



AN SBTC PUBLICATION
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VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1
FIRST QUARTER 2021

+ EVANGELISM ISSUE
Empower Conference • Feb. 22-23

R

REACH

MAGAZINE

INAUGURAL
ISSUE



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EMPOWERING SBTC CHURCHES
TO REACH THE WORLD
BY SHARING THE GOSPEL
OF JESUS CHRIST

CHURCH HEALTH
Revitalization in a
Jumanji World

DISCIPLESHIP
Dreaming 'God Dreams'
in Your Church

FAMILY

Helps for Building a
Legacy in a **Growing**
Digital Culture



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Feb. 22-23
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DETAILS INSIDE →

Reaching Out

Thank you for partnering together to reach the nearly 20 million people in Texas who need Jesus. As we stay focused on the mission to which God has called us, we want to transition our Reach magazines from an annual publication to a quarterly resource. This will allow us to dive deeper into the events for each three-month period to bring you even more. The pace of ministry is moving very fast these days and we want to provide your church with the most up to date and relevant information and tools as possible. In addition, you will see a host of articles and resources to encourage and assist you in your ministry. Knowing that people engage content in a multiplicity of ways, this resource will be provided in print as well as several digital formats. Now, more than ever, we must stay focused on reaching, discipling and multiplying believers in Texas and beyond. We are here to assist you in this God given endeavor.

God Bless,

Lance Crowell
**Senior Strategist,
Digital Ministries
and Communications**



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LIKE IT OR NOT, THIS NEW WAY OF DOING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IS HERE. ... OUR MINISTRY IS NOW IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL AT THE SAME TIME.”

Jeff Land
Sugar Creek Baptist Church

DISCIPLESHIP

Dreaming ‘God Dreams’ in Your Church

Some time ago, I sensed our church was falling into a rut. We were by all standards considered a healthy, exemplary, and growing church. A sweet spirit permeated our church family. We had established some great ministries with great results, but we needed what one pastor calls a “growth engine.”



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See SBTC 2021 Calendar at the back of the magazine

Forward Together

Hello from the 2,669 churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention! The SBTC exists to assist local churches in accomplishing the Great Commission. Biblical inerrancy is the foundation of our confessional fellowship. Exalting Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit to a lost world is our desire. As a network of churches, we give, go and grow.

We know that this has been an unusual and challenging year for ministry. But we also know that the Lord has opened some doors during the days of quarantine to minister in the lives of people our churches had never known. Online worship, increased phone calls and reaching the lonely have been used to impact and transform lives. No disaster of any sort is beyond our God's sovereignty.

As you seek God's leadership for the next year, I pray he will guide you clearly. I also pray this will be a time of rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord. I hope you are encouraged by how the SBTC has sought during this year to strengthen churches in Texas for the years to come.

God bless you as we go forward together,

Jim Richards

Jim Richards
SBTC Executive Director





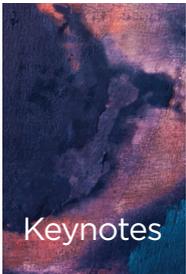
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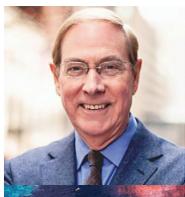
22-23
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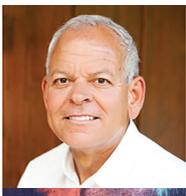
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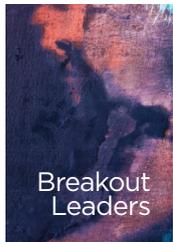
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Hebert



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Hinote



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Kasi
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Matt
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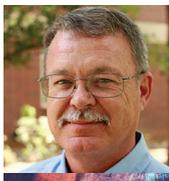
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Angela
Sanders



Faye
Scott



Scottie
Stice



Jack
Terrell



Heath
Thomas



Shannon
Thomas



Sammy
Tippit



Ted
Traylor



Caleb
Turner



Jeff
Wallace



Zak
Workun

+ See breakout listings on page 7

EMPOWER

I SERVE AS A LAY LEADER IN A RURAL EAST TEXAS CHURCH. IT'S SUCH A BLESSING TO GATHER WITH OTHER LIKEMINDED BELIEVERS TO WORSHIP AND LEARN HOW TO REACH MORE PEOPLE.

I APPRECIATE THE EMPOWERING THAT COMES WITH BEING A PART OF THIS CONFERENCE.

I AM A LAYPERSON AT MY CHURCH AND I CANNOT EXPRESS HOW ENCOURAGING, INFORMATIVE AND, YES, CONVICTING THE SESSIONS WERE FOR ME.

Pastor Meador's session on being a witness has made me see my own sin of not sharing the gospel and to just start doing it, no excuses. My husband and I are very much involved in serving our church and yet ... if I'm not witnessing, what is it all for?



It's a great opportunity to include staff, leaders and deacons to hear the same messages firsthand rather than second hand. This year a key leader took 2 days of vacation to attend with us! What a blessing!

ATTENDING THE EMPOWER CONFERENCE IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO ME. AND, IF I AM PHYSICALLY ABLE, I WILL NEVER MISS A CONFERENCE.

SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEB. 22

- 11:00 AM Luncheons
- 1:00 PM Afternoon Sessions
 - Breakout Sessions
 - Ladies Session
 - Monday Classics
- 4:30 PM Church Health & Leadership Dinner
- 4:30 PM Young Pastors Dinner
- 6:25 PM Evening Session (Main Floor)
- 8:45 PM Late Night Events

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

- 9:05 AM Morning Session
- 11:45 AM Cooperative Program Luncheon
- 1:00 PM Breakout Sessions
- 3:35 PM Closing Session



EMPOWER CONFERENCE

BREAKOUTS

Feb. 22-23, 2021

MONDAY BREAKOUTS • FEB. 22

How to Have a Multi-Ethnic Missiology

Marcus Hayes

Evangelistic Shifts of Pandemic Proportion

Lee Clamp

How to Reach and Mobilize the Next Generation with the Gospel

Jeff Wallace

How to Create an Evangelistic Culture in Your Church

Andrew Hebert

Is Your Church Kingdom Enough? How Culture, Structure and Leadership Support a Great Commission Ministry

Chris Dupree & Nick Maddox

Turning the Next Generation into Leaders Today

Grant Skeldon

The Gospel in Word and Deed: Rethinking Holistic Christian Mission

Heath Thomas

Evangelizing with the End in Mind: Evangelism as Disciple-Making

Matt Queen

A Holistic Approach to Evangelism

Angela Sanders

New SBTC Pastors

1:00 - 2:30 Only

Kenneth Priest

For the One

Danny Forshee

TUESDAY BREAKOUTS • FEB. 23

Red Rover, Red Rover: A Holistic Approach to Evangelism

Angela Sanders

Reaching People through Adoption/Foster Care

Kasi Pruitt

Power Patterns: Leading Your Family to Live Missionally

Beaux Hinote

7 Keys for Leaders in Maintaining Good Mental Health

Shanon Thomas

Reaching PreTeens with the Gospel

Jack Terrell

Missionally Minded Preaching

Caleb Turner

Using Today's Technology to Reach Your Communities for Christ

Sammy Tippit

Mobilizing Children to Live on Missions

Faye Scott

Intro to Disaster Relief

Scottie Stice

Bridging the Gap: Reaching the 20s and 30s in Our Community

Mitch Tidwell

How to Reach Generation Z with the Gospel

Jay Barbier

Whatever is Important to You

Johnny Hunt

Prophetic Preaching As Gospel Witness

Charlie Dates

Strategize to Maximize: Strategize Your Preaching and Teaching Schedule to Maximize Gospel Impact and Church Growth

Todd Kaunitz

EVANGELISM

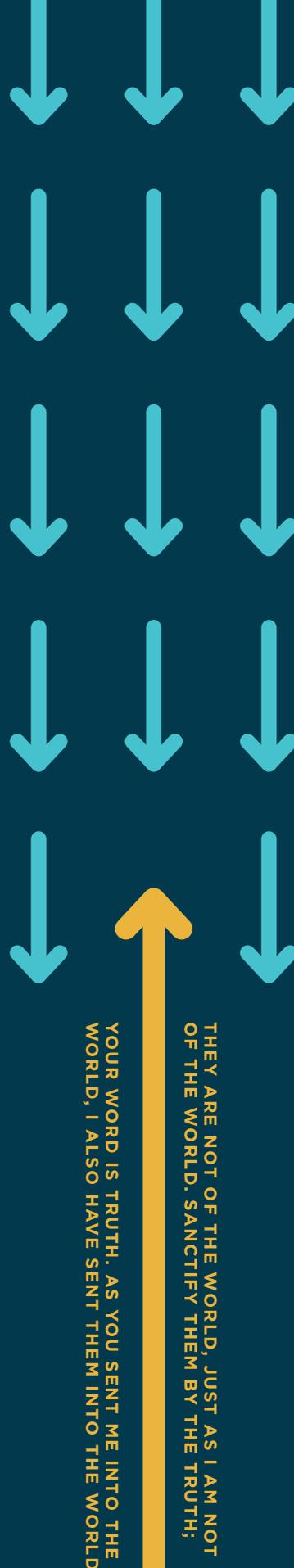
Cross-Cultural Evangelism

By Dean Sieberhagen SWBTS

It seems that the church throughout its existence has had a struggle with how to interact with culture.¹ Jesus is no stranger to this as he was born into the Hebrew culture and lived among many other cultures. As we read of his life and ministry we consider to what extent he embraced versus opposed culture. Did he use culture to proclaim his message? Was this both in a positive and negative way? In John 18: 28-38 Jesus is before Pontius Pilate and is questioned as to his kingdom. In verse 36 he says “My kingdom is not of this world,” “If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” In teaching us to pray in Matthew 6: 10 he says “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” These proclamations can lead to the conclusion that Christ opposes the cultures of the world which need to be invaded with a heavenly culture. The result is that today we have approaches to reaching the lost that span a broad spectrum between strongly opposing culture on the one hand and uncritically accommodating culture on the other.

Jesus knew this was coming and so in John 17 we have the details of a prayer that Jesus prays for his followers. He knows his time on earth is coming to an end and that his followers will remain to carry on the work of God’s kingdom within all the cultures of the world. So he prays for specific challenges they will face and in verses 13 -18 we read these words:

¹ H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture* (New York: HarperCollins, 1951), 2.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH. AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE
WORLD, I ALSO HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD

THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, JUST AS I AM NOT
OF THE WORLD. SANCTIFY THEM BY THE TRUTH;

“Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy completed in them. I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” (John 17:13-18)

Jesus makes repeated use of the word “world” and so we need to know what he is referring to. The Greek word is κόσμος (cosmos) which can refer to a number of things such as creation, mankind, or a system of life. In this context it seems to best refer to fallen mankind through which a system has come into being that sets itself up in opposition to God and his kingdom—an unbelieving cosmos that has excluded itself from God.²

It also refers to a commitment or allegiance so that in 1 John we also see the use of this word and here it is in a negative sense: “Do not love the world or the things in the world.” (1 John 2:15) It is portrayed as something that would entice and attract us so that we no longer place our affections solely on God.

It is from these passages that we often speak of a Christian being in the world but not of the world.

“
**CULTURES PUT
 FORTH PEOPLE,
 PRODUCTS AND
 IDEAS THAT CALL
 FOR OUR
 ALLEGIANCE. IN
 SHARING THE
 GOSPEL WE NEED
 TO DISCOVER HOW
 TO AFFECT THE
 CULTURE WITH
 GOD’S KINGDOM
 RATHER THAN
 HAVE GOD’S
 KINGDOM DILUTED
 IN OUR LIVES AS
 WE ARE AFFECTED
 BY THE WORLD.**
 ”

Christ says that he has sent us into the world but our allegiance and affection must not be towards this world. We have to come to a clear understanding of what this means as we try to reach other cultures with the gospel. Cultures put forth people, products and ideas that call for our allegiance. In sharing the gospel we need to discover how to affect the culture with God’s kingdom rather than have God’s kingdom diluted in our lives as we are affected by the world. Culture is a term that we commonly use

to describe the particular world that we live in. Its definition depends on the context in which it is being used. In our context we consider Niebuhr’s proposal that culture “comprises language, habits, ideas, beliefs, customs, social organization, inherited artifacts, technical processes, and values.”³ This is a broad definition which is needed in that we are considering the interaction of the gospel with all aspects of culture. Cross-cultural evangelism cannot just touch the surface but must penetrate deep into all the levels of culture so that when a people are saved in any culture it is transforming all aspects of their lives. In order to have this deep penetration of the gospel into a culture, Christian anthropologist Paul Hiebert explains how we can consider Christianity’s interaction with culture in terms of three dimensions:⁴

1. THE COGNITIVE DIMENSION

This is the shared knowledge between people in the culture that helps them to communicate. It forms consensus as to what is true and real and provides the wisdom and guidance needed to function in daily life. Traditionally, this has been preserved and distributed through printed materials, but we now live in such a digital world that knowledge comes into a culture in vast amounts that are often unsolicited and unedited. A culture therefore has difficulty preserving its shared knowledge as more and more of

² Murray Harris and others, John. Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015), 288.

³ Niebuhr, Christ and Culture, 32.

⁴ Paul Hiebert. Anthropological Insights for Missionaries (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985), 30.

its members are exposed to the knowledge from other cultures. A cross-cultural witness has to understand this cognitive level in a particular culture and at the same time think through how to preserve and present a biblical, universal, supra-cultural gospel.

