



CROSS POINTS

www.graysonbaptist.com



One of the questions that I frequently encounter is, “Why should churches plant new churches instead of strengthening the ones that already exist?” You can imagine the crazy looks that I get when, in response, I begin talking about the golden arches. No, not the golden arches of heaven

(although I think that’s actually golden streets anyway). I’m not even referring to the golden arches of the new Cowboy Stadium. I’m talking McDonalds; specifically, the part of their sign that reads “billions and billions served.” Think about that for a moment, that’s a lot of beef, and it’s all been served in just 60 years. Ironically, five years (1953) into their history, there were only four restaurants in the chain. It wasn’t until entrepreneur Ray Croc came on board in 1954 that things started booming. From 1954-1972 things grew from 4 restaurants to 2200. In my lifetime they’ve added another 29,000 locations. For years the sign kept count of how many had been served, changing with every five billion customers, until today the sign simply reads “billions and billions.” Basically, it grew so large and so rapidly that they lost count.

Okay, where am I going with this. Well, this rapid, massive expansion was accomplished by sticking to a simple mission, maintaining high standards in their existing locations, and aggressively establishing new locations in promising areas. As we think about the task of world evangelization it is a rather daunting challenge. According to the International Mission Board there are approximately 6.6 billion people alive today with a projected increase to 8.9 billion by 2050. Though 33% of the world considers themselves “Christian,” only 10% of the world embraces the idea of salvation by grace through Christ alone. Meaning that there are about 6 billion individuals in the world today to whom we need to bring the gospel near. Daunting? Yes. Overwhelming? Yes. Bigger than just you? Yes. Bigger than just your church? Yes. Impossible? NOPE.

I can envision a day 60 years from now when we can rejoice in the reality of “billions and billions” of lives who have been eternally changed by the grace of God. But for this to happen, we must expand our thinking to understand that it is crucial that the church you attend is healthy and growing, but it is also crucial that the other existing like-minded churches in your community, nation, and world are healthy and growing as well. Why? Because growing, healthy churches are able to work together to establish new churches in your community, nation, and world. **The answer to the question of “Why plant new churches instead of strengthening existing ones?” is not an either/or answer; it’s both/and.** Our existing churches must not lose sight of our Great Commission. Our existing churches must work together devoted to seeing healthy, growing churches. And, our existing churches must see the need, embrace the vision, and be about the work of starting new churches.

If every person in Grayson County desired to attend church next week, we would only be able to seat about 20% of them in our existing GBA churches. But I envision a day where every man, woman, boy, and girl in Grayson County could worship on any given Sunday in GBA churches throughout our county. But let’s not stop here. Because the reality of “billions and billions” worshipping the God of the universe in every language and land is achievable in our lifetime.



BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRY

Summer Enlistment

High School graduations are taking place throughout our association this month. Every summer we attempt to contact as many high school graduates as possible to encourage them in their walk with the Lord and to invite them to be involved in Baptist Student Ministry if they are planning to attend college. BSM organizations exist on over 100 college campuses in Texas and over 900 campuses through the United States. Please contact us if you know of any students planning to attend any college campus this fall and we will do our best to share with them how they can be involved in serving Christ on the campus through BSM. You can also register new college students with our statewide BSM organization at www.texasfreshmen.org

Focus Student Conference

It is not too early to begin planning for the annual *Focus Student Conference* that will be held in Tyler, Texas during the weekend of September 5-6, 2008. This conference is purposely scheduled at the beginning of the school year to encourage student to *focus* on Christ throughout the year. This conference is open to all college students and high school seniors. Please contact the BSM or visit the website at focustexas.org for more information.

International Student Ministry

We are hoping to enlist additional sponsors to help support our ministry to international students for 2009. If you, your Sunday School class, or mission group are interested in helping to reach these students right here in our county – please contact the BSM. Brad McClenny is available to come to your church to share about the exciting things taking place in our ministry to international students at Grayson County College. There are approximately 300 international/foreign students representing over 55 countries currently enrolled at the college.



Bro. Hugh Davis

Georgetown Baptist Church and pastor Bobby Hancock recently honored Brother Hugh Davis by naming him Pastor Emeritus. Pastors are often a uniting force within the church. At Georgetown in Pottsboro, Bro. Davis has been that force for decades. He started preaching fifty-three years ago, in 1955. Only heaven knows the number of lives that have been touched through his ministry. Many say Davis guides by relating to people on a real level. He definitely made his mark on the church and he says he can't take all the credit for it's success. Davis says the church has also had an impact on his life. "It's where I spent my life, not only knowing a lot of people, but working trying to do God's will day by day." Bro. Davis remains an integral part of Georgetown's ministry today: faithfully attending Sunday school and church, encouraging people, and even continuing to preach weddings and funerals. To see the full press release please visit: kxii.com/home/headlines/18568874.html.

