UPCOMING EVENTS: Feb–Mar. 2020

Feb. 9th: FBC Palacios
10:30 am. 115th Church Anniversary Celebration and Lunch

February 20-22
Ministers & Spouses Retreat
Rosenberg-Spring Hill Hotel
Hwy 59 North exit on Reading Road
Turn right and hotel on the left behind Kroger’s

Check-in after 3 pm.
Retreat Activities begin on
Feb. 21st at 6 pm.
In the Conference room.

Feb. 25th: WMU Meeting
10 am. at FBC Columbus

March 8th: La Junta de Pastores
3 pm. At Betel, El Campo

March 12th: BBQ Missions Banquet
$10.00 RSVP with Barry by March 9th
6:30 pm. At College Heights, Wharton

March 28th: VBS Clinic
9 am.-Noon with Lunch following
FBC El Campo, FLEC Bldg.
2020 CBA Pastors & Staff and Spouses Retreat

Tell your pastor and church staff “Thank you!”

By sending them with their spouses to our 2020 Retreat:

February 20-22 (Feb 20th night is optional.)

Spring Hill Suites Marriott (Rosenberg)

Church’s cost: $100.00 per night

Make your reservations with Barry by February 3rd, 2020

903-227-9019

Worship Leaders: Paul & Vanessa Cherry

Come for a time of Spiritual refreshment!

Enjoy food, fun, & fellowship together.
Prayer Requests and Praises:

- Pray for Barry’s father and family in the loss and passing of his mother into the Lord’s presence and glory. Be in prayer especially for his father as he transitions to a new chapter of life and ministry as a widower. Pray for him to experience God’s comfort and encouragement during this time of grief and loss, sensing God’s peace with him.

- Answer to Prayer! Rev. Chester Sassman, as he is returning to his active life style and to serving as a chaplain. Pray for his continued recovery and to improve his health and strength.

- Answer to Prayer! Luis Alvarado, pastor at Emmanuel, Bay City, as he is preaching and getting out again. He is regaining his strength and stamina. Pray for his wife, family, and church as they visit & minister locally.

- Answer to Prayer! Sauncere Rambo, Damon’s wife, is recovering from severe back reconstruction surgery and has begun rehabilitation therapy. Pray for relief from her severe back pain. Pray for Damon as he pastors, works, and cares for his family during her recovery.

- Pray for FBC Louise, Lane City, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Wharton, and Carancahua Chapel as their pastoral search teams prayerfully enter into the process of seeking God’s will and guidance searching for their next pastors. Pray for members to step forward and grow in service and leadership during this leadership transition time.

- Pray for FBC Louise, pray for their youth and children’s outreach events and new growth. They report making about 80 personal contacts in the community through their Fall Festival celebration and 5th Quarter outreach and fellowship at the church. They are finishing construction on a new church parsonage as well. God is at work!

- Pastor Ernesto received good news that his wife’s tumors are not thought to be cancerous, but they will be postponing surgery until March 2020, due to other family members’ health problems. Continue to pray for Martina during this time of preparation for the upcoming surgery. Ernesto is still in the process of saving up money to pay for the surgery in Mexico. In Mexico you have to pay for any surgery or intervention at the time of the surgery, no insurance payments or installments. Pray for Martina as she struggles with pain and ministering to her family during this time as well in Mexico.

- Pastor Ernesto reports encouraging spiritual growth taking place at Living Water, and that recently they have had more visitors coming into the church, which is encouraging. Pray for Ernesto as he ministers and seeks to care for his family.

- Pray for Rev. Joel and Anita Ramirez, as he retires from PIB, Wharton, and as the church transitions through this time of leadership transition and new growth.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to be directing and guiding Primera, Wharton as they seek God’s direction and will for the future.

- Pray for new work and for God to open doors into new areas of ministry and church planting in the areas of Garwood, Blessing, Lane City, and on the campus of Wharton Jr. College main Campus. The fields are waiting to be worked, but where are the workers?