2. THE AFFECTIVE DIMENSION

This describes the shared feelings and attitudes within a culture, the emotional aspect of life. It is seen in expressions, such as art, music, literature, sports, fashion, housing, cars, etc. It also applies to how people interact with each other and the way they communicate love, hate, excitement, acceptance, rejection, etc. This aspect is a significant challenge for the cross-cultural evangelist in that feelings and attitudes vary from one culture

⁵ Ibid., 33.

to the next. For example, some cultures are fear based and so the evangelist needs to think about presenting the gospel in a way that addresses this.

3. THE EVALUATIVE DIMENSION

This is the basis by which a culture decides what is right or wrong, true or false, liked or disliked. Hiebert explains that this forms a culture's moral code that is used to determine what is seen as sinful behavior or righteous behavior.⁵ The cross-cultural evangelist has to be willing to learn what this looks like in a particular culture and how to then present the gospel in way that is accepted as right and true.

God's perfect plan is for the church to be in the world, reaching it with the gospel. The

church belongs to him and so his ways are above any human/cultural ways. We discover his ways in the Bible, and out of this understand that there are core principles that are both above all cultures and at the same time applicable to all cultures. The challenge for Christians is to hold on to this principle as they live out the gospel in the cultures of the world.

Bibliography

Harris, Murray J., Andreas J. Köstenberger, and Robert W. Yarbrough. 2015. *John. Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic.

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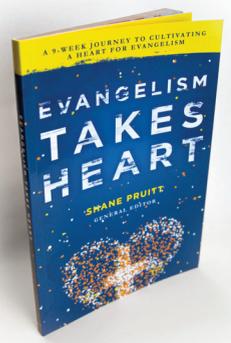


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DISASTER RELIEF

'God's Perfect Timing'



By Jane Rodgers TEXAN Correspondent

O N AUGUST 6, PHARR, TEXAS, NATIVE PATTY REYNOLDS, 90, SAID GOODBYE TO HER ONLY REMAINING SIBLING, HER SISTER SALLY MULLINS, 87, AS MULLINS SUCCUMBED TO PARKINSON'S DISEASE.

Reynolds and her nephew were allowed inside the quiet room at a residential healthcare facility to spend the last 15 minutes of Sally's life with her.

Sally's death was another heartache for Reynolds, who had reluctantly left her home to ride out Hurricane Hanna with her granddaughter and family, returning to find her yard strewn with downed trees and limbs following the E1 storm that struck the Rio Grande Valley in late July.

SBTC DR feeding volunteer Ronnie Roark discusses procedures with RGV resident Donovan Fagan and his mother, Jeanie, who came out to help with food distribution at Sendero Community Church on July 27.

Mike Jenkins and Ishmael Caballero haul off limbs from downed trees.

Barbara Dunn and Ishmael Caballero work on a chainsaw cross made from the tree stump, all that was left of a massive hackberry tree ruined by Hurricane Hanna. The tree had been small when homeowner Reynolds moved into the house decades ago.

The first Atlantic hurricane of the 2020 season, Hanna, hit Padre Island on July 25, inundating South Texas with more than 15 inches of rain in places and prompting severe flash flooding. The storm's onslaught brought more suffering to a region still reeling from a sharp surge in COVID-19 cases.

Although the Rio Grande did not rise as initially feared, residents grappled with power outages and damage from winds and flooding.

Reynolds' home of more than 50 years was unscathed, but her sizeable yard was full of debris.

Reynolds remembered when Hurricane Beulah flooded the home in 1967, leaving water several inches deep inside. Grateful that the damage from Hanna remained outdoors, she was still overwhelmed by its magnitude, Reynolds' granddaughter Shannon McCoy told the TEXAN.

McCoy, a former Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Disaster Relief ministry assistant who recently returned to live in the Valley, spoke with SBTC DR Director Scottie Stice, who encouraged her to submit a request for assistance.

A chainsaw and recovery team worked steadily for two days to clear Reynolds' yard, continuing as she left to visit her sister the final time.

When Reynolds returned from that heartbreaking experience, DR crew leader Jesse Hauptrief asked permission to carve a cross out of the stump left from a massive hackberry tree split by the storm.

Reynolds burst into tears.

"I said, how appropriate for today," McCoy recalled. "This was God's perfect timing. She can look at that cross from now on and know God was holding her and was aware of her broken heart."

McCoy admitted she was surprised at the impact the crews had, despite her experience in DR.

"I never was able to see things on this side of DR, and I am completely blown away," McCoy texted to Debra Britt, SBTC DR administrator on site in the Valley. "Truly God's work is being done."

McCoy's experience helped her know where to find help for her grandmother, but RGV survivors had no trouble contacting SBTC DR for assistance through the toll-free number, 855.728.1374 (855.SBTC DRHelp) and the number for Spanish speakers: 956.448.4712.

“

**THIS WAS
GOD'S
PERFECT
TIMING. SHE
CAN LOOK
AT THAT
CROSS FROM
NOW ON
AND KNOW
GOD WAS
HOLDING
HER AND
WAS AWARE
OF HER
BROKEN
HEART.**

”

A RAPID RESPONSE

Chainsaw and recovery crews from First Baptist Melissa, Pflugerville and Bellville were among those quickly on site in the Rio Grande Valley, despite the threat of COVID-19.

By mid-August crews completed nearly 100 jobs: many involving cutting up fallen trees or limbs and clearing debris, with other tasks tackled by volunteers from McAllen's Baptist Temple. Besides hosting the DR crews, the church provided two Spanish-speaking translators to accompany assessors.

Mosquitoes proved a challenge, although social distancing did not, with the Baptist Temple's large youth building allowing for ample space to spread out.

Before recovery teams arrived, feeding volunteers hastened to the Valley.

By July 27, crews manning quick response mobile kitchens units began preparing meals for hundreds of survivors.

QRU crews from Salem-Sayers Baptist near San Antonio and the Top O' Texas association in Pampa worked until August 2 from locations in McAllen, Edinburg and Sullivan City to fix 5,961 meals for survivors, their efforts supported by the Salvation Army which provided 500 dinners daily.

"This was a huge number. The QRU's capacity is 700 meals a day. The teams did an outstanding job," Stice said.

SBTC DR mass feeding volunteers also assisted in the Salvation Army's central kitchen in McAllen, preparing 20,000 meals by August 11.

Sendero Community Church in McAllen was the first site served by the QRUs. Pastor David Ortega and his wife, Mari, hosted SBTC DR feeding volunteers in their home.

Hundreds of survivors, most still lacking electricity, drove through Sendero's parking lot to pick up meals. Many came from nearby Pharr and learned of the distribution from flyers printed by the Ortegas and distributed by the church.

Church members, DR volunteers, Ortega and neighbors greeted vehicles, talking with people in line to receive hot food. Survivors and volunteers alike were masked. With food came offers to pray.

CONNECTIONS DESPITE BARRIERS

Despite barriers set up for physical distancing, rigid preparation and serving protocols and temperature checks for volunteers, human and divine connections occurred.

Volunteer Ronnie Roark said masks forced him to pay closer attention to each meal recipient.

"We look at people's eyes much more. Their eyes will tell you," Roark mused, describing one lady who "seemed about to tear up."

When asked if she had a prayer request, the woman re-

plied in a trembling voice, "Yes, I need a job." Roark's wife, Connie, prayed with her.

In the car line, Ortega approached Rick, a single father of two living in an apartment that still lacked power.

Ortega asked Rick how things were going spiritually.

"I've kind of strayed away," Rick replied, explaining that in June he had tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantined five weeks. "I thought I was going to die," he said, referring to Hurricane Hanna as "the second time the Lord [tried] to get my attention."

Ortega talked to Rick about Christ, encouraged him to go to church and gave him a Bible, offering spiritual food in addition to physical sustenance, even in a pandemic.

Stice summed up the RGV deployment: "It has been difficult to deploy in the midst of a pandemic, but God is faithful and has provided the volunteers and resources to meet the need. I praise God for our SBTC volunteers who selflessly give and serve to meet the needs of survivors in the aftermath of a natural disaster."

"It's a privilege to be here," said Mike Lawrence of Redwater, on his first deployment. "It's really about loving others. What Christ called us to."

Adapted from stories by the author appearing in the Southern Baptist TEXAN.

“

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BUT GOD IS
FAITHFUL
AND HAS
PROVIDED THE
VOLUNTEERS
AND
RESOURCES
TO MEET THE
NEED.**

”



DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

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Phase 1

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April 10 Amarillo

Church at Quail Creek

October 16 Fort Worth

Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary



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Needed:

Transcultural Ambassadors

By **Bruno Molina** SBTC Missional Ministries

I remember being stationed in Germany while I was in the army. Although I lived in the barracks (military housing), I enjoyed venturing beyond the base gates to get to know some Germans, learn their language, participate in some of their cultural festivals and savor their food. Some soldiers, however, were known as “barracks rats.” They would just stay in military housing and never venture beyond the gates of the base. They lived a very sheltered and disconnected life. As Christians, we are not called to be barracks rats for Jesus. We are not called to only have Christian friends who share our language, values and preferences. The abundant life, knowing Christ and making him known, requires that we venture

beyond our own Christian base to be “in the world but not of the world” and engage others as transcultural ambassadors for Christ!

Now, an ambassador is simply someone charged with representing and furthering the interests of their country in a foreign country. It is expected that when ambassadors arrive in the other countries, they will adapt their language, customs and protocols to contextualize their efforts without compromising their identity as a citizen of their own country. In other words, they will transcend their own cultures in order to be effective in another culture; they will be transcultural ambassadors. Just as

the Father sent the Son to a different culture (earth) “not to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45), so Jesus tells us “as the Father has sent me, I also send you” (John 20:21).

This idea comes from 2 Corinthians 5:17–20, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God.’” Being transcultural requires intentionality on our part that goes beyond merely existing in a globalized multicultural environment.

Texas is a great example of a globalized multicultural environment. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas is the fastest growing state in the nation. It has a current population of around 29 million and is home to four of the top 10 fastest growing cities in the country (San Antonio, Fort Worth, Austin and Frisco). The city of Houston is the most diverse city in the country. Texas is growing at a rate of approximately 1,000 people per day and roughly half of these new Texans are migrants. In 2018, the majority of migrants to Texas, a total of 104,976 people, came from other countries. That marked the second straight year that international migration into the state (288/day) exceeded domestic migration. Also, almost half of the



TEXAS STATS

FASTEST GROWING STATE IN THE NATION

29 MILLION
current population

FOUR OF THE TOP 10 FASTEST growing cities in the country (San Antonio, Fort Worth, Austin and Frisco)

HOUSTON most diverse city in the country

Growing at a rate of approximately **1,000 PEOPLE PER DAY**, roughly half of which are migrants

In 2018, the majority of migrants to Texas, a total of **104,976 PEOPLE, CAME FROM OTHER COUNTRIES**

international migrants in 2018 came from Asia.

Beyond the blessing of glorifying God and expanding his kingdom, there are personal benefits to being transcultural. In fact, as individuals appropriate the worldviews of the various cultures in which they function, they develop a “higher cognitive complexity” and are better able to understand the world, act more creatively and behave more tolerantly. Transcultural people “can be talented, resourceful persons who can relate across cultural boundaries with great facility” and tend to “display an adventuresome spirit and enjoy a highly developed sense of humor.”

Transcultural identity dismisses the very existence of categories that are usually associated with ethnic groups and stresses values like “otherness,” “alterity,” “continuous transformation” and “multiplicity,” causing cultural boundaries to fade. The overcoming of the boundaries as well as the creation of a more fluid and less defined ethnic landscape is triggered by inter-cultural and inter-ethnic encounters.

Whereas all Christians are called to make disciples of all the nations or ethnicities (Matthew 28:18-20), Texas Christians are particularly without excuse given our growing ethnic diversity. As we go about our daily lives in Christ, let’s pray and be mindful of the opportunities to engage in relationships and share the gospel with those unbelievers around us who are from different cultures. Let’s live our calling to be transcultural ambassadors.

CHURCH PLANTING IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19

By Doug Hixson SBTC Missional Ministries

This year has not been what any of us expected. Who knew that our greatest resources might be masks, gloves and hand sanitizer? The local church has been drop-kicked into the technological world of 2020, whether it was ready or not. This has caused most to rethink their ministry models and interaction paths with their church members and their communities.

Church planting has been no different in that planters have huge challenges to face. Most Southern Baptists of Texas Convention church plants meet for worship in rented facilities, such as schools, YMCAs and other public buildings. When COVID-19 hit, most church plants were told they could no longer use those facilities and had to pivot to find new places to meet. So, on top of restrictions, having to wear masks and limited numbers allowed in a room, church planters have prayerfully sought the Lord's guidance to find new meeting locations. Church planters are very resourceful and creative by nature, but this has been a challenging time.

Church plants scheduled to launch during this weird time have had to ask some hard questions:

- Do we continue on the path to launch this church?
- Do we adjust our schedule?
- Do we put this church plant on pause for now and revisit it later?

“

AS THERE HAVE BEEN NO COOKIE-CUTTER ANSWERS FOR HOW CHURCHES REGATHER, THERE ARE NO SIMPLE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS EITHER. THANKFULLY, GOD IS NOT SURPRISED BY COVID-19, THE SHUTDOWN/SLOWDOWN OR NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL.

”

As there have been no cookie-cutter answers for how churches regather, there are no simple answers to these questions either. Thankfully, God is not surprised by COVID-19, the shutdown/slowdown or navigating the new normal.

We are excited to see many SBTC church planters continue on the path toward launching their churches even in this challenging time. Currey Creek Church in Boerne is sponsoring a new church plant, The Bridge Fellowship, Boerne, with Jared Patrick as the planter. While the process has been difficult, Jared has not stopped moving forward, trusting the Lord to provide all they need to plant.

