

HEARTBEAT

HEART OF TEXAS BAPTIST NETWORK

Summer 2018

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



At the 2017 Annual Meeting, a [Strategic Plan](#) was presented and approved by the Messengers. Six strategic needs were listed:

- ♦ Training
- ♦ Missions
- ♦ Connections
- ♦ Communication
- ♦ Resources
- ♦ Outreach/Evangelism

The Administrative Team, in conjunction with the Coordinating Team (David Bryant, pastor, Southside Brownwood; James Cenicerros, minister, Nueva Vida Brownwood; Van Christian, pastor FBC Comanche; Rick Justice, pastor, Rocky Creek Brownwood; Zac Harrell, pastor, FBC Gustine;

Seth Pitman, Associate pastor, FBC Bangs; Edmond Wheelless, pastor, Crossroads Lake Brownwood; Tim Skaggs, pastor, Coggin Ave Brownwood; and Don Fawcett, Missionary of the Network), have been working on the implementation and processes of assessment for the Network in light of our mission/value statement and the adopted strategic plan. We have progressed well in that work and are currently engaged in a revision of our Constitution and By-laws, adjustments to our organizational structure, and other adaptations in light of the changing nature of our world.

We will present these findings to the Coordinating Board this summer with a view toward bringing documents to the 2018 Annual Gathering at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church in October. These documents will be made available to the churches for their review well

We appreciate all who have worked on this project as we prepare for the future of the Network. We anticipate the adjustments we are making will increase participation in the Network, both by our leaders and the churches, and guarantee the Network's long-term impact for the Kingdom in Central Texas.

**“OUR PURPOSE IS TO BE A
RELATIONAL NETWORK OF
CHURCHES CONNECTING
TOGETHER TO DO GOD’S WORK
IN THE WORLD. “**





MISSION NEWS

Sharing the Gospel, Living Its Truth
From Everywhere, To Everywhere,
For Everyone

From June 5 to June 16, our Nigeria Team served with the CARE Africa ministry of Egbe, Nigeria to assist them in their work. This team: Etna Van-Horne, Professor of Nursing of Ranger College (Brownwood), Jennifer Goins (RN, labor and delivery), Bobbie Fawcett (Pre-K Special Needs Teacher at Heartland Education Co-op), and Don Fawcett, HOTBN Missionary, worked alongside the CARE Africa staff to conduct outreach clinics in the Nigerian bush to the Tiv tribe. The Tiv are one of the major tribal people of Nigeria, a nation of well over 150 tribes. They make and sell charcoal for cooking in the villages and towns around their camp. Their living conditions were extremely primitive, without electricity, potable water, sanitation, and infrastructure development. We packed our things in over a footbridge that is constructed annually during the rainy season to give access to the village. The Tiv are Christian, and they have traditionally been very fertile ground for the gospel. Five churches have been built in the village.



During this clinic, we worked alongside Pastor Alabi, leader of the Spring of Life Ministry, to administer AIDS testing to the people of the community. AIDS is a huge problem throughout Nigeria and Africa in general. Medications are available through the World Health Organization if the disease can be diagnosed and the patients come to the clinic to receive them. The nurses also conducted general wellness checks for hundreds of people, including blood sugar levels, blood pressure, and heart rate. They found many undiagnosed and untreated cases of extremely high blood pressure and referred some of the Tiv people to the hospital in Egbe. Bobbie and one member of the CARE Africa team worked to administer de-wormer to

the Tiv children. They saw over 200 children in a few hours.

After the Tiv outreach we returned to Egbe and continued our work there, which involved sports outreach, the painting and restoration of a children's library, and home visits in the community. Almost none of these people can afford health care, and school is not government funded. Many of the mothers are raising many children and cannot afford to put their children in school, so we went out on the streets looking for children not in school and instantly found many. We started conversations with these children and the nurses administered home health checks to the parents and grandparents, if they were present.

We feel as though this trip was strategic and among the most productive we have experienced and we want to return to the people of Nigeria. You can pray for this nation, as they face upcoming elections and the fallout of those choices. Sometimes the choices are difficult, and we are all aware of the violence in this nation. But the people are good people, and so many of them love Christ with their whole being. We stand amazed at what they have accomplished with so little. We want to thank everyone who gave— including churches, corporations, and individuals. We could not have gone without your gifts and prayers.





