down in the church office. The next gen-

eration needs you to show up in their world on a consistent basis, but they also need an invitation to show up in yours. Regularly attend high school sporting events and get to know the players, parents and coaches. Invite the college students over to your house for a Saturday afternoon tailgate party. Go on a double date with a newlywed couple. Next generation leaders are not interested in being a nameless cog in the ministry machine. They want to belong to a tribe and they need a leader who values them enough to spend quality time with them.

Pass The Mic

The next generation of leaders will not wait for permission to publicly express their views. They have grown up on social media and will share their unfiltered perspectives on life, church, theology, culture and politics whether you agree with them or not. In contrast to previous generations, the next generation no longer needs our platform in order to speak to an audience.

As a pastor, you have two potential responses to this twenty-first century reality. You can



Going Beyond Networks Connect-Equip-Go

Join a network in your area that serves to cast vision and equip ethnic and ethnic-focused leaders to learn best practices about how to effectively reach diverse people groups.

People Group Missionaries

Connect with a people group missionary in your city! Learn more about ethnic demographics in your city and how to share the gospel with the nations in Texas.

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

monitor their social media pages and when they misstep provide awkward, unsolicited feedback (super fun!) or you can proactively create learning opportunities for the next generation to develop their communication skills.

Here are a few ideas: Create a preaching cohort for aspiring preachers. Tap a young adult to manage your church's social media accounts. Invite young creatives to participate in your worship service planning meetings. Don't be afraid to take a calculated risk. Put the next generation on stage and give them the coaching they need to be successful.

Save Them A Seat

The next generation doesn't simply want a platform to share their perspective, they want the organizational power to make a difference. Churches tend to give leadership opportunities to the

people with the most education, experience or money. We go with what we know and older members have often proven themselves in ways that younger members have not. The concept of seniority makes sense, but it also stands in the way of developing new leaders.

Church cultures that value the next generation intentionally create space for younger leaders to sit at the decision-making table. Look for young men and women who have demonstrated faithfulness in a few key tasks. If they do well give them more responsibility until you start to delegate authority. These younger leaders will often need considerable guidance, but the growth curve is usually quick.

Give Them Grace

Investing in the next generation gets messy. Young leaders will

often charge the gates of hell with a water pistol before realizing they forgot to fill the gun with water. They make dumb mistakes and they can be sure of themselves to the point of arrogance. They also sin. They will do things and say things that hurt you, hurt others and hurt the kingdom. Experienced leaders who have been burned can become hesitant to take a chance again. Even younger pastors can fall into the trap of a generational comfort zone.

Jesus spent the bulk of his ministry investing in the lives of 12 young men. He could have chosen a more experienced crew of leaders, but he chose to spend his time with a group of entry-level disciples instead. And you know what? He's been using flawed, sinful leaders ever since—even if their churches don't have a disco ball in the sanctuary or a mechanical bull in the parking lot.



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Spreading the Gospel by Partnering with Church Plants



efore becoming a church planter I served as a student minister in Texas. I entered ministry as a seismic shift, the Conservative Resurgence, was occurring in our convention. I knew little of its details and remained somewhat detached from it in the world of youth ministry. I loved working with teens and loved the churches I served. I never wanted to do anything else. As a youth minister, however, I could see we were losing touch with the younger generation inside our churches, not to mention

the culture around us. This was happening not only in our tribe of Christianity, it was affecting most every denomination, Evangelical and mainline. While a return to Biblical orthodoxy was absolutely necessary, it was not enough to address the challenges we would face as we entered the 21st century. And while I'm grateful the outcome was a restored belief in and reliance on the authority of the Bible, I saw another challenge looming on the horizon. Another seismic shift was needed. Of that I was sure.

Student ministry was big in the 90s. Most churches had thriving youth groups and many had full-time youth ministers. As we

rode the waves of See You at the Pole, True Love Waits, and many other initiatives, I noticed a few disturbing trends. One is that many of the active students in our churches dropped out of church after graduation. Another was the difficulty of getting the parents of unchurched teens, who were part of student ministry, to attend church. But most disturbing was the fact that most of the church's baptisms were of our own children and teenagers. While we must remain highly intentional about reaching our own children with the gospel, we still need to ask the question, "Why so few adult baptisms?" That question began a journey that eventually

We are no longer a new church, but we continue to stay laser focused on reaching those who don't know Jesus. Our highest core value is to be outwardly focused. We've also been intentional about staying closely connected to new churches.

led me to step away from student ministry and plant the church where I now serve.

