



For Immediate Release

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Statement from Gus Reyes, director of the Christian Life Commission, on border separation of families

Our hearts have turned again toward the United States border with Mexico. About 2,000 children have been separated from parents who have crossed the U.S. border without legal documents because of the new “zero tolerance” approach.

Texas Baptists are actively responding to the situation. Gus Reyes, director of the Christian Life Commission, is in Washington, D.C., meeting with legislators, and other Texas Baptist leaders have been in contact with people in the Rio Grande Valley.

This situation needs our prayers.

These children and their parents need our prayers. This is a frightening time for them because they have been separated in a strange land. Children and families hold special places in our hearts because of the teachings of Scripture.

Our law enforcement personnel along the border need our prayers. They are in a difficult situation of having to enforce laws that are causing human suffering. It is always hard to see children suffer.

Our political leaders in Washington need our prayers. Many are torn between competing interests related to securing the southern border, enabling needed workers to enter, upholding existing law, and protecting families.

Scripture instructs believers to respect the laws of nations, but the Bible also indicates Christ followers are to honor a higher authority. We obey the laws of governments unless they call on us to violate the instructions of God, then we seek to change the laws. God is sovereign over nations, and in a democracy Christians have a special responsibility to bring godly influence to government policies.

Living in a democracy, Christians have a responsibility to seek to influence government in the direction of care and justice for all people, especially the “least of these,” as noted by Jesus in Matthew 25.

Texas Baptists are working to determine what tangible assistance might be provided for the families.

Please contact the president and your U.S. representative and senators to advocate for these children and their families. See the web page, "How to Contact Your Elected Officials," at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>.

Dr. Gus Reyes, Director, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission

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The Christian Life Commission speaks to, but not for, Texas Baptists, helping them apply their faith to life through ethics, public policy and impact ministries. The Bible serves as the foundation for the transformative work of the CLC. Texas Baptists (Baptist General Convention of Texas), established in 1886, is the largest state denominational convention, with more than 5,300 affiliate churches seeking to live out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment in Texas and beyond.

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