DISASTER RELIEF

The **Richland Springs** community sustained substantial damage in the May 25th storms, which included high winds and very bad hail. Many houses, businesses and churches were badly damaged.

First Baptist Church of Richland Springs has started a fund, to be held in escrow by the church, to help the residents with any needs they may have related to this storm, including building materials.

Donations may be made by sending a check to First Baptist Church of Richland Springs, PO Box J, Richland Springs, TX, 76871. Please make the check out to the church, but in the memo put **“disaster relief fund.”** A committee made up of community leaders will disperse the funds as needed.

The Network has partnered again with FBC, **Rockport**. For 8 weeks the church will host between 100-200 youth from across the state who will be spending time in the area to continue relief efforts begun after last year’s hurricane season.

BORDER OUTREACH: TEXAS

HOTBN is partnering with a **ministry** in McAllen, Texas that is reaching out to children separated from their families at the border. Currently, they are in need of school backpacks for the children. These backpacks have no certain specifications or requirements other than they should be appropriate for school use.



Backpacks can be delivered to our office through **Thursday, July 26, at 5:00 p.m.** On Friday, July 27, we will deliver them to McAllen, Texas and the ministry currently working on this project.

Churches outside of Brown county may make one drop off point for their county. Then we can pick them up (with adequate notification) or they can be delivered to HOTBN **prior to July 26th.**

This is a great VBS mission project or community project. It is simple and an easy on-ramp for churches to get involved.



Dr. Van Christian, Pastor of FBC Comanche, has been seriously ill and has undergone surgery at Hendrick Hospital in Abilene. We know he and his family will appreciate your prayers for them during this very difficult time.

Brother Jose Mares, who has served this Network for over 30 years as a pastor and as Mexico Mission Coordinator, is in Oakridge Manor Nursing Home, Room 201. He would welcome visits.

Kathy Crouch, the wife of **Brother Richard Crouch**, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, passed away suddenly on June 26 in Abilene. She was 65 years of age. Please pray for Richard and his family, and the members of Pleasant Grove during this very difficult time.

*For with
God nothing
shall be
impossible.*

-Luke 1:37

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**



DONORS TO THE NIGERIA MISSION TRIP:

Mabel Edmondson

Roy & Angie Cox

Willie's T's

Lonnie Holland

Charles & Nelda Peel

Glenn & Cathi Schroeder

3Embers Corp

David Bohn

Traci Fulbright

Shonna Hardy

Whitney Henderson

Karla Stewart

Emmanuel & Bethany Jimenez

Lisa Bourke

Myra Nell Hicks

The Heart of Texas Baptist Network wishes to acknowledge

Brother Edmond Wheeless, pastor of CrossRoads Baptist Church and board member of the Network, for his donations of furnishings to the office. These items include hand-crafted sitting benches and coat racks.

We appreciate these gifts of love and skill by Brother Edmond and just want to say, "Thank You! Your contributions to this Network are immeasurable. "



We want to thank all of the churches for supporting the work of the Heart of Texas Baptist Network. We pray we are making a difference at home and across the world in the expansion of the kingdom of God. We pray that you and your church might consider giving in 2018. The Network Missionary Don Fawcett, Communications Director, Angelia Bostick, or any member of the Coordinating Board would love to visit with your church, your mission team or set up a private meeting to share the story, the vision, the mission and the work of the Network.

Mark
Your
Calendar!

**ANNUAL
GATHERING**

**OCTOBER
28TH**

**Coggin Ave Baptist Church,
Brownwood**

- ◆ **Business Meeting
4:00 pm**
- ◆ **Meal
5:00 pm**

Year-to-Date Financial Summary



Year to Date Budget	\$62,655.20
Expenses-to-date	<u>\$62,693.78</u>
Over Budget	\$ 38.58
Income-to-date	\$71,890.18
Difference	
Income: Expenses	\$ 9,196.40



As church leaders do you ever wonder why some people have more physical or emotional problems than normal? Can't seem to get out of their cycle of pain? Have more difficulty controlling emotions such as anger, anxiety or depression? Continue to make damaging choices affecting their health and wellbeing?

"Adverse childhood experiences are the most important determinant of the health and wellbeing of our nation."

– Vincent J. Feletti MD.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (**ACE**) can cause multiple problems in our children, teens and adults.

