



## No Quick Fix

Ministry is hard. Paul commended the Thessalonians for their *work* of faith, *labor* of love and *endurance* inspired by hope (1 Thess 1:2-3). Work, labor, and endurance! These words reinforce the challenge of serving Christ in a fallen world.

What amazes me, though, is how many believers seek easy, simple solutions to these challenges. Church conflict? Just remove that guy. Church declining? If we only had that program, or that fireball staff member. Need more workers? As soon those people (as in, everyone but me) get committed, we will have them. I hear such claims daily.

But here's some truth. There is no quick fix. The work that Christ calls us to requires time and effort. Work. Labor. Endurance. And you cannot call anyone else to these until you yourself show them.

Think about it.

## Investing in Leaders

One of the major contributions BBA makes to the health of your church is our investment in leaders through the Bi State School of Ministry. Bi State, a partnership with Gateway Seminary of the SBC, offers quality training locally and at an affordable price for church leaders and prospective leaders. Classes may be taken a la carte or toward a Diploma in Christian Ministry. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 21-22 and include:

Ministry Foundations - Monday evenings, 6 to 9 PM: A course designed to facilitate growth in necessary personal, spiritual, and practical foundations for life-long Christian service, which I will teach.

Old Testament Survey - Tuesday evenings, 6 to 9 PM: An introduction to the content and background of the Old Testament, taught by Dr. Bill Steeger, retired pastor, missionary and professor.

If you are interested in either or both classes, or would like to know more about the program, contact Bro. Paul Burkhalter at [paul-burkhalter2017@gmail.com](mailto:paul-burkhalter2017@gmail.com).

Happy August. May God bless and keep you.

Bro. Jim

## In this month's FOCUS

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# association news & prayer

## Upcoming Meetings

The next Administrative Committee Meeting will be **August 9th**, 10:00 AM, at the BBA Office. Meetings are open to participation from interested persons within the association.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be at Eylau Hills Baptist Church, **September 19th**, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

## BBA Annual Meeting and Partnership Celebration

Plan now to attend the Bowie Baptist Association's Partnership Celebration and Annual Meeting, **Sunday, October 15**, at Buchanan Baptist Church, Texarkana, TX.

The event will feature a Missions Celebration, a meal, interest based breakout conferences, a brief business session and a Worship Celebration.

Please make sure your church elects messengers for the business session and let [Valerie](#) know who will be attending as messengers from your church.

## D-Life

D-Life is a relational disciple making approach where groups of 3 to 8 men or women commit together to do several things:

- Read a chapter of the Bible daily
- Meet for an hour once weekly for fellowship, accountability, prayer, and Bible study
- Complete a ministry project at least once every two months
- Multiply / form a new group at least once every year

Several BBA congregations are launching D-Life. If you would like to explore how D-Life can bless your church, or if you are interested in joining a D-Life group, contact [Bro. Jim](#).

## Bi-State School of Ministry



Registration is open for the Bi-State School of Ministry, part of the ADVANCE Ministry Preparation program with Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Advance offers quality, local, and affordable training for Christians serving within and beyond the local church. Upcoming classes include:

### Begins Monday, August 21, 6 pm

**Ministry Foundations** - A study of the call to ministry and foundational abilities necessary for fruitful ministry, taught by Dr. Jim Turnbo. In Jim's previous work as a missionary to Native Americans, a large part of his assignment was "raising leaders from the harvest." Anyone exploring God's call, either to vocational ministry or lay Christian service, would benefit from this class.

### Begins Tuesday, August 22, 6 pm

**Introduction to the Old Testament** - A survey course through the Old Testament scriptures taught by Dr. Bill Steeger. Dr. Steeger is an Old Testament specialist with a special gift for communicating the richness of Biblical narrative. Preachers, ministry leaders, and Bible study teachers would all benefit from this course.

If you are interested in either of these classes, contact the BBA office or Ministry Training Director, Paul Burkhalter, at 903-826-4489 or [paulburkhalter2017@gmail.com](mailto:paulburkhalter2017@gmail.com).

