## **FOCUS MEETING** Sunday, June 2 7 pm, Chapel OCUS! **JAN-APR 2019**

### **Table** of Contents

### Focus Meeting — Sunday, June 2, 2019

4
5
6
6
8
9
14
17
18
19
20
22
22
26
30
35
38
41
42
43
44
ing44
ness Meeting45
46
ort47

## Senior Pastor

The recent success of Hollywood's biopic on the rock band Queen, and especially their singer Freddie Mercury, has already spawned a second, eerily familiar, offering with this month's upcoming Elton John film. These aren't the first films based on the lives of celebrity musicians, athletes, or political figures, but I wonder if this will start a constant scheduling of films based around famous musicians. (Although they take on a more documentary role, Netflix is full of such titles about musicians from John Coltrane, to Janis Joplin, to the Rolling Stones.) One element that makes these forms of story telling compelling to me is the fact that they begin at the beginning. For people about whom fans know everything once they reach a point of fame, thanks to paparazzi and People magazine, these documentary style films give the viewer a look into the lives of famous people before they were famous; a look into the backgrounds about which we likely know nothing; an insider's view into some of the people, events, and character traits that made the subject the famous or influential person they turned out to be.

Piecing together the stories of Jesus' life and ministry prior to his localized fame is an intriguing exercise for me as well. In our reading of and teaching on the Gospel accounts, we generally operate with a fully formed ministry where everybody followed Jesus around, his disciples went from called to formed in an instant, and the opposition from key figures was fully identified. But these were all qualities that developed steadily over time. Jesus began his ministry in obscurity, and the few stories that we get from this early period of his work illustrate so much of the character and mission, on a small scale, that we will come to recognize on a much larger scale in short order.

Our major worship series this past Winter/Spring gave us opportunity to study and consider this pivotal time in the ministry of our Lord. We were reminded how, from the beginning, he withstood temptations to do things his own way instead of his Father's way, he took a stand against empty religion that oppressed people, he proclaimed the coming of God's Kingdom in the here and now, and he foretold of a day soon coming where people would be reunited with God through "his only begotten son" who would pay the price for humanity's sin. I am constantly challenged by Jesus' example, not only in the way that I talk about God and his work in the world, but also by how I view the church and its purpose in God's plan for the world. I hope you were challenged and inspired by these studies, just as I was, and I hope they continue to form you as you walk with God.

One of the strongest observations I've made in considering biographical movies and how they compare and contrast with the Gospels pertains to the nature of fame. In just about every bio film I can think of, the plot trajectory runs the same: humble beginnings, hard work, lucky break, fame is achieved, fame leads to ... trouble! In so many cases, the acquisition of fame causes people to become something different than they previously were. But, as Jesus grows in fame around Israel, he continues to take the path of obedience, even as it grows in difficulty. My prayer is that the successes, accomplishments, and fame of all who are in Christ, lead them to closer walks with him, and further opportunities to invest in God's Kingdom.

Steven Laufer SENIOR PASTOR

# ecutive Director

You would think after seeing something happen over and over again that it would become routine. After all, we can miss the miracle of the earth rotating its way back to sunlight each morning and sunset each evening. We know how it works. But then, the clouds of the overnight storms form up on the horizon in an incredible display of shapes, colors, and shadows that captures our attention. It can be more distracting than texting and driving, at least from what I hear.

In the same way, it is a miracle to watch the Lord place the right people, in the right place, at the right time to equip his Church for works of service. We can sometimes take that for granted, especially when he consistently does it time and time again. But what a beautiful Sonrise (I know, but I couldn't help myself) we have experienced with Guy and Larinda coming to be a part of our journey during the past two years, fulfilled with the arrival of Bart and Becky, and then the incredible gift of Guy and Larinda becoming part of the UBC family. That's enough to capture our attention and then we experience Bart's son Christopher getting transferred to Houston totally "unrelated" to his parent's move. That's an incredibly beautiful scene of the Lord's creative purposes on display.

In the difficulty and routine of our days, its easy to miss the beauty of what the Lord is doing. As you read through the Focus Book, reflect how he has shown his glory through His people at this place we call UBC. And then tell your own stories to those you encounter and in doing so "Connect them to God's Kingdom."

Be strong and courageous,

David Mobley EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Facilities Update

### **Third Floor Renovation Update**

In March, we started a major renovation project on the 3rd floor. Over the years, the 3rd floor has seen thousands of students participate in every wild and crazy event we could dream up. Millions (in Kyle's best estimate) of donuts and slices of pizza have been eaten and a few conglomerations of ingredients we might not want to talk about have been consumed just to win a game here and there.

Hundreds of godly, caring adults have worked hard to build relationships with students so they might earn the right to speak the truth and love of Jesus Christ into their lives. But, as is the case with any heavily used space, the time has come to update so that we can continue to impact students in the Clear Lake area.

We are currently in Phase 1 of a Three Phase renovation project.

**Phase 1 -** Demolition, construction, design, furniture, and painting

**Phase 2 -** Bathroom remodel, technology installation, foyer graphics, and aesthetics

Phase 3 - Sliding partitions re-cover

The entire project cost is right at \$500,000. We have almost enough to complete Phase 1 because of the delayed purchase of a new bus and the use of some year-end funding. However, we are still \$200,000 short of meeting our total goal. We hope that through our UBC family we will be able to raise enough to fund Phases 2 and 3.

The more we can engage students' social lives, the more opportunities we have to connect every one of those students to Jesus Christ. We ask that you prayerfully consider joining us in this mighty endeavor to impact a new generation of students who will center their social lives around the 3rd floor at UBC.