Moises Molina and Manny Martinez both live in the Rio Grande Valley and planted their churches in the last couple of years. The Valley has been hit very hard by the virus as well as by a hurricane and flooding. In the midst of these challenges, both of these SBTC church plants kept their focus on loving and serving their communities. They have handed out food and necessary items to those who lost their jobs as well as to those who suffered storm damage. Although it would be easy to give up and give in, they have pressed forward to share the gospel with hundreds of people in need.

What does this mean for churches planting churches as we move forward in these changing times?

→ God is not surprised by our current circumstances. In the midst of our confusion, our lack of reliable information and cultural turmoil it is easy to become

discouraged. What we cannot lose sight of is that God is not surprised or confused by our current situation. God is still in charge, on the throne and standing ready to move forward for the glory of his kingdom. People still need Jesus. Churches still need to be planted. Disciples still need to be made. Missionaries still need to be sent out and supported. And territory still needs to be conquered for the sake of Christ's name.

God still has a plan. His plans have not been taken off course, nor are they in need of adjustment because of a virus or political unrest in our country. God is still as focused today as he was before. It is still all about the cross of Christ and the message

“
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”

of salvation for the world.

→ Now is the time for pressing forward. As some may be waiting for things to go back to “normal,” normal as we have known it may never return and we have a huge opportunity to press forward into what God has ordained for our lives, our churches and his kingdom.

There is no better time to be generous as a church. No better time to raise up and send out church planters for the fields that are white unto harvest. No better time to reach out to neighbors, friends and co-workers who may be hurting, struggling and confused. The church has been given the opportunity to do something in this time to bring the hope of glory to those in need.

make a difference

plant a
church

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

Are you the one God is calling to reach a city, a people, a community? Explore that possibility, join what God is doing in Texas today!



sbtexas.com/churchplanting

→ Now is the time to be faithful. One of the beauties of being a part of the SBTC and SBC family is that we represent over 2,600 churches in Texas and 47,000 churches nationwide that work together to stand in the gap for the gospel. Even in the midst of a downturned economy, cultural unrest and uncertain futures, we are still working together to do the work of the kingdom! We are still planting churches; we are still educating seminary students; we are still sending missionaries nationally and abroad; we are still responding to natural disasters.

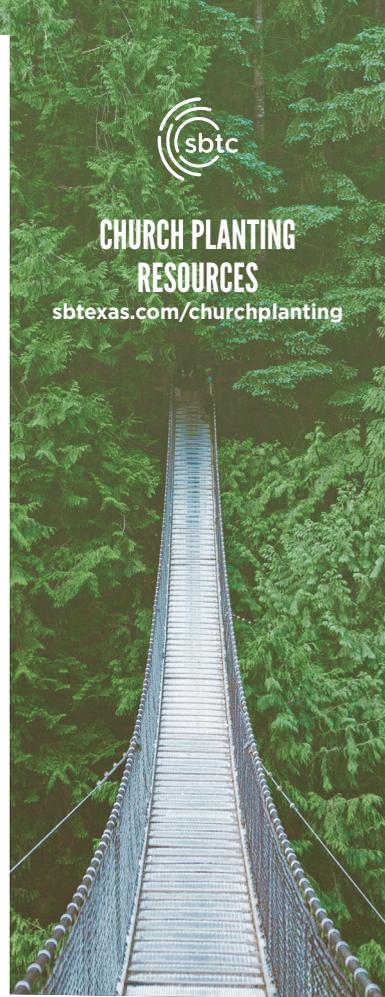
We do that because the Cooperative Program allows us to do more together than we can do apart. The genius of

this cooperative effort is that we're able to take the gospel to millions because of the faithfulness of a few.

- So don't lose heart.
- Don't be discouraged.
- Don't be confused.

God is still moving and working in Texas! His plans have not been thwarted by COVID-19 or an unexpected pause in our country. God is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine. We must lean in, work together and see what God can do that is beyond our greatest hopes or dreams!

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COLLEGE MINISTRY

5 Values of a Great College Leader

By Mitch Tidwell SBTC Missional Ministries

CREATE YOUR COLLEGIATE LEADER

COLLEGIATE LEADER

99 OVR RTG



When it comes to ministry we often start with the question, “What do I do?” But there is a more foundational question that needs to be answered first, “Who should I be?”

I have been able to look at college ministry from an aerial standpoint for several years now and one of the things I have noticed is that it is not necessarily what churches are doing that results in reaching college students, but rather who the collegiate leaders are that determines whether a church is reaching college students.

Every leader leads out of a foundation of who they are. There is a belief system that makes up this foundation and it either sustains them or exposes them. For every believer, the foundation they build their life on is the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:24-27).

How does this play out in the life of a great college leader?

Think of this series of articles like the NBA 2K player create mode. We’re putting together a 99 overall rating for a collegiate leader. We’re going to look at five common values of great collegiate leaders and how that determines what they do. Let me clarify: this list is not all-encompassing and if you don’t match any of the descriptions, that doesn’t make you a bad leader.

GOSPEL-CENTERED

Jesus said in Mark 1:15, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” This verse is the epitome of what it means to be gospel-centered. Jesus broke in from heaven to earth. He and his kingdom were now “at hand.” Therefore, mankind’s response is to “repent and believe in the gospel.”

The gospel is the good news that mankind has been separated from a holy God because of their sin, but God in his great love sent his perfect Son Jesus Christ to bridge the separation through his sacrificial life, death, resurrection and ascension. It is through this repentance and belief in this message that a person has the ability to have life today and for eternity.

A leader with a gospel-centered life is someone who has experienced the kingdom of God breaking through in their life through the gospel. They have repented and believed and are consistently witnessing the kingdom of God break through in their life and responding through repentance and belief.

This gospel that provides salvation is also what sustains a great leader. Keeping their life centered on it is essential for fruitful and long-lasting ministry.

If the gospel is not central in a leader’s life, is the ministry they’re leading making eternal and daily impact? It’s likely

not. Being a gospel-centered leader is more than just being saved, preaching the gospel and evangelizing the lost. Being a gospel-centered leader motivates a person to go reach the lost, but it is also the sustaining power in them that allows a leader to have lasting impact.

Being a gospel-centered leader impacts a leader’s identity. They find their identity in Jesus Christ, not in their appearance, performance, or lack thereof. Jesus Christ is their satisfaction. He alone provides them with all the need. They put faith before feelings. A great college leader’s ministry is executed out of a confidence in who they are as a secure child of God and not a performer for God or people. A leader that lives this kind of lifestyle preaches the gospel to themselves daily.

SENT

Good leaders embody this on a daily basis. They know they are aliens in this world and their home is in heaven. They are here as sent people (John 20:21). The ethos of a great college leader is a person who is going to those who don’t have a relationship with Christ, whether they are students or anyone they meet. This is the ethos of our Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul said, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7).

Jesus stepped out of his ordinary and comfort by going. He emptied himself so that he could reach men and women in need of a Savior. Therefore great leaders make going a natural rhythm of who they are, not just what they do. Good leaders leave their comfort zone to bless those who don’t have a relationship with Jesus.

When most leaders think about starting a college ministry they think about starting a Bible study or a midweek gathering. There is nothing wrong with either of those things. In fact, they are very good things. But if a leader starts there, they short-circuit the system. Great leaders make disciples by first going. One of the first questions a good leader asks is, “How will I go and bless and share the gospel with the people I am trying to reach?” When a leader drifts from executing on this question it will likely bring failure, a state of plateau, or even decline. A leader can have the best Bible studies and the best midweeks, but if they never go and reach people there will never be anyone to experience the Bible studies and midweeks.

For many leaders, it’s at this point that fear sets in. But the reason ministries reach college students is because they try to reach college students. They are willing to give anything a shot. They are willing to fail

and learn. They are willing to get to know the students and campus in real, tangible ways. They are willing to empty themselves so they might serve those they are trying to reach with the gospel.

EMPOWER

When Jesus left this earth he told his disciples, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). When Jesus said these words, he was affirming to his disciples they have the power and ability to lead through the Holy Spirit. Every person who has placed their faith and trust in Jesus has the Holy Spirit and is empowered for the work of ministry.

A greater leader has faith in this truth and empowers others to lead as well. They know God has made everyone unique with certain gifts to build up the church and advance the gospel (Ephesians 2:10). They empower because they know ministry is a team effort and not a lone ranger endeavor. They are constantly looking at each individual, figuring out their unique gifts and abilities that God wants to use and leveraging those gifts and abilities for the sake of the gospel. A great leader sees that without empowering students to lead they will not realize their purpose in ministry and the ministry will not have its fullest impact.

A great leader is willing to hand over responsibility. They empower college students to learn how to handle the pressure of leadership. They have the patience to allow

college students to fail and pick them up when they do. Failure is often the best teacher. They start by giving away small responsibility and as students prove faithful, they give them more. I heard one college leader say, “We don’t give them the keys to the Corvette at first; we give them the keys to the Corolla. It’s less expensive to fix if they wreck it.” His point is they let college students learn how to lead by leading something that if it fails, won’t necessarily be a big deal. With time, they give them more responsibility as they grow in leadership.

One of the major roadblocks to becoming a student-led, leader-supported ministry is most leaders want their energy, ideas, and work to be seen as what makes a ministry succeed. A good college leader dies to this mentality. They empower others to lead and allow others to take the credit. College students don’t want an adult to be the hero; they want a college leader to be their guide. You will be surprised at how well you can lead and influence when you decide to guide your students rather than direct them.

KINGDOM MINDED

A great college leader’s focus is God’s kingdom, not their own. Their goal is to raise up men and women who make disciples who make disciples. Robert Coleman, author of *The Master Plan of Evangelism* said, “We must decide where we want our ministry to count—in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of our lives in a few chosen people who will carry

on our work after we are gone. Really it is a question of which generation we are living for.”

A great college leader realizes how strategic this generation is. College students are in the prime of their learning and are being shaped every day by what they experience. These four years will determine their trajectories for the next 10, 20, or 30 years. They realize that time is too short to give in to shallow metrics; people are the focus and making them into disciples is the mission. Great collegiate leaders create simple reproducible ways for students to grow as a disciple.

A great college leader’s goal in ministry is not necessarily large gatherings, community groups, or evangelism outings. Their goal is disciples. They use the programs of the ministry to shape students into disciples of Jesus Christ; working against using programs as isolated and disconnected events that have become a tradition. Everything is on the chopping block unless it fits into the mission of making disciples. They are dogmatic about the mission, but flexible in the methods they use to make disciples.

CULTURALLY ENGAGED

Great college leaders know it’s paramount to be culturally engaged in order to reach college students. By culturally engaged I don’t mean cool, hip, or any of those buzz words. I mean helping students deal with cultural issues through a biblical worldview. A great college leader does not rely on what they have heard or what they assume to be true, but

collegiate

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they dig into God's Word to determine what the Bible says as it pertains to cultural issues. They become a conduit of grace in a world that needs biblical answers to contemporary issues. They are prophetic voices speaking when culture screams against kingdom values.

Great college leaders are known for listening more than they speak. They hear the voice of culture and listen to the pain. They also love more than they judge, knowing that judgment is God's alone.

Great leaders don't shy away from the tough subjects of the day, but instead, they take them head on. They create series, Q&A sessions, Bible studies and other avenues to help students see their world through a biblical worldview. The church can no longer ignore the hot button issues of the day, but must address them in a way that is biblically accurate. If the church doesn't disciple students on these issues, culture will. Therefore, great college leaders are proactive and not reactive when it comes to helping students develop a biblical worldview. They help students see the relevance of the Bible when it comes to addressing cultural issues.

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Children's Ministry in a COVID-19 World

By Jeff Land Sugar Creek Baptist Church



It's mid-February 2020, and my family and I are excitedly boarding a cruise ship to celebrate our oldest son's 13th birthday. We don't really watch the news, but we were beginning to hear the rumblings about an illness coming our way. It was too early for me to pay attention to the name of this mysterious illness.

Fast forward one month to March and suddenly this illness, COVID-19, has reared its ugly head and churches all over are now forced to discover how to minister to their congregations. Some churches were much further along than others. They already had online ministries, while many churches had to discover what it meant. For children's ministries, it was a brand-new day.

Children's ministry with the absence of children is one of the strangest concepts many of us have faced in our careers. For years we've tried to tell parents that they should be the primary disciple makers of their children, but when we were forced to let them, we discovered our own fear of letting ministry go. COVID-19 forced children's ministries to refocus their efforts from in person experiences to online experiences. What have we learned that will carry us into this new era of ministry to children?

1. Parents are busy and tired.

They need our support, not our guilt trips. In the beginning of our quarantine, I challenged my team to post five posts a day on social media. I really wanted us to resource parents well. Then I realized that parents can only do so much. They were tired. They were still working but now were in charge of schooling their children. We dialed it back greatly and tried to post more meaningful posts less frequently to encourage and give ideas for quick and easy God-talks in the home.

2. Not everyone has social media.

I'm a one-hit wonder when it comes to social media and my chosen platform is Facebook. Thankfully, I have some great staff members who are really into Instagram and they manage our feed there. But I started hearing from families who either didn't have social media or due to analytics never saw the things we posted. This caused me to double down on our efforts to communicate with our families.

Sure, we have posts that are exclusively on social media, but when it is really important, like our weekly lessons and activities, we try to communicate with families through a variety of methods. We use social media, emails and texting for any high-level communication that our parents need to receive.