We are no longer a new church, but we continue to stay laser focused on reaching those who don't know Jesus. Our highest core value is to be outwardly focused. We've also been intentional about staying closely connected to new churches. Prioritizing church planting has been one of the greatest keys to our continued health and evangelistic fervor.

In 2001, First Baptist Church, Lake Jackson, commissioned our launch team to plant Brazos Pointe Fellowship to reach the increasingly unchurched population in our community. At that time, there were few resources available for would-be church planters. I attended my first church planter training conference a month after we launched. The one thing impressed upon me at that event was, "Don't just be a church plant; be a church plant that plants churches that plants churches." Since Brazos Point Fellowship was 4-months-old, we have continuously sponsored at least one new church plant—most of them in Texas.

A providential meeting with a new church planter at an out-of-state conference led to the start of our relationship with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention when he asked for our support. This new church in the Richmond area would be an SBTC plant.



ESL English as a Second Language

Learn how to develop an ESL program for your church with student placement, lesson building, teaching techniques, evangelism and more.

Two-day training · NAMB certification awarded

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Get equipped to teach English on an international mission trip with suggested resources and activities, trip prep, what questions to ask before and during the trip and where you will be teaching.

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Another reason we support and partner with new church plants is because they are learning new ways to communicate the gospel with people most of our established churches haven't had much exposure to yet—the never churched.

As lead sponsor, we obviously needed to be partnered with the SBTC as well. Other than a shared theological alignment, we knew little about the convention. With the help of our director of missions, we studied this young convention and discovered a lean organization very committed to supporting and resourcing church planting in Texas. We came on board and have partnered with other SBTC church plants as well.

Texas is the heart of the Bible belt. Why would we need new churches here? The answer is simple. We are not keeping up. As the majority of our established churches decline or remain plateaued, the population of our state rapidly grows. According to the Houston Church Planting Network, which is a network of

church planting networks, the population equivalent of a new mega-church moves into Houston every week. The same is happening in all our major cities.

Even if all our churches were flourishing, we still couldn't keep up, much less see the kingdom grow faster than the population. Newer, younger churches reach more people per capita with the gospel than larger, older churches. Though I would love to change that fact, our church is no exception. We have continued to grow most years of our 18-year journey but our number of baptisms has remained nearly the same over the past four years. We're not satisfied with that, but we're also not going to miss the opportunity to invest in new church plants that more naturally reach the lost

with the gospel. It's a both/and proposition.

Another reason we support and partner with new church plants is because they are learning new ways to communicate the gospel with people most of our established churches haven't had much exposure to yet—the never churched. When we planted Brazos Point Fellowship, I envisioned reaching those who had never had contact with Christians or the gospel. What I discovered was that most of our conversions were from once-churched folks, many of whom grew up in non-evangelical churches. They had some understanding of Jesus and his teachings, but had never heard the gospel clearly presented. They are very different from those who have never even known a Christian, like a young woman who grew up in Seattle and told her story at our Easter services this year.

Many like her are moving to Texas from across the country and around the world. Many native Texans are growing up in the homes of youth group dropouts from the 90s and early 2000s. They have learned nothing about Jesus from their parents, who once were regular church attendees. Church planters are leading the way in discovering how to reach them. More people than ever are ready to hear the gospel. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers [more churches, church planters and church plant teams] into his harvest field" (John 4:35).

So what does it look like to send workers into this harvest field? It can be anything from adopting a church planter to sending out a launch team like our parent church did with us. It could be monthly financial support—a little or a lot. New churches would love to have an established church send hundreds of dollars a month, but I haven't met a church planter yet who wouldn't be grateful for \$50 a month and a church he knows is praying for him and his family. It could be a pastor taking a church planter out to lunch and listening to his dreams and challenges or just calling him on the phone. It could be sending volunteers across town or across

the state to help with a block party or summer VBS.

Here's what has been helpful for us: Call your association or the SBTC office and ask what is needed. They will know who's planting where and who's thinking about it. Some church plants have one sponsor who meets all their support needs but that is rare. Most rely on several churches that give what they can and check in occasionally to see how they can pray or help with a project. The hardest part is deciding to get involved. Once you say yes to church planting, you will never lack for opportunity to lend support. You can do this.

