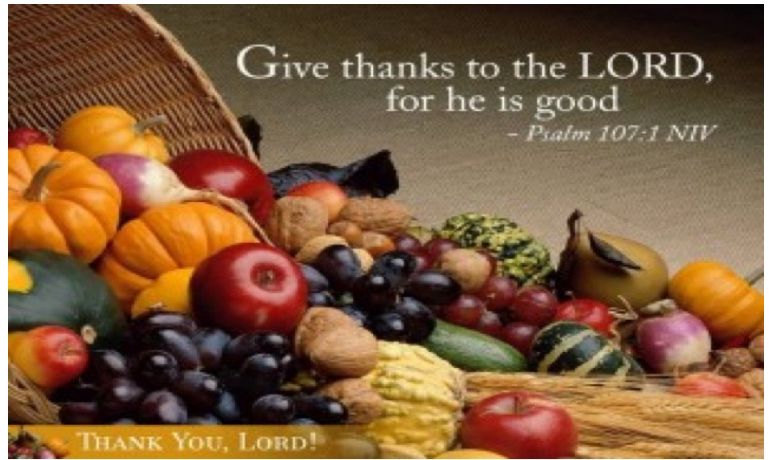


Colorado Baptist Association:

NOV. 2021: Vol.15, Issue 10

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CBA Financial Report and Update for 2021

2021 Yearly Budget: \$103,879.24

Monthly average needed: \$8,656.60

Received in October: \$9,969.90

Help us minister to you and your church !

Thank you for your support & contributions !

God loves a cheerful giver !

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@ TBE Nov. 20th ... pg. 24

> Special Thanks to Memorial, El Campo for hosting our Annual Meeting. The worship and fellowship was sweet. Thanks for your hospitality.

> Thanks to all the Churches who brought their food items and dry goods to donate to STCH. PTL !

UPCOMING CBA EVENTS
in November 2021:

- Nov. 5-7th : Revival at FBC Markham
Friday and Sat. 7 pm. with Sunday am.
with Homecoming fellowship lunch .
- Nov. 7th: 1st Sunday for new pastor,
Joshua Turpin, at FBC Eagle Lake.
- Nov. 7-9: SBTC Convention, Tyler, Tx.
- Nov. 14-16th: BGCT Conv. Galveston
- Nov. 13th : Local CBA Churches:
Community-wide Thanksgiving
Celebrations and Dinners
- FBC Blessing : Tex-Mex Thanksgiving
At Community Center at 4:30 pm.
- BeYOUtiful Girls Conference at TBE
3:30 pm.—8 pm. For 6-12th grades.
- Nov. 21st: Last Sunday for Pastor
Ernesto Vuillonett at Living Water
Ganado. Resigning : Praying 4 You !
- Nov. 24– 28 : Thanksgiving Holiday
CBA Office closed for holidays.
- Nov. 29th—December 31st :
Lottie Moon Prayer and International
Missions Emphasis. Give so that the world
may hear the Christmas Message !
Jesus Christ is the reason for the season.

Celebrating Life's Big Moments with you !

November 2021:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

- 7 Vance Snedecor, music minister's husband,
FBC Wharton
- 11 Martina Vuiollete, pastor's wife, Living Water
Baptist Church, Ganado
- 14 Julia Zimmerman, pastor's wife, FBC, Bay City
- 23 Rachel Rush, pastor's wife, Trinity, Palacios
- 23 Chris Ellis, pastor, New Mt. Olive Missionary
Baptist Church, Wharton

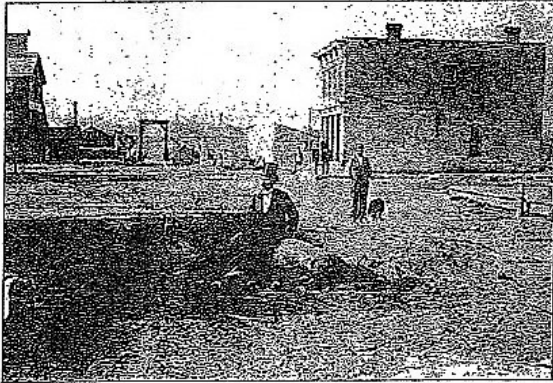
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY...

- 11 Joshua & Hannah Shell, associate/youth pastor,
FBC Columbus

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY...

- 1990 Robert Garcia, pastor, Primera, Louise
- 2010 Chester Sassman, pastor, FBC Lane City, retired
- 2011 Damon Rambo, pastor, FBC Markham
- 2014 Ryan Carpenter, pastor, FBC Ganado
- 2017 Ernesto Vuiollete, Living Water Baptist Church,
Ganado
- 2018 Matthew Gore, pastor, FBC Van Vleck





Ways To Ride A Dead Horse

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians—passed on from generation to generation—says that when you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount.

Modern churches, however, have found a whole range of far more advanced strategies to use, such as:

1. Get a bigger whip.
2. Change riders.
3. Remind everyone, "God told us to ride this horse."
4. Appoint a committee to study your horse.
5. Appoint a committee to study how other groups ride their dead horses.
6. Threaten the horse with termination.
7. Proclaim, "This is the way we've always ridden this horse."
8. Develop a training session to improve our riding ability.
9. Remind ourselves that other churches ride dead horses also.
10. Determine that riders who don't stay on dead horses are lazy, lack drive, and have no ambition - then replace them.
11. Lower the standards so that dead horses can be included.
12. Hire an outside consultant to advise you on how to better ride the horse.
13. Harness several dead horses together to increase the speed.
14. Change the physical position of the dead horse so it looks alive.
15. Provide additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
16. Ride the dead horse "outside the box."
17. Get the horse a Web site, tweeter account, email, and cell phone.
18. Kill all the other horses so the dead one doesn't stand out.
19. Take a positive outlook - pronouncing that the dead horse doesn't have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overhead, and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the church's budget than do some other horses.
20. Rewrite the expected performance requirements for all horses.
21. Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.
22. Name the dead horse, "paradigm shift" and keep riding it.
23. Ride the dead horse "smarter, not harder."
24. State that other styles of riding dead horses reflect compromise, and are not from God.
25. Remember all the good times you had while riding that horse.
26. Get a new saddle.