3. Learning what to measure. Each week we post videos of kids’ worship and age-group lessons. After a few weeks we looked at the analytics and started getting down on ourselves. I had to encourage our team to know that we didn’t need to focus on how many “likes” we received or how many views we had, but focus on sharing the word of Christ. We also learned that five minutes is preferable to 10 minutes when it comes to videos.

4. Value creativity. We have begun making lots of creative videos to help kids understand different things happening in the world. Our newest

“
LIKE IT OR NOT, THIS NEW WAY OF DOING CHILDREN’S MINISTRY IS HERE. ... OUR MINISTRY IS NOW IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL AT THE SAME TIME.
”

series, “A Beautiful Day,” is a play on Mr. Rogers and is fun for kids to watch and learn about the world we live in today. We’ve found huge connection in sending out a cartoon version of me on a postcard that can travel with families as they go throughout their daily activities. Having drive-thru parades to let the kids come by the church and see us has also been an effective way to reconnect. As we move to the next phase of COVID-19, we will continue thinking of new and creative ways to connect to our families.

Like it or not, this new way of doing children’s ministry is here. As we move back to regathering, we must not forget that there are still many families who are taking precautions. As ministry leaders, we have to resource both groups well. Our ministry is now in-person and virtual at the same time.

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



PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Tips for New Teachers

By **Bill Emeott** Houston's First Baptist Church

It's that time of year where we're all searching for and enlisting new teachers for our ongoing Bible study classes. Below are some basics that might be helpful to share with new teachers. These tips can help any new teacher present like a seasoned pro!

1. Plan and Prepare. The best session is a prepared session. Regardless of the curriculum you use it will need to be prepared. Developing the habit of planning early can remove the Saturday night (or Sunday morning) stress of weekly teaching prep.

1. Start early in the week and do a little each day.
2. Look over the biblical content early in the week to allow God the opportunity to use your comings and goings to reinforce the Bible truths in your life.
3. Review the session plan for resources you might need to gather and secure those things while you're out during the week.

2. Arrive Early. A good rule of thumb is to be in place 15 minutes before the scheduled time to begin. Arriving early allows time to catch your breath, prepare the room and have a smile on your face when the kids arrive. It's true that the first person in the room wins. Make sure that person is you.

3. Start Teaching When the First Child Enters the Room. Don't waste a minute! Be prepared and be ready for the first child and begin teaching. Some curriculums provide for early arrival activities. Use them! If yours doesn't, consider Bible skill games and activities as an option for early arrivers (or while waiting for parental pick

up at the end of the session). Don't have kids wait idly for "the rest of the group." Prepare activities that can begin with one child and add others as they arrive. If kids sit still too long they'll come up with something to do on their own and it's not likely to be something that teaches biblical truths and skills.

4. Build Relationships. It's an old adage but it's very true, "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." The best way to make sure that kids and their families know that you care is by building relationships with them individually. Determine a strategy for getting to know the kids and their families. Understand some general characteristics of the age group you're teaching, trends that influence your kids, and personal likes and dislikes of individual kids. Learn about their families, schools, sports and hobbies then use that information

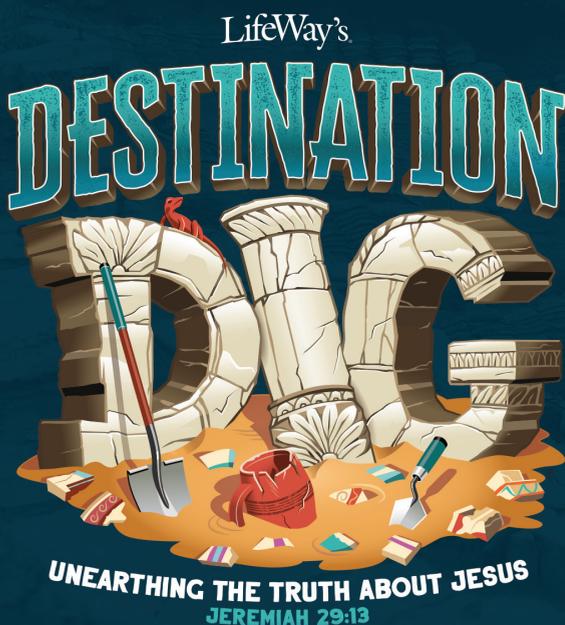
“
TAKE THE TIME TO SPEAK TO PARENTS AND FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO EQUIP THEM WITH HELPS TO BE THE SPIRITUAL LEADERS IN THEIR KID'S LIVES.
 ”

to build relationships. Don't forget relationships with parents. This doesn't just happen on Sunday morning. Take the time to speak to parents and find opportunities to equip them to be the spiritual leaders in their kid's lives.

5. Provide a Safe and Secure Environment. Make yourself familiar with your church's policies and procedures and be intentional about adhering to them. Always have two adults in the room whenever minor children (anyone under the age of 18) are present. Go out of your way to protect the kids, protect yourself, protect your church and protect the kingdom.

Teachers often don't live up to our expectations because they don't know what we expect. Share, train, equip and resource your new (and seasoned) teachers!

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DISCIPLESHIP

Dreaming 'God Dreams' in Your Church

By Jeff Lynn SBTC Church Health & Leadership

Some time ago, I sensed our church was falling into a rut. We were by all standards considered a healthy, exemplary and growing church. A sweet spirit permeated our church family. I could well appreciate and agree with the statement a gentleman made to me one evening after a men's gathering: "Pastor, these are good days." We had established some great ministries with great results, but we needed what Craig Groeschel calls a "growth engine." It wasn't so much that I wanted the church to grow numerically, but to grow in their "passion for God" and "compassion for people," which are the two phrases we use to capture the essence of the two greatest commandments.

The staff and elders of our church went through a process called "God Dreams" where we homed in on what should be the focus of our church over the next 10 years, given our context and culture. After a consensus among our

leadership that our primary emphasis should be on geographical saturation with the gospel, disciple-making and leadership development, those three areas were condensed into three words to communicate our vision/mission: Reach, Raise, Release.

REACH more people WITH the gospel. If we really believe that the Word of God is timeless and the words of Jesus are true, then the harvest of those who need Christ is still abundant. I'm sure there are those who believe that people are not open to the gospel today because of

SBTC RESOURCES

their defiance toward Christianity or their defense of their respective positions/beliefs. But I believe people are more open to the gospel than ever before. The challenge is that there are few workers in the field. At the time of our “God Dreams” process, we were already implementing an evangelism initiative called “Can We Talk?” where we trained people to not only share the gospel, but to go door-to-door surveying our neighbors as to how we might serve them in hopes of leading them to a gospel presentation. There are some who say this doesn’t work anymore. Well, in the words of one of our trainers, “Staying home doesn’t work.” We utilized this on Wednesday evenings coinciding with other worship, student and children’s ministries. Upon completion of the vision process, it was decided that “Can We Talk?” would no longer be an ancillary ministry, competing with other ministries, but would now become the focus of our church, meeting on Sunday evenings for two 6-week semesters throughout the year. We have knocked on thousands of doors and seen dozens confess Christ on their front porches or in their living rooms. What’s been interesting is that although we might not see many of the conversions become members of Yorktown (which is really the essence of a mission trip, isn’t it?), I have discovered that if God sees a church go share the gospel, he knows they can be trusted with the gospel; thus we’ve seen more first-time guests and “seekers.”

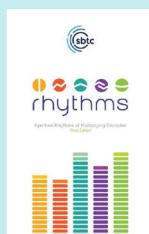
RAISE more people IN the gospel. Jesus didn’t commission

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us to make “converts,” but to make “disciples.” Tragically, there are some who call themselves disciples of Jesus because they have confessed Jesus as Savior, know a lot about the Bible, and/or attend church regularly. But I believe a disciple of Jesus is one who MAKES disciples. I contend that making disciples is highly relational, and not just informational. So, not only do I personally disciple men individually in our church by meeting regularly with them over the course of a year, we encourage others to share in this great privilege/commission. We taught many of our people how to use Dann Spader’s “Walk as Jesus Walked,” where one meets with one or two people over the course of 10–12 weeks with the understanding they will go and do likewise, thus producing a multiplying effect. This has been highly successful in “assimilating” our people into the church’s culture and raising people in the gospel.

Additionally, because statistics show that as a man goes so goes his family, I have intentionally and passionately (and unapologetically) invested in men. Not only do I mentor seven to eight men for a year or two raising them up as spiritual leaders in their homes and in the church, I host a Monday evening men’s group two times a year in the spring and fall where we have seen anywhere from 100–150 men attend to be challenged, encouraged and trained as kingdom men.

RELEASE more people FOR the gospel. Our church experiences a large attrition rate due to people

moving out of town to other parts of the world. Instead of seeing this as a frustration, we embraced it as an opportunity. Because our city is one of the largest ports in the country, with oil and gas tankers arriving from and returning to other ports around the world, we started using that analogy with our church. We have a large military presence because of two naval air stations within a 30-mile radius. We also have a large university attracting students from around the world. We started communicating to those who were in our city/ church for only a season, that if they would give us three to four years, we would give them three to four years. We would invest in them, RAISE them up IN the gospel, and then

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THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL AND IF WE WANT TO BE A PART OF HAVING A GREATER HARVEST, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO Sow MORE SEED, NURTURE THE NEW GROWTH IN THE HARVEST AND TEACH OTHERS HOW TO Sow AND REAP.
 ”

RELEASE them FOR the gospel to whatever “mission field” the Lord was moving them. Because we believe that each person saved by God’s grace is a masterpiece created for good works (Ephesians 2:10), we are intentional toward helping ALL of our church body to “find their place in God’s story” by utilizing the 2:10 project (www.210project.com). We are “equipping” the body for the work of the ministry.

The harvest IS plentiful. And if we want to be a part of having a greater harvest, then we will have to sow more seed, nurture the new growth in the harvest and teach others how to sow and reap.

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discipleship

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revitalization

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FAMILY MINISTRY

Helping Families Build a Legacy in a Growing Digital Culture

By SBTC Staff

The family unit is to be a place of intentional discipleship. It should be a microcosm of church life, a playing field for spiritual practices and a training ground for future disciple-making disciples of Jesus Christ. The home must be a place of intentional discipleship and family worship that is guided and aided by church leadership as a component of their focus to build God-honoring families in the body of Christ.

In a world of social distancing, moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas are relearning the role of being the primary disciplers of children in the home. This is not a bad thing. When it comes to children and family ministry, the church exists to supplement the spiritual activity of the Christian home. For example, when it comes to marriage enrichment, the church should be a coaching center and a support mechanism for the spiritual togetherness cultivated in the Christian home. As we look to the future, helping families will require more digital and electronic tools to accomplish this task.

Here are some questions that churches can begin to ask of themselves:

- Are we providing parents in our church with the tools and encouragement they need to lead family worship with their children?
- Are we providing married couples of all ages and stages with the tools and encouragement they need to enjoy meaningful devotional time together in their homes?
- Are we championing and celebrating those parents, grandparents and couples in our church who are doing a great job with family discipleship and worship?

As we engage our families, we look for trends and digital tools that help us reach them more effectively:





students

→ Are our people more likely to hold regular marriage or family devotions when we provide digital tools for them to use, such as the Lifeway apps, SBTC Family app, Bible app, etc.?

→ Which of these digital tools seem to be most popular among our people?

→ What married couples seem to be natural encouragers of younger married couples through social media and on-line connections?

→ Ultimately, we want to help our families grow and build their faith. Are there digital and electronic tools that can assist us in this as we move forward?

→ How can handheld devices be used to aid preaching and teaching in the future? (Perhaps by uploading sermon notes or encouraging each small group member to use online Bible study guides with their mobile devices?)

→ Should we consider offering guided in-home devotions and discipleship tools to allow couples and families to walk through the same Scriptures at the same time? If so, how can we systematize and celebrate?

→ How will we address the daily discipleship needs of church members and guests who do not live in a Christian home? What helps can we provide them?

Your gospel partners on the SBTC Student Ministry Team are here to help you reach and equip this next generation.

We hope more students will be evangelized, disciplined and involved in ministry and missions. We have camps, conferences and resources, as well as new events to enhance ministry and grow students spiritually.

Networking

Student Ministers Network

Luncheon at Empower 2-22-21
Guest Zak Workum - Texican Court Hotel

Student Ministers Getaway

Student Events

M3 Camps

Youth Week

M3 WKND

Resources

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LEAD Conference



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

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2021 annual meeting

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sesión en español 7 de noviembre



Why Women's Ministry is Important in a Local Church



By **Ali Shaw** Author & SBTC Women's Ministry Volunteer

Whether a church has an official women's ministry or not, women's ministry is vital to the spiritual health of Christian women. But to understand exactly why this is, one must understand what women's ministry is and is not.

A healthy and vibrant ministry to women is more than a social opportunity. It is more than event planning, craft meetings, luncheons and community service. While those things may be valuable ministry components, a thriving women's ministry is women connecting with women, challenging one another to grow in Christlikeness.

WHY WOMEN'S MINISTRY IS VITAL

Women have needs and challenges unique to their Christian walks. As we examine these needs, we see the immense importance of developing a thriving women's ministry in local churches.

Women need emotionally safe environments. Women often feel safest sharing their hearts, asking questions, requesting prayer and speaking up when they're with other women. This happens for many reasons. Southern women are sometimes taught that "holding their tongues" in the presence of men is mannerly and respectful. Some women are silent because they misunderstand 1 Timothy 2:12, while some women are simply shy or feel embarrassed sharing before men, this behavior is also common in women who have a history of abuse.

Regardless of the reason for their reticence, many women feel more comfortable speaking up among women only.

