



**JANUARY 2025**

“Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2

## **A New Year To Serve God**

As we embark on a brand New Year, it's important to thank God for His many blessings to our Churches, Pastors, Staffs and Church Members. The Paluxy Baptist Association exists to help our member churches as we work together to advance the Kingdom of God.

In recent editions of The Beacon you have seen reports and photographs of churches who are engaged in ministry. These ministries reflect the hearts of souls of church Pastors and Leaders. As we move into 2025 it is my hope that we all march in unison to see God's plan unfold in our congregations. As we seek to stay focused on engaging, equipping, and encouraging the Members of our churches may we remain vigilant in praying for each other. By keeping our knees bent and our hearts lifted up, we will discover the continuing purpose of God in placing our churches where He did so many years ago.

I reflect on two of our churches that celebrated 150-year anniversaries last year. Bluffdale Baptist Church, pastored by Scott Pace and First Baptist Church, Lipan, pastored by Troy Strickland had great worship, and fellowship in honor of what God has done in the past. This year (2025) Cottonwood Baptist Church under the leadership of Interim Pastor Peter Wolf will celebrate their 150-year anniversary. Praise God for His divine guidance for all three of these celebrating churches

Also, in 2025 Waples Baptist Church will celebrate the retiring of a \$700,000.00 note that financed their sanctuary. The congregation will have a day of thanksgiving on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Prayer paved the way at Waples.

God is at work in our churches and in the lives of individual members. His plan is always the best and can be witnessed in the lives of great men and women who continue to seek His will for their churches.

I am honored and blessed to serve as your Director of Missions.

Boots Hubbard  
Director of Missions  
Paluxy Baptist Association

# God Leads! We Follow!

Shared by Lindsay Luedeker

How many times in our journey do we come to God and ask for help? How many times do we come to Him and ask Him to join us instead of us joining Him? Do we come to Him with everything? Are we listening and not just doing all the talking?

Questions to ponder in our prayer life as individuals, as well as a church body. Here are some Scriptures to help encourage us as we look further into seeing truly the power of God when we allow Him to lead, and we follow.

**Psalms 46:10 (NKJV)**... *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)**... <sup>16</sup> *Rejoice always,* <sup>17</sup> *pray without ceasing,* <sup>18</sup> *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

**Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)**... <sup>26</sup> *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.* <sup>27</sup> *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

We were all created with a purpose and yes so was every church that was placed where God desired it to be located. Waples Baptist Church was a plant from Acton Baptist Church almost 40 years ago. Through the prayers of Glenn Ward and those at Acton they prayed, listened, and planted. Even though none of us currently at Waples were there at the beginning, except for Pat Reid, only God knew the plans of the plant and where Waples would be today.

A journey with various pastors, members, and leaders yet all were part of the plans and bigger picture that only God knew. Almost 15 years ago, a new sanctuary was built with the growth that was occurring and payments on a \$700,000 loan began. Yet, during the building, as well as after the building, many people began to leave. Many times, during this through various pastors and leadership, different ideas were tried over the next 5 years. Eventually we came to the point of what is next.

At this point through consulting with Glenn, he suggested that Acton help us through the next 5 years. Through this agreement they adjusted the giving gradually downward each year. Through this process we would learn to prepare on our own, we would give updates monthly for accountability, and stewardship would be an area to grow in as the Lord helped us during this season. During this transition I told the deacon body we must help other small congregations from what we learn through this process.

Prayer now became the key to knowing God's vision, direction, and plans. God began to surround us with a deacon body that spends half of the Deacon's meeting in prayer before any discussions or decisions. Then Boots Hubbard and I prayed for laborers since there was a harvest to prepare for and God brought people who felt led by the Holy Spirit to join us. We began a weekly prayer meeting to pray, praise and listen through Scott and Lori Dix coming to join us. God plans for a church to be called a House of Prayer so that way we will know His desires and will for His church.

Here is part of the journey from putting everything before Him in prayer. Scott listened to God and began the journey of Wednesday night prayer meetings. This is a key because together we join to pray, we listen to God, and we listen to each other in prayer as we grow in our love for God as well as each other.

From the prayer meeting various ministries began from the laborers that God brought. Now as the ministries began to get established, God began to provide the funds as we prayed and listened. Yes, this most definitely was God leading and us following as ministries started that only He could have planned. A couple that was involved with Builder's for Christ came and joined the body. Willie and Dena Evans got people to join them as this group goes and helps churches build or add rooms. This group when they go usually includes people from other churches to help. This helps show unity in the bodies of the churches to help another church. Dena also helps us through her coordination of listening to God on other areas to help with such as Samaritan's Purse.