Men's Ministry Opportunities :

- **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 Breakfast : Every 2nd Saturday monthly.
7:30 am. in Fellowship Hall.**
- **FBC Columbus : Men's Prayer Breakfast
6 am. Every Tuesday AM. in the Main Bldg. Kitchen area.**
- **FBC Sheridan has started a new Baptist Men's group complete with Brunch, Bible Study, and Prayer time. They had 12 men show up for their first meeting ! PTL !**

**Texas Baptist Men and SBTC Disaster Relief Teams
and Ministries need Volunteers and Helpers !**

Contact Billy Welborn: 979-240-4989

**September Disaster Relief Project: Louisiana : Tree cutting, & debris pickup
While ministering to the physical, emotional, & spiritual needs of the disaster victims.**

Local Ministry Projects

Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Tree Removal

Lane City after the Beta Hurricane Passes.

Start a Brotherhood at your local church !



**Look on our CBA Website
For more Men's Prayer & Bible
Study groups meeting in your
local area.**

**Come and be fed physically,
emotionally, and spiritually.
Bring a friend with you !**

WARNING

**CONSTRUCTION
AREA**

CBA—WOMEN'S MINISTRY / WMU UPDATES:

C B A encourages every church to start a Women's Ministry Outreach !

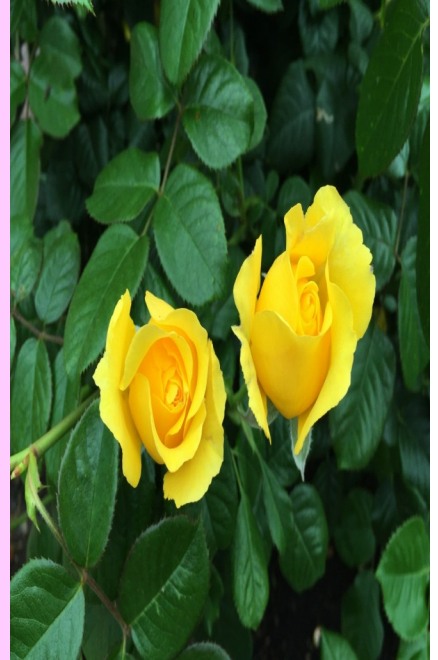
• South Texas Border Mission Trip available dates

- November 18-20, 2021

- December 2 - 4, 2021

Costs:

- Motel Rooms: 1 person = \$45.00
2 persons = \$32.50 each
3 persons = \$25.00 each
4 persons = \$22.50 each
- Meals : Breakfast \$6.50 / Lunch \$8.50 /
Dinner \$9.50
- For transportation and more information contact :
 - Georgia Hobbins : 979-578-2074



• Lottie Moon International Missions

Offering & Week of Prayer

- November 29th—December 5th, 2021

For promotional aids and information materials go to the following sites:

Website: iamtexasmissions.org

Website: www.imb.org

• October 24th, 2021 : CBA Annual Meeting at Memorial, El Campo

Starting at 3:30 pm. (Due to Covid –19 there will be no meal)

• November 1st: Int. Day of Prayer, FBC Van Vleck, 10 am.

2022 Calendar:

- Feb. 22, 2022 : WMU Meeting at FBC Columbus
- April 25th, 2022 : WMU Meeting at Cedar Lane
- July 26th , 2022 : (TBA)
- November 1st, 2022 : Day Of Prayer at FBC Van Vleck
- November 7th, 2022 : WMU Meeting at FBC., El Campo

Women's Ministry Contact Person: Georgia Hobbins: 979-578-2074

Children's Ministry Report by Mary Robertson

Kids Catching Christ

Cedar Lane Baptist Church

To understand Kids Catching Christ, you must first understand how it came about and why and our location. Covid 19 hit the world astonishingly hard, but we failed to realize how hard it truly hit our children at first. Kids got out of school and just seemed to never go back there for a while. Sargent, TX is a very rural, coastal community. At first glance, it's a charming beach community that triples in size on weekends and then really booms on holidays. But, if you look closer, there are a lot of permanent residents and with them a lot of children. You hear the people comment all the time, "Man I didn't realize there were so many kids down there."

Not only do we have a large number of children, we also have a lot of low income families struggling just to get by. During the summer of 2020 when Covid was rampant, churches went to virtual Vacation Bible School. That was fine for some, but for most of Sargent, that capability just wasn't a reality. With so many children not able to go to VBS and learn about our Savior, there was a gap. That is how the need was brought to my attention and I sought out a way to meet the need through forming Kids Catching Christ, the name was thought up my daughter.

If you or your church would be interested in praying for this ministry, or actively helping out in the ministry please contact Mary at 979-479-5554. Mary is seeking to develop the ministry to reach into new areas of work as well with more helpers and support. Pray for workers and wisdom to do this.

God is at work in CBA ! Why not join Him and ride the wave of His moving among our local areas. Praise the Lord for what He is doing in and through His people and churches.

If you have a Children's Ministry or event coming up at your church please let me know asap and I will help promote it for all of us to share the load and multiply the Praise !

Blessings as we serve Him !