Women need godly fellowship. Whether a woman is a new mom who rarely sees other adult women,

a retiree who is home alone, or something in between, women need deep, rich and lasting connections that are meaningful and challenging. Rather than the quick and superficial “how do you do’s” of Sunday mornings, a women’s ministry gives the opportunity for deep connections. Even for the introvert, the Christian walk of sanctification is meant to be done as a community (called the body of Christ). This reminds ladies that they are not alone in any situation! Smaller, private settings within a women’s ministry will offer a safe place for women to be mentored, bounce ideas and tips, and grow in their spiritual disciplines—right alongside other women.

Women need opportunities to share and pray for private prayer requests. A women’s ministry is an excellent place for women to build connections that result in fervent prayer for one another. Not only is a women’s ministry a good place to ask for prayer, it is an excellent place to learn how to pray effectively. I’ll give a personal example. Eva and Marilyn are two women who have served as prayer mentors to me over the years. Without a solid connection with them, I would not have learned to develop the skill and art of heartfelt biblical prayer.

Women need to use their gifts and talents. When the Lord gives a person gifts and talents, he expects his children to use them for his glory. Women’s ministry is a valuable place (sometimes the only place) where a woman can use her gifts within the church setting. Whether a woman is gifted in hospitality, service, has an eye for decor, or can manage a budget, women’s ministry is a place where she

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 ”

can hone and use her gifts. Again, in a personal example, the Lord has given me a passion for teaching women his Word. The women’s ministry is really the only place within a local church setting where I can do that. If a church doesn’t have any ministry to women, it may be denying ladies the ability to use their gifts.

Women need to grow. This is huge! No matter how old a woman is, she does not need to remain stagnant. My pastor recently said, “If you are stagnant, you probably aren’t listening [to God].” The Lord calls us to grow. Women seem to challenge women in a very special way—when a woman sees another woman do a particular thing it somehow becomes more attainable for her. This goes back to the “iron sharpening iron” idea of Proverbs 27:17.

Ultimately, women need to minister to other women because the Bible tells us to. In Paul’s letter to Titus, God gives instructions for women in the church. Women are told to teach younger women to be godly. Restated, women are given the role of mentoring younger women and teaching them what biblical womanhood looks like. Why? So a woman can live in a way consistent with her faith. It is important for women (whether mothers or not) to participate in raising up the next generation of godly women, biblically sound influencers and new leaders.

WHY IS WOMEN’S MINISTRY ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW?

The church has changed. COVID-19 has changed the landscape of our world, and normal church operations here in Texas have

been affected. While some churches are starting to resemble their pre-COVID-19 existence, many have just opened up again. Others are still meeting at low capacity. Some of the changes that churches are experiencing are not due to mandates, regulations, or rules, but are due to the very human factors of weak or aged immune systems. In addition to all of this, the social fabric of our nation is shifting. Currently, there are countless challenges for the entire body of Christ, and people need ministry, regardless.

In particular to women's ministry, and due to our current times, we see that:

→ Women can "fall through the cracks" and feel forgotten. Due to churches meeting at partial capacity, it is harder to keep up with individual church members and attendees.

It's especially important for women to create an organized effort to continually reach out and meet other women's needs. This can be done by personal visits, phone calls, mailers, online, or in other creative ways.

→ Women need special mentoring. Specifically, women today need to see other women "in the same boat," handling life with godliness. Women need to see Christlikeness modeled in daily life.

→ Women need to develop an accurate theological understanding. When faith is challenged it has the opportunity to grow and thrive. As women are rooted in the Bible and anchored in Christ himself, they are better equipped to handle the storms of life. This can be developed outside of women's ministry, but women's Bible study groups are excellent places meet this need.

→ Women currently have unique prayer needs. In our day women are facing unique stresses and struggles. Living fruitfully while facing quarantines, health issues and social unrest can be difficult. In addition, many women have been surprised by things like a loss of the family income, needing

to homeschool, caring for elders who are vulnerable to disease, supporting an overworked husband and dealing with their own isolation and loneliness. Women need to pray for and encourage one another!

→ Women have a different set of mental health needs. Because of the current stressors unique to women, women need to be brought into fellowship with one another. This helps alleviate anxiety and depression because women can then share their burdens with their sisters in Christ.

HOW CAN THE SBTC HELP YOUR CHURCH'S WOMEN'S MINISTRY?

The SBTC has a wonderful system in place to support new and experienced women's ministry leaders and help them develop women's ministry in their churches. When I was first introduced to the SBTC women's team at She Stands in 2019, I was newly involved in women's ministry at my local church. The SBTC leadership team offered me support and training, and encouraged me in my role. Their godly examples and helpful wisdom made things much easier. I became equipped!

The SBTC Women's Ministry department offers a women's ministry guide, leadership training materials, the She Stands leadership training conference, roundtable discussions brought to various areas across the state, general resources and support through zone representatives and online support and encouragement provided through the SBTC women's ministry Facebook group.

We must remember: women's ministry is vital to the spiritual health of women in the church.

Together, the local church can provide an atmosphere conducive to women connecting with women who then challenge one another to grow in Christ Jesus. To God be the glory!

The SBTC women's ministry offers resources, training, online support, networking and conferences. Find more at sbtcxas.com/women

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We would love to meet you and answer any questions you may have about the convention or Baptist life in Texas.

For details & registration, visit

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Let's Pray

By Camille Minor

Jesus prayed, “I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.” (John 17:23)

In this one verse, Jesus gives the reason for prayer and the purpose of the kingdom: so that we know that Jesus is in us and we are in him, that we may be completely one, that the world will know that Jesus was sent by God for our salvation and that God loves us. John 17:26 makes clear that Jesus is praying that the love of God will also be in us.

Women are multi-taskers, on the move with much on our minds. We are also gatherers. God has given women a unique love of getting together, enjoying friendships and coffee. Some of us began 2020 running full speed, with some confiding that they were thinking, “Stop the world, I want to get off.”

Then a worldwide pandemic hits, leaving us no choice but to stop our busyness. Only places deemed as “essential” were open, with restrictions. Life has changed, but God is still moving. His people have not stopped praying. God has always moved through the prayers of his people. In the



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**IN THE WAKE OF THE PANDEMIC,
GOD STIRRED THE HEARTS OF WOMEN
TO DRAW THEM TOGETHER IN PRAYER.**

”

wake of the pandemic, God stirred the hearts of women to draw them together in prayer.

However, the Holy Spirit had been calling us to prayer before COVID-19. He was getting us ready. In January, I knew of many women who were fasting and praying, excited about what God was going to do in 2020. There were concerted efforts to bring people together in prayer to our almighty God.

One prayer organization, She Loves Out Loud, had a prayer meeting where women gathered from their cities to pray virtually with others around the globe. In Austin, we met at Hyde Park Baptist Church. Prayer topics were: overcoming anxiety and depression, choosing life and forgiveness, healing of abuse and trauma, prayer for military

PRAYER WARRIORS

wives, healing of marriage betrayal and porn addiction and praying for our children and the next generation. One of the topics was race relations. Bernetta McClendon and I were privileged to lead that prayer, asking God to change our hearts, our nation and our world.

We added prayer stations to our prayer efforts at the SBTC 2020 Empower Conference. Richard Taylor, interim director of evangelism, had successfully used those in a previous assignment. Young women came to the prayer stations to request prayers for family members suffering from depression, needing the ability to forgive and have a relationship with an absentee father, for ministry expansion and also wanting to have a relationship with Jesus. Praying for families and for the lost to know Christ is relevant throughout all cultures.

One woman asked for prayer for her church, for her son who needed Jesus and for our nation. Her prayer needs embodied what we are praying for as prayer warriors in the SBTC—praying for the lost that God has put on our hearts and praying for our families.

In unusual discernment for February, one woman asked for prayer for those with the coronavirus and a cure. We did not know what we would be facing in just a couple of weeks, but God was preparing us by leading us to pray the tough prayers and to face the tough topics.

Yes, God had been preparing us “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). Many women had already begun gathering for prayer by

These are some of the things that women are praying about and are doing in prayer:

→ Praying for church plants, that people who have never heard the gospel would hear it now

→ Setting up prayer stations to pray for and witness to people in a neighborhood, around a church, or at another public area

→ Walking and praying in your neighborhood

→ Walking and praying around your church

phone, emails, text, conference calling and WhatsApp. Now they have added Zoom, Marco Polo, FaceTime and other meeting platforms. God is using the technology we already have and women are praying together in creative ways during this pandemic. If you talk to someone who was a missionary 50 years ago, you will realize how wonderful it is today that we can connect with women from all over the world! We may not be able to gather in person, but we can still grab our Bible and a cup of home-brewed coffee or tea, and gather for a virtual prayer meeting. Make no mistake, prayer is happening!

The women I’ve spoken to recently are not talking about how much they’re doing, moving, shaking up, or about the treadmill they’re on. Instead, I’m hearing from women who are sensing God’s presence during this time who, while they wouldn’t have chosen it, are thankful for being able to slow down and see God move in astonishing ways. Our focus has shifted, and we are seeing God calling us to “turn our eyes upon Jesus, and look full in his wonderful face.”

If we will listen, God will teach us to truly love him with all our hearts, minds and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Ted Elmore explains this well in his blog post on tedelmore.org, “Repentance, Fruit and George Floyd.”

There is much talk about the confusion and chaos among governments and people around the world. David Ireland, author of *Raising a Child Who Prays*, says

that Christianity is a warship, not a cruise ship. We are not here on earth to be entertained, but to pray to the Lord of heaven's armies as we battle the enemy of our souls.

Prayer acknowledges that we look to someone besides ourselves. God often lays concerns on the hearts of women that he wants them to pray for, and as we pray, God works! We are not looking to ourselves or anyone else for answers, but to God, the author and finisher of our faith!

We keep hearing the word "unprecedented." It seems to be the key word used by talking heads in 2020. One thing we know—God is using women to pray together like never before. As women, let's have an unprecedented time of gathering for prayer with our sisters all over Texas, and all over the globe. Let's come together as women and pray!

Share with us ways that you and your friends are gathering for prayer, and things you are praying about. Share what is

going on in your area of Texas, with women that you pray with, or perhaps you have seen answers to prayer that you would like to share. We serve a mighty God; let's give him the glory!

Psalm 65:2 says that God is the one who hears prayer. If you would like to get involved with other praying women, contact us at the SBTC. Let's pray! sbtexas.com/women.

REACH OUT SBTEXAS.COM/WOMEN

She Stands

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

1 Corinthians 15:58

3.6 Houston

Fallbrook Church

4.17 Amarillo

Paramount Church

10.9 Forney

First Baptist Church

Training for women in ministry and women's ministry leadership teams. Breakout sessions cover a variety of topics to equip and provide creative ideas to aid women and their ministries.



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leadership training
for all aspects of ministry

EQUIP

conference

45

AUGUST 14

Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston



KEYNOTE

+ Ronnie Floyd

president of the Executive Committee
of the Southern Baptist Convention

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

- + preschool/children
- + children's music
- + 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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Revitalization Blueprint

By **Kenneth Priest** SBTC Cooperative Ministries Senior Strategist

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QUARTER 1 • 2021

REACH

In construction you build based on the plans, or you are uncertain what you will end up with. The challenge is having someone who knows how to read the blueprints in order to build correctly. I was recently watching one of the remodeling shows popularized on HGTV. Midway through the project, the main person arrives on the job site to discover the work crew had been “reading” the blueprints wrong. A simple mistake, they had used the inside lines instead of the outside and the room was approximately six inches shorter than needed. None of the custom cabinets would fit; everything was off, building was delayed and costs were going up.

In church revitalization, there are

many who think all they need to do is _____ (fill in the blank). We hear this all the time. The “blank” is typically “read this book” or “attend this conference.” However, in reality, the “blank” is the Great Commission. All you need to do is be faithful to evangelism and discipleship. At the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention we have focused our revitalization ministry on preaching and the Great Commission. With this strategy of faithfulness to reaching and discipling, we have worked with churches all across Texas (and North America thanks to our missional partnerships with pioneer states) for the purpose of gospel advancement and revitalization of the local church.

The exciting news for pastors and churches is that the Great Commission provides the blueprint for revitalizing your church as well. The SBTC is here to guide you through the process, and ensure

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**THE
EXCITING
NEWS FOR
PASTORS AND
CHURCHES
IS THE GREAT
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IS THE
BLUEPRINT
FOR
REVITALIZING
YOUR CHURCH.**

”

you are reading the blueprints correctly. There are plenty of churches that talk about the Great Commission. There are plenty of pastors who preach biblical sermons. However, the true “reading the blueprint” for revitalization means you are more than just talking Great Commission. You are actually living it. You are doing more than just preaching a biblical sermon, though that is important and necessary; you are also presenting the gospel and extending an invitation. This is reading the blueprint. God’s Word always requires a response and by not extending an invitation you are limiting the response of the people of God to the Word of God. Often times when a pastor hears the word “invitation” he automatically either

church revitalization RESOURCES

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Consultations

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Mike Landry
SBTC Revitalization
Consultant



Kenneth Priest
SBTC Cooperative Ministries
Senior Strategist



Leon Moore
African-American Church
Revitalization Specialist

sbtexas.com/revitalization

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CHURCH HEALTH +

jumps to an “amen” or he shuts his ears to hear, because that is “old school” and “not how we do things in a progressive, cutting-edge church.”

