

The FOCUS

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Bowie Baptist
Association
903-831-0194



The Harvest is Plentiful

I received a call the other day from a pastor attending our Bi-State School of Ministry class. He asked, "Bro. Jim, how do we get people into the church? It seems as if people don't care as much as they once did." I thought to myself, "That, my friend, is an understatement."

There are countless reasons why church attendance across North America is in decline. Some people, seeing the church at it's worst, have decided they can follow the Lord without it. Others are so far removed from the Christian faith that church isn't even a thing for them. To quote Ed Stetzer, "They are no more likely to attend church than you are to attend synagogue." Add to that increased travel of the most faithful and the greater expectation to work on Sunday, we see how a strong and healthy church might today reach through Sunday worship half of those previously reached.

I don't remember which blog post it was in, for he writes prolifically, but Thom Rainer recently said that the ministry reach of a congregation will become less defined by Sunday worship attendance and more by the number of people engaged week long in small groups. The Sunday worship crowd will be comprised of the most faithful leaders and disciples, the core group behind all the others. If this is true, then the answer to my student's question is, "To bring them in, you make disciples. You grow laborers."

Think about it. Jesus did a lot of things in His earthly ministry. He preached to the crowds, ministered to those who were hurting, challenged professing believers with God's truth, and engaged the lost with the message of salvation. But when reading the four gospels you cannot escape how the majority of Jesus' ministry was devoted to those 12 disciples to whom he would entrust His church. By the time we get to Luke 10, the total number of followers has grown to 84, the twelve plus 72 others.

To these 84 he says, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest,*" (Luke 10:2-3). But then he adds, "*Go your way; behold, I am sending you out...*" (vs. 4). Jesus says, "Pray for laborers, then go yourselves." In other words, the very fact that we are aware of the harvest and need for laborers is an indicator that we ourselves are part of that harvest force.

Even though most are not running to the church seeking salvation, there is a rich harvest in the world ripe and ready for Christ's church. To reap it, we can no longer wait for them to approach us. We must deploy God's people out to them. Are you ready?

Blessings,

Bro. Jim

In this month's FOCUS

- Correctional & Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner
- Pastor's Monthly Fellowship
- Administrative Team Meeting
- 2018 Ignite Children's Camp
- BBA Navajo Mission Trip
- 1st Choice Walk/Run for Life
- 2018 NetXtreme
- Lakeview Sr. Adult Rally
- Lakeview Sportsman's Dinner & Fishing Tournament
- National Day of Prayer
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day
- Churches Seeking Staff

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Association
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association news & prayer

Correctional and Law Enforcement Appreciation



BBA is partnering with Texas Baptist Men to host Correctional Officer / Law Enforcement Officer

Appreciation Dinners at the Telford Prison unit, **May 9-10**.

TBM will provide a Disaster Relief feeding unit and cooks, with a minimum of 12 to 16 volunteers needed each meal to serve. Pastors and church staff are invited to come and visit with the officers. Meals will be served each day from 10:30 AM to 2 PM and from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. If you or a group from your church would like to volunteer, please contact [Bro. Jim](#).

Also, we need 800 letters from children and adults in the churches, thanking the officers for their service in keeping our community safe. Write letters on plain paper and put each into a separate envelope, leaving the envelope blank, except for any decorating you may wish to do.

BBA Pastor's Monthly Fellowship

The next monthly fellowship for the BBA pastors will be **May 7th, 10 am, at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**. This is a time for pastors of the Bowie Baptist Association to gather for coffee and fellowship.

Administrative Committee Meeting

The next Administrative Committee Meeting will be **May 8th, 10:00 AM**, at the BBA Office. Meetings are open to participation from interested persons within the association.

2018 BBA Children's Camp

Cost: **\$150** - All churches!

For more information or to receive a registration pack, please call or email Valerie at 903-831-0194 receptionist@bowiebaptist.org or visit the BBA webpage at www.bowiebaptist.org.



2018 Navajo Nation Mission Trip

June 2-8, 2018

Window Rock, Arizona



Join us for an international mission experience where you do NOT need a passport!