Contact Barry Barnet, DOM at 903-227-9019

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters around the world as they face persecution and for the Christians and churches in Afghanistan. Pray for the people as they flee from the Taliban seeking safety. Pray for the many Afghans who have helped the US. effort during these past years. Pray for God's divine intervention and protection to be upon the Americans and Afghans as they seek to be exit Afghanistan and begin a better life with religious freedoms, and freedom of expression.**
- **Pray for Pastor Roy Salazar's uncle as he suffered a stroke and is in the hospital. Pray for healing that points to God's divine hand and presence in the family's health crisis. Pray for them to look to God for spiritual and physical healing.**
- **Pray for Pastor Roy Salazar's employer and friend, Lupe, as he fights a life and death struggle to overcome Covid 19. He has experienced salvation through his near death experience. He is a believer now, but continue to pray for his healing and recovery from Covid 19, damage to his lungs and breathing, and for his family as his salvation experience is new to them. Pray for the family to also come to faith in Jesus Christ as their only Lord and Savior.**
- **Pray for Pastor Ernesto Vuillonet, Living Water, Ganado, as he has resigned to rejoin his wife and family living in Matamoros. Pray for their safety from gunfights and violence between police and gangs in Matamoros, Mexico. Marta also will be having surgery to remove tumors soon, pray for her recovery and healing. Pray for safety for all the family, and their future plans for Ministry.**
- **Continue to pray for Mary Garcia, pastor's wife of Robert Garcia, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Louise for her health. She is at home recovering from Covid 19 and its effects now.**
- **Pray for Pastor Rick DuBroc and Larna as they have retired from FBC El Campo. Pray for FBC as they begin the pastoral search process. Pray for Interim Pastor Jimmy Martin.**
- **Pray for our CBA Pastorless Churches: FBC Palacios, Coastal Plains Cowboy Church, Boling, FBC Sargent, FBC El Campo, and Pledger as they start the process of searching for God's next pastor for their church. Pray for unity and direction.**
- **COVID—19 Victims: Pray for our CBA pastors, their families, church members' families, and those victims of the virus living in our CBA communities. Pray for healing, recovery, and for God to speak loudly and sensitively to those fighting the virus. Pray for the victims of Covid-19 to feel the love and compassion of God's presence with them in this scary moment and chapter in their life.**
- **Pray for Lane City Baptist church to be spiritually revitalized through offering English Classes, Sunday School, and Bible studies. Pray for it to become a Ministry center for the Gospel in the community.**





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.

... November's Message of Hope

Wow ! 2021 has just flown by too quickly. There has not been any boring moments as we have faced trials, difficulties, along with the highs and lows as we have battled Covid 19 on so many fronts. It has been a challenging year for sure. Let's hit the pause button for a moment and reflect on the positives that we have experienced throughout this year, and how we have grown through all the trials of our faith this year.

Too many times we think of Thanksgiving in terms of turkey and dressing, travel adventures, family time, and decorating the house for Thanksgiving. This year has reminded me that Thanksgiving is not so much about the size

of the turkey, who won the football game, or the decorations, but about the spirit of " giving thanks to God " for all the goodness that we have received from His hands and care over the year. It is about stopping and focusing on saying "Thanks God for being there for me when I was at the bottom this year !" Thanks God for getting me through this difficult and trying year of dealing with uncertainties. As humans we fall into the trap of just focusing on our material blessings, but Thanksgiving is much more than this. Yes, we ought to pause and thank God for all His blessings, and the harvests we have experienced over this year. However, let us stop and praise God for His unconditional love, mercy, grace, joy, presence in our world and lives, and His sustaining power and goodness which catches us when we fall and puts our feet back on His path of righteousness for His namesake. Thanks God for being there for me !

Thanksgiving can be a painful time as we remember our fallen family members and friends that will not be with us this year to celebrate it as in the past. Can we challenge ourselves to say , " Thanks to God ", even we are not too thrilled by the lows and losses that we have experienced this past year ? This is a challenge for us, but we need to reflect back over this past year and see how we have grown through this epidemic and the losses we were presented. What have we learned or been taught through this year ? To be honest, this is painful, but necessary, as we have faced challenges and losses with God's help and presence in our valleys this year, and we have grown through it all. I have learned to rely more on God , my sufficiency and strength are not up to Covid and its effects on my life. My faith has been stretched like never before. We are all doing more with less. Our stress levels are at an all-time high. Workers are burned out. People are frustrated more than ever. However, is thanksgiving, the spirit of thanksgiving only a happy seasonal holiday ? Can we only enjoy thanksgiving if everything is going well with us ? Thanks God for the good times, keep them coming ! This attitude seems selfish to me, and far too common among us. We must learn the discipline of giving thanks and praise to God even when we are suffering like Job. We must praise God even though God did not follow my plans for this year, see Jonah chapter 4. I am reminded of this scripture, I hope it will encourage you as well:

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (HCSB)

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will triumph in Yahweh; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!

¹⁹ Yahweh my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!



We must learn to praise and give thanks to God in all times even during the valley moments.

Some thoughts to think on and apply this Thanksgiving ! Barry Barnet, DOM @ CBA

October's Message of Hope

Hope in the Midst of Life's Storms:

I am writing this article after spending several hectic days bringing disaster relief and aid to victims of Tropical Storm/ Hurricane Nicholas, which hit our area along the Texas coast hard. I have felt pulled in many directions and under stress to get aid to the victims as soon as possible. As I reflect and process all that has happened in a short amount of time, I feel stretched out like a rubber band that has been stretched and stretched past its limit of bouncing back, and I know that many of you feel the same way. It seems that living life now demands so much of us. Many of us are working more than one job, and juggling our time and money like never before, stretching us in ways that we never imagined. Life today stretches us time wise, financially, health-wise, fighting an invisible virus and all the complications that go with it. I see and have talked with many persons who state that they are stretched beyond their means at the present time. There just seems to be too many demands, and too much expected of us. We are doing more with less, it seems. Our families and loved ones are affected as we work and care for them at the same time. We are now working from home more and more which brings work stress into the family environment like never before. It just seems like everything is spinning out of our control, which confuses and stresses us out even more. We finally get into a routine and then suddenly everything changes again, and we are thrown back to learning a new process all over again. Agh



