

## MISSION MESSENGER



My mercy I will keep for him forever, And my covenant shall stand firm  
with him. Psalms 89:28 April, 2010

### FIRM?

I have recently been asked by several Pastors and some church leaders “What is FIRM and how does it operate?” There is not space here to give you a full description of all that FIRM office does but here goes a condensed version...

FIRM Baptist Area Office exists to provide mission support and leadership for the 89 churches that make up four different associations of churches. (Falls, Independence Robertson and Milam Baptist Associations). Each of those four associations is made up of member churches that join together to do missions in a way that they could not possibly do as individual churches. Each association has its own executive board elected by the member churches and it's own budget that the executive board develops. From this budget, each association designates funds to help pay for the operation of FIRM Office which pays our rent and salaries and expenses. Each association develops its own agenda for the various association meetings held each month. Before there were state or national conventions, there were associations of churches. The FIRM Office is led by a Board of Directors that is comprised of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk of each of the four associations. That group sets the budget of the FIRM office based on the contributions from the four associations.

I, as Director of Missions, am hired by the Board of Directors, with the approval of the four association executive councils. My job description is to facilitate the monthly meetings with the moderator of each association and to provide mission education and training opportunities to the associations, help plan and carry out mission endeavors (such as mission trips, and events like the Haiti Buckets of Hope and the Disaster Response Mule Team) and other duties as requested by the board. I am also to act as a contact for the churches for missions information and coordination with the North American Mission Board and The international Mission Board. In addition to this, I am to be available to assist the churches of the four associations when they are without a pastor by providing search committee training or in discovering sources for resumes or as the church might request. The FIRM office and it's personnel have no authority over any church or church matter as each church is totally autonomous and free to act as it so chooses. We exist to help the churches become better at reaching their potential as Great Commission Churches, doing what Jesus commands each church to do.

I hope this helps in your understanding of who we are and a little of what we do.

In Christ's service,

*Brother Charles*

# Associational Missions Week

May 16—22, 2010

If you want a speaker on Associations for this emphasis, please call the FIRM Office at 254-697-6505. Please pray for the FIRM Area during this week.

## *Thank You!*

To all of the churches that participated in the Buckets of Hope project. We collected a total of 175 buckets. First Baptist of Pflugerville picked up our buckets and delivered them to Dallas for the Texas Baptist Men. The buckets were from First Baptist-Bremond, First Baptist-Caldwell, Henry Prairie, First Baptist-Rosebud, First Baptist-Brenham, Trinity-Cameron, Davilla, First Baptist-Thorndale, First Baptist-Lott, First Baptist-Somerville, San Gabriel, First Baptist-Cameron, Friendship, Elliott, First Baptist-Chappell Hill, First Baptist-Chilton, Bethany, First Baptist-Thrall, Primera-Cameron, Meadowbrook, and Bridgepoint Fellowship of Killeen. A total of 7,000 buckets were collected and brought to Dallas, Texas. Also a Huge thanks to those who helped load the buckets: Moses Vaca Family, Rick Hertless, Tim Cheatham, Bob & Peggy Meaker, Frank Corona, and Chris Cooley.

Not sure which Sunday School lesson is right for your class. The FIRM office now has a sample of all the different Lifeway materials available for purchase. So stop by our office and take a look.

Is your church looking for a simpler way to manage meals for the sick, for funerals, or for the homebound? Try "www.foodtidings.com". Your church can register with this website and then when it is time to organize for food, the church members can go to the website, sign-on and then sign up to bring food items. Once a member signs onto the event, the church member can see what is already being brought and when. This will simplify coordination for the hostess team and save a lot of time on the phone.

## Upcoming Events

April 9-10-State Regional Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament at Spring Baptist Church, Spring, TX and April 16-17 at First Baptist in Euleess. State Finals on April 24 in Grapevine.

April 10-Super Summer Reunion Event at Dallas Baptist University.

April 15-17-Ministers' Wives Fellowship at Riverbend Retreat Center.

April 16-17-Heart of the Child: Preschool and Children's Leadership Convention at FBC Broken Arrow, OK.

April 16-17-Sent Missions conference at Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, TX.

April 19-22-Exponential 10 in Orlando Florida.