An old East Texas proverb

I learned at my first full-time position in Hemphill goes something like this: "When you see a turtle sitting on a fence post, you know he had help getting there." Our church became a successful church plant in large part because we had help getting there. To mix in another metaphor from my favorite pastime, we were born on third base. Pastor John Hatch and First Baptist Church, Lake Jackson, set us up for success like no other church plant I know of. Now we're a church plant that plants churches that plants churches. What is still needed are more churches like FBC, Lake Jackson, to plant churches that plant churches that plant churches.



leadership training for all aspects 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

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KINDNESS OUTREACH: A Unique Approach to Sharing the Jesus

alled by God to lead our church to display the kingdom of God in our community and get the people of our church to engage our city missionally, I quickly felt the weight of this

commission. How would we do this? Where would we start? What would we do? All of these questions kept running through my mind and quite honestly, I didn't know where to turn other than to Jesus. So that's what I did. I opened up the Gospels and read

them with this question in mind: How did Jesus primarily display his kingdom, his love, his mission to the lost and dying community around him? What I found over and over again in the Gospels was a Jesus who announced his power and authority not with just words and speech, but through service and humility. I saw a pattern in Jesus' public ministry that emphasized the importance of serving others with no strings attached so that they could clearly see the kingdom of God and want to be a part of it. It was Iesus' model to serve others in the community so that his life, his mission and his words would be better received. I came away with the conclusion that Jesus will be best seen in and through our churches when we go into the community and show his love in tangible ways. His life and mission are embodied in the church when the church does not expect people to come to us or give us anything, but rather when the church serves the community and tells people the good news of Jesus Christ.

With this new understanding, I was excited to study how churches were showing love and serving others in my community. Within a month I saw seven churches doing car washes, several churches passing out drinks and even saw a church giving out Krispy Kreme donuts. Each time I saw this I was sure this was the church's way to display the love of Christ with no strings attached. I couldn't have been more wrong. Each one of these

"outreaches" came with strings attached. The car washes were all raising money, the lemonade stands were all promoting a big church event coming up, and the donut team just wanted to yell at people about heaven and hell. I came away from all of my interactions with these well-meaning people feeling slighted rather than served. After contacting some leaders in different cities and states, I quickly found out that this was not true of only my community, but this was epidemic in communities all around the nation. Interviewing some of my friends who were not Christians about this, they were quick



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We asked the simple question:

If Jesus was here today, how would he display his love to people? Through the leading of the Holy Spirit we came up with the idea of loving people in our community, right where they are, through a simple act of service done with absolutely no strings attached.

to tell me of encounters with Christians and churches that they had throughout the years. Their conclusion was devastating: the church will only serve or love them when they want something in return; therefore, Jesus would only serve or love them when he wants something in return.

This couldn't be further from the gospel we are called to show and to teach. The truth of the gospel is that God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to this earth to die for our sins, defeating death and opening up his arms saying, "Come to me all of you who are tired, and I will give you rest." The gospel explicitly claims that Jesus came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. It became clear me to that there was a direct correlation between what lost people in a community see the church doing and their initial understanding of who Jesus is and what his kingdom is all about.

Convicted by this, our church staff started praying and brainstorming ways to be better ambassadors for Jesus in our community. We asked the simple question: If Jesus was here today, how would he display his love to people? Through the leading of the Holy Spirit we came up with the idea of loving people in our community, right where they are, through a simple act of service done with absolutely no strings attached. We took the car wash fundraiser idea and started doing what we call \$1 car washes. This is where we advertise a cheap car wash, but when cars come in, we wash cars for free and give away the dollar to show God's love in a practical way. We took the lemonade/church promotion idea and started handing out free drinks (including Dr. Pepper) at parks, hiking trails and even cars at red lights. We took the donut street preacher idea and started blessing businesses in our area with free

donuts to just let them know we appreciate them and that Jesus loves them. We started washing businesses' windows and cleaning gas station's toilets. We put up free bubble booths at parks and free gift-wrapping stations in stores at Christmastime, and threw free block parties at sporting events.