# FOCUS on the ministry

## BGCT Week of Prayer & Mary Hill Davis Offering



Starting in 1910, the Mary Hill Davis Offering® was established to empower state missions efforts for Texas Baptists. Mark your calendars for **September 10-17** to recognize and promote the offering at your church. The State Goal this year is \$3,600,000 Million. Your giving mobilizes ministries and missionaries to go make disciples and multiply churches among all peoples for the glory of God. For more information & promotional materials for your church, click [here](#).

### Save the Date

1st Choice Pregnancy Resource Center's annual fall fundraising dinner will be Tuesday, November 7th at the Texarkana Convention Center. Anyone interested in serving as a table host (no cost) or helping with underwriting expenses (minimum \$250) should contact Kristie Wright at (903) 792-5735 or [firstchoice@cablone.net](mailto:firstchoice@cablone.net).

## SBTC Reach Texas State Missions



The annual state mission offering of the SBTC will be **September 17-24, 2017**. 100% of the offering is used for Missions & Evangelism Ministries / Strategies (Disaster Relief, Church Planting, Evangelism & Missions). For more information & promotional materials for your church, click [here](#). The 2016 statewide Goal is 1.45 million dollars.

### ACP's



Believe it or not, it is nearing time for your church to complete your Annual Church Profile, a report to our Baptist partners on your ministry this past year. Data is used by convention entities to plan support for local churches and assess SBC ministry priorities.

When your profile arrives, please pass it along to the appropriate individual in your church.

## Churches Seeking Staff

Please continue to pray for the numerous churches in the Association that are seeking staff members.

**Pastor:**  
Victory City

**Worship Leader:**  
Hooks FBC

### Youth Leader:

- Highland Park (903-792-6996)
- Flower Acres (903-824-8412)
- Korean Mission
- Myrtle Springs
- New Boston FBC
- Midway FBC

(Send resume to 1415 FM 2148, Texarkana, TX 75501, ATTN: Youth Minister Search Committee)

For more information, you may contact the respective congregations with the information provided, or contact the BBA Office.

## Associational Staff

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# The FOCUS

THE FOCUS, Published monthly by  
Bowie Baptist Association  
PO Box 7740  
Texarkana, Texas 75505-7740  
Published primarily by email  
Hardcopy upon request  
Postmaster: Send address changes to  
Bowie Baptist Association  
PO Box 7740  
Texarkana, TX 75505-7740  
"Address Service Requested"

## AUGUST 2017

- 8** Administrative Team Meeting  
BBA Office, 10 AM
- 14-19** Texarkana Children Charities Open  
Benefiting Runnin' WJ Ranch

## SEPTEMBER 2017

- 4** Labor Day - BBA Office Closed
- 10-17** Week of Prayer - Texas Missions & Mary  
Hill Davis Offering
- 12** Administrative Team Meeting, 10 AM
- 17-24** Week of Prayer, SBTC
- 19** Executive Board Meeting, 6 PM  
Eylau Hills Baptist Church

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## FRIENDSHIP CENTER AUGUST

620 W. Fourth  
Texarkana, TX 75505  
903-792-1301

- Avery FBC
- Grace Way
- Liberty Hill
- Malta
- New Boston FBC
- Simms FBC
- New Oak Grove
- Oak Terrace Mission
- Regions Christian Center

## RUNNIN' WJ RANCH

4802 S. Kings Hwy  
Texarkana, TX 75501  
903-838-3223

These churches have been asked by the Friendship Center to get involved in the food drive for this month. The Center needs all kinds of canned goods, flour, corn meal, dried beans, macaroni and cheese, powdered milk, baby foods and formulas, and diapers. Any effort made for the Friendship Center will be appreciated. Some churches have chosen to include the Friendship Center in their annual budget and send a monthly check for support. Runnin' WJ Ranch needs financial support, volunteers, and supplies as well.