

LOAVES AND FISHES

Frank Denton "The Country Poet"
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A loaf is so small. A fish isn't much.
Until they are blessed by the Master's touch.
The multitudes hunger.
What's that in your hand?
If a loaf or a fish, it awaits His command.

But, I've so little to offer.
He says, "Bring it to me;
It's enough to feed thousands.
Just bring it, you'll see.
I'll bless it and break it.
And send forth my Word.
It will feed countless souls who
might never have heard."

One of the most well-known stories in the Bible is that of the little boy whose small lunch fed five thousand. What made the difference? He gave what he had to Jesus and it suddenly became enough to nourish the multitude. Like those loaves and fishes of long ago, the money that you give to the Lord through Loaves and Fishes becomes enough to start the mission churches that will provide the spiritual food to nourish a lost Texas. Anything you can give will help spread the gospel in the same miraculous way. Thank you for your concern for a lost Texas.



Bill Arnold, President
Texas Baptist Missions Foundation

**Loaves & Fishes has raised
\$649,490 for new churches.**



TEXAS BAPTIST
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7557 Rambler Road, Suite 1200 | Dallas, Texas 75231
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2017

**NEW CHURCH
UPDATE**

URGENT NEEDS

Please look at the list below and see how you or your Sunday School class could help a Texas Baptist church in need.

Lighthouse Community Church, Winters Handicap-accessible restrooms	\$2500	Mesa Place Church, El Paso Bistro tables for welcome area	\$750
Iglesia de Poder y Restauracion, Odessa Commercial refrigerator and freezer	\$2500	Journey Church, Killeen Printed materials for mailings and prayer walks	\$3200
New Mount Zion Baptist Church, Colorado City Construct community computer lab	\$2000		
Iglesia Bautista Casa de Luz, Midland Fencing around children's playground area	\$1000		



HELPING OUT

- I (we) will pray for new church needs in Texas.
- Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$ _____.
- I (we) will pledge \$ _____ over _____ years, beginning _____ and paid monthly / quarterly / semiannually (circle one).
- I (we) would like to discuss options for including a gift in my will or establishing a qualified gift annuity that would also provide me with an income.
- I (we) would like to give to the following urgent need (see URGENT NEEDS at left): _____

REASONS TO REJOICE

Recap of 2016

BGCT churches helped start 152 new Texas Baptist congregations in 2016, including 92 multihousing and Philippi (prison) congregations.

Texas is changing, and the need for churches has never been greater. With dozens of distinct languages, cultures, and nationalities, BGCT churches are excited about the opportunities to represent a diverse population in worshipping the same loving Savior.

From traditional worship styles to cowboy congregations, the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation can help steward your passion for helping to start new churches across the state.

Multihousing congregations and ministries reach, disciple, and enrich the lives of struggling kids and families in poor socioeconomic environments. These groups live within their own "cultural barriers" and are almost always disinterested in regular churches, but they respond to onsite churches and ministries.

The goal is changing lives. By giving to the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation, you can help ensure that wherever there are lost people, there will be a church shining the light of Jesus to guide the way.

TRADITIONAL CHURCH STARTS - BY THE NUMBERS

African.....	1
African American	10
Anglo.....	8
Hispanic.....	17
Korean.....	1
Myanmar	1
Multiethnic.....	17
Western Heritage	3
Zimbabwean.....	1
Zotung.....	1
Total Covenant Churches:.....	60

STORIES THAT INSPIRE

Bridging the Culture Gap

As the speakers broadcast the Hip Hop sound throughout this Waco Housing Project, faces appear in windows. Kids, moms, dads – people of all ages - begin to make their way to the vacant lot next to "tha blue house". Soon the bounce house is filled with youngsters who have registered for the latest weekly installment of Hip Hop Hope, complete with a hot dog meal, fun, games, and music.

By the time the party is in full swing, well over 100 people have joined the crowd. They have more than just a good time with their neighbors, the folks from Hiz Houze, and sponsor churches – they experience a full blown worship service with a clear, relevant Bible message, Gospel presentation, and invitation. Few, if any, leave before the service begins. Pastors Juan and Deanna Carreon make clear that the Tuesday night service is just as important as their Sunday morning service. "In just a few months, we have grown to over 60 on Sunday mornings and over 100 on Tuesday nights. Many of the folks in the projects don't have transportation to come on Sundays, so on Tuesday nights we bring church to them, on their turf."

The response to the gospel has been something only God can do. **This summer, over 30 have prayed and professed faith in Christ and 15 have been baptized.**

Rick gave his life to Christ, was baptized in the Tuesday outdoor service, and has since led others to the Lord and baptized them. He has been free from drugs for 10 months.

Misty and her three children have had more than their share of tragedy and struggle as her ex-husband and father of the children recently passed away suddenly. Yet, she has turned to the Lord and the family calls Hiz Houze their home church.

Lupe has given his life to Christ, been baptized, and is praying that as his life changes his visitation rights with his children restored.

Finding Freedom on "The Freedom Road"

The Biker culture is all about freedom...the freedom of a ride on the open road, to do as you choose, and to live life differently. Freedom Road Biker Church in Harker Heights is helping people find true freedom...freedom to follow the Narrow Road, freedom to do what you should, and freedom to live life as God intended.

Freedom Road is just over 2 years old, has already exceeded 100 in attendance, and is baptizing new believers regularly. Pastor Jimmy Van Loozen utilizes a team of leaders he has raised up to assist him, as he is bi-vocational and realizes that ministry must be delegated to all in the church.

Freedom Road is not only a 'grand-daughter' church but is already a sponsor of another new church. Freedom Road is sponsored by Soldiers of the Cross Cowboy Church of Harker Heights, which was a new church start sponsored by 3C Cowboy Fellowship in Salado. Now, carrying on that legacy, Freedom Road is sponsoring Mosaic Fellowship in Belton. That's 4 generations of new churches reaching 3 different people groups!

It's clear that Freedom Road is "letting freedom ring" as a new church and as a sponsor church!

Special need: Freedom Road has experienced growth that has challenged their facility capacity. They have been offered a gift of 3 acres with the option to purchase an additional 10 acres at a cost of \$120,000. The church will seek to raise as much of this as possible and is looking for matching gifts.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____

Make checks payable to:

Texas Baptist Missions Foundation

Detach panel and mail to:

Texas Baptist Missions Foundation
 Baptist General Convention of Texas
 7557 Rambler Road, Suite 1200
 Dallas, Texas 75231

Or give online at texasbaptists.org/give.

Your support is vital to our continued success. Thank you.