Another ministry that got started was a Prison outreach ministry through Sherry Simpson. Several prisoners have been written to or helped in various ways through the years. Some that have gotten out have come and visited or been with us through their transition out for a season. Some of their family members have also been helped. Only God knew and we joined Him.

Another ministry area that got started through God's leadership has been the Food Ministry. David and Dana Lee came and joined and after listening to God the food ministry was started. Not only are we blessed to help the community each week, but we also shared with two other churches as our way of helping others through what we had learned. Now once again PRAYING is the key. Each week people come in and everyone is prayed with as their food is being gathered to meet the needs of their family. They also share their Spiritual needs and are prayed for by 2 prayer warriors. They are also prayed for again at Wednesday prayer meeting. We have heard praises, there have been over 10 salvations through the years, people have come to worship on Sunday, we have been asked to help in Celebration of Life services, as well as delivery to those homebound. God leads and we follow. You may question what does this take? It requires about 25 people every Tuesday and we are blessed to have other people help from other churches and that has been from as many as 6 other churches. Funding is needed and at one point we were questioned if we should stop. In a Deacon's meeting I shared that God would provide and since then the funding is covered at least 80% from outside donations from people outside the church body, but they are also a part of the unity of God's body that He unites. God's help through His people on the inside and outside.

During this time God showed me another key from the food ministry is to always trust His immeasurable ways and to never try to measure in my ways. This was revealed to us as Susan Nelson came and joined us. She felt led to use her gifts to help kids with special needs. We prayed for a year and through the food ministry a family came and joined. Also, the Lord had laid upon my heart 2 years ago that there would be another service, and it wouldn't include me. In February this year through the food ministry a Spanish Service was started on Sunday afternoons and over 20 people have been saved. Only God could know these two special areas He wanted reached and it took praying, waiting, and listening.

When we pray and listen, we then see the following result. The note would have been paid off on May 28, 2025. But, once again an example of God leading and someone following, an anonymous donor gifted the church the amount needed to pay the note off in full on December 4, 2024. We are debt-free financially and God desires to work through us to encourage others that they can be debt-free from their sins through Jesus. Receiving His love and sharing His love as God leads and we follow has been an immeasurable love. Everything that has been given through the years helped this note to be paid off through His people and the stewardship that we learned from Him. We look forward to where He goes next and we will pray, listen, and follow to see His immeasurable ways as we join Him.

Lindsay Luedeker, Pastor of Waples Baptist Church

**PBA RESOURCES** - Thank you to the Church Congregations and individuals that helped with the "FILL THE TRAILERS" donations. Supplies have been delivered to the Dallas warehouse for crews to deliver to North Carolina in Jan. In NC, they have started the rebuilding phase and need financial help for lumber and building supplies, which can be purchased there locally. If you want to support them financially, you can give online at [baptistsonmission.org/Donate](http://baptistsonmission.org/Donate) or mail financial donations to:

Baptists on Mission, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512

Please specify "HELENE" online, or on check memo line, and 100% will go for building materials to rebuild homes in the counties affected. They do not take supply donations at this location because of lack of space. This information has been confirmed through the NC Baptists on Mission.

THANK YOU for donating and thinking of other people. Here at PBA, we actually received a phone call yesterday from a lady in North Carolina thanking us for what she had received through our organization. She was very appreciative. I asked if there was anything that she needed? "No, just Prayers!" Please continue...

To further help, check out "The Day The Mountains Cried," on Amazon, a book written by Lynda H. Smith (native of NC) and 50% of the proceeds goes to NC organizations that are helping hurricane victims.

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If you want to give to the Texas Baptist group, you can give online at [texansonmission.org](http://texansonmission.org) or mail check to:

Texans on Mission, 5351 Catron Drive, Dallas, TX 75227

You can mark check memo line "Disaster Relief" if you so choose. PBA and local chainsaw crews will continue to work with the Texans on Mission organization.

"Now the large group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. And the apostles were giving testimony with great power to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. For there was not a needy person among them, because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet.

This was then distributed for each person's basic needs." Acts 4:32-35

**How can we provide for others in this new year?  
HOW CAN PALUXY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION HELP YOU?**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Heather Lehrman (Lonnie) - Granbury Baptist
- 6 Jaron Barrington - FB Granbury
- 16 Rusty Addison - Lipan Cowboy Church
- 20 Troy Strickland - FB Lipan

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Mychal & Brittney Hunt - Tolar Baptist



## **JOB OPENINGS -**

**Brazos River Baptist - 817-776-4770**

Bi-Vocational Pastor - Mail resume to PO Box 1726, Granbury TX

**First Baptist Church Thorp Spring - 817-573-3339, fbchurch@thorpspring.com**

Bi-Vocational Pastor

Music Minister, part-time

Ministry Assistant, part-time

**Southside Baptist Church - 827-674-2563, admin@southsidegranbury.com**

Music Director, part-time

IT/Media Director - part-time

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Jan. 16 - LATHAM SPRINGS 50+ SENIOR DAY**

**Jan. 17 - PBA Council Meeting, PBA Conference Room**

**Jan. 18 - MEN'S RALLY "Standing In The Gap"/Pastors' Round Table, Granbury Baptist,**  
Register online at [paluxybaptist.org/events](http://paluxybaptist.org/events). No charge.

