

Reach
Texas
OFFERING

ALL THINGS ALL PEOPLE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22



Your SBTC State Missions Offering

WHAT IS THE REACH TEXAS OFFERING



- 1 The annual state missions ministry offering of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
- 2 A way for you and your church to participate in a Great Commission strategy for Texas
- 3 A way to start more churches and reach more people for Christ
- 4 A way to help change lives



1.3
MILLION

STATEWIDE CHALLENGE GOAL



100
PERCENT

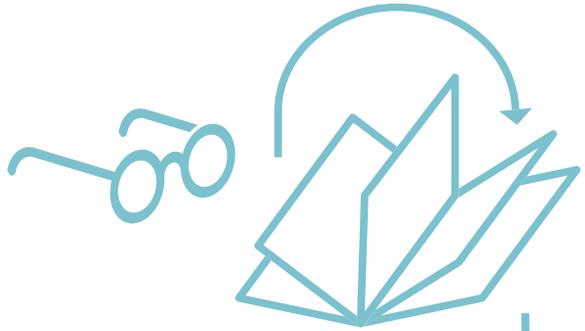
of your Reaching Texas giving is spent on missions and evangelism strategies

Because of Cooperative Program giving all funds given through Reach Texas will go to missions and ministry with no administrative costs.



Snap the QR code for more info

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET



AS A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

for the Reach Texas Week of Prayer or another time of missions emphasis at your church

AS A BIBLE STUDY

for your missions group

AS A RESOURCE

to emphasize the Reach Texas Offering in worship services and small groups

AS A REMINDER

throughout the year to pray for the great commission work in Texas.

ALL THINGS ALL PEOPLE

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2021-2022

I AM THRILLED TO BE BACK IN TEXAS and part of a network of churches that loves to see new churches planted and strengthened. The SBTC has always prioritized effective evangelism and the planting of churches to reach all peoples with the message of the gospel. In Texas, we have millions of lost people—native Texans and people groups from all over the world.

The Reach Texas offering is a great way for us to give generously above and beyond our Cooperative Program giving to help revitalize churches, plant new churches, carry out collegiate and student ministry, train churches to minister to Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims, mobilize churches for missions around the world, respond to disaster relief needs in our state and beyond, and promote and educate churches on foster care and adoption.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving to the Reach Texas offering each year. I have heard wonderful stories of transformation that you are a part of through your giving. Every dollar makes a difference and goes straight to the field to do ministry in Texas. Every dollar counts for the glory of God and the advancement of the kingdom.

As a biblical principle, not only does your giving matter but so do your prayers. Our focus week of prayer is one event on the calendar, but the constant need for prayer is much greater. Please keep the desperate needs of the lost in Texas on your hearts and in your prayers.

As we join together, may God use our efforts for his glory and his honor. May we experience revival and renewal as God pours out his Spirit across Texas in a powerful way.

Blessings,

Nathan Lorick

SBTC Executive Director



The background of the entire page is a dark, blue-tinted photograph of a church steeple. The steeple is tall and tapers to a point, with several levels of decorative elements, including a square tower with arched windows and a smaller square tower above it. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the architectural details against a dark sky.

TEXAS CHURCHES PLANT TEXAS CHURCHES

The SBTC can help.

If your church is looking to plant churches or if you want to explore becoming a church planter, contact us for more info.

We can help you fulfill the mission God has called you to.

THREE WAYS TO START THE PROCESS

- 1 Call and talk to a member of the church planting team at 817.552.2500
- 2 Email us at churchplanting@sbtexas.com
- 3 Visit sbtexas.com/churchplanting and fill out a pre-application

ANYONE AND EVERYWHERE

Danial Habte, Reach All Nations & Muslim Ministry

In 2012, I began to see a need for an evangelism movement among foreign-born refugees in Amarillo. I perceived a huge gap between people groups and the local church reaching them. After prayerful preparation, my family felt called to reach people groups who speak Arabic, Farsi, Amharic (Ethiopian), Tigrinya (Eritrean) and Somali.

Initially, we built relationships with people in these language groups. In 2014, this grew to planting an Amharic-language fellowship, Kingdom Gospel Church, alongside Paramount Baptist Church and the SBTC, and in 2018, we started a Tigrinya-speaking Bible study.