Every time we served people in this way, we could see it was connecting with them on a deep spiritual level. We could see it was giving people a new first impression of who Jesus was and what his church was about. Many times, people have asked, "Who are you guys and why are you doing this?" We began to answer, "To show God's love in a practical way, with no strings attached." Sometimes we would answer, "We believe if Jesus were here today, he would show you that he loves you by doing something like this." Often, this developed into deeper conversations about faith, the church and, most importantly, Jesus. People started allowing us to pray what we call "quick 10-second prayers" with them after we served them. We started praying for lost dogs, cancer diagnoses, divorce, death in families and drug addictions right there with the people in the community. We discovered that in a post-Christian society, people want to see your heart before they begin to value your words. Once they see your heart and know it is genuine, they long for a spiritual community that will listen, pray, teach and be the hands and feet of Jesus

to them. Over the eight years that we have practiced this "Kindness Outreach" to our community, we have seen many people saved, baptized and join our church because we "displayed Jesus in the community clearer than they have ever seen before."

Most surprisingly to us, our church fully embraced Kindness Outreach. Introverts, extroverts, kids, youth, elderly, men and women all had a role to play in our church's effort to show God's love in a practical way to our community. Even people that cringed at the thought of evangelism could now be a part of something evangelistic in nature.

Over time we have watched God develop people in our church from only wanting to be sign holders at our car washes, because they didn't want to talk to anyone, to full-fledged evangelists in their everyday life. We need our churches to produce disciples who will be on mission for Jesus in every part of their lives not just at corporate outreach. We have found that when we gather as a church to show God's love in a practical way, it becomes a powerful catalyst to give people the encouragement and tools to live a life like Jesus in whatever domain God has put them in.

God has allowed us to train

over 100 churches nationwide in Kindness Outreach. We have found that although ideas might need to be adapted, showing the love and kindness of Jesus in a practical way can be done anywhere. Our encouragement to you to get this started at your church is this: Ready! Fire! Aim! Get out there and just try it. Start with the \$1 car wash, drink giveaway or donut blast. Start showing people in your community the love of Jesus just as he did—serving people in practical ways. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can help you get Kindness Outreach started in your community.

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n October 2018, the
Southern Baptists of
Texas Convention began a
partnership with the West
Cuban Baptist Convention
as an opportunity to engage
Texas churches in the work
God is doing in Cuba. Cuba is
a strategic partner because it is
close to Texas; the trip can be
accomplished in less than one
day. The cost is relatively low

with the most expensive cost being the round-trip airline ticket.

From that beginning we have provided evangelism and Training 4 Trainers training to evangelists, church planters and house group leaders; we call it PUSH training in South Texas. Since then, we have taken pastors and church leaders representing 10 churches from the DFW area,

Austin area and the Rio Grande Valley. Of those 10 churches we now have Iglesia Poder de Dios, Sendero Community Church, Crosswalk Church, La Vid Community Church, First Baptist Church Brownsville and Cornerstone Church in Arlington as partners with the West Cuban Baptist Convention to help them plant 20 churches in the Havana Area. These partnerships are



The effect of many years of atheistic teachings has left a large population of Cuba devoid of the gospel.

directly impacting six church planters and their work.

Cuba is a unique country for many reasons. Each time I travel to Cuba, God grows my love and burden for Cuba. In the midst of great challenges and hardships, the Cuban believer's love for their country and God is amazing to me. They have a slogan that says, "Cuba para Cristo," or in English, "Cuba for Christ." The country itself is a beautiful tropical island not unlike Indonesia where my wife Mari and I served for 16 years. Like Indonesia, Cuba has a deeper beauty, its people. The people are friendly and polite. The Christian believers love to share their personal testimonies about how God has changed their lives. They also love to go to the streets and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In October 2018, I took a volunteer team from Texas and in one week we saw 900 professions of faith. Last May, I led another volunteer team of pastors and church leaders and in three days we saw 250 people make professions of faith. The Cuban believers love God and have a

passion to share his gospel in hopes that one day Cuba will be claimed for Christ.

Their genuine love for God, his word and his church was evident as we watched the Cuban's gather in their homes for Bible study and worship. With few resources, their gatherings are simple as the members bring food and drinks to share. They sing worship songs and pray together. It does not matter if they gather in a small home where space is limited and it is hot; they meet with the goal of praising God and to hear his word. Their limitations are not in their lack of passion for God but in resources. A recent example is there were plans to start a new church but there were not enough chairs. The simple plastic lawn chair we buy in Texas for about \$15 is too expensive for them with the cost about \$30. One of the ways we help on our trips there is to take Christian books because they are hard to find in Cuba. There are many other needs that pose challenges for the Cuban churches.

