



# HEARTBEAT

HEART OF TEXAS BAPTIST NETWORK

## WARM WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS



The boxes of books are unpacked, the diplomas and pictures are on the walls, and I am ready to get to work. Today, May 1st, marks my first official day as Network Missionary for Heart of Texas Baptist Network and I am excited for what God will do. Here, as I begin, I want to take a moment to introduce myself.

when we unite for the glory of God. Jesus prays in John 17 for His people to be one and I believe the work of the Network is to do all we can to bring this to life in our area.

My family looks forward to meeting you and we look forward to serving alongside you for God's glory and the good of our communities.

Zac Harrel  
Network Missionary

I am married to Shandra and we have two beautiful children. Our daughter Evahlyn is six years old and our son Jameson is two. They keep us on our toes.

I was born and raised in Pittsburg, TX. I was saved when I was eight years old, but was not serious about my faith until I was in high school. My youth minister recognized the call of God on my life for ministry before I did and mentored me my senior year to test and accept this call.

I attended and graduated from Howard Payne University where I met my wife Shandra. The summer we graduated we got married and moved to Port Aransas where we served for three years as youth minister at First Baptist Church.

For the last eleven years, I have served as Pastor at First Baptist Church in Gustine. It has been the honor of my life to pastor that sweet congregation. But, God has a new work for us. I believe the 'Network is invaluable in helping our churches be faithful and uniting us in the power of the Gospel. We need one another. We need to work together because the Kingdom of God advances

## NETWORK NEWS

Upcoming Executive Board meeting will be held at the Network Resource Center on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30pm.

You are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. The Network office will be sending out an email shortly with a Zoom link. You may also contact the office at 325-643-1348 to request that information.

No meal will be provided.

***The Network Resource office hours have changed!  
New office hours are as follows:***

**Monday - Thursday**

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

(closed from 12-1 for lunch)

**Friday**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

# NEWS FROM THE SEARCH TEAM

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As our Network embarks on a new era of leadership, we thought it would be beneficial to give the churches a synopsis of the process that led us to calling our new Network Missionary, Zac Harrel.

In November of 2019 Don Fawcett informed the Administrative Team his intention to resign. The original plan was for Don to officially announce his resignation but stay on until June 1<sup>st</sup> or until the Network called its next Network Missionary. A search team was formed in accordance with our by-laws, consisting of the administration team and at large members from all over the Network in order to represent, as best as we could, every county. We are thankful for those who served.

The Network posted the Job description and ad in the Baptist Standard/Common Call Magazine and websites as well as our own Heart of Texas Baptist Network website beginning in November to run through January/February of 2020. We collected well over 20 resumes during that time. In our January Admin Team meeting, Don requested that he be allowed to retire immediately instead of waiting until June. With the acceptance of his resignation at the end of January, the process picked up momentum.

The Search team held multiple meetings to pray over and discuss the resumes collected. At the beginning of January, we decided to start the process of sifting through the candidates. On January 27 the chair of our team, James Cenicerros, informed the Executive Board the search team had two candidates they would be interviewing the first weekend of February, and a lone candidate would be introduced at our March Executive Board Meeting. After the interviews and much discussion our search team selected Zac Harrel as the candidate for the Network Missionary position.

Then came COVID-19.

Because of the COVID-19 crisis our March Executive Board meeting was cancelled. The Admin Team met to figure out how to move forward with Zac. We decided to mail a packet with the information we would have presented in person and ballots to vote on the candidate to each church and asked for the ballots to be returned to the Network office by April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

While this is not the way we planned for this process to play out it was necessary for this moment and for our Network. The ballots we received and counted were 30 in favor and 3 opposed. According to our by-laws the candidate must be approved with 2/3 vote of the Executive Board and overwhelmingly meeting this standard we moved forward hiring Zac Harrel as our new Network Missionary.

We are very excited to start a new chapter under the leadership of Zac Harrel. God bless you and your local ministries.

All for the Kingdom!

The Heart of Texas Baptist Network Search and Admin Teams

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## AMONG THE CHURCHES

***First Baptist Church May*** is currently searching for a Pastor.

***First Baptist Church Star*** is currently searching for a Pastor and Music Leader.



## CHURCH EQUIPPING TEAM

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If COVID-19 has taught us anything, we are learning that we can always use a little more learning. If your life has been like mine, you have had to adjust to new ways of grocery shopping, new ways of spending time together as a family, and we certainly have explored new ways of doing church. New ways of doing things are not always better or worse, they are sometimes just new. Could it be that we let nostalgia keep us from embracing the newness that God has for us? Or, could it be that sometimes new sounds a bit frightening?

The Church Equipping Team has been discussing the things we can do to be a blessing to our churches in the Network. We really do believe that the work God is doing in your context is His work. The CET would love to partner with you in the coming days, and our hope and desire is to help you be better equipped, spiritually and practically, for the work of God's kingdom.

Several months ago, many were sent a survey. We were trying to find a few areas where we could begin to offer assistance. The things that we have done in the past such as semester long training classes and day conferences have helped a few, but we really do wish to be more effective in equipping His people and His churches. One current need would be technology training. Streaming services online, working with sound, and creating a greater online presence are topics that seem timely. We would love to hear what your current needs are, and we are ready to partner with you to provide low-cost and effective training. Please email me at [rjustice.rcbc@gmail.com](mailto:rjustice.rcbc@gmail.com) and let me know how our team can be an encouragement to you.

Rick Justice, Church Equipping Team Leader

## MISSION TEAM

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Mission trips around the world have certainly been affected by Covid-19. In the midst of so much turmoil around the world we know that our God is in control. Our team has been reaching out to some of the areas where we have been involved in missions.

### Staci Powers shared about the current status in Zambia

The drought has ended and rains have come at a very critical time. Thanks and praise to God for hearing prayers lifted up during that time of great need. Their maize crop should be sufficient to meet their needs for now. Their economy is still struggling and in need of prayer.

### An update of Haiti and Devoted To Christ Ministries

Haiti is struggling even more with their country shutting down the same way we have here in the US. Their biggest issue is lack of food and clean water. Many are without food and others are eating a meal every other day. Their economy is in serious trouble. The protesting has subsided since the virus and the mandated shutdown. We are working with small church groups and pastors in Cap Haitien.

*Sam Goff, Missions Pastor at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church has shared a resource in which we can pray for Muslims during their season of Ramadan.*

### Prayer for Muslims during Ramadan

- From April 23 until May 23 Muslims worldwide observe Ramadan in which they fast from dawn to sunset. It is a time of intense spiritual seeking. Pray that Muslims will encounter Jesus and put their faith in Him.
- How should you pray? A really great resource is the videos on PrayerCast. To receive the videos in your email inbox during Ramadan, sign up at <https://prayercast.com/love-muslims-home.html>.
- Why should we pray? We ought to love Muslims the way Jesus loves Muslims.

We are encouraged with the many ways our churches in this Network have sought out ways of reaching the lost.

Serving Our Great God

Neil Carroll, Mission Team Leader

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# FINANCIAL REPORT

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**(AS OF MARCH 31, 2020)**

HOTBN Primary Account Balance	\$ 86,288.41
HOTBN Mission Account	\$ 28,939.47
Year to Date Budgeted	\$ 38,849.37
Year to Date Spent	\$ 36,050.97

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.