After much prayer and strategizing, we began an Arabic-speaking Bible study in 2019, which led to planting an Arabic-speaking church. Even with the struggles of Covid-19, in June of 2020, we launched the first worship service and now have attendees from seven different countries. We celebrate each

language, culture and style of worship. We have attendees from Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Ethiopia and Eritrea who have accepted Jesus and been baptized.

Relationships are the foundation for this ministry. My family befriended a local Iranian family. We were able to have deep spiritual conversations with them and share the gospel. One evening, they asked us to come for dinner. While visiting, the wife started to cry. She shared with us how Jesus had revealed himself to her in a dream. Jesus asked her to trust in him. He told her to ask my family over so that we could tell her about him again.

I shared Isaiah 53. She cried and asked, "Why could I not understand before?" I told her it was because now Christ had opened her eyes to see and understand his Word. She and her family accepted Jesus as Lord and were baptized the following day. The Lord is working in Amarillo.

PRAYER POINT

Take time to pray for people groups in Amarillo and around Texas. Pray that they will continue to hear the gospel through relational ministry.

POINT TO PONDER

How many foreign languages do you hear spoken around you? How can you take the first step to develop a relationship with a foreign-born person?

DO YOU SEE WHAT I (JESUS) SEE?

Irma L. Ramos, FBC, Galena Park

Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved to compassion. He desires that no one perish but that all come to repentance. From Genesis to Revelation, we see our God who loves and makes no exception of persons. Revelation 5:9-10 reads, “Worthy are you to take the book and to break its seals, for you were slain, and purchased for God with your blood, men from every tribe, and tongue and people and nation.

How wonderful that Jesus counts us worthy to take part in the gathering of his people by sharing the gospel to all the nations that have come to our doorstep. United we can open new churches, assist and strengthen existing ones and birth ministries that God inspires us to establish

We can only do this if we see the multitudes as Jesus sees them—beautiful people of all colors, cultures and ethnicities. It is time we do away with the term “races of the world” because there

is but one human race that was so wonderfully and fearfully designed by our master Creator. People are dying condemned without the salvation of Jesus. The window of opportunity is closing.

The enemy of our souls would rather occupy our thoughts and efforts in separating ourselves into groups of people that have our same “likeness.” Let us keep our eyes on Jesus and then we will see as he sees. His mission will become ours.

Joel 2:16 states that God wants to “gather the people.” On that day, the only thing that will matter is whether we love as he loved. Let us pray fervently, go swiftly and give generously toward getting the gospel out to all the nations.

JOEL 2:16

Gather the people; sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the infants, even babies nursing at the breast. Let the groom leave his bedroom, and the bride her honeymoon chamber.

PRAYER POINT

Pray the people of God would urgently choose to love all humanity as God does and share the gospel openly without hesitation.

POINT TO PONDER

How are you daily loving others as God loves them? Do you see the multitudes through God’s eyes?

MAGNIFYING THE GOSPEL THROUGH ADOPTION

Bryan Wooten

Imagine hearing a family court judge explain to five siblings (elementary age and younger) who have been separated in two different foster homes for over a year that they are being legally adopted together, being given a new last name and are now part of a forever family. Can you see the look of joy, excitement and relief on the faces of these five children? Picture the adoptive parents, who opened their hearts and home, weeping as they say “yes” to the judge, affirming their gospel-centered love and commitment to each of the five children in their new family.

Near the judge’s bench is a Texas Baptist Home case worker and her leadership team who have walked with the parents and the children through foster care, placement and now finalization. They poured sacrificial love and investment into making this moment become a reality, and they too are crying with joy.

Next you see the adoptive parents’ spiritual family,

members of their local church. As the judge declares the adoption final, you hear claps, cheers and cries in celebration of what God has done in rescuing these children and magnifying the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is a true story that I witnessed as part of the Remedy Church family. Through our consistent engagement with the Texas Baptist Home for Children, partnership in ministry with the local TBHC office in Waxahachie and persistent prayer and care for their staff, we are seeing God accomplish more than we could ask or imagine on the front lines of adoption and foster care.