April 24-Simulcast Event "So Long, Insecurity" by Beth Moore.

May 3-4-Pastor & Staff Golf Retreat at Riverchase Golf Course in Coppell, TX.

May 6-National Day of Prayer for our Country.

May 13-14-Innovate Praise for the Audio Visual Leadership at FBC Euleess.

May 15-Phase 1 Disaster Relief training at FBC Vidor, TX.

May 17-20-Senior Saints Summit at Mary Hardin Baylor.

May 27- Webinar Presentation entitled Leverage Ministry or Church Plant, Which is better for Me?

From now until 6-1-2010 Lifeway is Offering the Magazine "HomeLife" for \$1.55 per magazine along with 50 free "A Quick Word with Beth Moore" booklets when you order 50 or more copies of the magazine. Use Promo Code CR00174G.

Hazel Thompson is collecting used SS material for a church in New York State. Bring items to the FIRM office.

FALLS Association Pastor/Deacon Banquet hosted by the WMU will be April 26th at 6:30 p.m. at Cottonwood Baptist Church. Please contact Molly Houser or Carolyn Sipe for reservations. Tickets are \$7.00 per person at the door.

### May Pastor Anniversaries

Steve Ponder-FBC Brenham	19 yrs
Larry Blackmon-FBC Hearne	17 yrs
Dana Altimore-Five Points	10 yrs
Freddie Burden-FBC New Baden	2 yrs
Mark McBride-Knobbs Springs	2 yrs
Rick Hertless-Meadowbrook	2 yrs
Morgan Woodard-Golinda	1 yr

### May Birthdays

	Date
David Beckworth-Chappell Hill	10
Theresa Nelson-Grace Fellowship	15
Terry Williams-Common Ground	16
Gloria Powers-FBC Calvert	16
Freddy Burden-FBC New Baden	26
Glenn Scruggs-FBC Thrall	27
LeAnne Self-FBC Rockdale	29
Jimmy Haile-Black Jack	31

### May Wedding Anniversaries

	Date
Art & Wanda Vestal-Little Deer Creek	17
David & Cindy Beckworth-Chappell Hill	18
Monte & Cathy Byrd-Mill Creek	23
Seth & Meredith Summers-FBC Chilton	24
Jack & Jeanny Meeker-Brenham Cowboy	29
Geary & Otisann McManus-retired	30

### MAY ASSOCIATION MTGS

Falls Association will meet on May 10 at Trinity Memorial in Marlin. The topic will be Evangelism. Bill Perdue is responsible for the meeting.

Milam Association will meet on May 11 at First Baptist in Milano. The topic will be Associational Missions. The FIRM office will present the program.

Independence Association will meet on May 16 at First Baptist of Giddings. This will be the Music Festival. Contact Jay Foster and let him know whether or not someone from your church will be singing. 979-836-2807 or 979-830-1783.

Robertson Association will meet on May 18 at Bethany in Hearne. The topic will be prayer. Larry Blackmon is in charge of the program.

### Church News

Cottonwood has added 4 by baptism and 3 by letter. Cottonwood is very proud of Britton Walker who is going to the State Bible Drill competition by winning in the regional competition.

MILAM County Cowboy Church is collecting old barn wood to use in their sanctuary. Contact David Head at 412 446 2871 for more information. They will host an Open 4 D Barrel Race on Sunday, April 25.

FBC Thrall will host "Worship at the River" April 20—May 2. Friday Night Bible Study is at 7 pm. Saturday Music Festival starts at Noon. Sunday Morning Worship Service begins at 11 am with guest speaker John Ward.

Mission Emmanuel of Caldwell had a high attendance of 92 in March and baptized 5 new members with 3 more to be baptized.

Tanglewood has added 2 by profession of faith.

### Change of Dates

The work group led by Larry Blackmon of FBC Hearne to do interior finish on the new worship center at Latham Springs has been moved to April 26—30. If you can go, please contact Larry at 979-279-3142.

Milam Association WMU will hold their mid-year meeting April 6 from 10:00 am to noon at FBC Rockdale. Bring a salad.



## VBS Clinics

April 10 at FBC Calvert

April 17 at FBC Caldwell

Registration 8:00 a.m.