The 2018 BBA Navajo Nation Mission Trip is June 2-8. We will again travel to Tse Bonito, New Mexico and Window Rock, Arizona. Serving with Gateway Community Church, volunteers will provide a VBS, foot care ministry, and carpentry projects. The cost of \$200 covers travel, meals while on site (except for lunch out on Thursday), and ministry supplies.

If you are planning on attending, please contact Dr. Jim Turnbo by e-mail at jimturnbo@bowiebaptist.org.

FOCUS on the ministry

1st Choice Pregnancy Center Walk/Run for Life



Walk/Run for LIFE

Walk, 5K, 10K, & Kids' Fun Run

Saturday, May 5th @ Spring Lake Park

May 5th, 2018

Spring Lake Park

Pavilion 2 (by the airplane)

Texarkana, TX

7:00am - Race Registration

7:30am - Race Start

8:00am - Kid's 1 mile/no fee

9:30am - Walk Begins/no fee

Donate or register on the website, www.firstchoiceprc.com. (under the donate button), or through the Walk/Run [Facebook page](#). Call 903-792-5735 for more information.

2018 NetXtreme

"Above All Else" - Proverbs 4:23



Camp 1: June 4-8, 2018

Camp 2: June 8-12, 2018

Cost: \$190 per camper

Camp Pastor: Todd Reed,
FBC Redwater

Worship Leader: Abandon

Entertainment: Jared Hall

Registration for camp is now open! Reserve your spots by paying the \$50 deposit per camper. Final payments are due May 14, 2018.

The registration packet and more information can be found at www.netxtreme.org or by emailing info@netxtreme.org.

Lakeview Sr. Adult Rally



May 10, 2018

Registration: 9 AM

Program begins at 9:30 AM

Speaker/Music:

Sherman & Tammy Aten

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Includes lunch & 2 snacks. The meal is complimentary for pastors who help serve. (Please mention this when registering).

Each church please call with number attending by Monday May 7th. 903-656-3871.

Lakeview Sportsman's Dinner & Fishing Tournament

May 18-19, 2018

Speaker: Mike Powell

Entry fee is \$15 each for team event & \$1 for big bass. For tournament rules or other information, contact Martin Clickard at 903-935-0626 or mcbasshunter@yahoo.com. For room reservations contact Lakeview at 903-656-3871 or lakeview1948@windstream.net

National Day of Prayer

May 3, 2018

Mother's Day

May 13, 2018

Memorial Day

May 28, 2018

(BBA Office Closed)

Churches Seeking Staff

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

Pastor:

Victory City Midway FBC

Worship Leader:

Hooks FBC

Pianist:

Pleasant Grove (903-838-5558)

Youth Leader:

- Flower Acres (903-824-8412)
- Korean Mission
- Cross View

(Send resume to 3268 North FM 2148, Texarkana, TX 75503, ATTN: Youth Search Committee)

- 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.

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MAY 2018

- 3** National Day of Prayer
- 7** Pastor's Monthly Fellowship
Pleasant Grove, 10 am
- 10** Administrative Team Meeting
BBA Office, 10 am
- 10** Lakeview Senior Adult Rally
- 13** Mother's Day
- 28** Memorial Day (BBA Office Closed)

June 2018

- 2-8** BBA Navajo Mission Trip
- 2-8** Net Xtreme Camp 1
- 4** Pastor's Monthly Fellowship
Pleasant Grove, 10 am
- 8-12** Net Xtreme Camp 2
- 12** Administrative Team Meeting
BBA Office, 10 am
- 10-13** SBC Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX
- 17** Father's Day

MISSION TEXARKANA MAY

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

- College Hill
- DeKalb FBC
- Primera
- Friendship
- Sand Hill
- Spring Hill
- Texarkana FBC
- Village Community

RUNNIN' WJ RANCH

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

These churches have been asked by Mission Texarkana 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 Mission Texarkana will be appreciated. Some churches have chosen to include Mission Texarkana in their annual budget and send a monthly check for support. Runnin' WJ Ranch needs financial support, volunteers, and supplies as well.