Psalm 82:3-4 is an invitation and opportunity to join God in his gospel-magnifying work of adoption: “Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

PRAYER POINT

Pray that families would joyfully obey James 1:27 by opening their hearts and homes to through adoption to children waiting for a forever home.

POINT TO PONDER

There are 6,186 children waiting for a forever family in Texas and 47,913 children in foster care. Is God calling your family to say “yes” to adoption or foster care?

OPENED-HANDED GENEROSITY

Doug Hixson, SBTC Church Planting

2 Corinthians 9:7 says that God loves a cheerful giver. We live in a world that encourages tight-fisted living. Get whatever you can get and keep it for yourself. Climb the ladder, make more, buy more, achieve more and put it in a pile for you to enjoy. The challenge with this way of living is that there is never enough; there is never true satisfaction and peace.

Money is not evil. Possessions are not evil. Achievements are not evil. The problem is that nothing is ever enough. Even followers of Jesus struggle with feeling fulfilled and finding peace in Christ because they don't discover that Jesus is enough.

When Jesus is enough then we can find real peace. When Jesus is enough then we are more likely to live with our hands open wide rather than trying to hold onto all that we have obtained. In fact, when our hands are open to give generously, God may bless us with more.

Scripture teaches that God loves a cheerful giver. Are you living your life with your hands clenched, holding onto what you can, or are you seeking to live with your hands open to give what you can and in turn to be blessed by God?

This is a principle for our time, talents and resources. This is a principle for individuals, families and churches. God has blessed us to be a blessing. As you pray for missions, ministry and church planting in Texas, pray that God would help you to be an open-handed, generous giver.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, **since God loves a cheerful giver.**

PRAYER POINT

Pray for the Lord to show you where he wants you to be generous whether in your time, finances or talents, and when he answers, be quick to follow his guidance.

POINT TO PONDER

How can I be used by God to be generous in my life or my church? How can our church be more generous in response to how God has blessed us?

RE-DIGGING THE WELLS

Mark Clifton, NAMB Senior Director of Replanting

Then Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the same names which his father had given them. -Genesis 26:18

When Southern Baptists experience the closure of more than 10,000 churches in a single generation, you know the enemy is at work. The decline and death of churches in communities of people who need the gospel is an act of spiritual warfare. The enemy has buried thousands of churches that once provided life-giving water to their community so they can no longer effectively provide a source of life.

Each year as many as 4,000 churches across North America close their doors. About 800 of those churches are Southern Baptist churches. These churches are not where you might expect them to be either. In fact, 75 percent of these Southern Baptist

churches that cease to exist are in communities with more than 100,000 people. We are closing churches where we need them the most. But there is a church revitalization movement taking place. God is calling his people to dig again the wells that once brought life-giving water to their communities.

Just as Isaac dug again the wells of his father, we are also committed to the recovery of churches across our land. Right in front of us are thousands of life-giving wells that can flood this parched landscape with living water.

Digging these wells again is hard, back-breaking work. It is spiritual warfare. Even with our best efforts, we know the mere activity of men and women is not effectual without the Holy Spirit. Yet when we are obedient to follow our Lord in this work and plead with the Father to reclaim his church for his glory, we will see fresh water springing forth across a dry and thirsty land.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for those who are serving in difficult places and are seeking to revitalize declining churches. Pray for those who are digging these life-giving wells again.

POINT TO PONDER

Where or to whom is God calling you to bring the life-giving water of Jesus Christ? Will you join the movement of church revitalization in North America?

GIVING HOPE

Scottie Stice, SBTC Disaster Relief Director

As I read the Bible, I find passages that directly relate to our SBTC Disaster Relief ministry. The apostle Paul received the Macedonian call in Acts 16: 9-10. The vision was of a Macedonian man pleading with Paul, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Paul did exactly that and the gospel crossed from Asia to Europe. The church experienced great success with a simple, Spirit-guided shift towards Europe.

During and immediately following a disaster, survivors turn to New Testament modeled churches for help. This is where Disaster Relief responds and has its greatest impact. Picture a disaster survivor looking to you and pleading, "Come over to our disaster-stricken community and help us." As Disaster Relief volunteers and churches respond to this plea, needs of survivors are met and doors are opened for the gospel. Please join us and respond to the pleading of disaster survivors. We are

continually looking for new volunteers, and to support these faithful servants in the field, we depend on financial gifts from God's people.