The effect of many years of atheistic teachings has left a

large population of Cuba devoid of the gospel.

A majority of Cubans hold to some form of spiritualism associated with Santeria. Santeria (Way of the Saints) is an Afro-Caribbean religion based on Yoruba beliefs and traditions, with some Roman Catholic elements added. The religion is also known as La Regla Lucumi and the Rule of Osha. Santeria is a syncretic religion that grew out of the slave trade in Cuba. On our trips to Cuba the homes would have various worship and ritual artifacts showing their devotion to that religion. In May, as we were walking through the streets and visiting the locals in their homes I felt an emptiness and hopelessness inside. Even though the gospel is being spread and the church in Cuba is growing, there is still a huge need for Christ, who is our hope.

Every time I go, I learn so much from my Cuban brothers. Like them, I am learning to hold on to the vision of reaching Texas and beyond for Christ. The Cuban church reminds me of the church in Thessalonica about which Paul said had the work of faith and the labor of



Even though the gospel is being spread and the church in Cuba is growing, there is still a huge need for Christ, who is our hope.

love and steadfast hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of their work of faith they are able to do amazing things with limited resources. In one of the trainings I taught them to share their testimonies. To practice, I asked for a volunteer to come to the front of the room and share their testimony; everyone was willing to share. The Cuban believer's steadfastness of hope is to one day see Cuba won for Christ.

These three things

(the work of faith, the labor of love and the steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ) have become foundational for me and I thank the Cuban Christians for showing me how they are applied in modern times.

The work is still not done. We are hoping to start 14 more church plants in the Havana area. The Cuban believers look forward to building more relationships with our Texas churches so we can join them on this great mission work. But, with or without resources they said they are going to do it and we are convinced that they will. The Cuban church is an amazing church and I can see them taking the gospel to the ends of the earth one day.

Is God calling you to join us in working with the West Cuban Baptist Convention? If the answer is yes, please contact Eric Perkins at 903-918-1926 or ericp@youturnmin.org.



Texas

Austin

Church planting, revitalization and evangelism Contact Steve Cochran at 512.230.4356 or scochran@sbtexas.com

Rio Grande Valley

Evangelism and church planting Spring break and summer missions opportunities Contact David Ortega at 956.874.3438 or dortega@sbtexas.com

El Paso

Evangelism and church planting, Spring break and summer missions opportunities Contact Jorge Diaz at 915.867.7447 or jdiaz@sbtexas.com

People Groups

(Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus) Evangelism, cross-cultural discipling and church planting Contact Dan Acharya at 817.552.2500 or dacharya@sbtexas.com

Houston

Church planting, revitalization and evangelism Contact Ben Hays at 832.489.3908 or bhays@sbtexas.com



New Orleans

Church planting, revitalization and evangelism Contact Eric Perkins at texasmobilizer@gmail.com for more info.

Montana Southern Baptist Convention (state to state)

Revitalization - Contact Eric Perkins at texasmobilizer@gmail.com for more info.

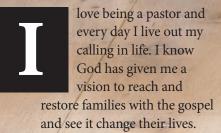


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Life as a Co-Vocational Pastor



I also thoroughly enjoy my job in sales and feel that God has gifted me to do that as well. I love meeting with customers, working deals and giving presentations. The flexibility it gives me to provide for my family and fulfill my calling in ministry is a blessing.

Being a co-vocational pastor is hard work yet interesting at the same time. There are early mornings and late nights, so you must have the capacity to manage a large workload.

Here are some insights I have learned about being a co-vocational church planter.



What is best for your family?

Family is the number one priority a pastor should consider when starting a church. I have seen many pastors make the mistake of doing what's best for the church over what's best for their family. Ministry does require sacrifice but never at the expense of your family.

If God has called you to the ministry and you want to eventually be full time, consider a transition period. God calling you to the ministry does not mean you need to quit your day job. Have conversations with your spouse and prayerfully make a decision that is best for your family.

Employer pay and benefits

There are times when sacrifices will need to be made in the ministry and finances are a part of that. It can be difficult and stressful, especially in the early stages of

Being a co-vocational pastor is hard work yet interesting at the same time. There are early mornings and late nights, so you must have the capacity to manage a large workload.

a church plant, to have a stable budget that allows a consistent salary for the pastor. With the fluctuation of church attendance in the early years, giving may be sparse. You must first trust in God's provision but having a co-vocational model allows the focus to be on reaching your community for Christ.