Look at Nehemiah 8. The reading of the Word of God by the prophet elicits a series of responses by the people of God. First, before the Word was read, they stood (v. 5). Second, they lifted their hands and bowed their heads (v. 6). The people wept when they heard the Word of God (v. 9). God’s Word elicits a response; the need is for the preacher to offer the pathway of response. In the New Testament, when God’s Word is proclaimed and the prophet points to Christ, the Bible clearly indicates salvations occur and baptisms immediately follow. Not all will respond, but the Bible records a response by some. We should look to Peter at Pentecost, Phillip and the eunuch and Paul and his missionary journeys. The blueprint for revitalization follows this path. The pastor must focus on a Great Commission cause and offer a pathway for the people who hear the

Word of God to respond. Though I personally prefer an altar call, at minimum the preacher should give specific instructions at the invitation explaining “how to respond” to the message. If the message has been proclaimed effectively, then a response is required.

As we guide the pastor and church through revitalization, we are constantly referring back to the Word of God. This focus brings about renewal in the people of God. Sometimes it is to bring about renewal in the pastor. A fresh fire of evangelism needs to be rekindled in the weary hands and heart of the preacher. Years of tilling the soil often times leaves one worn. Simple reminders of God’s work in the past can once again draw our attention to put our hands to the plow and move forward to once again prepare for the harvest.

Our blueprint for revitalization involves determining the unique evangelism style of your church members and equipping each member to serve within their respective style. It then issues the call to disciple those who receive

RevTalks ONLINE

revitalization conversations

February 4

March 11

June 24

August 26

October 14

10am • Register online



Mike Landry
SBTC Revitalization
Consultant



Kenneth Priest
SBTC Cooperative
Ministries Senior Strategist

RevTalks LIVE

revitalization conversations

January 21 Grapevine

SBTC Office

January 28 Houston

Faith Memorial Baptist Church

March 4 Amarillo

Paramount Baptist Church

\$5 10am-3pm lunch included

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**THE TIME FOR
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”

Christ in the faith, “teaching them to observe all things...” as Christ instructs through his commission.

The time for revitalization is now. The lostness in Texas is over 19 million. If God once again chose to pour out his Spirit at such a time as this, like he did at Pentecost, we would not have enough pews in Texas to seat everyone who receives Christ. And even running five services per church, we could not hold the decisions in every church. This means we need to plant more churches, yes, but it also means we need to be about the ministry of the revitalization of the local church. Pastor, reach out today and allow the SBTC to come along side you and serve as a guide in the journey to revitalize your church.

REACH OUT [SBTEXAS.COM/REVITALIZATION](https://sbtexas.com/revitalization)



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REVITALIZATION IN A

JUMANJI WORLD

By Mike Landry SBTC Church Health & Leadership

I N THE MOVIE JUMANJI (THE FIRST ONE), ON EVERY ROLL OF THE DICE SOMETHING STRANGE OR CATASTROPHIC HAPPENED. SOME OF US FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT 2020. TRULY, WE ARE LIVING IN DIFFICULT, TROUBLING AND TRYING TIMES.

NOTHING HAS PREPARED US FOR COVID-19.

There are no books written on how to do church during a pandemic. It has changed everything. The political and cultural unrest has just added to the uncertainty of the times we are experiencing. Also, almost every day we hear of a new crisis. Our world is being rocked physically, morally, politically and culturally. Most are wondering, “When will this all end?”

We are struggling with how to do church, much less how to continue or even start revitalization during this time. To be honest, this is a good question. Many are just trying to survive in their minds and turning a church around may be out of the question.

In the midst of all that is going on, we need to remember some important things:

1. Jesus loves the church.

He promised the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (I suppose that even means COVID-19). We find in the book of Revelation that Jesus walks in the midst of the candlesticks (churches) and holds the stars (pastors) in his hand.

2. God is the sovereign Lord of all. He knows all, sees all, understands all and has all power. No doubt this time has caught us off guard, but it didn't come as a surprise to God. He's got this!

3. We need to remember that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Times may change, but he doesn't. We can still trust him and walk in faith.

Troublesome times have always been a part of church history. The first century was a very difficult time. Israel was under the thumb of the Roman Empire and the brutality and paganism that was a part of it. The Jewish religious leaders were vehemently opposed to the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ. We know the rest of the story. But, in this climate, the early church was born. The church was birthed in troublesome times. When you look at history, even in the terrible times, the church endured and flourished.

The question still remains, can a church revitalize in light of COVID-19 and the political culture of today? The bigger question is how

can this be accomplished? Will the “3-Legged Stool” of the SBTC Revitalization remain or do we need another process? The answer is YES, churches can and should revitalize today! We don't need another process and I'm convinced the “3-Legged Stool” of preaching, evangelism and discipleship will work, even today. Honestly, it worked in the first century and has worked throughout the history of the church; therefore, there is no reason it would not work today.



Let's examine the three-legged stool in light of COVID-19:

1. PREACHING

We must be convinced of the validity and the power of Scripture. COVID-19 has shown us that we cannot or even dare not attempt to “do church” apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. We sense the Holy Spirit works primarily in conjunction with the Word; we must place an importance on preaching the Word.

Our people are coming out of COVID-19 spiritually dehydrated and malnourished. They have missed the assembling together. The number of opportunities to study and listen to the Word has in many instances been decreased. The focus of people is everywhere and on everything else. They need a renewed infusion of the Word.

Fear is also a product of COVID-19. People are fearful. Fear is gripping the hearts of many of the people we are in contact with. We know the cure for fear is faith. We are told from Scripture that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Once again, we see the need for preaching.

Preaching has always been important in the revitalization process. Today more than ever we see the need for us to be biblically focused and driven by the preaching of the Word. The truth that people need to be convicted by the Holy Spirit, comforted by the Holy Spirit, filled by the Holy Spirit drives us to the Word.

In times like these, we need to be more intentional about our

preaching. The preaching of the Word of God works even more powerfully in troubled times.

2. EVANGELISM

We know that no church will turn around without evangelism. We also understand that churches, especially during difficult times, have a tendency to become inwardly focused, and reaching the lost is put on the back burner. Just because we may not be able to go door to door, doesn't mean we can't evangelize. COVID-19 has caused such fear that people are forced to admit their own mortality. This makes people more open to the gospel. People are confused, discouraged and disillusioned, needing answers and hope. The gospel is the answer and hope. What an opportunity we have to share the good news.

If COVID-19 did one thing it revealed one of the glaring problems we have had in church life. For so long the church has relied and functioned on the evangelistic work of a few. This is no way biblical or how the first-century church operated. Because of the way things are, we are forced to look to the relationships that have been already developed. Not to say that new relationships are impossible, but forming them will be more difficult. Therefore the circle of opportunity has shrunk even for pastors.

The church in Acts 1 had only 120 people, no building and no resources, and they were persecuted. They didn't even have John 3:16; the New Testament had not been written yet. With-

out anything, they changed the world. According to B.H. Carroll, within 28 years of Acts 1, the gospel had gotten out to the entire known world. They really turned the world upside down with the gospel. How was that possible in such difficult times? They had a message, a mandate to get it out, and the means (power of the Holy Spirit). By the way, even in COVID-19, we have the same things. The key is that they, all of them, were witnesses.

In today's environment, it is going to take all hands on deck to reach the lost. The whole church must be mobilized to live life on

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COVID-19 IDENTIFIED MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT CAUSED. LIKE SO MANY TIMES, TROUBLE AND DIFFICULTIES HAVE CAUSED US TO EXAMINE THE “WHAT” AND THE “WHY” OF OUR MINISTRIES.

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mission as witness in their areas of influence. Gone are the days in which we can depend on the efforts of a few. We must all take the mandate to be witnesses personally again. It worked in the New Testament and it will work NOW.

3. DISCIPLESHIP

Even though we say discipleship is the third leg of our stool, we can't separate evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism and discipleship are the DNA of the Great Commission. We must remember that the Great Commission is the mission of the church, no matter the times or circumstances we live in.

During this pandemic, people have become isolated and disconnected. Discipleship has be-

come even more important. The opportunity to disciple from the pulpit is still there with on-line Sunday School, small groups and Bible studies. As we begin to meet back in person, the opportunities will be even greater. To be honest, during COVID-19 we have to work harder to stay connected; we know connection is an important element in discipleship.

Small, intimate settings have become necessary and more desirable during this time. This is not a bad thing. In fact, one-on-one discipleship has always been the most effective way. Once again, like evangelism, we cannot depend on the work of a few. It is going to take the whole body looking for those who need dis-

ciplining and to connect with them. It cannot be a program, but the culture of the church, as it always should have been. We must become more intentional about it.

COVID-19 identified more problems than it caused. Like so many times, trouble and difficulties have caused us to examine the "what" and the "why" of our ministries. The fires of the trials of difficulties do not break us but make us. We can and should be refined by this pandemic and come out stronger.

The three-legged stool of revitalization will still work in a Jumanji world!

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¿Cómo capturar las diversas oportunidades innovadoras en línea para seguir avanzando el reino?

Por José Santiago Creador, Theological Vox

Quizás el ejemplo más conocido y trillado es el avance a pasos agigantados de la tecnología. Sin embargo, el mundo ha cambiado en otros aspectos mucho más sutiles. En el ámbito cultural y social, hemos observado una tendencia general a realizar actividades en línea que antes eran inherentemente asociadas con la presencia física de las personas. Aún más, muchas de estas actividades ni siquiera involucran la interacción humana directa. Desde la compra (Amazon) y venta (eBay) de artículos, el consumo de música (Spotify), entretenimiento (Netflix, YouTube, TikTok), educación (SkillShare) y transportación (Uber), la vida como la conocemos ha sido fundamentalmente alterada. Incluso las plataformas en línea que han sido diseñadas para la interacción humana que hoy conocemos como las redes sociales solo nos pueden ofrecer una interacción por medio de un proxy, nuestra pantalla.

LA TECNOLOGÍA Y LA IGLESIA ... ¿UNA SOLUCIÓN?

Nadie puede negar los beneficios de la tecnología y cómo nos ha facilitado la vida. Sin embargo, todos estos avances tecnológicos han venido con daños colaterales. Por ejemplo, de acuerdo a Forbes, el estadounidense promedio pasa sobre 12 horas al día en frente de una pantalla. Esta tendencia ha contribuido

Mientras reposaba mi cabeza sentado encima de la parte trasera del automóvil de mi madre no pude evitar sentirme privilegiado. Después de todo, había conseguido una localización increíble para observar el espectáculo nocturno que adornaba el firmamento: la gama de fuegos artificiales despidiendo el año de 1999 y dándole la bienvenida al último año del siglo XX, entrando así simbólicamente en el nuevo milenio. Han pasado 20 años desde entonces y el mundo no puede ser un lugar mucho más distinto.



enormemente al deterioro de la salud física, mental y social del colectivo.

A la luz de esta realidad, la iglesia debe entender y abrazar dos verdades simultáneamente: (1) la realidad del mundo en el que todos nos encontramos y (2) la necesidad de la interacción humana de manera presencial. Respecto a la primera (1) verdad, el mundo no va a cambiar—y seamos honestos, nosotros tampoco—y cualquier otro cambio venidero seguirá empujando el péndulo del reloj hacia la misma dirección. Es por esto que, como la iglesia, no deberíamos seguir viviendo en el pasado, aferrándonos con nostalgia a modelos ministeriales basados en los años 80 y 90 mientras nos lamentamos del estado actual del mundo. El mundo se encuentra en línea más que nunca y debemos evangelizar y alcanzar al mundo donde se encuentre el mundo, no donde quisiéramos que estuviera.

Es por esta razón que la presencia en línea de la iglesia no debe ser vista como un aditivo cosmético de una iglesia de moda y juvenil, sino como una herramienta práctica del ministerio contemporáneo. De la misma manera en que la iglesia tomó control de la imprenta en el siglo XVI, es hora de que la iglesia hispana tome control del Internet.

Respecto a la segunda (2) verdad, la iglesia debe reconocer también los peligros del abuso de la tecnología y nunca verla como un fin, sino como un medio para alcanzar un fin. Aún más, debemos reconocer que Dios nos diseñó y creó para relacionarnos con él y con otros. El sacrificio sustitutorio de Cristo fue efectuado para traernos a Dios (cf. 1 Ped. 3:18), siendo el catalítico que hizo posible nuestra relación con Dios. Dicho sacrificio es, además, el fundamento de todos los pasajes de la Biblia que asumen una relación comunal en el cuerpo de Cristo (e.g., Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Jn. 4:11; Col. 3:13, etc.). Es imposible cumplir satisfactoriamente todos estos deberes cristianos sin interacciones humanas comprensivas. Por ende, nuestra presencia en línea debe ser intencional, estratégica, constructiva y suplemental—no sustitutoria.



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EL CENTRO DE COMANDO DE LA IGLESIA EN LÍNEA

¿Cómo la iglesia hispana en particular podría abrazar estas dos verdades discutidas en este artículo? Quizás el elemento más indispensable sería la discusión e implementación de una página web. Hoy en día, cuando una persona tiende a buscar información sobre una iglesia dentro de su código postal, suele comenzar en Google, no en la base de datos de una red social. Si una iglesia no tiene ninguna presencia en línea hoy día, perdería un gran grado de visibilidad. Una página web también tiende a proveer un vistazo mucho más comprensivo acerca de la iglesia, su liderato, teología, valores, visión y misión que una red social; además de servir como el centro de comando para el lanzamiento de iniciativas de evangelismo en línea. Por ejemplo, en mi iglesia estamos corriendo un programa global llamado Alpha, donde estaremos trayendo a invitados a discutir sus dudas en relación a la fe cristiana a través de Zoom. Toda la logística detrás de este esfuerzo evangelístico es organizada a través de la página web de mi iglesia.