- Pray for our new CBA pastors as they begin their pastoral ministry in CBA. Kenneth Hibbs at College Heights, Wharton; and Joel Usher at Glidden Baptist church. Welcome aboard !!!!

- Pray for Church Revitalization to take place in our CBA churches and for our churches to venture outside their church buildings to minister and to make disciples in new creative ways.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

I wanted to thank you for your prayers and intercession for my mother as she was nearing the end of her time in this world. The Lord answered our prayers as she peacefully passed from this life into the glorious presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I believe in keeping with God’s Word and promises that she is alive, well, and rejoicing as she worships her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, lovingly adoring and serving Him for eternity along with all the faithful believers who have preceded her. In Revelation 21-22 the Apostle John wrote describing his victorious vision of Heaven. In believe that she is not suffering pain nor fear, she is alive and well in a place where there is no sorrow, fear, dread, pain, darkness, and especially no sin with its corruption and consequences.

My family and I, we miss her, and our hearts are pained at her loss, and we are grieving, but not like those who have no hope of a future eternal life. Paul says it in this way “ …. We grieve, but we grieve in and with hope in Jesus Christ and the promises God has shared with us that this life is not the end of all existence. We do not grieve like those who have choosen to reject God’s grace, and plan of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Personally, all of us would be in the worst of situations and crisis if we did not have the promises from God’s Word to give us hope of eternal life and a new glorious existence in His presence and glory with a new glorious body made for us by God to live in for eternity, a perfect body liberated from the ravages and consequences of sin in this fallen sinful world. So let us encourage our faith, and our souls by briefly feeding our souls upon the rapture of Heaven:

Barry Barnet, DOM

Rev. 21-22  Heaven is …..

- Glorious and magnificent, beyond our expectation, and description of beauty, awesome
- New and fresh, joyful, New Creation, New Heaven, New Earth, New existence, New body
- Full of light provided by God Himself, no darkness, no night, a joy to behold
- Spiritual and eternal, never ending, clean and free from sin and its consequences
- Joyful and worshipful, full of praise to God, a place of eternal adoration, & thanksgiving
- Active & purposeful, the saints are not asleep / bored, but actively praising & serving God
- Victorious, death has been overcome and defeated by Jesus’ sacrifice & resurrection
- No sorrow, no grief, no tears, a place of rejoicing and celebration
- No pain, no suffering, no torment
- Faith and hope in Jesus Christ becoming reality in His presence, new reality
- A reward & gift of personal faith in Jesus Christ as the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings
- A place of release and relief from the torment and injustices of this fallen world
Baptists’ Theological Distinctives & Beliefs: Why are we Baptists?

On October 31st Martin Luther shared his 95 point thesis on needed Catholic Church reforms. This is important since he was a Catholic priest and professor that had his life transformed radically as he experienced a near death experience. During this period in his life he was teaching the book of Romans. As he taught it and expounded upon the scriptures his own life was touched and transformed and he began to seek spiritual reformation in the Catholic Church. His efforts were rebuffed by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, and he was persecuted for his beliefs and reformation efforts. However, he set in motion the Protestant reformation movement which would impact the world, and return the Bible back into the hands of the laity, and focus back on the basics of Christianity. What does it mean to be a Protestant? These are five of the major teachings of the reformers by which they distinguished their beliefs from those of the Roman Catholic church of their day. As Baptists these theological points formed who we are today.

1. **Sola Scriptura** – “The Bible alone.” Scripture alone speaks authoritatively, and it speaks to all believers, independently of church leaders and councils, human interpreters and so-called spokesmen for God.

2. **Sola Gratia** – “Grace alone.” It is only by the unmerited favor of God that Christ went to the cross and paid the price for man’s salvation. Man is by nature depraved—he has no virtue that commends him to God. Therefore God’s grace to him is truly undeserved and amazing, and God’s grace alone has the power to draw people to himself.

3. **Sola Fide** – “Faith alone.” Only total righteousness is acceptable to God, and that is found in Christ, not us. Man can only accept Christ’s work by placing his trust in him. Man is justified by faith alone in the finished work of Christ, not by any works of his own.

