

## West Texas Pastor's Retreat

The focus of this year's annual pastor's retreat was revitalizing our churches. We had a great speaker, **Mark Clifton**, who serves with the North American Mission Board and author of Reclaiming Glory, as well as his guest **Bob Bickford**, pastor and church planter, who brought great firsthand knowledge and experience of revitalizing his own congregation. We had a great group of pastors from CPBA as well as the Lubbock and Amarillo areas. This retreat is always a great time for pastors to fellowship and reconnect. We also



Sharing during a break time are David Vela of CPBA and pastor of Calvario Crosbyton, pastors Joe Ramirez of New Beginnings Littlefield and Joseph Tillery of FBC Lockney.



PBA staff who always make our stay a memorable one include (left to right) Lisa & Payton Hamilton, Alissa Johnson & De'An Simpson.

got to use the newest building on the **Plains Baptist Camp** property, a great worship/conference center that has a great outer lobby and kitchen area! **Wayne Davis**, Camp Director, and his staff always do a great job providing lodging, meals and a place to get away and refresh!

**\*\*For more info: Mark Clifton  
mclifton@namb.net  
913-229-0745**



Our featured speaker was **Mark Clifton** of the North American Mission Board, church planter, revitalization coach, mission strategist, author, pastor and mentor. Contact information is noted below.



We enjoyed a steak dinner on Monday night, breakfast and lunch on Tuesday, providing a great time of fellowship for our pastors.



Pastors enjoying the conference in the newly completed and extremely versatile worship/conference facility on the southeast corner of the camp.

## 2nd Annual Hispanic Pastor/Wife Event at PBA



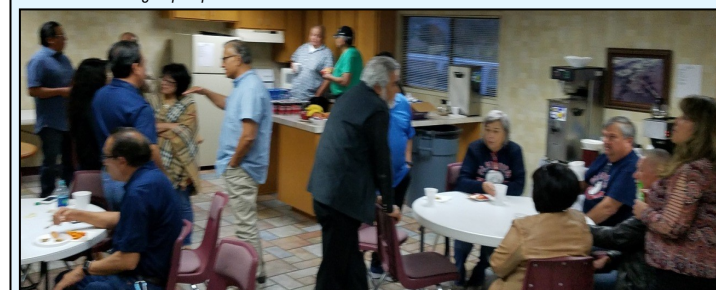
Great group of pastors and wives from our area churches.

**David Vela**, Associate Director of Missions, led in the 2nd Annual Pastor/Wife Retreat at Plains Baptist Camp & Conference Center. The theme was "*How to Build Strong Ministry Teams*" and was led by **Rolando Rodriguez**, Texas Baptists Director of Hispanic Ministries. **Rolando** and his wife **Angie** encouraged pastors and wives with topics unique to their needs. Worship was a wonder acoustic-ballad style led by **La Rondalla Monte Erez** from Dallas, Texas. Pastors and wives enjoyed a refreshing and encouraging time of fellowship.



The group enjoyed this unique and talented worship team!

**"We look forward to our time together next year!"**



Wonderful time of fellowship together in the Adult Conference Center at Plains Baptist Camp.

### Summer Camp Schedule at PBA!

Trekkers (8-11) #1	June 2-8	South Plains Youth	June 24-28
Trekkers (8-11) #2	June 9-15	Explorers Preteen #2	July 5-8
Explorers Preteen #1	June 17-20	Explorers Preteen #3	July 10-13
Caprock Plains Girls	June 12-15	Camp C3 Boys	July 17-20

Contact 806-983-3954 or check the website at [www.pbacamp.org](http://www.pbacamp.org) for Information.

### CAPROCK PLAINS GIRL'S MISSION CAMP—JUNE 12-15

Featuring **Duke Underwood & Jon Mark Hester**  
Cost \$190 Contact Kim Vaughn at 806-241-4002



### CAPROCK PLAINS BAPTIST AREA

**Dr. Lester B. Griffin** Director of Missions  
**Susan Barkley** Ministry Assistant  
**David Vela** Associate Director of Missions

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If you have stories or pictures to share, call the office or email us!