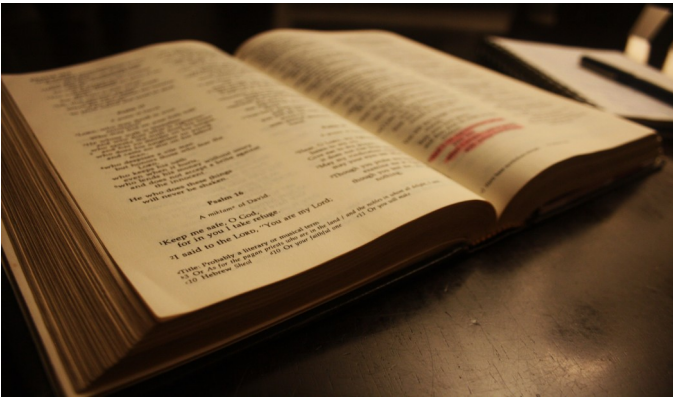
It has been well documented that there has been a spike in physical confrontations and conflicts on airplane flights, in domestic abuse cases, and road rage incidents. Violence has increased and people just seem to be a powder keg waiting for a reason to explode and vent at someone when the pressure gets to be too much for them to handle. Our tempers are hot and with shorter fuses than ever before. We are easily provoked and super sensitive to just a wrong glance or a slip of words, and Bam ! We explode at some innocent store clerk or airline stewardess just trying to do their job, who has done nothing deserving such a tirade. It seems like we have just been pressed beyond our natural limits and are just re-acting to any little provocation in order to vent our pent up frustrations and feelings of helplessness on someone else. I am with you, and if we are all honest we all have felt these emotions sweep over us at times.

When I feel like life is spinning out of control, and I am at the point of losing it all I remember these practices:

- Stop and breathe for a minute. Be still. Step away from everybody, excuse yourself.
- Self- reflect and do a self-check. What is it that has me at a boiling point ?
- Does the person that I am interacting with deserve my wrath and pent up anger ? Is this person just trying to do his / her job like I would be in their spot ?
- Look in the mirror and ask yourself, “ What will I look like to this other person if I release my anger and frustration on them ? ” We all want to leave a positive impression with those we work with, and interact with in life. How will they view me after this outburst ?
- What are the consequences for myself, for my family and loved ones, and for my job if I just lambast this person with all my venom and boiling emotions ? Do I really want to deal with these negative consequences and their fall-out ? No, I do not. How can I avoid this from happening ?
- Step away at your earliest convenience and do some physical activity,... such as walking or jogging until your emotional energy is spent and you are relaxed again. Vent your emotions in a healthy way, not on persons. Spend some time with God !
- Ask yourself, “ Am I ready to return to work , or to my family with more positive energy and emotions ? ”
For myself, as a believer, I need to spend some quality time with my Maker and putting things back in context from His perspective. I need to put the axle back in middle of the wheel and move forward with a new attitude. I need to refocus my Spirit on God again. I need to see the situation from God's perspective. Dose my anger glorify God ? No !
- Ask for help from others. Be transparent and talk with your friends in your social network that give you positive feedback and encouragement. Constructive comments are welcome ! It feels so much better after you have opened up and talked with someone about your frustrations. You were never meant to carry all these burdens and stresses on your own. I Peter 5:7

When you feel you have been stretched to your limits, stop and back away, lessen the tension before your rubber band snaps and hurts someone. Surrender your anger, give it up. You will feel better and others around you will love you for it ! I. Peter 5:7

Something to think on and do ! Barry Barnet, DOM @ CBA



.... September's Message of Hope

When I was a Senior in High School, I had a great English teacher, Mrs. Knight, who happened to be a born-again believer in Christ Jesus. As a class we finished our assignments ahead of her schedule and she did a very dangerous thing and asked the class, “ What book do you all want to read

before the end of school ?” There were some choices, but overall the class chose, **“ The Late Great Planet Earth” by Hal Lindsey**, which was a hot seller at the time (1981). “ Wait ! “ I thought that this was a message of hope not doom and gloom. You are right. Stick with me for just a moment more. Please read on.

As Christians, we are taught over and over throughout the Bible, but especially in the teachings and parables of Jesus Christ, complimented by the writings of Apostle Paul that this world, this life, is not our permanent home or dwelling place. We hear over and over again from Jesus Christ himself and throughout the writings of Paul, Peter, and John that we are just temporary residents in this world. Our citizenship is not in this world, but in the presence of God in eternity. John in Revelation shares a timeless message of hope for all believers in Jesus Christ. Our real home and eternal dwelling place is in Heaven with God Himself, living forever in His glorious presence and Light, in a world free of sin, suffering, and sadness. WOW ! Do you see where I am going ? This world is not our home, just temporary housing. God has a higher and better plan and purpose for His children.

Anyway, Hal Lindsey in his books, shared his view of how the world was going to end, and the warning signs to prepare ourselves for the coming return of Jesus Christ. He wrote about a world on fire, ravaged by diseases, a one world religion, and a one-world currency, international conflicts in the middle-east, the growing power of China and Russia in the world, earthquakes, wars, and a persecution of Christians.... Hmmmm. It sounds like today's headlines and news !

I'm not a doom and gloom end of the world type of guy, but it does seem like we are a lot closer to Christ Jesus' return and the ending of this world as we know it today than we were just a few years ago. My hope is in God's Living Word– Jesus Christ, and His written Word, the Bible.