4. **Sola Christus** – “Christ alone.” Salvation is accomplished by Christ alone, and mediated by Christ alone—not by angels, saints, relics, sacraments, priests, teachers, churches, or anyone or anything else. Christ alone was the perfect Savior, and he alone is the perfect prophet, priest and king.

5. **Soli Deo Gloria** – “To God alone be glory.” God should be thanked, praised and given full credit for his sovereign grace and spiritual and physical provision. Theology should be God-centered, not man-centered. God should be put in his place and humans in theirs. Our efforts should not elevate and celebrate men but God. We should bring him glory in our work, in our homes and at play. He, not we, should be the center of all things.

Barry’s thoughts ….. We should never be ashamed to be called “Christians” or a “Bible believing people”. I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nor am I ashamed of my Savior, who lovingly and willingly sacrificed himself for me and my sins upon the altar of that cross in order to bring me and you, including every sinner, back to our loving and gracious God. Be proud to be called by the name of “Christ” and to be counted among the faithful few referred to as “Bible-believing” PTL! It is not bad to be “Baptist” as we follow in Jesus Christ’s footsteps and as we put into practice his love and obey His word.
2020 : A New Year & A New You !!!

In 2020 you are going to hear a lot about our CBA focus on the church.

Our training and equipping will be focused upon building up the church and reaching the next generations with the Gospel. In order to reach this generation and the next ones coming, we must retool, refocus, and recommit ourselves and our churches to asking the right questions in order to reach the lost around us, around our churches, and in our local communities.

In 2020 in order to impact our local communities for Jesus Christ we must ..... 

I. Refocus our churches on reaching the lost at our door steps. We must refocus on life-impacting ministry that reaches out to the lost and meets their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in order to effectively communicate the love of God.

II. Revitalize our local churches:
Church revitalization begins with personal spiritual revival. We cannot hope that our churches become revitalized, if we personally are not living in obedience and faith. Our churches will only be revitalized to the extent that members are walking rightly in their relationship with Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

III. Church revitalization begins with Lay-renewal and Pastoral leadership focusing on unity of purpose: Reaching the lost, making disciples, and developing leaders.

2020 New Year Resolutions and Challenges going forward in 2020 !!!

BREAKING FREE IN 2020 !

How often do you eat? In a day? In a week? A month? 3 x’s a day, more, maybe too much too often? Hmm ..... 

My point is, “How often do you feed yourself spiritually from God’s Word?” If we fed our soul as much as our bodies would we be stronger and healthier spiritually? I believe so.

Maybe this explains why we are so anemic and weak spiritually. Food for thought! Barry

With each new year, we usually set some new year goals to try to achieve for the coming year. What are your spiritual new year resolutions for 2020?

- Return to your Quiet Time?
- Read your Bible more?
- To be more loving?
- To be more forgiving?

Ask God to help you achieve your spiritual resolutions!

2020 CBA New Year Church Growth Resolutions:

1. I will re-establish my quiet time with my Lord through coming back to spending personal time in prayer and Bible study.

2. I will reconnect with my local church.

3. I will get involved with serving in a ministry within my church.

4. I will get involved with serving in a ministry through my local church reaching outside my church into my local community.

5. I will pray for one person with whom I can share my faith.

6. I will seek out opportunities to verbally share my faith and let others see Jesus in me.

7. I will seek out opportunities to actively share my Christian faith outside my home and family.

8. I will build up my church in every way.

9. I will do it!
“Together in Christ Jesus we can do more than apart!”

**Men’s Ministry Opportunities:**

**Men’s Prayer Breakfats:**

- **FBC Bay City:** Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Every 1st Saturday of the month
  In the Gym / Kitchen area. 7:30 am.

- **FBC Sargent:** Men’s Prayer Group and Brotherhood: Every 2nd Saturday monthly.
  7:30 am. in Fellowship Hall.