Another passage in Acts deals with a relief offering during a famine. In Acts 11:27-30, a prophet at the church in Antioch prophesied through the Spirit of a great famine coming to the Roman world. The church members, each according to his ability, sent a relief offering to the brothers and sisters living in Judea. Because of your faithful giving, the SBTC's Disaster Relief has been funded by the Reach Texas Offering since 2004. God has used these offerings to bless survivors of disasters through Disaster Relief.

For more information, visit
SBTEXAS.COM/DR

PRAYER POINT

Disaster survivors plead for our help. Pray about your part in funding and responding to disaster needs through SBTC Disaster Relief. Please pray for God to send more volunteers into the fields that are "... already white for harvest!"

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED ADULTS

Brandon Bales, Teen Assoc. Pastor, Northeast Houston BC

Kelsey was a varsity cheerleader, active in and cherished by her community, a straight-A student and occasional church attendee. No one knew how little purpose she found in life until she participated in her first mission trip and became a born-again follower of Christ. Now as an adult, she serves in student ministry as a girls' ministry director, pointing other young ladies to their own purpose in Christ.

If you were to ask Kelsey what had the biggest impact in her finding her purpose in Christ, she wouldn't say the sermons preached by her student pastor, the events offered or even the companionship of her peers. What she would say is adults. Not 'an' adult, rather adults. I know this because Kelsey was once my student and we have remained in contact. Now her ministry repeats the same strategy that impacted her as a teenager, the influence of adults.

Why does Kelsey say adults were the key? Recall your teenage years, how many lessons, sermons or peers come to mind? Likely very few, if any. But how many adults do you recall impacting your life? Personally, I can immediately name five.

Second, consider data. A recent Springtide Research Institute survey conducted with over 10,000 students concluded that adults were the largest contributor to a young person finding purpose in life. The study found that only 50 percent of young people who did not have mentors in their life found purpose. Of those who had five or more mentors, 91 percent found meaning and purpose in their own lives.

Undeniably, adults are vital for a young person to find purpose. As Christ-followers who know the source of our purpose, how much more vital is it for adults to invest in teenagers so that they might come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Savior?

PRAYER POINT

Pray for believing adults to invest in teenagers to lead them in finding their purpose in Christ.

POINT TO PONDER

Is there a Kelsey in your life? Fellow Texan, go. Young people want multiple adults in their lives, and in fact, they need them.

BECOMING A CHURCH PLANTING CHURCH

Jared Wellman

One metaphor for church planting is that it is like bearing children. In fact, many church plants are referred to as “daughter” churches. In this context, the church I currently pastor, Tate Springs in Arlington, is blessed with eleven daughters.

The thing about children—and church plants—is that we raise them with the hope they will extend God’s testimony, even into areas we are unable to reach. A new church is planted in a different location than the parent church, with a different personality than the parent church, and, therefore, with the ability to reach different people than those in the parent church.

A unique blessing of a daughter church is how it can turn around to aid the parent church one day.

A church plant is typically birthed by what is, for lack of a better adjective, a “traditional” church. Traditional churches can sometimes become like elderly parents who need help from their children.

This was the case for Tate Springs. In 1984, we birthed Rush Creek Church. Since that time, Rush Creek has reached a demographic Tate Springs couldn’t reach, and there came a time when Tate Springs needed to rethink how we ministered in our local context. Rush Creek was able to help, and Tate Springs was open to help because Rush Creek is our daughter church.

The truth is all churches are related (Acts 2). But a direct church plant yields a special relationship. We grieve together in defeats and rejoice together in victories, and we’re there for one another, like a parent and a child.

I’m reminded of the biblical story of Ruth. The story begins with Naomi helping her daughter-in-law Ruth, but it ends with Ruth returning the favor and helping Naomi. The result was a genealogical lineage that pointed straight to Jesus (Ruth 4:18-22).

PRAYER POINT

Pray God will bless the efforts of churches planting churches, and that more churches feel will plant churches and/or assist with a church plant.