**Jan. 21-April 15 - New GRIEF SHARE CLASS** at Lakeside Baptist, 6:30-7:45 PM, \$20 for class workbook. Register online at [www.lakesidebc.org](http://www.lakesidebc.org) after Jan. 1.

**Feb. 22 - WOMEN'S GATHERING "Talitha Koum...Arise!"** at Tolar Baptist Church, register online at [paluxybaptist.org/events/](http://paluxybaptist.org/events/) You can also pay the \$10 fee online.

**Feb. 24-25 - EMPOWER CONFERENCE** AT Irving Convention Center, Register now

**April 3 - LATHAM SPRINGS 50+ SENIOR DAY**

**April 4-5 - PURSUE 2025,** Waco Convention Center, Early Bird Registration of \$65 per person ends Dec. 31. \$85 (Jan. 1-Mar. 15) More info [wmutx.org/pursue](http://wmutx.org/pursue).

**April 5 - PBA MUSIC/WORSHIP WORKSHOP** at Tolar Baptist Church

**April 10 - REGENESIS WORKSHOP** (5 Associations) at FB Glen Rose

## **MISSION TRIPS -**



### **Acton Baptist -**

Jan. 9-18 Southeast Asia

July - Ecuador

### **Lakeside Baptist -**

March 8-15 Belize

May 28-June 2 Chiapas, Mexico

June 8-20 Zimbabwe

**"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth. For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22**

# 2025 PBA Men's Rally

REGISTER ONLINE  
at  
[paluxybaptist.org/events](http://paluxybaptist.org/events)

## STANDING IN THE GAP

Saturday, January 18th  
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

at Granbury Baptist Church  
1200 Weatherford Hwy. Granbury, TX 76048

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."  
Ezekiel 22:30

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The Paluxy Baptist Association presents  
the 2025 Women's Gathering...


*Talitha Koum...ARISE!*

Saturday, February 22nd  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Guest Speaker  
Breakout Sessions  
Vendors  
Door Prizes  
Lunch  
\$10 Per Person  
Lunch & childcare  
provided!

Located at  
Tolar Baptist Church  
400 Tolar Highway

Register now at [paluxybaptist.org/events](http://paluxybaptist.org/events)



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**PRAYER REQUESTS -**

Peace for Israel  
 Churches needing Pastors and leaders  
 A peaceful nation as transition of leadership  
 takes place  
 Pray that hurricane victims continue to get the  
 help that's needed



**BLESSINGS -**

Answered Prayers  
 God's Love



**"SCRIPTURE SHARE" FOR THE MONTH**  
**Psalms 90-104**

*Have a Blessed 2025!*

"LORD, be gracious to us! We wait for You. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in time of trouble." Isaiah 33:2

**Donations to PBA can now be made online - [paluxybaptist.org/donate](http://paluxybaptist.org/donate)**

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	11/30/2024	Year to Date	Monthly Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Receipts:</b>				
From Churches	\$8,522.40	\$97,384.82	\$12,315.50	\$147,786.00
Missions	\$1,855.62	\$23,710.75	-	-
Other	<u>\$15.85</u>	<u>\$1,667.56</u>		-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$10,393.87</b>	<b>\$122,763.13</b>	<b>\$12,315.50</b>	<b>\$147,786.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Partnership Ministries	\$500.00	\$5,862.50	\$845.83	\$10,150.00
Support Ministries	\$442.10	\$10,538.67	\$1,708.33	\$20,500.00
Personnel	\$8,679.10	\$81,103.42	\$7,628.00	\$91,536.00
Office	\$735.68	\$21,035.96	\$2,133.34	\$25,600.00
Missions	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$26,776.05</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,356.88</b>	<b>\$145,316.60</b>	<b>\$12,315.50</b>	<b>\$147,786.00</b>
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	<b>(\$1,963.01)</b>			
Bank Balance -- Beginning	\$192,660.75			
Bank Balance -- Ending	\$190,697.74			

**PALUXY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
 1844 Acton Hwy, Granbury TX 76049 Ph 817-579-5111  
 Director of Missions - Chris "Boots" Hubbard Ministry Assistant - Darlene Atchison  
 office@paluxybaptist.org paluxybaptist.org  
 Office hours - Mon.-Fri. 9 AM - 3 PM