I'm ready. Are you ready ? My ticket is punched. Is your's ? ... Barry Barnet



... August's Message of Hope From the desk of Barry Barnet to you

Luke 13:6-9 (HCSB)

⁶ And He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none.

⁷ He told the vineyard worker, 'Listen, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it even waste the soil?'

⁸ "But he replied to him, 'Sir, leave it this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.

⁹ Perhaps it will bear fruit next year, but if not, you can cut it down.'"



Last month, I wrote about how God can bring life from what appears to be dead, and lifeless, remember the cactus leaves that looked dried up and brown, dead as a door knob. Well this month, I want to build on that theme or topic. My cactus leaves have been re-planted in good soil and are being watered well. They have begun to sprout new leaves, fresh growth, green, and vivacious is taking place. However, the other day, I got the idea to mix some plant food and give them a boost in their growth. I mixed the plant food in water and gave them a generous dose of it. Now, wow ! New leaves are sprouting out rapidly now. The leaves and their new roots have drunk deeply of the fertilizer and it is producing positive results.

The Lord has impressed upon me through this process that I am, and you are like those cactus leaves. We are alive, and fighting to grow fresh and in new ways. I was struck by the thought that we too need fertilizer thrown into our lives from time to time. We get down, our churches struggle, and we fail to see or understand what God is doing underneath the surface of our lives. We get down and discouraged, maybe even sinking into depression. However, God is like the farmer or vineyard caretaker above in the scriptures. The world and people around us say it is time to uproot the fruitless and unproductive person, maybe even referring to us ! Yet God is the patient and ever-loving gardener who still holds out hope that He can infuse and pour into us a fresh manifestation of His Holy Spirit reviving and refreshing us and our faith. Our churches need a season of receiving some fertilizer from God's patient hands through His Holy Spirit.

If you have ever had an illness and you felt wore out and exhausted physically, and then you went to the doctor and he prescribed antibiotics and vitamins for you and almost instantly you notice the difference. Your body is revived and strengthened again. You feel like you could run a marathon race ! What a difference !

In this passage, as I look at it, some thoughts pop into my head: 1) Who defines what shape the fruit takes ? 2) Some of us are plowers, others are sowers, and others water the seed, while still others are the harvesters. Each one has his purpose and fruit, and it will look distinct from the others. 3.) We all go through times and stages of life where we do not feel fruitful. Be careful to not let your emotions dry up your fruitfulness in the Lord. The fruit is forming on the stem. 4.) We all need some fertilizer thrown on us at times, accept it and let it do its job. 5. How can we fertilize others ? How can I encourage those around me who are down, discouraged, or in despair ? 6.) Whenever I see an opportunity to cast some positive fertilizer do I respond with compassion and a sensitive heart, or am I too quick to judge and up-root, destroying the plant.



7.) Be glad and thankful that God does not give up on us, but will lovingly cast some fertilizer our way when we need it the most. 8.) Remember, fertilizer takes some time to do its work and boost the struggling plant, give it a chance to work and be patient with the feeble plant as it struggles to respond.

I thank God that He did not up-root me when I was in a fruitless place and struggling to make my way forward and bear fruit for Him.

Thanks God for your times of refreshment and bearing with me. Thanks for the fertilizer ! Think about it !

... from Barry Barnet, DCM.

.... from the desk of Barry Barnet to you
... July's Message of Hope from God's Word

During this past week of getting away and visiting with family, re-connecting after so much time apart due to Covid 19, I was walking with my dad and he was showing me his cactus plant. This cactus plant caught my attention as it had been strong and spreading, but was now basically a pile of decaying dead leaves. The leaves were brown, rotten, and dead, BUT contrary to what you and I would think, it was not dead. The plant's roots were still alive and seeking to grow anew. There were new leaves growing out of the dead ones. These new cactus leaves were small, but alive. They were green and growing with vibrant life contrary to my human logic and thinking. The power of life that God had created within it was radiating anew and fresh again. WOW ! It was like a slap in the face of my faith. You think a plant or a church is dead, but nothing is impossible for God. God can revitalize and awaken what seems to be dead and past any hope of living or producing fruit. God promised Israel that he would save a faithful remnant to preserve His people. God would resurrect His faithful few, the faithful remnant who did not give up on their faith, who continued to trust in His Word, and His Promises. I thought of Jesus Christ's resurrection, His enemies, sin, death, and the devil thought they had killed him on that cross, yet God proved them wrong, resurrecting Jesus from the grave to live forever. I also thought of us as believers in Jesus Christ, His disciples, and His church, many times the world has done its best to kill off our faith, and destroy His church, only to find that God resurrects us and His church to continue extending His kingdom and bearing fruit for Him. WOW ! What a Word of Hope for me , the church, and God's Kingdom. It may look dead and done at times, but it lives !

Kings 19:30-31

³⁰ And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward;

³¹ For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, And out of mount Zion they that escape: The zeal of Jehovah [of hosts] shall do this. ”

Isaiah 11:16 (ASV)

¹⁶ And there shall be a highway for the remnant of his people, that shall remain, from Assyria; like as there was for Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Jeremiah 23:3-6 (ASV)

³ And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

⁴ And I will set up shepherds over them, who shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be lacking, saith Jehovah.

⁵ Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.



(Continued from left-side) More than ever before, we need to be reminded that the Rainbow was created by God to remind His creation that He would not destroy the earth again by flooding. Sadly, political groups with their own agenda and definition are using the rainbow to represent their ideas and platform.

When you see a rainbow, you ought to be refreshed in your spirit that God is always faithful and keeps His promises to His faithful ones in Christ Jesus.