POINT TO PONDER

How can our church become more involved in church planting? What would it look like for our church to take a mission trip or find ways to help a church plant in Texas?

REACH AUSTIN

- Area Population of 2,000,000
- 11th largest city in the United States
- 34% speak a language other than English at home
- 68% White, 35% Hispanic, 8% Black, 6% Asian/Other
- 41% lost & unchurched

Steve Cochran

Austin Strategist
scochran@sbtexas.com

REACH EL PASO

- Population of 885,226
- 82% Hispanic
13% White
3% Black
2% Asian
- 98% lost & unchurched

Chuy Ávila

SBTC en Español Lead Associate,
cavila@sbtexas.com

REACH CITIES

-  Church Planting + Replanting
-  Church Revitalization
-  Mission Team Opportunities

REACH HOUSTON

- The most diverse city in North America (2010 Census)
- Population of 5,000,000
- 39.8% Hispanic
31.9% White
18.7% Black
9.5% Asian/Other
- 68% lost & unchurched

Ben Hays
Houston Strategist
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REACH RIO GRANDE VALLEY

- Population of 1,353,541
- 90% Hispanic
1.2% Asian
0.5% Black
- 81% Catholic
- 11% claim no faith

David Ortega
Valley Strategist
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THE REACH CITIES INITIATIVE is a strategic process to mobilize churches for church planting and revitalization in Texas.

SBTEXAS.COM/REACHCITIES

Texas has **420** different **people groups** and **300+** spoken languages



people GROUPS

Our mission is to equip the local church to reach people groups in Texas, moving from friendship and spiritual conversations to discipleship and house church planting.

Interested in learning more about cross-cultural ministry?



Reaching the Nations in Texas

A six-session training based on Jesus' principles for cross-cultural ministry. Learn principles on how to connect, evangelize and disciple foreign born and second generation peoples.



Going Beyond Seminars 1 & 2

Going Beyond targets those who work with people groups and help create networks where churches, pastors and leaders learn from and encourage one another in reaching the nations in their locale.



Specialized Trainings

Focused on how to connect, engage and disciple different people groups per their particular religious and ethnic background. Designed to move from friendship to Bible study to house groups to house churches to the church planting process.

sbtexas.com/peoplegroups

For more information contact Dan Acharya at dacharya@sbtexas.com



India

PARTNERSHIP

sbtexas.com/mobilization



The SBTC will begin a partnership with India and have vision tours beginning January 2022 for pastors who are interested in partnering in India.

- **Opportunities to see and train for the work in India**
- **Become a church partner**
- **Join now with the SBTC in praying for India**

For more information contact

Tony Mathews

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ESL

English as a Second Language

Learn how to develop an ESL program for your church with student placement, lesson building, teaching techniques, evangelism and more.

Two-day training

NAMB certification awarded

sbtexas.com/esl



DISASTER RELIEF

ONLINE TRAINING

PREP • TRAIN • RESPOND



For more info & to register sbtexas.com/dr

Phase 1 Online Courses

Online Intro to DR

A course for all new volunteers and those seeking to renew their credentials. Consists of three sections with videos & quizzes to complete.

Clean Up & Recovery

Learn how you can help disaster survivors with mudding out or cleaning their homes after floods and debris cleanup after tornados and wind events.

Feeding

Train to be a feeding ministry volunteer to help prepare meals for survivors, first responders and other volunteers.

1cross

An evangelistic tool designed to share the message of the gospel in multiple languages through video/audio presentations.



search "SBTC" to find this resource.

Made possible through Cooperative Program giving.

sbtexas.com/apps



resource
WEBSTORE

tenemos recursos en español

sbtwebstore.com

helping reach texas and impact the world

9-week devotion



deacon training



gospel presentation



info pamphlet





EMPOWER

CONFERENCE

FEB. 28 & MARCH 1, 2022

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER



**Ed
Newton**



**Jonathan
"JP" Pokluda**



**Mark
Lowry**



**Clayton
King**



**Greg
Stier**



**Robert
Smith Jr.**



**+ MANY
MORE**



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WITH YOUR
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OFFERING



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