

HEARTBEAT

HEART OF TEXAS BAPTIST NETWORK



ANNUAL GATHERING

It is with great anticipation that I make you aware of the upcoming Heart of Texas Baptist Network Annual Gathering, which will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2019, beginning at 4:00 p.m. with a business meeting, 5:00 p.m. meal, and 6:00 p.m. worship and mission focus. (At Coggin Avenue Baptist Church).

At our business meeting participants will hear from Network leaders concerning the goals and initiatives of the Network for 2020, and during the worship hour we will enjoy a special mission focus and a message from Pastor Sean Bridges. Sean and his family will be with us for the evening, and he will be speaking on our theme for the night- "Salt and Light," drawn from the Sermon on the Mount and specifically Matthew 5:13-16.

Sean is one of our great bi-vocational pastors of this Network. He has been serving as the Pastor of Proctor Baptist Church for several years now and works full

time in the banking industry in Comanche. We are very thankful that Sean is bringing our message this year.

Also, during the meeting this year there will be a special emphasis on the work of our Ministry Teams.

These teams are taking shape in our Network and their work will be highlighted at both the 4:00 p.m. session and the 6:00 p.m. worship.

We are also thrilled to have Wes and Hannah Carroll with us. Wes and Hannah serve at Eastside Baptist Church Comanche where he leads the Youth Ministry and is Worship leader. Their music is very fresh and winsome, and so we have a great preaching and music team to lead us in worship for the evening.

We wanted to remind all attending the business meeting of the following:

1) anyone can attend the business meeting and is welcome to do so, but only elected messengers and/or Executive Board members can vote.

2) All messengers/Ex. Board members will sign in at the sign-in stations in the Family Life Center.

3) The Pastor of each

Network church is automatically an Executive Board member, plus on additional member chosen from among the congregation (lay leader or staff member). By way of this formula, they serve as Ex. Board Members and Messengers at the Annual Gathering. These two people will count toward the total number of allotted messengers per church (according to the by-laws).

4) The formula guiding the number of messengers per church is as follows: "Each membership Church shall be entitled to elect messengers to the Annual Gathering, based on the following formula: Five (5) messengers plus one additional messengers for each fifty (50) resident members above one-hundred (100) or fractional part thereof. No church shall be entitled to more than fifteen (15) messengers.

Mission churches do not elect messengers, but sponsor churches may elect messengers from their mission(s).

These messengers will count toward the total allotted messengers from the sponsor church. All elected messengers will register at the Annual Gathering and be given some form of visible credentials." (Constitution and By-laws, Heart of Texas Baptist Network).



ZAMBIA MISSION TRIP

It was my great pleasure to travel to Zambia and work with Staci Powers, IMB Missionary to Zambia, and Tim Skaggs, Pastor of Coggin Avenue Baptist Church, to conduct a bush training event for the Pastors and leader in Namwala, Zambia. 13 people attended this event, and Tim Skaggs did a tremendous job teaching through the book of Hebrews.

In the afternoon, I taught Systematic Theology to the learners. This group was warm, loving, hospitable, and set an example for us in commitment to Christ and to his calling by sleeping on the ground in tents for five days through some very challenging weather conditions.

We also want to thank Dr. Sam Goff of Coggin Avenue Baptist Church for his very able administrative work in planning the logistics of this trip. (by Don Fawcett)



Tim Skaggs, Pastor of Coggin Avenue Baptist Church, with the leadership training group, Namwala, Zambia.



Support Team for leadership training, Namwala, Zambia



In Leadership training, Namwala, Zambia

MISSIONARY-IN-RESIDENCE HOUSE

Beginning in October of 2019, IMB Missionary Staci Simpson Powers will be our honored guest at the Heart of Texas Baptist Network Missionary-in-Residence House.

Staci is currently serving in Zambia (south Central Africa) as a career missionary with the IMB of the Southern Baptist Convention. She has served there and in other African nations with her husband Jeff Powers, and has continued to do so since the time of his passing.