Do NOT let this world steal away your joy or the promises of God. Remember no matter how sad or bad things appear around you or in your momentary affliction that God promises to preserve your life for eternity. Your appendages may not look healthy and you may appear to be lifeless and dried up, but God is fully capable of resurrecting you, His church, and His Kingdom at any moment in any situation. God is the one who has created you and His church, giving it eternal supernatural powers to overcome death and corruption. Thank you God for planting within my heart and within your church the gift of eternal life ! P72 !

...from my heart to your's ... Barry Barnet. DOM





June 2021's Message of Hope

...from the desk of Barry Barnet to you

Do you ever feel like this pony standing alone in his green field without a friend or company to encourage him, so alone ?

To be honest with you, we all have passed through sad and lonely times in life, when we felt like this poor pony alone in his field. Sometimes our churches, as body of believers can feel the same way: sad, separated, and lacking the needed fellowship of other like minded churches to stand with us. Many time the believers and churches in Spain felt like they were living on

*an island, alone, abandoned by friends and family, and cut-off from other believers. It can be really devastating, and depressing. One of the remarkable truths that we discovered in Spain is that believers and church bodies need each other, and they need the fellowship of other believers to encourage them. If they were cut-off from other believers and churches they usually fell into a spiritual depression and withered on the vine as they had no fellowship with outside believers. Volunteers often asked us as missionaries what could they bring to the national Spanish churches to help them. We would reply that they really craved fellowship and encouragement from believers outside their local area, in order to be reminded that they belong to the body of Christ around the world and they are not stranded on a spiritual island with no way off or on. The volunteers would be amazed because that was something that they took for granted in the USA. in their church associations, and Christian fellowship between like-minded believers and churches. Fellowship is something so simple yet we often overlook its importance in our lives and churches. As your Director of Missions for Colorado Baptist Association, I want to emphasize that we as individual Christians and churches need spiritual Christian fellowship like humans need air to survive. I want to encourage you and your local church to make a new commitment to fellowship with other churches. One of the key reasons that Baptist Associations came into being was for the purpose of fellowship, and building up each other in our Christian walk, faith, & practice. **WE NEED EACH OTHER !!!** As the Covid 19 infection rate falls, and we are either vaccinated against it, or we have had the virus, please commit anew to fellowshipping again with your fellow church members and with our sister churches within our association, as well as with like-minded churches in your area for the purpose of building up each other spiritually and giving encouragement to each other to move forward in our faith, in our ministries, and in missions like we never have before. I think we will all admit that we have missed the personal touch, and conversations that we once enjoyed together before Covid 19 hit and sent us scurrying to our safe zones locked away from that personal fellowship that we once enjoyed. Good News !!! It is time to come out of our spiritual hibernation and exit our caves to rejoin our churches in live and personal worship and fellowship again. Together we can do so much better than separated from each other. Plus it is fun. I miss the food, fun, and fellowship that we experienced as we gathered together for worship, prayer, and ministry. Now is the time to come back together ! Praise the Lord ! Amen ! Some thoughts for you to reflect upon. Barry Barnet, DCM*

*....May's Message of Hope...
From the desk of Barry Barnet, DCM*

In this month of May, I want to stress getting off our Lazy-boy recliners and out from in front of the computer or TV screens and getting back to corporate worship and fellowship in your local church body of believers. Spring is a time of new birth with flowers blooming everywhere, and trees putting out new leaves. Every plant seems to be budding and blooming, putting forth new life. Why not us? Why not you? It is time to get back to your local church and actively participate in corporate worship. Remind them that you are alive and hungry for God's Word, and personal fellowship with fellow believers. Forget the ZOOM, and reconnect with real humans and real conversations.



I had a man that I was visiting tell me that he was a believer. He said that he just worshipped from home, in his lazy-boy recliner, no inconvenience, no money involved, and no hypocrites to put up with. I asked him, "Does your wife and children know that you are a believer? They come to church and pray for you, and you stay at home to do your thing on Sunday, do they really know that you are a believer, since it is your personal secret just between you and God?" Well he was surprised and astonished needless to say.

If you are a believer do NOT be a secret undercover believer. The Bible and Jesus Christ himself calls for public obedience and testimony. No hidden believers in the Bible unless they were being persecuted, but none of us are being persecuted for our faith, especially if you never show it to others in public. The day is coming when we will want Jesus Christ to stand up for us before His Father and declare that we belong to Him, but what have we done to identify with Jesus Christ or God publicly recently? Hmmm..... Will we hear," Well done my servant, enter into the joy of my presence." Or will we hear, "Depart from me you evil-doers, I never knew you!" Ouch that hurts for eternity. Who are we afraid of offending? If we are ashamed of Jesus now, then one day in the future Jesus will be ashamed of us, and it will be too late to do anything about it. Going to church and bringing your family with you is a public testimony of who you belong to, who you serve as master.

Recliner or Redemption? Worry or Worship? Excuses or Fellowship with God's children?

Hebrews 10:23-25 (HCSB)

²³ Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,

²⁵ not staying away from our [worship] meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. "

I am NOT trying to pass judgment on anybody. We all have been hypocrites at times, and we all know people who act like hypocrites at times, but I refuse to let a hypocrite have power over me and that he would stand in the way of me going to church and bringing my family with me. Do NOT let a hypocrite or any excuse stand between you and the fellowship that we enjoy when we are all in God's house with God's people. Remember the church is made up of human beings, sinners, redeemed sinners identifying with Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Believers are forgiven and perfect in God's eyes, but here on earth none of us are perfect or have reached perfection to the point of passing judgment on anybody. We are saved by God's undeserved mercy and grace by faith in Jesus Christ. We were created with a need and a desire to worship God and a need for fellowship with God and His children, no matter how imperfect they may be at times.

I am encouraging every one of you to commit to live personal fellowship in God's House with God's children anew and fresh in this month of May. Isn't your body ready to get out of that lazy-boy and enjoy real people and conversation again? NO more excuses! Reconnect with your local church this month, surprise them! We need each other! Church is so much more fun when you are there!

