

## FROM THE A.M. DESK

This last week I learned that the month of March is Pastor's Wife Appreciation Month. I read of it in an article by LifeWay, and how this recognition was started a couple of years ago. Sadly, there has been little fanfare, however I personally believe this is very significant and much needed. Thus, I see it as being vital that we take the time to express our appreciation for our Pastors' wives as we do for our Pastors.

The author of the LifeWay article wrote, "...few groups... are as essential to the mission of the church and are often overlooked as pastor's wives. The gal married to your shepherd finds herself in a unique and difficult place."

As I began to give thought as to what I would write. I took a few minutes to reflect on our ministry together over the twenty-five years, and personally I believe in some ways the pastorate has been as difficult or more so for my wife than for me. Pastors expect the rigors and struggles of ministry, while some wives are not as so prepared. I remember there was a special class provided for the student's wives at Seminary which endeavors to equip them for the ministry as a Pastor's wife. And, as I read articles on the subject of Pastor's wives, I came to realize, almost immediately in my ministry, a Pastor's wife is an essential helpmate in the life of the pastor as she shares in his success or failure. The life of a Pastor's wife can be filled with joy and heartache.

A brand-new LifeWay Research Study came out recently about the lives of Protestant pastors' spouses. The representative study of 720 spouses revealed that their lives and ministries were a mixture of challenges and

blessings. In the study, one Pastor's wife wrote on the difficulty of having 'friends', and wrote, "I understand what these wives are saying. Friendships take time and energy. We are busy and other priorities often take precedence over friendships. Add to that the layer of ministry and questions like, 'Who can I trust?' and 'Who will see me for just me and not my role as a ministry spouse?' These questions make friendships more challenging."

The study also pointed out how often Pastor's wives may be seen as unpaid staff. This is seen in an expediency of their serving in many capacities, as an always available substitute for a variety of ministry positions. This adds to the workload of a job and caring for their family.

Pastor Joe McKeever wrote of the pastor's wife... in some churches, "She is the most vulnerable person in the building. That is to say, she is the single most likely person to become the victim of malicious gossip, sneaky innuendo, impossible expectations and pastoral frustrations." Furthermore, the pastor's wife can be hurt in a hundred ways—through attacks on her husband, her children, herself."

A Pastor's wife is a true ministry partner to her husband. She is often the best and the only person he is able to talk to about his concerns and struggles. She must be faithful to him and her Lord. She must be able to encourage him and warm the leftover dinner, protect him and his time away from the ministry.

Personally I am able to write, that these problems may not be found in every church. It takes a very supportive woman to be a Pastor's wife and always be there for her husband and her church. When Karen and I were in the process of being called of God for the ministry, we took the time to prayerfully recognize the commitment and all that we would face.

So how may we express our appreciation for the Pastor's wife? I hope you already have a few ideas. Here are a few that I read of, and found helpful to us.

\* Prayer: Be faithful to pray for her and her husband. Pray for their faith, wisdom, and pray for their family.

\* Women of the church should be encouraged to befriend her. Let her know that she is appreciated and valued. If there are children, offer to take care of them so as to give her and her husband a welcomed occasional night out.

\* Champion her: If you hear gossip or grumbling about her, her husband or family, in acts of lovingkindness be a voice of support on her behalf. Encourage others to do the same, and express their appreciation and use these and other ways to support and love her.

As a Pastor, with a heart for the pastoral ministry of the church, I want to encourage all of us to recognize, show lovingkindness, and sincerely appreciate our Pastors' wives.

To all the special ladies of our Association, I say: Thank you for your faithful service alongside your husbands.

In His Love,

Tom Freeman, Interim Associational Missionary



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Check out our website!

[www.pbaok.org](http://www.pbaok.org)

**Above & Beyond  
Offering 2017  
receipts**

**\$26,707.00 to date**

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Tom Freeman

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Tracy Farthing:

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## CALENDAR EVENTS

### April

- 1 Easter
- 2 Office Closed, Easter Monday
- 15 Deacon Ordination, Forgan FBC 1:30 council; 2:00 ordination
- 16 Executive Board, 10

- a.m.
- 19 New & Potential DOM Training. OKC
- 22-25 Revival Services, Keyes FBC
- May**
- 13 Mother's Day

- 21 Executive Board, 10 a.m.
- 23 DEADLINE for Day Camp, June 2
- 28 Office Closed, Memorial Day Observance
- June**
- 2 Day Camp, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.

- 10-11 WMU/Pastor's Conference, Dallas TX
- 13-14 SBC Dallas TX
- 11-15 Freedom Crossroads Camp GBC
- 13 DEADLINE for Girl's Camp, June 25
- 18 Executive Board, 10 a.m.

**PANHANDLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

I've had the privilege of being close to people that truly love God and His work. They are the ones who make the difference in my life and in the life of many people. God has put Hispanic pastors who work hard every day to take care of the congregations and rescue people from sin. Pray for these pastors so that they may let God use them and for Him to give them powerful

words every Sunday that touch the church.