Staci will remain at the Mission House through the remainder of 2019 and well into 2020. She is an outstanding missionary and exemplary human being, and we hope that you will make an effort to get to know her in the coming days.

If you would like Staci to come and speak at your church, event, or to a group, please contact the office in the time being until her arrival. We can then forward the information to her for contact and follow-up.

MISSION TEAM

The Network Mission Team is the newest team formulated in our Network to serve the churches in the area of missions. This team was formed to actualize the following goals:

- To encourage local churches of the Network to engage in missions.
- To plan and actualize through the Network one mission focus per year in the following areas (one international, one Texas/Mexico, and one local within the Network).



- To gather and disseminate mission information to the churches of the Network.
- To encourage personal ministry to the missionaries residing in the Missionary-in-Residence House.

This team, recommended by the Administrative Team and ratified by the Executive Board (August 26, 2019), is made up of the following members:

Team Leader- **Neil Carroll**, Deacon and Leader, Eastside Baptist Church, Comanche. ncarroll1963@yahoo.com

David Bryant- Pastor, Southside Church, Brownwood

Dr. Sam Goff- Missions Pastor, Coggin Avenue Baptist Church, Brownwood

Ron Winsman-Pastor, Northridge Baptist Church, Early

Peggy Hickey- member, Blanket Baptist Church (former IMB Missionary, Myanmar)

Ivan Chesser- member, First Baptist Church of Mullin

Dr. Mark Towns- Pastor, First Baptist Church of Brownwood.

Please pray for this team as they carry out this very important kingdom work in and through this Network.



STAFF NEWS

As part of our annual assessment during summer of 2019, the Administrative Team suggested that we attempt to combine the positions of Communications Director and Financial Secretary, which created a new position-Director of Communications and Finance.

Rebeca Walters has been hired for this position. She earned an Associate of Science Degree in Computer Business Management from CCNN-Reno, NV and is experienced in communications in business and medical applications. She is also a Licensed Massage Therapist in the State of Texas and has worked in Brownwood as a Massage Therapist.

We are thrilled to have Rebeca Walters as part of our Office Team here at the Network. Abbie Valencia will continue her regular duties as Ministry Assistant.

We also want to thank Bobbie Fawcett, PPCD Teacher at Heartland Educational Co-op, for serving as our Financial Secretary for many years. She has done a great job in this area, and we also want to recognize Roberto Limon who acted as our Communications Director as a permanent employee through the years and then twice in times of transition. We appreciate the sacrificial efforts of both of these individuals.

AMONG THE CHURCHES

- David Barnum has retired as Pastor of Grosvenor Baptist Church.
- Ron Winsman has been called as Pastor of Northridge Baptist Church.
- Richard Couch has resigned as Pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Russell Davis has been called as Interim Pastor.
- Sydney Baptist Church is searching for a Pastor. Jaci Garrett is serving as Interim Pastor.
- Bill Wells has retired as Pastor of Brookesmith Baptist Church after a long and faithful career in business and as a bi-vocational church planter and pastor.
- It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of Brother Ruben Packer. Ruben served as the Pastor of Victory Baptist Church (See next page).

in Brownwood for many years and was recently retired due to his health. He led many people to faith in Christ and was faithful to care for his flock. Ruben served in the Brown Baptist Association, helped many people, and was compassionate to the poor and hurting. Please pray for his family during this time.

- Brother Sam Allen has followed Brother Ruben as Pastor of the Victory Baptist Church in Brownwood.
- Russ Steel has resigned as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Richland Springs to begin a new Pastorate at Grace Southern Baptist Church in Oklahoma.

(through July 2019)

HOTBN Primary Account Balance-
\$64,493.82

HOTBN Mission Account-
\$40,370.44

Year to Date Budgeted-
\$89,773.53

Year to Date Spent-
\$76,979.46

Thank you for your investment in this ministry. The Heart of Texas Baptist Network receives the vast majority of its resources from the voluntary gifts of the churches of this Network. Thank you for your faithfulness and confidence in cooperative Baptist missions beyond the local church.



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