Words from God's Word to reflect on, and live by, Barry Barnet, DCM of CBA

April's Message of Hope:



April is the month that usually heralds the arrival of Spring with all the flowers and trees budding out, flowers blooming, and plant life coming back to life. It is a hopeful and beautiful time of the year.

For many of us, including me, we have struggled with Covid 19, and its effects in our bodies and lives. It has been encouraging to me to hear your testimonies of how God has answered your prayers, and provided healing and recovery from Covid 19. I thank God for all the great medicine and technological treatments and research that we have been blessed with by God. However, for me, God is the Great Physician, who lovingly cares for His patients and provides healing in this life and in His presence, making us whole and giving us peace. I am so thankful for God's healing power and presence in our lives, and in the life of our churches.

Easter is the perfect reminder that in Jesus Christ, God has overcome our sins, guilt, our fears of the unknown, fear of death, and illness, even overcoming and crushing the Evil one. I am reminded that we are more than overcomers in Christ Jesus. It is not us who are so powerful, but our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ crushed the head of the serpent, of death, of sin, of fear, and glory be, He shares it with those who put their faith in Him as their only Lord and Savior, surrendering their life to His control. Jesus' resurrection is the seal of victory for all eternity that death, sin, Satan could not overcome Jesus Christ. His resurrection sets those of us free from sin, fear of death, guilt, and gives His followers hope of eternal life. God's Word reminds us of His eternal promise.

Romans 8:31-39 (HCSB)

- ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
³² He did not even spare His own Son but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything?
³³ Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the One who justifies.
³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the One who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.
³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
³⁶ As it is written: Because of You we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us.
³⁸ For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, [hostile] powers,
³⁹ height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

We need to feed our souls with these Words of promise. Fear not, comfort your hearts and be at peace.

From the desk of Barry Barnet, DOM



... March's Message of Hope

.... for you and your church

.... From the desk of Barry Barnet , DOM to you

Learning contentment in the midst of life's struggles:

Philippians 4:10-14 (HCSB)

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity [to show it].

¹¹ I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

¹² I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret [of being content]—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need.

¹³ I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

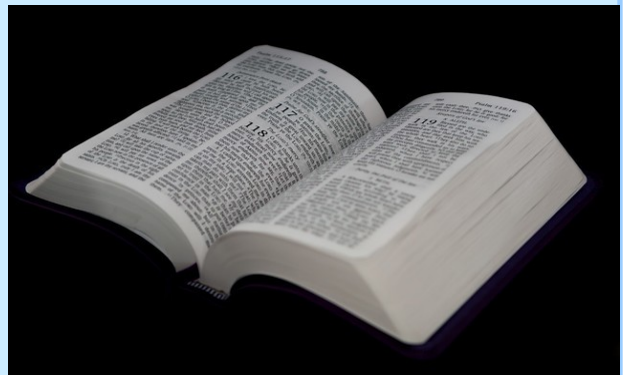
¹⁴ Still, you did well by sharing with me in my hardship.

We too were affected by the week or more of freezing temperatures and rolling black-outs of electricity in our region and throughout Texas during this historic freeze. We too wore about 4 layers of clothes and our jackets, coats, knit hats, and gloves in our house as we awaited for the electricity to come back on. We had water, but no electricity, no wifi, no cell phone coverage on Linda's cell phone, ...etc.... We did learn some things from the winter storms, like our next house will have a fireplace, and a gas stove to cook on.. We also learned a lot spiritually as the TV was off, radio was off, cell phone use limited, and computer usage was limited to battery life. We did the " car warm up " as we drove around El Campo trying to absorb as much heat as possible in as brief a time as possible, while recharging our cell phones in the car. We went to the stores just to get warm and to see empty shelves. It was worse than after Hurricane Harvey ! Through the cold, God spoke as we opened up our Bibles and began reading just for the fun of it, no sermon preparation, no Bible study prep, and no devotional preparation, but just to spend time with God in His Word, with no distractions, obligations, or responsibilities. It was great, although limited by my poor vision in dim light at times.

Paul had learned the secret of life: contentment in Jesus Christ. He learned to be thankful and content when he had an abundance and when he was in poverty, when he had a surplus of food, and when he was starving. I was humbled by God during this time when everything we take for granted was stripped away from us, reducing us back to living like cavemen fighting against the elements to survive. Linda asked me, " How did the Native Americans survive ? " I do not know, but they had to be tough and prepared. The positive thing for me that I learned was that I have way too many things and distractions in my life which I could do without. I would not enjoy it , but I could survive with God's help and resources. I was so happy to be able to cook on our BBQ gas grill and heat up water for coffee, and hot chocolate or broth. I was so happy and thankful !!!!

It was great to grill food on the BBQ and feel the warmth !!!

God teach us to be thankful and content with what you give us ! You never promised to give us everything we wish or desire, however, you have promised to provide for our needs. It was great to see and her reports of how people helped out others during the freezing temperatures. Crisis bring out the best or worst in us. Hopefully Jesus is seen in and through us in the midst of our crisis. Think about it. Barry Barnet



February Message of Hope from God's Living Word
.... From the desk of Barryto you..... A message of hope.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (HCSB)

³ Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, uncorrupted, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

⁵ You are being protected by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials

⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

⁸ You love Him, though you have not seen Him. And though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy,

⁹ because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



One of my favorite TV programs to watch is “Forged in Iron” where contestants who are “blade-smiths” compete against each other to produce the best hand fabricated metal weapons, which are judged by experts in the field. It is very interesting to me as we watch the cold metal pieces welded together and put into a forge to melt the metals together into one solid new piece of glowing hot metal ready to be forged and molded into a new weapon to be judged by the experts. On one night's program, all 4 of the contestants had a hard time getting their sections of metal to melt and forge into one solid block to then forge their weapons. All 4 blade-smiths failed the first test by the experts. All of the weapons in their crude form had cracks and deformations in their metal forms, after much heating and melting. The judges struck their weapons against a solid metal object and all four were found to be defective. Those deformations and cracks in the metal could not hold together when they were placed under stress and severe impacts. The metal weapons in their crude form all cracked or split under stress and were no good to be used or judged. They were deemed to be defective and unsafe to be judged any further. The contestants were disqualified and had to leave in shame.

