



**JANUARY 2024**

"We must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith."

Galatians 6:9-10

## **Some Exciting News about 2024**

During the Program for our P.B.A. Annual Meeting I mentioned that our emphasis for 2024 will be two vitally important elements: those are Prayer and Evangelism. We have developed a plan for meeting those two objectives; plus a couple more.

### **----- E V A N G E L I S M -----**

We will be joining with the International Commission based out of Lewisville, Texas for our evangelism phase; this evangelism effort is known as Project Andrew.

The International Commission has been touching lives around the world for fifty years. This ministry is devoted to equipping and enabling believers to reach unbelievers and make disciples. This is not a "door-to-door" campaign, it's a refreshing strategy for our churches to involve Members in praying for the lost, and providing opportunities for witnessing to our friends, neighbors, and those who are lost in our community.

We have hosted several informational meetings with Pastors who have chosen to participate in this church-based evangelism project during April 19-25 of this year. Even if your Church has not chosen to be involved in this year's project, please pray for all of the Pastors and Laymen who will be involved. We want to fulfill Matthew 28:16-20.

### **----- P R A Y E R -----**

The second major emphasis for the new year will be Prayer. Our Great Commission Prayer Team has been very active for months. We have designed a workshop for our Pastors on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The workshop is being hosted by Waples Baptist Church. Be watching for more details concerning this critically important ministry phase.

### **-----N A T U R A L   D I S A S T E R   R E L I E F-----**

In November, we held a meeting with the director of the Texas Baptist Men chainsaw ministry. He came to Granbury to re-energize our efforts to prepare for a more effective response during times of natural disasters. We are in the initial stages of training Volunteers as well as updating our trailer and equipment. If you know of men or women who are interested in this type of "hands on ministry" please voice your desire to me and I will pass that information on to the Texas Baptist Men chainsaw team.

### **-----C H U R C H   R E N E W A L -----**

Recently, we have been invited to partner with the Parker Baptist and Palo Pinto Baptist Associations for a Regenesiis workshop. This event is designed to help our churches who may be struggling to find hope and direction for renewal. A workshop is planned for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2910 Bethel Road, Weatherford. The physical location of the church building is just about one mile South of Weatherford High School. More details will be forthcoming about this renewal workshop. The event is free to our Pastors.

GOD bless You and please pray for our beloved Paluxy Baptist Association.

## Operation Andrew—A Prayer Ministry

So many wonderful verses in the Bible remind us how important prayer is in our lives and how vital it is to our spiritual health. I'm afraid that in today's busy world, prayer is one of the most neglected instructions given to Christians. Somehow, we have come to believe that we are too busy, that it is a chore, that we can manage on our own, or that God doesn't really care. None of those things are true. Don't you love verses like Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV) that say, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." No matter the difficulty or the circumstances, we have a God who has told us that we can bring all our cares to HIM, and HE will help us. HE has given us the instruction to "rejoice in hope, be patient in affliction, and be persistent in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

I do not claim to be an expert on prayer, but I want to share some of the things that have helped me to have a stronger prayer life. I believe that when we pray, it is helpful to look in three directions. Look Upward—Focus on the greatness of our God. HE is the Self-Existent One, the Mighty God, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, the Sovereign God, the Author and Finisher of our faith, our Redeemer, our wonderful Savior, and so much more! Find a list of the names and attributes of God, then pray, thanking HIM for all that HE is and all that HE does.

Look Inward—Spend some time asking God to search your heart and reveal anything that is not pleasing to HIM. The Bible tells us that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. We can be fooled into thinking that we're doing pretty well, but the Holy Spirit will tell us the truth. God sees, hears, and knows everything about us, so just be honest with HIM and ask for HIS forgiveness and help.

Look Outward—Ask God to make you aware of people around you who need to know HIM. You may have family members, or neighbors, or work with people who do not know Jesus. God may want you to be the one that introduces them to HIM, but it all starts with prayer.

That's where Operation Andrew comes in. Write down the names of those folks and begin to pray for them every day, asking God to begin to work in their lives so they will sense their need for HIM. As you pray, begin to watch for opportunities where you can show the love of Christ to them. God will do the work if we will be faithful to pray!

I am thrilled to be working with the churches of Paluxy Baptist Association for the Operation Andrew Partnership April 19-25. Please pray!