"ACE Overcomers" is a program developed by Dave Lockridge, a pastor from California. He blends science and Scripture together to help understand the effects of a difficult childhood with tools to help people control and reject behaviors that harm. These Scriptural tools help renew the mind and stop *"stinkin thinkin"*. This program helps approach problems from

strength, not frustration.

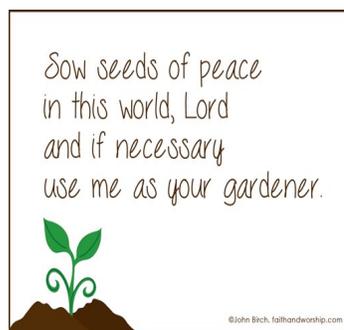
Dennis and Emma Williams will be introducing **"ACE Overcomers"** to pastors and ministry leaders at a meeting hosted by the Network Office **on Saturday August 11th from 9:30am -12pm.**

Dennis has been a bi-vocational pastor for over 20 years. He is also a singer/songwriter who uses music in teaching.

Emma has worked with families as a pastor's wife, and for over 10 years she has worked as a parent educator in social services.

This **12 Week Program** will be offered to our community in the Fall.

Please call the Network office for more information at 325-643-1348.



PITMAN TO SERVE AS INTERN

Jordan Pitman, a member of First Baptist Church, Bangs and the daughter of Seth and Amy Pitman, will work as an intern at the Heart of Texas Baptist Network beginning the summer of 2018 and extending into May, 2019.



Jordan is a Cross Cultural Studies major at Howard Payne University working toward a graduate degree in the School of Christian Studies. She senses a calling to disaster relief ministry and missions.

Jordan will work on several mission projects in this office under the direction of the Network Missionary. Jordan's work will be reported at the Annual Gathering at Coggin Avenue this October.

We are thrilled to have Jordan as a part of the HOTBN Team.

NETWORK CHURCHES

Board, Comanche
FBC Comanche
Comyn , DeLeon
FBC DeLeon
East Side Baptist, Comanche
Emmanuel Baptist, Gustine
Good Shepherd, Comanche
FBC Gustine
Liberty Baptist, DeLeon
Mt. Pleasant, Comanche
Proctor Baptist
Sidney Baptist
Sweetwater, Comanche
Primera Iglesia Mision, DeLeon
Bagget Creek Mission, Gustine
Zion Hill, Comanche
Comanche Co Cowboy Church
FBC Bangs
Bethel, Zephyr
FBC Blanket
Brookesmith
FBC Brownwood
Calvary, Brownwood
Center City, Goldthwaite
Central, Brownwood
Coggin Ave., Brownwood
Concord, Bangs
High Mesa Cowboy, Bwd
FBC Cross Plains
Crossroads, Brownwood
FBC Early
Fellowship, Goldthwaite
FBC Goldthwaite
Greater Faith, Brownwood
Grosvenor, Brownwood
Heart of Texas Cowboy, Bwd
Iglesia Nueva Vida, Bwd
Lakeview, Brownwood
FBC Lake Brownwood
Little Zion Missionary, Bwd
FBC May
Primera Iglesia, Brownwood
Mt. Zion, Brownwood
FBC Mullin
Northridge, Early
Pleasant Grove, May
Priddy Baptist
Rocky Creek, Brownwood
Salt Creek, Early
Southside, Brownwood
Star Baptist
Victory, Brownwood
FBC Zephyr
FBC Mission, Brownwood
FBC Cherokee
High Valley, San Saba
Parkview, San Saba
FBC Richland Springs
Pecan Grove, San Saba
FBC San Saba
Primera Calvario, San Saba
Iglesia de Bien Pastor, San Saba

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES

The work of the Network is accomplished in partnership with churches in Comanche, Brown, Callahan, Mills and San Saba counties. We encourage all churches to financially support the work of the Network. This can be done through budgeted giving and/or special offerings.

- ◆ We want to support the Network by giving _____% of our monthly offerings each ____ month; ____ quarter ____ semi-annually
- ◆ We want to support the Network by giving \$_____ monthly.
- ◆ We also want to support the work in ____ Macedonia ____ Nigeria ____ Texas: Disaster Relief ____ Where needed most

Heart of Texas Baptist Network

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