While I watched this program, I could not help, but to think about the above verses which speak of our faith as being more valuable than gold. God says through the writer, Peter, that the believers' faith was being tried, tested by fire, or like metals being placed inside a fiery heated forge to melt and purify the metal to its purest form. I was reminded that all of us, believers, and not believers, are being stressed and put under so much pressure today due to Covid-19, finances, health issues, family crisis, politics, and the fear of the unknown... that our minds, bodies, and souls are being tested by fire and burdened by all these things weighing down on us that we just cannot bear any more stresses, before we snap like those weapons. I believe from reading God's Word and His promises to us that God does not intend for us to bear up under such pressure and burdens by ourselves, we are not strong enough. Our backs and bodies will break. Our minds and souls will become overwhelmed and shut down under such stresses and pressure. It is never God's intention to snap our faith or break our confidence in Him. It is not God's will to allow us to be overwhelmed by too much suffering. He knows our limitations as humans. Often times, we assume too many burdens and too much pressure through our own choices and decisions. We weigh ourselves down and then we feel bad, sad, and paralyzed by our own self-imposed burdens and stresses. Who can we blame for assuming too much, and losing our joy and freedom to serve our Lord as He wishes? Not God. The problem is, even as Christians, that we fall back into idolatry, the worship of material things, or we put employment positions above serving and loving God as He demands from us. He wants our full attention and whole-hearted love without any idolatry / idols coming between us and our love for Him. God wants to be our first love, and to be our one and only true love, unwavering in devotion. Do not be afraid to say “No, no more burdens, no more distractions, no more stress!”

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 (HCSB)

¹² So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

God does not want your car, house, bank accounts, or job. He just wants your complete and total love and attention focusing upon Him. He wants us to be uncompromisingly devoted to growing in our faith, understanding His will, and serving Him in unswerving obedience. God uses broken weapons to win the battle!



Something to think about! From my heart to yours Barry Barnet

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 !

CBA Pastorless Churches & Ministry Opportunities

- Coastal Plains Cowboy Church, Boling, Tx. Is prayerfully seeking their next pastor.
- FBC, Palacios: FBC, Palacios is organizing and prayerfully beginning the pastoral search process.
- FBC, Sargent: FBC, Sargent is prayerfully seeking and has begun the pastoral search process.
- FBC El Campo is prayerfully seeking their next pastor. Dr. Jimmy Martin is interim.
- Pledger Baptist church is looking for their next pastor. Willard Hill has resigned.

Ministerial Opportunities and areas of need for new work: (Volunteer positions)

- Lane City Baptist Church , **Rev. Bob Keptra and Rev. Luis Martinez, will be leading out in a church revitalization project, and encourage other CBA churches to join in on the project by adopting 1 week per month to practice outreach activities and prayer in Lane City. As an Association we will be sharing our resources with the goal being to see this church revitalized and once again ministering to the Lane City area for Jesus Christ.** *Presently: Sunday School classes for children (2), English Class (Weds.), with Sunday morning worship at 11 am. led by Bob Keptra and Weds. Night Bible study & prayer time. A donated refrigerator, and 2 new AC window units have been donated.

Church Planting Opportunities :

- Garwood, Tx. is largely Hispanic and full of blue collar working families, with no Baptist church or work presently.
- Blessing, Tx. is another town in our CBA area that has no Baptist Hispanic work, even though there is a large Hispanic population along with working class families living in the area. FBC Blessing is a CBA church presently ministering in this town.

CBA Mission Points needing your help and prayers:

- New Beginnings, Weimar, pastored by Danny Henderson. They have recently moved downtown to a store front site for their ministry base.
- Rock Island, between Altair and Sheridan, pastored by Albert Cuellar, is alive and growing under the leadership of Albert and Rosalinda Cuellar. They have been presented the option of becoming an autonomous church sooner than later.

Ministry Projects:

- Rock Island Mission Point: Windows need caulking.
- **Lane City: Church Revival Strategy: We want to encourage our CBA churches to adopt a week in each month to come and pray for outreach activities at Lane City. Missions begins at home ! Will you partner with us in this revitalizing church project ?**
- Worship Leader needed: Guitar player leading informal worship choruses & hymns.
- Lane City also needs a new roof / roof-work.

Back 2 School Youth Rally
And Fellowship
FBC Bay City August 2021



END OF SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY @ TEXAS BAPTIST ENCAMPMENT



BACK 2 SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY—AUG. 22ND
FBC BAY CITY 4—6 PM. Everyone is invited !
YOUTH FOCUSED WORSHIP WITH FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP

2021 COLORADO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
PASTORS, STAFF, & SPOUSES
SPRING RETREAT AT ROSENBERG

FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP IN AN INFORMAL SETTING
ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER IN JESUS CHRIST



FREE ADMISSION!

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Girls Conference

PSALMS 139: 13-14

November 20 3:30-8:00
Texas Baptist Encampment-
Thibodaux Building
For More Info: (361)404-9752

EVERY GIRL 6th-12th Welcome!
Join us in learning about how God
made us, loves us, and is for us!

**LIVE WORSHIP BAND! DINNER
PROVIDED! DOOR PRIZES!**