Shara Cowen

International Commission



"Now this is the confidence which we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:14

## JOB OPENINGS -

**Brazos River Baptist** - Bi-Vocational Pastor. Mail resume to PO Box 1726, Granbury TX 76048

**Rainbow Baptist** - Bi-Vocational Pastor. Mail resume to PO Box 10, Rainbow, TX 76077

**Southside Baptist Church** - Minister of Music, part-time. Call or email for more information.

Also, a Media person needed. Send resumes to [admin@southsidegranbury.com](mailto:admin@southsidegranbury.com)

For more details, [paluxybaptist.org/resources/church-openings](http://paluxybaptist.org/resources/church-openings)

HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

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## EVENTS -

2nd Sunday of each month - **Lighthouse of Tin Top Women's** gathering, 5:00 PM

4th Sunday of each month - **Lighthouse of Tin Top Men's** Bible Study, 6:00 PM

Jan. 16 - April 16 **Lakeside Baptist Divorce Care** is a Support System that will help you recover from the pain of divorce. Cost is \$15.00. Rm 125, starting at 6:30 pm. Kristin Cook is the facilitator.

Jan. 16 - April 16 **Lakeside Baptist GriefShare** is a grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. Cost is \$15.00 for workbook. Rm 123, starting at 6:30 pm. Facilitated by Linda Lemmons.

Jan. 18 - **Latham Springs Winter 50+ Adult Rally**. RSVP 254-694-3689. 8:30 Registration, 9-12 Program, Noon lunch (Cost \$8.00), 1:30-3 pm - Special Program.

Jan. 21-24 - **Operation Andrew Meetings -- Pray, Pray, Pray for this event.**  
**Sunday** 3-5 PM Prep Meeting for Bi-Vocational Pastors at PBA Office  
**Monday** 11AM-1PM Evangelism Prep Training for Pastors & Church Coordinators at PBA Office  
**Wednesday** 6-7:30 PM Evangelism Training for Pastors & Church Coordinators at FBC Thorp Spring, 2815 Lipan Hwy, Granbury.

Feb. 24 - **Ladies Gathering** will be held at First Baptist Granbury. You can now register on the PBA Website, [paluxybaptist.org/events](http://paluxybaptist.org/events).

March 16 - **Pastor Prayer Partners** at Waples Baptist Church. All Pastors invited!

April 19-25 **Operation Andrew** missionaries will be in Granbury.

April 25-27 - **Texas Baptist Ministry Assistants Conference** (for all TEXAS church secretaries and office personnel) will be held at Lakeside Baptist Church, Granbury. Dues and registration forms are available for early discounts before March 1, 2024. Check website [tbma.net](http://tbma.net) for the registration forms. Contact Darlene at PBA Office if you need a financial scholarship for more information.

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## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS -

6 Heather Lehrman (Lonnie) -Granbury Baptist

6 Jaron Barrington - FB Granbury

16 Rusty Addison - Lipan Cowboy

20 Troy Strickland - FBC Lipan



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES -

4 Daniel & Noemi Fodoreanu -Tin Top

9 Mychal & Brittney Hunt - Tolar Baptist

## **Texas Baptist Men Chainsaw Ministry Team**

### **Article Written By: Wendell Romans, Director**

What is a ministry?

In the Greek language used in the New Testament, the term always centers on acts of service to others. It sometimes carries the more powerful connotation of servitude or slavery to God. So, ministry implies a sense of being duty-bound to work under God's authority as His loyal servant.

A chainsaw might seem like an unlikely ministry tool, but, for many people in the Texas Baptist Men, wielding a chainsaw takes them into the mission field. For people in a disaster, the sound of the saw offers help, hope and healing.

Through the Texas Baptist Men, chainsaw teams give of their time and talents to respond to disasters all over the US and at absolutely no cost to the homeowner. A homeowner once asked Wendell Romans, Texas Baptist Men's State Chainsaw Coordinator, "How much is this going to cost me", Wendell's answer was "Sir, we are the most expensive chainsaw team in the US, but, the cost of your work was paid for when Jesus died on the cross. This will not cost you a penny". As the homeowner began to shed tears of joy and relief, so did Wendell.

These disciples of Christ take on tornado and hurricane devastated areas with all the grace and love they can muster. When they are not working a disaster they find ways in their local communities to help their neighbors.

They meet people who were distraught. Everything they've placed identity in is compromised or gone. There may be a tree in the middle of their home, and they had no idea where to turn or who to turn to. Then a chainsaw team from the Texas Baptist Men shows up and their life changes, again. This time for the better. The men and women first gather in the front yard and pray about the impending work and then begin working, removing trees and tree limbs from the home and surrounding areas.

Removing a large tree blocking a driveway or resting on a house often provides an opportunity to witness to the homeowners or even people that stop by to just watch a bunch of people in yellow shirts. In Jennings Louisiana, people actually brought out their lawn chairs to sit and watch a team remove a tree that had fallen from one yard, cut the neighbor's home in half and came to rest on top of another home. Our chaplains led 4 people to the Lord from those lawn chairs. Oh! What a glorious day it was.

To most, the highlight of any job is at the end, just before they leave the site. Each one of the workers has signed a bible, they join in a group with the homeowner and the team leader presents the bible to the homeowner with a request to the homeowner, "When you see this bible, open it, read our names, then pray for us, because we are doing this for someone else, somewhere".

So, where is your ministry? Can it be holding a chainsaw?

If you have a calling on your life, to help us minister during times of disaster please contact Boots Hubbard, the Director of Missions for the Paluxy Baptist Association at (817) 579-5111 and he will put you in touch with me to learn more about how you can be the "hands and feet" of Jesus.



## PBA RESOURCES -

While reorganizing the PBA Resource Room, several books and leaflets were found that might be useful for your church. If interested in any listed below, feel free to come and look. FREE!

Baptist Faith & Message Leaflets  
 Baptist Identity Series (Personal Study Guides)  
 Beliefs Important to Baptist (Study Lessons Books)  
 The Bible - You Can Believe It (Study Books)  
 New Testament Bibles (some new, some old)  
 Tortured for Christ book- Richard Wurmbrand's personal story  
 Baptist Identity Series Leaflets  
 Personal Commitment Guide Leaflets  
 Next Steps in Following Jesus (Leaflets discussing Baptism)  
 Faith Outline Cards  
 Sunday School Faith Commitment Cards  
 The Christian Walk (Small booklets)  
 Prayer Partner Commitment cards  
 Easter Offering Envelopes  
 Building Fund Envelopes



We have posters for **The Women's Gathering** available in the PBA Office.. Please be inviting your friends! **Also, secretaries**, we have a few scholarships available for the **TX Ministry Assistants Conference**. Registrations need to be in by March 1st for discount pricing. SEE WEBSITE [tbma.net](http://tbma.net) for forms and more info.

**THE PBA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS FROM DEC. 22-JAN. 5TH.**

## PBA FINANCIAL REPORT

	11/30/2023 Year to Date		Monthly Budget		Annual Budget			
Receipts:								
From Churches	\$	8,691.93	\$	95,876.11	\$	14,675.94	\$	176,111.31
Missions	\$	2,070.52	\$	-	-	-	-	-
Other	\$	5,077.10	\$	7,383.73	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	\$	15,839.55	\$	103,259.84	\$	14,675.94	\$	176,111.31
Expenses:								
Partnership Ministries	\$	480.00	\$	8,332.50	\$	845.83	\$	10,150.00
Support Ministries	\$	802.10	\$	16,666.59	\$	6,241.67	\$	74,900.00
Personnel	\$	8,749.07	\$	74,739.66	\$	6,255.11	\$	68,061.30
Office	\$	813.93	\$	18,985.94	\$	2,491.67	\$	29,900.00
Missions	\$	2,440.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Total Expenses	\$	13,285.10	\$	118,724.69	\$	15,834.28	\$	183,011.30
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	\$	2,554.45	THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS PAST YEAR! YOU ARE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!					
Bank Balance -- Beginning	\$	204,886.28						
Bank Balance -- Ending	\$	207,440.73						

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS PAST YEAR! YOU ARE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!**

## PRAYER REQUESTS -

God's love to shine through us in 2024

Israel and God's chosen people

Reaching unbelievers through Operation Andrew

Churches who need pastors and leaders

Bro. Glenn Ward and others taking cancer treatments

More volunteers for the chainsaw team to help Texas Baptist Men

Upcoming events in 2024 - Pastors meeting,  
Women's Gathering, Ministry Assistants Conference

## BLESSINGS -

Churches working with Operation Andrew, seeking the Lost

Souls saved this past year

### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

[paluxybaptist.org/prayer](http://paluxybaptist.org/prayer).

## NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

The Paluxy Baptist Association presents:  
The Gathering

## Don't Look Back

Saturday, February 24th

9 am - 3:30 pm

First Baptist Granbury  
1851 Weatherford Hwy

Speaker:  
*Hilary Morris*

Breakfast & Registration  
begin at 8:30 A.M.

Childcare provided!

\$10 per person

Register online at

[paluxybaptist.org/events](http://paluxybaptist.org/events)

Worship-Breakout Sessions-  
Lunch-Vendors

Save  
the date

"Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah...Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person."

Colossians 4:2-3,5-6

**PRAYERS FOR YOU  
AND YOUR FAMILY  
TO HAVE A BLESSED 2024**

**PALUXY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
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