CREATIVIDAD BÍBLICA EN LÍNEA

Otras iglesias han dedicado espacios de naturaleza evangelística en línea a través de testimonios bien producidos para maximizar su impacto en formato de videos. Otras han dedicado un espacio en su página web para hostear podcasts conducidos por el staff pastoral, sesiones de preguntas y respuestas en vivo a través de las redes sociales con un hashtag particular o, incluso, apoyando económicamente iniciativas evangelísticas creativas y promocionandolas a través de su página web y correos electrónicos.

Ahora, quizás las opciones más obvias para muchos pastores sea integrar sus predicaciones a YouTube y Facebook. Aunque esto es loable y debe ser considerado, especialmente en tiempos de COVID-19, ambas plataformas están saturadas de

personas en frente de un púlpito predicando. Es por eso que si queremos sobresalir enfrente de todo el ruido digital y capturar la atención de nuestro prójimo, tenemos que ser creativos y enfatizar nuestros talentos y habilidades con lo mejor de nuestras capacidades (cf. Col. 3:23-24). No tenemos que reinventar la rueda, solo pensar acerca de necesidades en línea que podríamos suplir como individuos y como iglesia.

Por ejemplo, desde hace unos años atrás, he estado trabajando en un proyecto de video-ensayos teológicos y evangelísticos para ayudar a iglesias, líderes y laicos a suplementar de forma visual y audible su entendimiento de la fe cristiana. Este proyecto, bautizado como Theological Vox es una expresión creativa que apunta a llenar un hueco en la media cristiana hispana, pues debido a la complejidad técnica de la producción de este tipo de videos, no muchas personas pueden lograr esto. Este proyecto ha sido producto de mi esfuerzo personal. ¿Se imaginan el impacto que podría tener de ser incorporado y apoyado por una iglesia local? Quizás un pastor no tenga el conocimiento técnico para producir algo así, pero dentro de la iglesia local alguien podría cubrir dicha necesidad. De ahí a que esfuerzos como Coalición por el Evangelio, Soldados de Jesucristo o BITE (Biblia, Ideas, Teología, Experiencias) hayan tenido tanto éxito: porque cubrieron un hueco que nadie estaba cubriendo y porque las iglesias han adoptado y apoyado dichos esfuerzos.

Sin importar exactamente qué hagamos en línea, hagámoslo con esfuerzo y excelencia. Después de todo, es en línea donde se encuentra nuestro prójimo. Utilicemos estas herramientas responsable y estratégicamente de manera suplemental y conduzcamos a nuestro prójimo a relacionarse presencialmente con Dios, con la iglesia y con a la vida en abundancia que Cristo ofrece.

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How May I Be Fruitful During Crisis?

By Ted Elmore



Parents sometimes discipline a child by removing some of their favorite things and putting the child in “time out.” We as a nation, a denomination and family have all been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In some ways it may be that God is using the pandemic to remove some of our favorite things and give us a time out in order to focus our attention on what he sees as priority. We do not know the full mind of the divine, but what we do know is all of us have had to make adjustments. We also know that if God is using this to correct his church, it is for our good.

One of the adjustments is how we reach people with the gospel. Mass meetings, door-to-door

and the casual witness encounter with person “x” has been greatly reduced. The church in the book of Acts repeatedly made adjustments but continued in their outreach to the lost. One of the key areas of outreach was in the home (Acts 10:24-48; 16:25-24; 2 Timothy 1:3-7).

Do those who live under your roof know the Lord Jesus? This is our immediate “field.” Our neighbors are next. How may reach them in an era of fear and social distancing? One way is to prayer earnestly for their salvation. Much of the following is from a brochure called “Praying for the Lost” published by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and is available at sbtexas.com/resources. This will encourage you to pray for lost people everywhere.

A missionary of another era has been widely quoted as praying “God, break my heart with the things that break yours.” One of the those things breaking God’s heart is revealed in Matthew 23:37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ... how often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.” Another translation says, “You would not.”

Some of the saddest words in Scripture (“you would not”) tell us that God wants people to welcome Jesus into their lives as Messiah and Lord. Jerusalem did not welcome him as Messiah. Those apart from him are characterized in the Gospels as “lost.” Luke 15 clearly describes a God who is seeking the lost. Jesus said so himself in Luke 19:10. In John 17:3, Jesus described eternal life as “knowing” Jesus. It is a relationship that trusts Jesus for salvation (faith) and follows him in obedience (evidence of knowing Jesus).

Who are the lost? These are described in the Bible as unbelieving (John 3:18, Luke 15), living in spiritual darkness

“Praying for the Lost” published by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and is available at sbtexas.com/resources

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

You may want to pray daily, alone, in a small group or develop what has been called a “Prayer Triplet.” This has been used extensively in preparation for evangelistic meetings. It is simple: three people each list three lost people for whom they are praying. One day per week, these three get together and they pray for the three lost people each of them has listed.

As a pastor, you may want to create a section in your church prayer room to list the names of lost people for whom the church is praying. When they come to Christ and are baptized, remove them from that wall and place them on an answered prayer wall or some other section designed for that purpose.

One way to begin this process is to have a locked box (similar to an offering receptacle) for the people to place the names of lost friends for whom to pray. These can be prayed over in corporate worship as a group and then the names transferred to the prayer room. When one of them comes to faith in Jesus and makes that public, celebrate answered prayer. It is a faith builder for others.

In the situation of someone who has “made a profession of faith but strayed away,” or as some would call a “prodigal,” do not assume their salvation. Pray for them as if they are lost. The same Holy Spirit will convict both and he knows.

Remember—fruit follows faithfulness. And God determines the fruit. Be faithful.

(John 1:5), blind to the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4) and perishing (2 Corinthians 4:3). The Scriptures teach us that lost-ness is not because of behavior but because of condition. It is the result of a condition of the soul apart from God. That is what the Bible calls sin. A person is capable of a wide spectrum of sinful behavior coming from the inner condition of the heart (Matthew 15:16-20).

One is not lost by behavior nor is one saved by behavior. The gospel is that in God’s perfect timing he sent his son to be born of a virgin, live a sinless life and be crucified for our sin(s). The root sin is unbelief. It is unbelief (a refusal to recognize one’s need of a Savior and turn to Jesus) that crucified Jesus. He was buried and rose again on the third day, thus vindicating his claim to be the Son of God (Romans 1:4).

We can influence our family and friends to Jesus through prayer and witness. Prayer accentuates the activity of God. We would obviously pray for them to be saved, but we can also engage in the spiritual warfare for their souls by praying the process God uses to bring them to calling on the name of the Lord. God teaches us to pray for the lost to be saved.

Let’s break that down.

1. In Romans 10:1 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4 we are taught that Paul prayed for the salvation of lost people and instructed Timothy to do the same.

2. Pray for conviction of sin. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin,

righteousness and judgement to come (John 16:8-11).

3. Romans 10:8-17, the apostle outlines how people come to Christ. He begins with an affirmation, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” After that, he outlines how people come to Christ by reversing the order. We must pray the process.

→ Pray God will send someone to your lost friends/family to share the gospel with them. Do not be surprised if that “someone” is you.

→ Pray your lost friends/family will hear not only with the natural hear, but hear deep in their inner being with the spiritual ear.

→ Pray God will grant them faith and they will believe in their hearts Jesus died on the cross for their sins and God raised him from the dead.

→ Pray they will then call upon the name of Jesus for salvation.

→ Pray they will confess Jesus as Lord.

4. List those for whom you will intercede and if possible share the gospel.

Using New-Era Metrics

By Dave Carroll FBC Mansfield

Traditional church metrics are changing right in front of our eyes. The following are thoughts to help you make sense of new-era metrics. More than likely, many of these shifts should have happened years ago, but it was just too easy to quote worship and Bible study attendance and claim a job well done. So, here are six ideas to help make sense of new-era church metrics:

1. Shift from “production” to “potential” statistics.

You used to look back on Sunday services each Monday morning and high-five the staff or have a hard conversation. While what happened last weekend or last quarter is a great indicator of reality, this new era calls for something greater. Many churches have been in the mode of measuring what they have done instead of what they are now capable of doing. This is why so many churches have plateaued or declined. With digital church services and Bible studies becoming the norm alongside physical services, there is now an opportunity to encourage a perspective change regarding metrics. What if the number of views on a livestream being larger than your pre-COVID-19 attendance isn't just an opportunity to celebrate with the team? What if there was a way of moving each viewer closer to Christ?

The goal of production-oriented statistics is to find out what happened and see if you can do more of the same next weekend. Yes, you had X number viewing worship services and X number in Bible study last week—so what? The goal of potential-oriented statistics is to provide a view of who your church is capable of reaching, discipling and engaging in the future. Once you have your potential quantified and in-view, then it becomes much easier to know where your greatest ministry effort should be applied. It provides a new job description, opening up new volunteer and staffing opportunities.

Consider two different churches. Each one has had an identical attendance (or views) of 100 the past five Sundays. Church One has had one new guest per week over that 5-week span. Church Two has had 10 new guests per week over the same time frame. During that period,

the potential for Church One is 104 people. This is the potential size of the group to carry out the mission, share their faith, invite others to worship, study God's Word and disciple those who need to grow. However, the potential for Church Two is 140 people. The production for each church during that season was exactly the same, but their potential is very different.

In the past, the church with fewer guests would look at the church with more and perhaps point to their big back door or some other problem. They did this in order to justify the disparity. It is the season to begin celebrating the incredible potential of Church Two. New people create new problems and challenges, to be sure. But this is where the work of ministry comes into play. When your potential increases you channel the work of ministry to see new people grow by properly deploying the existing congregation. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Be a church of potential, not just production. There is a scenario not mentioned which is common to the church world—the church that has 100 people attend per week, like the two in the example, but has no idea the makeup of their viewership or attendance because they also stream their service online. It is time to embrace potential along with production in our metrics. You might not know the exact implications of the

number of views, but you can dig deeper to see your church's potential.

2. Emphasize the new.

This is the primary currency of potential statistics. Churches that want to be a part of the Great Commission will work to find out about the new people engaging their congregation. If you care about reaching the lost, but have not quantified the new opportunities God has given you, this could be why you have been spinning your wheels. If the church has stopped caring about the new, maybe it is time for a heart check. This means caring deeply about providing worship for existing church members, but also remembering to care for those who do not know Christ or do not have a church home! Oddly enough, it is the focus on the new that drives discipleship. Vibrant discipleship means people are following Christ at a new commitment level than the day before, right? Focusing on the new does not leave out the existing congregation; it creates more value for them. They will be needed more than ever to model what it means to follow Jesus.

Here are some ideas of things to track in the area of newness: new views, new engagements (i.e., count the number of people commenting on your feed for the very first time), new givers, new outreach initiatives, new stories, new invites by church members, new people asking about Bible study

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NEW IS THE CURRENCY OF POTENTIAL. STATISTICS OF POTENTIAL WILL STAY INVISIBLE UNLESS YOU COMMIT TO EMBRACE THEM. BUT IF YOU LOOK FOR AND VALUE THEM, THEY WILL PRODUCE MORE FRUIT THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

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groups, new people serving, emerging Bible study leaders and new salvation stories. New is the currency of potential.

Statistics of potential will stay invisible unless you commit to embrace them. But if you look for and value them, they will produce more fruit than you ever thought possible. You will start hearing people say, “What if we ...?” instead of, “We always ...” or, “We used to ...” It will get exciting and make personal growth a fun experience. There is very little more exciting than when potential is being realized. Realize potential by tracking the new!

3. Scrutinize inputs more

closely than outcomes.

This is where reality comes into play in the new era metric. Admittedly, with both online and physical gathering worship it can be very difficult to know the “real” numbers.

But you know what is not hard to know? The internal work from your church into the community.

Consider these questions: How many hours you have spent making your online service better each week? How many people have communicated they received Christ (if none, then how can you make it easier for someone to let you know?); How many follow-up messages have you sent out to those who might be new from your Facebook Live? Have you purchased the best equipment your budget allows or have you just gotten by? Have you or your leadership team learned a new skill to advance your church’s ministry? How often have your team leaders communicated with those who served regularly? How many meals or other items have you given away to your community? How many people have shared your posts?

The list of inputs is endless. More than likely, if the inputs are going the right direction, God will use them. The outcomes will follow if you will connect the inputs with your church’s entry points.

4. Create a culture of internal drive through your metrics.

Internal drive is a secret ingredient of most churches that reach lost people and grow. Those churches are aware of standard

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**WHAT IF THE DRIVE
CAME FROM WITHIN A
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metrics, best practices and what other churches are doing, but they tend to make the benchmark against themselves. They want to be better than last weekend—somehow, some way. Most statistics serve as a benchmark against other churches. That isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but what if you created a metric for internal motivation (or moving forward)? What if the drive came from within a church’s desire to be more effective at reaching and teaching people instead of only revealing the size of a congregation? How can this happen on a digital level?

Let’s get a little bit practical on this point. Did you know you can look at length of views for most places you livestream? On Facebook you can see who watched a live stream for 10 minutes or longer, which is a great starting place. Track that

number and find ways to make it go up. Or better yet, if you have access to unique viewers (most do whether they know it or not) it will be valuable to see that number increase. If churches will focus on these kinds of metrics and make them better, it is possible for online numbers to go up. Focus on recognizing improvement and potential to create an internal drive.