- **FBC Columbus:** Men’s Prayer Breakfast
  7 am. Every Tuesday AM. in the Main Bldg. Kitchen area.

**Local Mission Service Projects in CBA:**

- Memorial, El Campo: Some roof repair work..

- Primera, Wharton: Education building needs sheet rocking from Hurricane Harvey damage.

- Ebenezer Baptist Church: painting and carpentry jobs. Consult w/ Rev. LV Harvey…..

- Living Water, Ganado: Tree trimming, removal of overhanging branches over church bldg.

- New Beginnings, Weimar: Land clearing and leveling at their site in Weimar.

- Wharton Jr. College Campus, Wharton:
  Student Ministry and Prayer Coordinator to develop student ministry new work on campus. Both Bay City and Wharton Campuses.

- Ask your local pastor how you can help around your church!!! What needs to be done.

- Find a Community Project in your local area and volunteer to meet that need.

- Search out church widows and those needing help in your neighborhood and lend a hand.

- Drive a widow to her doctor’s appointment and help the shut-ins by visiting with them.
Celebrating Life’s Big moments with you!
FEBRUARY 2020:

BIRTHDAYS

2 Ashley Gore, pastor’s wife, FBC Van Vleck
2 Kim Tangler, pastor’s wife, FBC Sheridan
12 Chris Webb, pastor, FBC Palacios
14 L.V. Harvey, pastor, Ebenezer, Bay City
20 Sherri Snedecor, music minister, FBC Wharton
25 Mike Zimmerman, pastor, FBC, Bay City
26 Victor Morrison, pastor, FBC Columbus

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

19 Larry & Donna Swift, pastor, FBC Blessing
24 Juan & Maria Maturino, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Nuerva Jerusalem, Columbus
28 Chester & Peggy Sassman, ret. pastor, FBC Lane City

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

1994 Mario Vasquez, pastor, Getsemani, Eagle Lake
2018 John Davis, youth pastor, FBC Eagle Lake
Where did “associations” come from?

Where did the idea of associations come from? Who invented them? Are they biblical? In the Bible, we find the reality of the early church and Christians who actually formed the idea of the association starting in the book of Acts and going through the New Testament books of Paul, Peter, James, there is ample source material supporting and justifying the association as a strategic tool and reality. As Paul wrote in his writings, he repeatedly referred to a network of fellow servants, evangelists, pastors, apostles, and unnamed Christian supporters and workers throughout the area of his missionary journeys throughout Europe, and Asia. Without his network of fellow believers, servants, and ministers he would have been severely handicapped and limited in his ministry. He would not have reached as far as he did planting churches and discipling new believers without the assistance and support of his fellow believers and ministers. He had his association/network of churches that he supported, and who supported him in his ministry. The association started as a team effort existing and forged between the Christian churches, and their leaders. Paul needed their prayer, emotional and spiritual support as well as their financial support to allow him to continue serving the churches, preaching, teaching, and discipling new believers, as well as developing new leadership to carry the Christian faith forward into the future. Paul’s association was predominantly established among the Gentile areas, the Greek and Roman people, even reaching into what is considered Europe today. The churches needed the vision, drive, and strategy of the Apostles to knit these new churches together with a common bond of ministry, missions, and fellowship.

Peter and James in their writings indicate the existence of their own associations. Their ministries and associations tended to be more focused among reaching the Jewish people, and revealing to them their Messiah from the Old Testament and how Jesus Christ is that Messiah sent from God in fulfillment of their own prophecies. We find within the various writings of Peter and James many references to the existing networks between believers, churches, and their own missionary endeavors, which would form our modern day associations. The Apostles had clearly developed their own ministry based networks and fellowships among themselves, their new believers, and the churches that they had planted.

So we can see from reading the book of Acts, and all through the New Testament that these spiritual networks were in existence and flourishing. They were vital for sharing the faith, for supporting evangelists and missionaries as they went out to proclaim the Gospel and plant new churches. They were vital for sharing the letters of the Apostles and Paul, they were like a Christian postal service, carrying and sharing the letters of Peter, Paul, and the other apostles between the newly planted church bodies. In this way they were instrumental in distributing and promoting Christian discipleship and developing new leaders to serve in the churches scattered across Asia Minor, Rome, Greece, Africa, and into the future European area. Without the work and role of the association in the early church period, the spread of the Gospel and the growth of Christianity would have been severely hampered and limited.