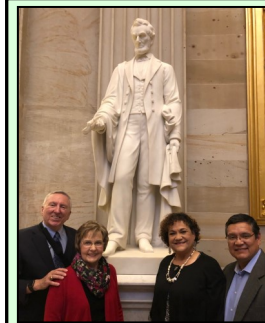
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# CAPROCK PLAINS BAPTIST AREA

April-May  
2019

Serving churches of the Caprock, Llanos Altos and Staked Plains Associations  
"Assisting churches to fulfill the Great Commission"



Les & Betty Griffin, Lucy & David Vela in the Capitol Rotunda.



Les & Betty on the House balcony.



Helping the Bible come alive through animation in the Children's Area.



While wives enjoyed more tours, the Directors enjoyed a Leadership Conference presented by **Jay Vineyard**.



There were great interactive areas for children including an area where they could "be Sampson!"

## DIRECTORS ENJOY A WONDERFUL TIME IN WASHINGTON, DC

**Directors of Missions** from all around the state were given a great opportunity to visit Washington, DC for a Leadership Conference. Special funding was provided in part by the cooperation of *Mardel, Hobby Lobby and Every Tribe Every Nation* as well as the *illumiNations Project*. Leadership Training was led by **Jay Vineyard** of Atlanta. Tours of the **Capitol** area and the **Museum of the Bible** were then hosted by **Hannah Morris** and **Dan Cummins**. The Griffins and the Velas were excited to be able to participate!



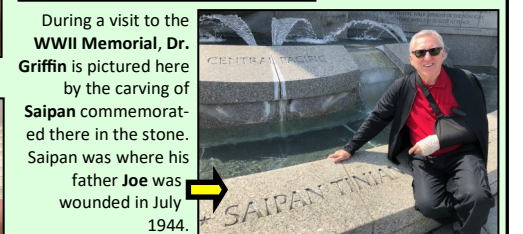
Dan Cummins (pictured on the right, red tie) shared during worship in the Rotunda.



We had a special time at the **Lincoln Memorial**, led by **Lorenzo Pena**, BGCT, Director of Associations and Cultural Development.



**Hannah Morris** of *Movement.Org*, pictured here with **Betty**, served as a Tour Guide for our great time together in DC.



A highlight of the trip included a visit to the **Museum of the Bible**. The group of DOMs pictured to the right are in front of the bronze doors printed with the words of *Genesis 1*.



### Museum of the Bible

Making its grand opening to the public in November 2017, Museum of the Bible's 430,000-square-foot building is located just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Museum of the Bible aims to be among the most technologically advanced and engaging museums in the world. Showcasing rare and fascinating artifacts spanning 3,500 years of history, the museum offers visitors an immersive and personalized experience with the Bible, and its ongoing impact on the world around us.

The tour took everyone through this room of shelves of **yellow books** which stand for the **1,544** people groups around the world who still do not have the Bible in their native language.







## CELEBRATING TOGETHER

**A Memorable Trip:** It was the week before Easter when a group of some **70 Directors of Missions across Texas** and many of their wives traveled to **Washington DC** to visit the **Museum of the Bible**. It was great to not only hang out with these guys and their wives but also to travel with our own **David and Lucy Vela**. It is not an exaggeration to say that this is a fabulous museum of God's Word. From the entrance with the large bronze plaques of

the first chapters of Genesis in Hebrew to the two-story window that has Psalms 17 in 19 different languages. *It is an amazing building, costing almost a billion dollars!* On the first floor the ceiling has been transformed into many beautiful pictures, past and present, with the longest ceiling video board. There are six floors with ancient and modern Bibles, many belonging to common people while others are from quite famous ones. There are two floors given to a walk-thru of a very animated history of the Bible, including a recreation of Nazareth. There is an entire section that helps the Bible come alive for children.

Perhaps the most stunning and thought-provoking area is an oval room of bookshelves. One-third are books that you would recognize, representing Bible translations of people today, but two-thirds representing people groups who do not have a Bible translation. It is the goal of **illumiNations.com** to have the Bible in every language by the year 2033. There is a huge area of names of the people who have donated to this project. **Translating a single verse costs \$35**. Many have given to this noble project.

After a day of leadership conference on Tuesday we were thrilled to visit the Capitol under the direction of **Dan Cummins**. Simply put, the highlight of this was sharing the Lord's Supper in the center of the Rotunda of the Capitol. He shared with us an amazing story as he has gained permission these services each night at 8 PM twhen he is in DC./hat he is in Washington DC. He is from East Texas and he and his wife are soon to move there. Dan has gained the confidence of many of our legislators on both sides of the aisle and certainly the security force of the Capitol building. In the Lords's Supper he lead us in when he brings out the wafer, about the size of a nickel, and snapped it and encouraged us to do the same, he prayed the following prayer: *"Lord, may the division in our nation be healed by your broken body."* We are all called to be ambassadors of peace and reconciliation. If ever there was a time that a nation needed this reconciliation, it is today. It was a very moving time.



**International Commission President Visits Area Office:** It was an honor for me to be able to visit with **Brent Edwards**, the **President of the International Commission**, this past week. Brent is an energetic man with a great vision that has been given to him, perpetuated and reflected in its' founders **Ben & Bertha Mieth**. I will write more about this in the future but primarily I would like for you to be aware of the fact that they are sponsoring a trip to Peru this Fall. We will share more information for you and your church and how you could be a part of this trip. The **International Commission (IC)** is an outstanding organization that focuses on

evangelism through local churches around the world with help from mission teams. They are working with Wayland on a glorious mission trip this Summer to Israel focusing on the troubled area of Bethlehem. Their uniqueness and approach are worth considering for you and your church. *May God's blessings be upon Brent and Ben & Bertha Mieth.*

**West Texas Pastor's Conference:** This year's conference with **Mark Clifton** of the **North American Mission Board** was challenging and refreshing. His focus on church renewal or even replant to maximize church growth was a welcome subject by all who attended. In fact, there were so many applications and helps for the churches here in West Texas that I was truly amazed. The work that he has done along with **Thom Rainer** in revitalization of churches is outstanding. Also, we would like to express our deep appreciation for our partnership with the **Lubbock Area Baptist Association** and their director **Jerry Joplin** along with the **Amarillo Area Baptist Association** and their director **Bryan Houser**. You cannot find two finer servants to God's churches than these two wonderful gentlemen. It is an honor to serve with them!

### Celebrating Eight Years of Ministry with the Area Office:

Monday May 8, 2011 was moving day and transition from being a pastor for 36 years to Director of Missions of Caprock Plains Baptist Area. First day of ministry in this new role was Wednesday May 11, 2011. These eight years of service to the churches and missions of this region have been more than just a blessing but a living out of the assurance of God's call. The joy of working with churches, pastors and staff is a blessing that grows with each passing day. Thank you for the opportunity of serving with you. It is a blessing that can never be repaid, but valued more each day! I admit, sometimes it is hard to explain to people exactly what I do, but never hard for the why I do it, *to see the Kingdom of God grow!* Walking with you!



## PRESENTATION OF BGCT MATCHING GRANTS



This year we have had the great opportunity to present matching grants from the **BGCT Church Architecture** division, designed to help churches in various maintenance and building projects. In April, Dr. Griffin was present in a wonderful service at **Iglesia Bautista Date Street of Plainview**, where he was able to present to their pastor **Mel Gomez** the matching grant to assist them in numerous upgrades and repairs to their church plant.

**David Vela** was then able to present a similar matching grant to **Primera Iglesia Bautista of Petersburg** where **Santos Rodriguez** has been serving as their Supply Pastor. Pictured on the right are **Ricardo Rendon** (deacon), **David Vela** and **Raul Gonzalez** (treasurer and men's ministry leader).



## AN ORDINATION SERVICE

An ordination service is always a blessed and memorable event. **David Vela**, Associate Director of Missions, was recently able to participate in the *Ordination to the Gospel Ministry* of **Santos Cuevas**, who is pastoring the **Primera Iglesia Bautista of Bovina**. Pictured here Brother Santos is being blessed during the commissioning prayer by long-time pastor and friend of Caprock Plains Baptist Area **Pablo Garcia of Primera Iglesia Bautista of Hereford**.



## PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA PLAINVIEW-75th ANNIVERSARY



It was a great day of worship, fellowship and celebration at **Primera of Plainview** this year. Dr. Griffin attended a wonderful day of worship and testimony. He presented to the church a commemorative plaque, received by their Interim Pastor, **Dr. Joe Rangel**, Wayland Baptist University, Department of Religion and Philosophy. The day included a wonderful afternoon together with dinner, music and fellowship at the local Ollie Liner Center.

## A WORD FROM DAVID:

It's been a busy three months here at CPBA – a good busy! It's so amazing how God never ceases to... *well... should I say it ... amaze us!* Whata-great-God! We've seen His hand at work in so many areas of ministry here in West Texas and we're blessed to go along for the ride. *Allow me to share just a few:* We held our first **Congreso Experience at Wayland** with a great turn-out from the Youth Ministries in our region. It was so encouraging to see over 100 youth and their sponsors worship, learn and fellowship together. Secondly, we introduced **DNow** to some of our smaller churches in our area as we held this mini-weekend conference at Plains Baptist Assy. with 34 youth and sponsors attending. Please continue to pray for this type of disciple-making events as we are planning to offer it yearly. Third, I had the privilege to preach the **ordination service of Pastor Santos Cuevas**, the newly installed pastor at **Primera Iglesia Bautista Bovina**. Pastor Cuevas and his wife **Hermelinda** are working diligently to serve that body of believers and their community as they have already experienced some steady growth.

In a change of pace, Dr. Griffin and I were blessed as we attended our yearly **Director of Missions Training** in Washington D.C. along with our spouses (the two prettiest DOM's wives present) this past April sponsored by Chick-Fil-A, illumiNations.org, Hobby Lobby and BGCT. *"SECRET - What Great Leaders Know and Do"* was the theme and title of this revealing leadership conference! Kuddos to Dr. Griffin for "pushing thru" in spite of pain in his injured elbow! Also in April, at our **West Texas Pastors Retreat**, Mark Clifton blessed us with new insight and strategies for revitalizing and replanting churches. The final item in our agenda for the month of April was our **Second Annual Hispanic Pastors and Wife's Retreat** at PBA in which **Rolando Rodriguez** Dir. Of Hispanic Ministries at BGCT where he provides leadership to over 1100 Hispanic Churches in our state, led our time of learning and worship. His wife **Angie** led our pastors' wife's inspiring time together and brought major encouragement to their lives. As you can see, God is definitely at work here in West Texas! Can't wait to see how else He will amaze us next! Blessings!

In Christ, David Vela, Assoc. Dir. Missions CPBA



Pastor Joe Ramirez, Dr. Griffin, and Tiny Dominguez.

## CHURCH PLANT HOSTS REVIVAL SERVICE

**New Beginnings of Littlefield** held a great weekend revival this Spring, featuring pastor **Tiny Dominguez** of Lubbock and the ministry team of **Sherman and Tammy Aten** who led in

worship music. Pastor **Joe Ramirez** has been leading this congregation as a new church plant in cooperation with the BGCT and the Area.

The **Atens** have been in worship evangelism ministry for many years and have long-time ties to our area. *They recently held a Marriage Enrichment event at FBC Dimmitt!* Sherman & Tammy are available by calling **817-219-0773**, by email at **atenmin@gmail.com** or check their website **a10s.org**.



Joe & Pamela Ramirez, Dr. Griffin, Tammy & Sherman Aten.