ANNIVERSARIES


- 32nd** **Doug Grissom**, pastor, Twin Cities, 6/9/76
- 21st** **Jimmy Tarrant**, pastor, Van Alstyne FBC, 6/21/87
- 17th** **Sammy Garcia**, pastor, Camino Real, 6/1/91
- 15th** **Rusty Waller**, pastor, Gordonville FBC, 6/9/93
- 8th** **Griff Servati**, students, Van Alstyne FBC, 6/1/00
- 3rd** **Michael McMinn**, youth, Hagerman, 6/1/05
- 2nd** **Patrick Mead**, pastor, Fairview, 6/18/06
- 2nd** **Tan Flippin**, education, Parkside, 6/26/06
- 1st** **Brandon Bentley**, youth, Faith Fellowship, 6/1/07
- 1st** **Dennis Stewart**, pastor, Cherry Mound, 6/10/07



CANNON...has called Scott Jordan as pastor.
CHOCTAW CREEK...is a new church start meeting in Bells Community Center with Lowell Howard as pastor. Oakridge FBC is a sponsor church.
COLLINSVILLE FBC...is needing a youth minister.
DORCHESTER FBC...has moved youth minister Dylan Boatner to full-time.
GUNTER FBC...Tyler Freeze has resigned as student minister.
HAGERMAN...has hired Chuck Bell as interim worship leader. The church has voted to sponsor Crossroads Community Church in Anna, TX.
HOWE FBC...has called Wes Robertson as youth pastor. Tracey Slawson has resigned as preschool/children's director.
IDA...will host LifeWay's "Outrigger Island" VBS June 2-6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
NORTH HILLS...has called Mike Loewen as music minister. The church is needing used video and audio equipment. Please call the church, 903.564.5574 if you have some to donate.
PARKSIDE...has called Jason Young as minister to students. The church will be hosting "Upward" flag football and cheerleading this fall. Call 903.465.1686 for more information.
SHERMAN FBC...has called Jason Thurston as youth minister.



<p>ANTIOCH BAPT. P. O. Box 8 Bells, TX 75414-0008 903.965.7312 Interim: Rodney Stanford</p>	<p>CRUTCHFIELD BAPT. 600 S. Dewey Ave. Sherman, TX 75090-6622 903.892.9700 Interim: Bernie Gallagher</p>
<p>CALVARY BAPT. 300 W. Acheson Denison, TX 75020 903.465.6003 Interim: Jeff Lancaster</p>	<p>FOREST AVE. BAPT. 106 W. Forest Ave. Sherman, TX 75090-8813 903.892.3506</p>
<p>COUNTRY CHAPEL c/o Jerry Adams 3423 Bethany Rd. Sherman, TX 75090 903.893.3107 Interim: Brad McClenny</p>	<p>HYDE PARK BAPT. 2501 Sunset St. Denison, TX 75020-5717 903.465.2081</p>
	<p>NORTH PARK BAPT. 2505 Rex Cruse Dr. Sherman, TX 75092-2403 903.892.8429 Interim: Wendell Williams</p>



VBS wins souls

Posted on Baptist Press Feb 28, 2008 |
written by Polly House
www.baptistpress.org/bpnews.asp?id=27511

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--It's a fact: Vacation Bible School is the most effective evangelism strategy in the Southern Baptist Convention. Churches that understand its effectiveness also understand that follow-up is a critical component of the VBS week.

"The whole point of Vacation Bible School is to lead the children, youth and adults who attend to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Bottom line, that's it," said Jerry Wooley, VBS specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 2006, the most recent year's figures, nearly 3 million people were enrolled in VBS, yielding 212,000 Sunday School prospects for local churches, nearly 40,000 of whom subsequently were enrolled as a result of VBS, Wooley said.

"It is startling to realize that in Vacation Bible School in 2006, we documented 94,980 decisions to accept Christ," he said. "That is 1.1 decision for every one person trained as a VBS worker by our state conventions. That is phenomenal when you consider that statistically SBC-wide it takes 44 people to win one person to Christ."

And 26 percent of the 364,826 baptisms in SBC churches in 2006 were a direct result of VBS, Wooley said of Vacation Bible School's effectiveness as an evangelism strategy among Southern Baptists.

"These numbers are just the ones we know about, that we have documentation about," he said. "I can only imagine how many more people are reached when you think about the parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents and friends of these children."



Newberry Challenges Association to World Missions

On May 20, pastors and leaders from around our association gathered at Kentuckytown Baptist Church to visit with Randy Newberry, Missions Mobilization Specialist for the International Mission Board. Newberry's mission's assignment is to work with local churches to assist them in becoming mobilized for missions. "A missional church is one that acts like a missionary," Newberry said. The pastors and leaders were taught that missional churches:

- Encourage the priority of missions
- Enable missions through sound strategies and structures
- Explore missions education and interactive learning
- Empower, focused, intentional prayer
- Encourage increased mission giving
- Expand the missionary force by sending new missionaries
- Engage personalization through projects and partnerships
- Embrace the adoption of unreached people groups.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JUNE 2008

- 8-9 SBC DOM Mtg., Indianapolis
- 9-13 Area Youth Camp, Lake Lavon
- 10-11 SBC, Indianapolis
- 15 Father's Day
- 30-July 4 Area II GA Camp, Lake Lavon

JULY 2008

- June 30-July 4 Area II GA Camp, Lake Lavon
- 4 Independence Day, GBA Closed
- 7-11 RA Camp, Lake Lavon
- 15 GBA Monthly Mtg. (business mtg.), & Baptist Feast, 10:00 a.m., Luella FBC
- 28-31 Area II Pre-Teen Camp, Lake Lavon

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LOY LAKE RD. OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY.....8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY.....8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon