

MISSION MESSENGER



We have this hope as an anchor for our souls, FIRM and secure, which reaches behind the curtain, where Jesus, our forerunner, has gone on our behalf, having become a high priest forever...Hebrews 6:19
February, 2010

Many have called FIRM Office inquiring about how to help in Haiti. The quick answer is pray, the longer answer is give and wait. Much money is going to be needed to pay for materials to help meet the needs for quite some time. The Southern Baptist Response is going to be a long term response and will probably include everything from providing water supplies to food, to constructing new buildings. Immediately, there is little we can do except gather the monetary resources to be prepared for when the door truly opens. Many have already tried to go and simply caused more problems. Stories abound of ships sitting in the harbor loaded with supplies that they cannot unload because the harbor was so severely damaged. Commercial air travel into Haiti has not been restored as yet, and will be restricted when it is opened back up. Travel is difficult as one must travel to the Dominican Republic, then overland for up to 18 hours on damaged roads to reach the damaged area of Haiti. Once there, sanitation facilities are very scarce, food is unavailable, fresh water is difficult to find and there are very few (if any) places available for groups to spend the night except outdoors in tents. There is no segregated housing for men and women. For these reasons, Southern Baptist's response is being carefully planned before groups are going to be taken in. We want to ensure everyone's safety and not cause a burden on what is already there.

FIRM Area is in the early stages of putting together a team to go into Haiti later this year to assist with whatever need we can. I am sure many laborers will be needed to help feed relief workers as well as Haitian's as time goes on. When the mad rush is over, workers will still be needed. If you would like to be part of this team, contact Charles, Reagan or Brenda and discuss this with us. In the meantime, get your passport ready and make sure your shots are up to date. You must be yellow cap trained and certified to go to Haiti for relief work. You may contact our office for training dates and locations. If you would like to contribute money to the relief effort or to help someone go to Haiti and work, contact us. Congress just passed a bill allowing any donations made for Haiti Relief before February 28, 2010 to be deducted from your 2009 Tax return. So you can still get a tax break for last year by donating now. Plus get a deduction for 2010 if you want to donate later.

We will be working closely with the State Disaster Relief coordinators on our plans and schedule. Please be in prayer for the many missionaries and relief workers that are there now and the hardships they face as they deal with this tragedy.

We will see you at one of the upcoming association meetings.

In Christ's service

Charles

February Anniversaries

	Years
John Self, Trinity Cameron	31
Stan Ortnier, FBC Bremond	30
Darren Donaldson, Fellowship	12
Tim Clayton, FBC Giddings	11
Gary Samford, FBC Lyons	6
Delmar McCracken, Friendship	3

February Wedding Anniversaries-none

February Association Meetings

Falls Association will meet at Pleasant Grove on the 8th at 6:15 pm. The topic is Bible Study/Discipleship and Seth Summers is in charge of the program.

Independence Association will meet at Friendship on the 18th at 6:00 pm. The topic is North American Missions. The FIRM office is responsible for the program.

Robertson Association will meet at New Baden on the 23rd at 6:00 pm. This is the annual music festival. Dale Wells and Charlie Luster are in charge.

Milam Association will meet at Meadowbrook on the 21st at 6:00 pm. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE.** If your church plans to participate, please contact Josh Brymer at 512 269-8985 or josh.brymer@yahoo.com and let him know.

February Birthdays

	Date
Michelle Lucus, FBC Milano	4
David Cox, Davilla	5
Jim Manning, FBC Franklin	6
Lisa Montez, Tierra Santa	13
Carrie Adams, Calvary Rockdale	14
Rick Mitchell, Calvary Caldwell	16
Tina Haile, Black Jack	22
Meredith Summers, FBC Chilton	27

Literacy Fair/Church Outreach

We are looking for churches that would like to host a Literacy Fair for underprivileged children in the shadow of the steeple. The church would be responsible for inviting families to come, refreshments, facilities and helping in the fair. F.I.R.M. would provide the books, book shelves, popcorn and popcorn machine, and some of the workers.

Church News

FBC Marlin will be hosting a Disciple Now Weekend, February 19-21. If your church would like to bring your youth, contact Brandon Vern at 254-883-2516.

Cowboy Church of Brenham, TX held its first service on January 10 with 325 in attendance. The second service had 280 in attendance and the third service had 260 in attendance with 3 professions of faith.

Cowboy Church of Lee County will hold its kick off service on January 31.

FBC Calvert has started a chapter of Concerned Women for America of Texas with over 20 attendees at their first meeting. The church has 2 new members.

FBC Hearne will hold a revival March 28-31 featuring David Hardage and Robert Burkhart. The church has 3 new members.

FBC Marlin will host the Blackwood Gospel Quartet on Saturday, March 13, at 5:00 pm.

Champion Fellowship baptized 31 in 2009.

Mighty Men's Community Wide Breakfast Meeting at 8:00 am on Saturday, February 27th at FBC Thrall. For more info contact Glenn Scruggs at 512 914 6322.

Islam from a Biblical Perspectives will be presented at Champion Fellowship on Jan. 30 from 9 :00 to 4:30 and Jan. 31 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm. Contact the church for tickets which are required. 979-277-9090

FBC Milano is looking for musicians, actors, and stage hands for their Easter musical. If you would like to be a part of this event that is performed at Milano High School, please contact Edward Westbrook at 254-493-1381.

Milam County Cowboy Church has poured the slab for their new building on Highway 77 outside of Rockdale.

February Events

5-6: Love and Marriage Conference presented by Lifeway at Bannockburn Church in Austin.
5-6: Wave PreTeen camp at Camp Copass in Denton and Alto Frio near San Antonio.
10: Engage Evangelism Conference at Crestview in Georgetown. Sponsored by BGCT.
11: Minister of Education Mentoring Program at Prestonwood Baptist in Dallas
15: Awakened by His Glory for Women Conference at Arlington Convention Center. Sponsored by SBTC.
15-17 SBTC Evangelism Conference at Arlington Convention Center.
17: Senior Adult Luncheon at Arlington Convention Center, sponsored by SBTC
19-20: Going Beyond, Women's conference presented by Lifeway in Ft. Worth.
19-20: Counseling and Discipleship Training in Houston
26-27: SWBTS Family Ministry Conference in Ft. Worth
26-28: The Called Retreat presented by SBTC at Yorktown Baptist in Corpus Christi
26-27: Called To A New Day, Women's Conference at Highland Lakes

Disaster Relief Training

Feb. 6: Phase 1 Training in Tom Bean, TX
Feb. 19-20: Rigging & Climbing at Lake Sharon Christian Center in Corinth, TX
March 6: Phase 1 Training at Inglewood Baptist Church in Grand Prairie
March 19-20: Advanced Chainsaw at Dogwood Trails Camp in Larue, TX
April 16: Phase 1 Training at Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston
May 3-8: Phase 2 Training at Riverbend Baptist Encampment in Glen Rose
May 15: Phase 1 Training at First Baptist Church in Vidor
May 21-22: Advanced Rigging and Chainsaw at Trinity Baptist Church in Port Arthur

February Prayer Calendar

Feb 1-6 Pray for our pastorless churches, Macedonia Hix, Lone Oak, Harmony, Little River, Fuente de Vida, Cedar Springs, Primera Hispana, Bethany, FBC Wheelock, Iglesia Bautista Calvario, Mt. Zion-Cameron, FBC Thorndale.
Feb 7-13 Pray for our new cowboy churches, Cowboy Church of Brenham, Texas and Lee County Cowboy Church.
Feb 14-20 Pray for our churches to develop new programs to reach to their communities and for VBS to be held this summer.
Feb 21-28 Pray for our country and its leaders, for our military and their efforts around the world, and for the elections to be held this year.



*Don't forget let
Someone Special
Know That you
Love them.*

One Way To Put Your Church on Mission

Many of you are familiar with Angel Food Ministry. If you are not, it is a ministry where individuals can purchase about \$60 worth of quality food (enough to feed a family of 4 for 7 days) for \$30. Through the Angel Food Ministry, a local church can offer the food to church members or anyone in the community and the church can purchase additional boxes to give to someone in the community that is struggling. It may be someone who has lost a job, or a single parent family or an elderly person on fixed income or just simply someone that needs a little extra. Statistics tell us that one in five Texans goes to bed hungry. If a church gave a box to someone and encouraged them to use the program, even helping them learn how to budget so they could pay for their own \$30 box next month, then that is a way to give someone a hand up, not a hand out. Every church could afford to give one or two boxes a month to someone to help them. Many within our own churches could even pay a small amount to join with others in giving a box to help someone. By doing this or something like this, we would be helping each other become involved in doing missions. That is what we are supposed to be doing. Reaching out to others. At most Association meetings in Feb. or March, we will be talking more about Angel Food Ministry opportunities and how you can be involved in your community. If you want more information before your association meeting, then call the FIRM Office at 254-697-6505

You can check out the website for Angel Food Ministry at www.angelfoodministries.com