Does the association have any relevance in today’s world? I would say definitely, “Yes!” Why? Because our world is no different spiritually from the New Testament time. We as believers still need fellowship, resources, encouragement, and we still have a lost world to guide to a saving faith and knowledge in Jesus Christ. It is still true that we can accomplish more together for the kingdom of God than we can apart. Local associations or church networks also provide means for practicing Biblical accountability, church discipline, Christian community, and providing guidance and stability during times of pastoral leadership transitions in the local churches. Associations or church networks share resources with small struggling congregations as well in following with the example of the Jerusalem and Greek churches providing assistance during times of scarcity, persecution, and need for many of their fellow New testament churches and believers.

From the desk of your local Director of Missions,
Barry Barnet,
God is on the move in Colorado Baptist Association!

**BLOCK-PARTY TRAILER MINISTRY: VOLUNTEER TEAMS NEEDED**

Honestly, we as an association must act and start training and empowering our own church members and leaders to reach the unreached. **The field is ripe unto the harvest, lost souls abound all around us, but where are the workers?** Sadly, the majority of God´s workers are not working in the fields, but resting at the table with a full plate of food in front of them. We sit around debating, arguing, and dissecting theological details, while we miss the desperate cries of the lost and dying all around us. My challenge is for each church, big or small, to recognize a man, woman, or a couple, and a youth, for the purpose of forming a Volunteer Ministry Team from each church.

We have a new Block Party trailer ministry and we are providing training on how to use it presently. There is some paperwork and guidelines which churches planning on using it must complete and fill out. The trailer is being parked at FBC Ganado. Call me, Barry, to reserve it, fill out the necessary paperwork, and arrange training on how to use it. You cannot use it without first being trained and being orientated on it use.

We are blessed to have this resource and tool in our association, and we want to see it used by every church accordingly to reach the lost and to build bridges into our local communities. We had an exciting training sesión this past April, with 10 in attendance and everybody shared many creative ideas of how it could be used in their local community and neighborhoods to reach the lost and build relationships into their local areas.

We must begin focusing upon reaching our associational area for Christ Jesus and planting new Bible study groups and church plants in our local towns and areas. We have identified at least 3 areas for starting new work among the Hispanic populations in our association: Lane City, Blessing, and Garwood. Plus starting student work at Wharton Jr. College.

Please call me or text me with your church´s questions and input. I will follow up on them. Call or text me at 903-227-9019. Barry

**Your association needs YOU! God has a job for YOU! God has a ministry for you!**

God is moving in our 5 county CBA. area!

Are you up to the challenge?
Block Party Outreach Ministry
Ganado, Tx. - Neighborhood Outreach Celebration
**Pastorless Churches in CBA:**

- **Lane City, FBC.: Bi-voc & Bi-lingual Pastor**

- **Primera Iglesia Bautista, Wharton: Pastoral transition**

- **Carancahua Chapel, Schicke Point: Searching**

- **FBC., Louise: Rick Harrison, Interim Pastor**

  - If you have candidates and prospects for pastoral consideration in these churches, please let Barry Barnet know by emailing their resumes to bdbarnet2017@gmail.com for consideration and distribution. Thanks. Barry

**CBA exist to help member churches during times of pastoral leadership transition with resources, search committee training, and assistance through the process of finding God’s next pastor.**

We are here to serve you! We want to serve you! Let us know how we can help and be of assistance to you and your church. We want to hear from you! Barry Barnet, Dir. of Missions, CBA.

Thank you for enabling CBA to minister, support, and encourage our local Baptist churches, and pastors in their times of need, and pastoral leadership transitions.

Together we can do more!
Together we grow stronger in serving Jesus Christ!