A church must not only pay a pastor's a salary but also his benefits. There are many benefits that corporations have that small church plants cannot offer. Health insurance and retirement, to name a few, should be considered and are very costly for a new church.

A blessing to the church

Another reason to consider being co-vocational is it allows the church to put more money toward ministry and alleviates the pressure of the church to maintain a pastor's salary. Depending on your church planting budget, this is normally a large percentage of the church budget. The money saved from not having to pay a full-time pastors salary can be used for savings, paying other key workers or missions.

It is a blessing to work and then give towards the church that you serve as pastor. Early on, your church will benefit from your tithing and the money saved by not taking a full-time salary.

Defeats a mindset among your people

There is a mindset within young believers and non-believers that people who enter the ministry do so to live a lavish lifestyle and are motivated by money. For the most part this belief is far from the truth. Most pastors are not paid well and do not have benefits.

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Your pattern may look different than mine but I highly recommend that you have one. You owe this to yourself, your family and your vocation.

to people's opinions and mindsets. However by working a job, you are sending the message that "I am on this journey just like you."

There is one warning to this mode. You must be careful not to set a standard that a pastor should not be paid for his work or service. It is not a healthy long-term budget model for the church to not support a pastor's salary. The Bible supports pastors being paid for their service to the Lord (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

How to manage being co-vocational: delegate, delegate

Delegating is one thing you must master as a co-vocational pastor. Not just delegating tasks but delegating responsibilities. Your job as a pastor is to equip the saints, not to do all the work in ministry (Ephesians 4:12). Gifted pastors fall into this trap of leading all of the ministries instead of overseeing and providing guidance in a manner where others are using their gifts and growing. You do not have to do all of the preaching, teaching and leading. Consider developing leaders.

Being co-vocational forces you to delegate. After all, your time

is limited and you cannot do it all. You will quickly burn out in a co-vocational model if you do not master the art of delegating.

Develop a routine

In order to manage being co-vocational, you must develop a routine that aligns with working at times when you are at your best. I am an early bird and have dedicated mornings for quiet time, sermon preparation and ministry work. This is when I am sharpest and as a father of three boys, often the only quiet time I have. When the clock chimes at 6:30 am, it's time to get the kids ready for school. At 8:00 am, it's time to switch hats again and start work at my sales job.

If you need to read books for your sermon preparation consider listening to podcasts or audio books. While commuting during the day, you can catch up on some necessary reading using technology. It's not optimal but it's what you have to do when you are co-vocational.

One piece of advice is to maximize your lunch hour. This time can be used for rest or work. I have done both.

On weekdays, 5:00 pm hits

and I switch to dad and husband mode. It's time to give my boys and my wife my full attention.

Saturday mornings are church workdays. I wake up early for final sermon preparation and other required ministry work. Saturday afternoons and evenings are family time.

Sunday morning is a work day but Sunday afternoon is a time for rest. This includes not thinking about what went right and wrong on Sunday morning during worship. You can be physically out of church but mentally still in church. Monday morning, you start the cycle all over again.

Your pattern may look different than mine but I highly recommend that you have one. You owe this to yourself, your family and your vocation.

Prioritize what matters

Lastly you will have to use your "no" wisely. You cannot say "yes" to everything. Your child cannot be in every sport. You cannot be at every conference. You cannot go to every meeting. You cannot add on ministries that people at your church are unwilling to lead. The list goes on but the point here is anything you add takes away from something. In the moment, consider what is the priority and how will it affect your family and your church.

In closing, being co-vocational can be a tremendous blessing to your family and the church. It is a calling from God for a season in the life of your church.

2020 annual meeting

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artners are a group of people engaged together in the same activity. For partnerships to be successful, members of the group should be like-minded and working toward a common goal. Even though partners can be a lot alike, diversity within the group often enhances the partnership and provides for others in the group to learn from each other and share resources and talents to achieve a common goal. In January 2018, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Montana Southern Baptist

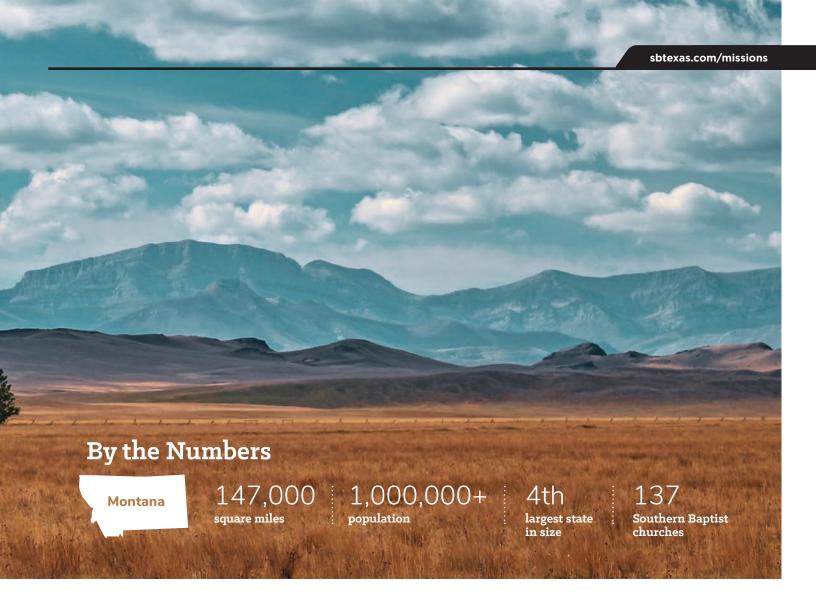
Convention launched a three-year ministry partnership.

Texas and Montana are a lot alike, though still different and diverse. Texas and Montana are among the largest states by land area in the United States, ranking second and fourth respectively. Most of both states' populations are primarily concentrated in the largest cities of each. Both states have a large part of their economy based around oil production, as well as ranching and farming. Texans, as well as Montanans, have a mindset of individualism and self-sufficiency.

As for their differences, Texas is

the home to 28 million residents where Montana has only a little over 1 million people in the entire 147,000 square miles. Montana is considered a high plains desert state with long winters, cold temperatures and lots of snowfall. Texas varies in climate from arid to subtropical, depending on the location. While the SBTC is comprised of over 2,700 affiliated churches, Montana Southern Baptist churches total 137 for the entire state.

So why a partnership? Southern Baptists in Texas and Montana agree on this one thing: there are too many people in both states



who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our agreed-upon goals are: to proclaim the gospel to every person, to make disciples, and to pray for and strive for churches to be planted and for existing churches to grow in number and strength.

The best way to describe ministry partnerships is to give a list of potential characteristics that could exist between churches, church plants, associations and conventions.

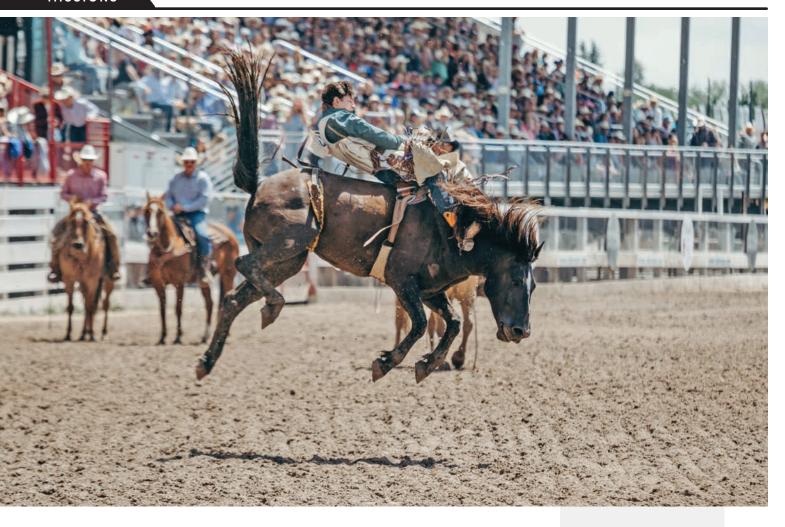
Reciprocity

This is the exchanging of tools, talents, resources, care, encour-

agement, etc. for the mutual benefit of each party. Reciprocity is an essential value and characteristic of a great partnership. Montana is still considered a pioneer state as far as Southern Baptist work is concerned. MTSBC churches have been richly blessed by partners pouring into our state financially, through mission teams and in various other ways. Many Montana churches still benefit from the blessings given by so many. But these churches desire to give back—to invest in Texas church plants, send mission teams to work for Texas ministries and churches and to pray for pastors

and planters. For many this is an area of growth.