The challenge is great due to the fact that the Hispanic population continues to grow in our towns. But as long as our congregations remain active serving God through Vacation Bible Schools, Evangelistic Crusades, festivals, etc. God shall bring to our congregation those who should be saved. I give thanks to God for

their faith and service and for the great example they are in my life.

In Christ,  
Moises Avalos,  
Hispanic Liaison

***The Hispanic Churches and Missions in our Association are:***

**Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, Boise City**

Hugo Ledesma pastor

Located at 1003 W Texas St in Boise City

**Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, Guymon**

Guadalupe Amaya pastor

Located at 601 N Academy St in Guymon

**Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, Hooker**

Moises Avalos pastor

Located at 320 W Illinois St in Hooker

**Primera Iglesia Mission, Beaver**

Miguel Facio pastor

Located at 14 W 4th St in Beaver

**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**APRIL**

**Pray for our Church Staff and their families:**

Make a habit of praying for these individuals and their ministry on their birthday. That is a great day to think of them and lift them before the Lord.

Date	Name	Church
1	Harper Vickrey	Forgan, Pastor's Daughter
2	Garlan & Lisa Flanagan	Guymon, FBC Secretary & Husband
3	Levi Carter	Guymon, FBC Pastor's Son
4	Thad Hopkins	Turpin BC Youth Minister's Son
7	Hannah Hopkins	Turpin BC Youth Minister's Daughter
11	Amanda Coffey	BCM Director's Wife
11	Amy Bradley	Beaver, FBC Pastor's Wife
17	Brad & Tiffany Vickrey	Forgan, Pastor & Wife
21	Guadalupe & Graciela Amaya	Guymon, FHBC Pastor & Wife
27	Coleman Thompson	Keyes, FBC Pastor's Son

BCM Needs: We are planning to replace the people mover with a new 15 passenger van; estimated cost will be \$23,000. 00 We have been promised a matching donation amount \$12,500.00 towards the purchase. Thank you in advance for considering this opportunity.

**Please call David Coffey for more details: 580.651.1851**

Donations may go directly to the BCM: PO Box 70, Goodwell OK 73939.

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry.

**Position Opening:** First Baptist Church of Beaver is seeking God's leader to serve as our Bi-Vocational Youth Minister. Contact the church for further information: 580.625.3382 or send resume to PO Box 6, Beaver OK 73932

**Pray for our Church of the Month**  
*Hardesty, Bethel pastorless*

**Pastorless churches**  
*Hardesty, Bethel; Balko BC ; Guymon, Grace Southern; Goodwell BC*

As you know our Disaster Relief Feeding Unit activated to Cimarron County for the stateline fires. Ten people served there.

At the same time we had 3 Disaster Relief members helping in Spring TX with Harvey Relief efforts.

Please send all mail for **Gibson Baptist Camp** to the PBA office, 221 NE 12th St, Guymon OK 73942.

**PHONE at camp is 580.888.4591**



If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, let us know. It is snail mailed, emailed, and posted on our website monthly.

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Panhandle Seniors for Christ will hold a rally this Saturday, March 3, 2018 at First Baptist Church Texhoma.

First Baptist Felt will have Revival services on March 11-15 with Ronnie Lambert preaching and Wayne Testerman leading in music.

First Baptist Forgan will have a Deacon Ordination service on April 15. Brad Vickrey invited the Pastors of Panhandle Baptist Association churches to participate with the ordination council at 1:30pm.

First Baptist Church Guymon will have Donald Whitney speaking about prayer at their Winter Bible Conference on March 23-25. Matt Townsend invited all Panhandle Baptist Association Churches to attend. Meeting times are 6pm March 23 & 24; on March 25 the meeting times will be 9:30am & 10:45am.

Panhandle Baptist Association's Vacation Bible School Training will be March 10<sup>th</sup> hosted by First Baptist Church, Guymon.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brad Vickrey and seconded by Tim Baldrige. The motion passed.

Matt Townsend closed us in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

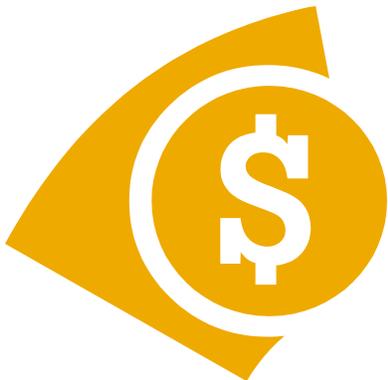
Matt Townsend, Substitute Clerk

2018 Finances

February

YTD Receipts

Balko Baptist	334.32	600.27
Beaver, FBC	0.00	1,645.00
Beaver Hispanic	416.94	416.94
Boise City, FBC	1,180.15	983.76
Boise City, FHBC	0.00	0.00
Felt, FBC	279.24	2,163.91
Felt, Mission	0.00	0.00
Forgan, FBC	0.00	1,000.05
Goodwell BC	248.03	706.54
Guymon, FBC	688.00	2,174.00
Guymon, FHBC	70.71	136.42
Guymon, Grace	0.00	0.00
Guymon, Sunset Lane	792.09	1,324.08
Hardesty, Bethel	204.23	467.10
Hardesty, FBC	0.00	0.00
Hooker, FBC	1,086.96	1,640.52
Hooker, FHBC	52.35	233.34
Kenton BC	347.20	836.16
Keyes, FBC	339.55	1,556.69
Texhoma, FBC	182.55	414.40
Turpin BC	0.00	817.61
Tyrone BC	329.56	482.37
Wheless BC	200.16	275.74
BGCO	218.42	436.84
Other Income	76.19	421.19
Interest Income	1.00	2.01
GBC Income	2,658.40	5,172.32
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$9,706.05</b>	<b>Total:</b> <b>\$24,898.36</b>