Multipliers. Do not fall into the trap of relying solely on multipliers. Multipliers are simply a church’s educated guess how many individuals watched a livestream. Using multipliers means making an assumption about the average number of viewers watching a single screen (i.e., a family unit), rather than limiting attendance counts to the number of screens logged onto a given livestream. Multipliers make the number to report higher. Sure, it is easy to feel better about this difficult situation by creating larger multipliers to the number of views. If you are going to use multipliers, stay around the formula 1.5x your unique viewers. This is probably closer to reality and it creates a standard for your counting. Creating internal drive means choosing to define reality in simplicity and then work, pray and learn in a way that God can use to increase effectiveness.

5. Ask why the number is the number.

Anyone who has been in charge of tracking church giving knows where this is going. If a church received \$10,000 dollars last weekend, but 30 percent of

people GROUPS



Texas People Group Facts:

The population is expected to increase by **22.5** percent this decade, **34** percent from international migration.

420 different **people groups**

300+ languages

500,000+ Muslims & **1 million** Hindus and Buddhists

200 Islamic mosques, **100** Hindu temples and **150** Buddhist temples

82,000 international students

sbtexas.com/peoplegroups

pulpit supply

sbtexas.com/pulpitsupply

"The SBTC has assisted Antioch Baptist Church during our transition. We've been blessed by their willingness to provide assistance with pulpit supply during this interim period."

Irv Atkinson, Deacon
Antioch Baptist Church, Lovelady

"From our first Sunday without a pastor to today, 10 months later, the SBTC PCR team has faithfully helped us have a strong, challenging word from God in our pulpit each week. We are evidence that no place is too far and no church is too small for the faithful men of SBTC who have been called to minister to his church."

Jo McGuire, Church Member
Cornerstone Fellowship, Haskell

Contact us at **817-552-2500**

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

it came from one giver, that's a lot different than if the largest giver was 5 percent of the total giving for the same \$10,000. While all giving is a blessing, there is much more stability in the latter. The same is true of views online.

There are going to be various types of viewings on your livestream. Some are reconnecting church members who moved, others are drive-by viewings for 10 seconds, still others watch all the way through. Focus on growing the numbers that matter most and contribute to the ministry God has called you to shepherd and build. If you are not asking why the numbers are the way they are, you are missing the opportunity to find out the true effectiveness of your online attendance.

Length of views. When you are livestreaming on Facebook in particular (although most platforms provide metrics), the number of total views is provided to you directly on the feed. This total number can inflate reality in a major way. You will need to click on the total views to find how many people stayed on for certain amounts of time. Many will find more than half of the views were 10 seconds or less. Another large group may have watched for a minute and then logged off. Generally speaking, you want to evaluate your progress using at least the "10 minutes or longer" group of viewers. But the shorter views are not useless views! These metrics should challenge us to move people closer into church community. Here are some questions to consider: How do we produce a livestream that moves 1-minute viewers to become 10-minute

viewers? How do we encourage 10-minute viewers to engage by leaving a comment? Should we create more entry points into our livestream to welcome new viewers? Whatever you choose to do, recognize not all views are equal.

6. Engagement counts double.

The glue of effective new era metrics is in systematizing personal interaction. It is no longer enough to say how many people sat in a seat or behind a screen. It is also no longer wise to assume just because someone heard what to do that they don't need help in order to do it. Culture is moving further and further away from Christianity and the result is people increasingly do not have a background for what is being taught. So engagement works off of the assumption people need help, even though they may not know they need help. As a church leader, you are going to have to renegotiate the high-five moment after weekend services. The high-five moments should be when you set a record for how many new people asked for a Bible study sign-up link. Or how many new viewers watched at least 10 minutes. Or how many new and trained volunteers decided to engage your worship community online in the comment section. Or how many new people were private messaged on Facebook as a follow up to first time attendance. Start the process by adding metrics that measure your effort at connecting to people. Engagement means the church and leadership initiate movement toward new people. They do not wait for it to magically happen.

A great word picture during

COVID-19 for recognizing engagement is online connection cards. Attraction-based churches take a "We're here if you need us" approach by simply offering a mention to a connection card once, maybe twice, during a worship service. Yes, you heard that right ... it is an attraction-based approach. Engagement-based churches will decide to initiate conversation with a new person watching, by posting in the comments section, give shout outs to new people during the worship service, provide links to get involved, offer a prayer link when they see a need based comment and send welcome messages via the platform. These churches will also make the same efforts before and after physical services. They will build serving teams around helping people take next steps in following Jesus.

Engagement ties together potential, the new, inputs and knowing why numbers exist. Ultimately, it asks the question: What do we need to do to make a spiritual difference in the lives of those who encounter Jesus through our church? Engagement demands the church is no longer a speed bump people happen to drive over and feel a quick change, but then go back to normal. Deciding to be an engaging church is following the heart of our Savior who chased us down to the point of our salvation. He doesn't let us wander aimlessly. We should do the same for our communities.



ministry to & through associations

Toll Free 1-877-953-7282 Local 817-552-2500

sbtexas.com/associations

The SBTC is honored to partner with local associations in meeting the specific needs of our state's varying regional ministry contexts. Talk to your associational DOM/AMS or call the SBTC office to see how we might be able to partner with your local Baptist association for a specific event.

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



counseling + conflict mediation

church grant + emergency grant funds

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. -Psalm 34:17

We are here to offer help and guidance in those times of discouragement, disheartenment and distress, either in your personal life or church life.

Contact us at 817-552-2500

sbtexas.com/counseling

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

55+ Adults

MINISTRY TRAINING

- 3.4** Calvary BC, San Marcos
- 3.11** SBTC Office, Grapevine
- 3.18** Denman Avenue BC, Lufkin
- 9.2** Victoria Parkway BC, Victoria
- 9.9** Bay Area Church, League City
- 9.16** Southcrest BC, Lubbock

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

COST
\$15 10AM - 2PM
Includes Lunch

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

sbtexas.com/sradults

church tax

SEMINAR

ALL LIVE ONLINE EVENTS

- 1.14** Online (10am - 2pm)
- 1.20** Online (10am - 2pm)
- 1.26** Online (10am - 2pm)
- 1.27** Online (6pm - 9pm)

Each event will be recorded and made available at sbtexas.com/tax

Informing & educating about church & pastoral tax laws.

Led by a CPA, these seminars cover procedures & revised or new laws for the upcoming year. Topics include housing allowance for ministers, church tax responsibilities, contributions, worker classification and reporting.

Free with registration at sbtexas.com/tax

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.



TODAY'S INTERIM Pastor Training

sbtexas.com/tip

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

When a pastor leaves, a time of transition in the life of the church begins. Many churches need transitional pastors with experience and ministry gifts that ensure high-quality leadership.

January 28

San Antonio Baptist Assoc.

April 12

Dallas Baptist Assoc.

August 13

Union Baptist Assoc., Houston

November 8

Flint Baptist Church

Young Pastors NETWORK



Spencer Plumlee
Network Consultant

An opportunity to network with other young pastors and leaders around the state and be developed personally as a leader. Join us for gatherings at the Empower Conference and the SBTC Annual Meeting every year.

Young Pastors Network Dinner
2.22.21 • Irving Convention Center

sbtexas.com/ypn

2021 EVENTS

Does your church need training, fellowship & encouragement?

The SBTC seeks to equip and support it's churches through a host of events. See the 2021 calendar of events to find out where you can plug in. Together we can reach Texas and impact the world.

sbtexas.com/events

All In person events subject to change based on COVID conditions. Check sbtexas.com/events for more details. All events registrants will be notified of a change prior to the event.



JANUARY

- 6 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine
- 9 VBSI Preview, Online, Lifeway.com
- 14 Tax Seminar, Online (10am - 2pm)
- 15-16 M3 WKND Amarillo & Houston
- 20 Tax Seminar, Online (10am - 2pm)
- 21 RevTalks Live, SBTC, Grapevine
- 22-23 VBSI Preview, Online, Lifeway.com
- 26 Pastor Mentor Initiative, San Antonio
- 26 Tax Seminar, Online (10am - 2pm)
- 27 Tax Seminar, Online (6pm - 9pm)
- 28 RevTalks Live, Faith Memorial BC, Houston
- 28 Today's Interim Pastor, San Antonio
- 29-30 VBSI Preview, Online, Lifeway.com

FEBRUARY

- 3 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine
- 4 RevTalks Online, Zoom
- 19-20 Apoderados, Cross City Church, Euless
- 22 New SBTC Pastor Orientation, Empower Conference
- 22 Church Health and Leadership Dinner, Empower Conference
- 22 Young Pastors Dinner, Empower Conference
- 22-23 Empower Conference, Irving Conv. Center, Las Colinas
- 27 Disaster Relief Phase 1, FBC, Pflugerville

MARCH

- 4 RevTalks Live, Paramount BC, Amarillo
- 4 55+ Adults Ministry Training, Calvary BC, San Marcos
- 6 She Stands, Fallbrook BC, Houston
- 6 VBS Training, Spring BC, Spring
- 11 55+ Adults Ministry Training, SBTC, Grapevine
- 11 RevTalks Online, Zoom
- 18 55+ Adults Ministry Training, Denman Avenue BC, Lufkin
- 18 Connect Network Luncheon, Abilene
- 19-20 Pause Retreat, Fort Worth
- 20 VBS Training, Southcrest BC, Lubbock
- 24 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine
- 27 VBS Training, Trinity BC, Longview
- 27 VBS Training, University BC, San Antonio

APRIL

- 7 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine
- 8 Disciple-Making Forum, DFW
- 10 Disaster Relief Phase 1, Church at Quail Creek, Amarillo
- 10 Bible Drill Regional, West Texas
- 12 Today's Interim Pastor, Dallas
- 15 Pastor Mentor Initiative, Dallas
- 17 She Stands/Florece, Paramount Church, Amarillo
- 17 Bible Drill Regional, SWBTS, Forth Worth
- 22-23 RevRetreat, SBTC, Grapevine
- 22 Role of the Pastor Conference, SBTC, Grapevine
- 24 Bible Drill Regional, South Texas
- 25-26 NAMB—Who's Your One?, Mobberly BC, Longview
- 29-5/1 Breathe Deep, Grapevine

MAY

- 10-11 Administrative Assistants' Retreat, San Marcos
- 11 Hispanic Leadership Summit, SBTC, Grapevine
- 12-14 Texas Roundup, Austin Stone Community Church, Austin
- 15 Bible Drill State Finals, SBTC, Grapevine

JUNE

- 13-16 SBC Pastors' Conference & Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN
- 17-19 National Bible Drill
- 21 Asian Family Retreat, Summer's Mill
- 24 RevTalks Online, Zoom
- 25-26 Pastor & Wife Retreat, Houston
- 28-7/2 M3 Camp, Highland Lakes, Spicewood

JULY

- 5-9 M3 Camp, Highland Lakes, Spicewood
- 11 Special Needs Ministry Sunday
- 15-19 M3 Camp Week 5, Glorieta, NM
- 19-23 LEAD Conference
- 26-30 M3 Camp, Camp Zephyr, Sandia
- 28 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine

AUGUST

- 2-6 Youth Week, Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose
- 13 Today's Interim Pastor, Houston
- 14 EQUIP, Champion Forest BC, Houston
- 25 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine
- 26 RevTalks Online, Zoom
- 28 Impact (Church Leadership), Lufkin
- 31 Pastor Mentor Initiative, Houston

SEPTEMBER

- 2 55+ Adults Ministry Training, Victoria Parkway BC, Victoria
- 9 Children/Family Ministry Luncheon, Austin
- 9 55+ Adults Ministry Training, Bay Area Church, League City
- 15 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine
- 16 55+ Adults Ministry Training, Southcrest BC, Lubbock
- 17-18 Español Florece Retreat, Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose
- 19-26 Reach Texas Offering Week of Prayer
- 23-24 RevForum, SBTC, Grapevine
- 24-25 Pastors' Wives Retreat, DFW

OCTOBER

- 1-2 Hombres de Impacto, Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose
- 5 Pastors Masters Golf Tournament, Tour18, Flower Mound
- 9 She Stands/Florece Conference, First BC, Forney
- 12-14 Send Summit, Redeemer Church, Lubbock
- 14 RevTalks Online, Zoom
- 16 Disaster Relief Phase 1, SWBTS, Fort Worth
- 20 SBTC Chapel, Grapevine

NOVEMBER

- 7 Spanish Session, Flint BC
- 8-9 Annual Meeting, Flint BC
- 8 Young Pastors Network Late Night, Flint BC
- 8 Today's Interim Pastor, Flint BC
- 18 Pastor Mentor Initiative, Jacksonville College

DECEMBER

- 3-4 Student Ministers Getaway, Austin

For more about SBTC events & to view a more detailed calendar visit

sbtexas.com/events

or call 1-877-953-7282

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We will continue to update you about SBTC events and resources in upcoming quarterly issues of REACH Magazine. As they release, each can be viewed online at...

sbtexas.com/reach



Use your phone's camera to scan our QR code.



EMPOWER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY

22-23

2021

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER

sbtexas.com/empower



Keynotes



Gary
Chapman



Charlie
Dates



Adam
Greenway



Brian
Haynes



Costi
Hinn



Johnny
Hunt



Latasha
Morrison



Grant
Skeldon



Dennis
Swanberg



Nick
Vujicic



OPEN CAMERA OR QR
READER & SCAN CODE

“

The conference served as a great reminder, refreshing and intensifying my awareness of the difference my ministry can make. It was good to be reminded that

IT'S NOT ONLY IMPORTANT THAT I BE WILLING TO PERSONALLY GO AND SERVE WHEN GOD CALLS, BUT THAT I NEED TO BE CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN OUR MINISTRIES

to constantly be considering how God may be calling them to serve.

”