A great example of such reciprocal partnership can be seen through a young Montana church plant, Outdoor Life Ministries in Bonner and West Conroe Baptist Church of Texas. For years, West Conroe Baptist Church has been a great partner with this Montana church plant. They have consistently prayed for the planters and the church, given financial support and sent mission teams to serve in Bonner. Following the example and to show their gratitude, Pastor Ken Bell and his family have traveled to Texas to



serve with West Conroe on mission as well. This is a great example of a reciprocal partnership.

Prayer and encouragement partnerships

Even though it may seem elementary, prayer partners are also encouraging partners. Serious, consistent, dedicated prayer partners require communication in order to lift up specific requests and to celebrate great spiritual victories. When ministry partners communicate, there is opportunity for sharing ministry as well as personal needs. From personal experience, some of the greatest days of encouragement happened when I would receive a

card in the mail from an individual just to say they had prayed for me and my family.

In the beginning stages of planting our church in a small rural community of 1,500 people a partner church asked how it could pray for us. I sent pages from our small phone book and members committed to pray for certain "letters" and the families listed under those letters. For instance, their kids' missions group decided to adopt the letter "M" and pray for each family listed. What was incredible was how encouraged the church was when, as the planter, I would send updates of families that attended our BackMission teams have helped with many outreach events including mending fences in ranching communities, volunteering for community activities such as rodeos, hosting big game dinners and fly fishing clinics in order to help connect people with local churches and church plants.

An encouraging phone call, a handwritten card on a birthday or anniversary (or any day of the year), a \$5 coffee card for a pastor's wife, or other acts of encouragement can literally turn the course of a day, week or even longer.

These are partnerships that require a small amount of time, very little expense but have amazing returns.

vard Bible Club or had attended church were saved and baptized. I saw those prayers answered and knew God was at work. There are so many possibilities of how an effective prayer ministry can be developed.

Encouragement seems to be a lost art. An encouraging phone call, a handwritten card on a birthday or anniversary (or any day of the year), a \$5 coffee card for a pastor's wife, or other acts of encouragement can literally turn the course of a day, week or even longer. These are partnerships that require a small amount of time, very little expense but have amazing returns.

Mission teams

For Montana, mission teams are "priceless." The amazing fact that people are willing to take time off, spend their own finances, travel several hundreds or even thousands of miles to serve people they've never met and expect nothing in return, is the gospel being lived out in our ministry fields. With small congregations, or for church planting (no congregation yet), mission teams are an extension of the vision and mission of that local ministry. Whether for a few days, a week, or, in some cases, several consecutive weeks, mission teams help pastors and planters accomplish a lot of ministry that would be impossible without them.

The following is only a sample of things that teams have done to help connect people with local churches and church plants. Mission teams have helped with Vacation Bible School or Backyard Bible Clubs, various sports camps, mending fences in ranching communities, hosting block parties, volunteering for community activities such as rodeos, hosting big game dinners and fly fishing clinics, disaster relief due to flooding, helping with service projects in communities—washing windows or moving furniture at schools, rebuilding park gazeboes or playgrounds, painting buildings, building training centers for fire departments, picking up trash, removing graffiti, doing housework or yardwork for senior adults and other numerous items. If you have

a heart to serve, mission teams provide an opportunity that will bless those being served and those who are serving.

Capstone Church is a two-year old church plant in the capital city of Helena. Early in 2019, First Baptist Church of Ponder, Texas, sent one mission team to work with this church plant and another team from will be serving in Montana this summer.

Bethel Baptist Church is a replant in Montana's largest city, Billings. With only a dozen members left they called Jeremy Bourne to be their pastor. He and his wife Veronica have watched the church reach nearly 60 in just a little over a year. They now have a youth group and kids ministry in this once dying church.

Located in an impoverished portion of Billings, the Bourne's have a heart to reach their community. They have a desire to refurbish part of their church grounds by building a playground, adding a few picnic tables and adding bleachers to their outside basketball court. First Baptist Church Maypearl, Texas, sent a missions team this summer to help them with this work. Not only did they send a team, but they made it financially possible to buy the materials to accomplish these additions.

Your partnerships are making a difference! If you would like more information on the SBTC/ MTSBC partnership, contact Eric Perkins, SBTC Mobilization Consultant, ericp@youturnmin.org or 903.918.1926.

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look like heaven

Revelation 7:9

For more info contact Richard Taylor rtaylor@sbtexas.com

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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.

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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