February 28, 2018 Balances

PBA/GBC Checking:	
Beginning Balance (01/31/18)	\$9,597.00
Total Income:	\$ 9,706.05
Total Expenses	\$ 11,259.90
Ending Balance (02/28/18)	\$8,043.15
Special Funds balance:	
Disaster Relief Balance	\$3,649.32
Mexico Crusade Balance	\$1,274.78
GBC Major Improvements	\$35,346.29
Panhandle Hispanic Missions	\$13,636.93

**Panhandle Baptist Association**  
**Executive Board**  
**February 26, 2018**

In Attendance: Darren Carpenter, Texhoma FBC; Brad Vickrey, Forgan FBC; Matt Townsend, Guymon FBC; Orden Hartley, Felt FBC; Tracy Farthing, GBC; David Coffey, BCM; Tim Baldrige, Boise City FBC; Mike McReynolds, Hooker FBC; Tom Freeman and Lula King, PBA office.

Tom Freeman led a brief devotional discussing our new beginning with Jesus and obedience to God's vision for his church from Mark 1:14-15 & Acts 26:19.

Orden Hartley called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the Executive Board Meeting of January 22, 2018 were presented. Brad Vickrey moved for their acceptance. Darren Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The financial report for January was provided. There was some discussion concerning the association's income for January and February to-date. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Brad Vickrey. The motion was seconded by Tim Baldrige. The motion was accepted.

**Old Business**

Boy's Mission Camp at Gibson Baptist Camp needs a camp director. The nominating committee made a recommendation in the form of a motion that Tim Baldrige be the Boy's Mission Camp director for this year. Mike McReynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed.

An iPad has been purchased for Lula's use. Tom Freeman recommended that the Panhandle Baptist Association gift the iPad to Lula King. A motion was made by Brad Vickrey to give the iPad to Lula King. The motion was seconded by Tim Baldrige. The motion was accepted.

**New Business**

Tracy Farthing brought an updated Pricing List for Gibson Baptist Camp before the executive board. He noted that no prices have been changed. However, there have been some additional pricing options added and a few deleted. The additions and deletions were noted by highlights and mark-through on the distributed Pricing List. The additions were in the Non-Camp Events section of the Pricing List. Some discussion followed concerning the Non-Camp Event pricing. A motion to approve the updated Pricing List for Gibson Baptist Camp was made by Darren Carpenter. Brad Vickrey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lula King pointed out that with the update to the Pricing List for Gibson Baptist Camp it is necessary that an update be made to the Operations Manual to reflect the updated Pricing List. There was discussion concerning how thorough the update needed to be. Tom Freeman recommended that we address only the pricing for now. Brad Vickrey made a motion to update the Pricing List for the Operations Manual. This motion was seconded by Darren Carpenter. The motion was approved.

**Reports**

Associational Missionary

Tom Freeman is working in the office two days a week as well as making visits to pastors during the week. He hopes to visit most of the Panhandle Baptist Association churches by the end of next month.

He has been helping Tracy Farthing at Gibson Baptist Camp as they prepare for this summer. Sand burrs and heating units are the current projects.

Hispanic Report

Not submitted this month

Gibson Baptist Camp

Professional help is needed to work on the heating units. Tom Freeman has found us help in this area. After repairs are made we will schedule yearly checkups on the heating units with a professional.

Tracy Farthing and Chuck Payne will be working on easier handicap accessibility to the dining hall.

A work team from Shawnee, Rock Creek will be here March 18-21 to help paint at the camp.

Two new tetherball poles have been added.

A new camp sign has been made to be placed just off Highway 420 at the turnoff for the camp.

Day camps this summer are unsure at the moment.

BCM

Moving Bible Study to Monday Nights has been a good move. More students, especially athletes are available to attend on Mondays. Noonday attendance has been slightly lower, averaging around 150. In part, because of colder weather on Wednesdays also due to lower attendance this Spring at OPSU.

The Guy's Bible Study has been going very well this semester. It is a diverse group who have been open with one another. They are studying spiritual warfare, using Chip Ingram's "Invisible War."

**PANHANDLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

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Guymon OK 73942  
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pbaok221@gmail.com

Phone: 580.338.6259  
Fax: 580.338.3452



Tom Freeman, Interim Associational Missionary  
Moises Avalos, Hispanic Liaison  
Lula King, Ministry Assistant

Office hours: 9-noon & 1-5  
Monday—Thursday