### Family Picnic

If you ask a cross section of families with kids how many times a week they sit down as a family for dinner, I think you would be blown away by their answers. As I have asked people, I have found that most families rarely sit down as a family for even one or two nights in a week. Many meals are eaten standing in the kitchen or in the car rushing to the next event or practice. Our picnics at the Pavilion are a time for the UBC family to gather together across age demographics and worship hours to sit down, share a meal, laugh, play, and be together with no other agenda than to be a family.

This last picnic had a little hitch thrown into it because of weather, but since we are a flexible family, we pushed it back a week to a date when the weather forecast was predicting a clear and bright day. Instead, the weather was clear and cold, but despite the chill in the air, many of our UBCers had a great time eating, talking, laughing or sharing time with our students in the 9-ball pit.

We hope that you will join us at our next picnic on the 4th of July. And a little down the road we might have us a good ole potluck meal. Nothing says family like a potluck.







### Serving Ministries Semester Highlights

The answer to the question, "Where are you from?" isn't as simple as just naming a physical location. In part, it is about geography, but I can't help but take the question more personally. To me, the question, "Where are you from?" is a question about identity.

"What is your culture?"

"What is at the core of your very being?"

"What situation made you who you are?"



We all have stories of origin. Cities, states, and countries might be locations where we were raised, but where we are really from has everything to do with the way we developed in our self-awareness and how we learned to see ourselves in those contexts. For example, two people might have been raised in Dallas, but one might have been raised in poverty and the other in a middle-class setting. Both people might claim the same city as their hometown, but each grew up experiencing Dallas from a very different vantage point. We strive to find commonality with people, but a rapidly-changing world requires us to work a little harder to really connect with folks at the deeper level of identity. It is at this deeper level of the word where we are challenged to engage spiritually in our ministry partnerships at UBC and with people representing many different life experiences and cultures.

I've reflected on this topic of being from somewhere during the past semester because that topic has been front and center with several of our UBC ministry activities:

We formally began our Spanish-language worship service on Sundays mornings at 9:30. The group of a dozen members, called Vástago de Gracia (Stem of Grace), is comprised of people who are passionate about following Jesus, about sharing Jesus, and about service to others. In addition to the worship service, they hosted the Heritage Celebration event for the entire UBC congregation in the pavilion on May 5th, and it was a great success! Thank you to Kyle Tupin and other volunteers from Texas Baptist Men (and Women) who helped with that effort. This was a great way to celebrate a core UBC value, Unity in Diversity. We might currently be from Clear Lake, but we bring so much rich heritage to share.



During spring break, UBC sent a team of almost 40 people to the Rio Grande Valley to work with our Buckner Family Ministries partners. Located west of Mission, TX, Peñitas is a colonia (settlement) of first-generation immigrants and their families living in generational poverty. UBC partnered with Valley Ranch Baptist Church (Dallas) and hosted youth leaders from Bates Memorial Baptist Church in Lousiville, Kentucky, as we engaged the community. In total, almost 60 participants either led construction team (home-build), hosted business training sessions for local entrepreneurs, or led a Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience. The VBS experience was located at a local Pentecostal church for 100 of the local children! Three Baptist churches were representing Houston, Dallas, and Louisville, working alongside Buckner Family Ministries, partnering with the Flames of Fire Church, all to make a difference for the local community. We came from many backgrounds, but found mutuality in our engagement and service, motivated by the love of Christ. While in the region, many of us had an opportunity to volunteer at the Catholic Charities Respite Center in McAllen, to learn about the immigrant/refugee situation on our Texas border. This was a humbling and eye-opening experience.

In April, a small UBC team set out for Colombia on a vision trip. Several members at UBC have

on a vision trip. Several members at UBC have connections with Venezuela, and we were motivated by the Venezuelan-refugee crisis to explore new service opportunities. Over four million Venezuelans have fled the country, and a million of those refugees have landed in neighboring Colombia. An organization led by women called SEPAZ (Fundación para la Sororidad, Equidad y Paz/ Sorority for Equality and Peace), comprised of an ecumenical team of leaders, is working to provide shelter, legal help, and social help for the approximately 80,000 Venezuelans who are currently living on the streets of Cali, in southwestern Colombia. In addition to discovering volunteer opportunities through SEPAZ, our pastor, Steve Laufer, was able to network and serve as a guest lecturer in Old Testament studies at the Colombian Baptist Seminary (called UniBautista) that is also located in the city of Cali. Again, the theme of being from somewhere was reinforced among the Venezuelan refugees who are struggling to survive in Colombia. It is a challenge for the local church, to be sure, and an opportunity for UBC to partner with our Colombian brothers and sisters for relief work and also for theological education at the same time!

As followers of Jesus, we are in a process of understanding where we came from and where we ultimately belong. At UBC, we are learning what it means to be in a process of becoming a family that is being shaped into the image of Jesus. We are not alone in this process but have many ministry partners who help us engage in God's Kingdom work.

-Aaron Glenn



### Worship on Wheels (W.O.W.)

Because of generous donations, Worship on Wheels (W.O.W.) was able to give some audio-visual systems to some of their sponsored churches in the Philippines to promote children's ministry growth, as well as making the tribal church a meeting center in the area.

"We were very impressed with how the churches are working with the children and inspiring each other as pastors. Most of the pastors are full-time farmers and blessed us with lots of produce to bring home," reflected Troy Beaver, director of Worship on Wheels.











### Faith@Home

### Faith@Home Marriage Team Focus Group

UBC's Faith@Home Marriage Team hosted a Marriage Focus Group in the home of Melissa Dutton on April 24. Eleven couples plus the Marriage Team participated in a guided discussion, led by Katy Hewson, about how UBC can best help, support, and resource couples. Within the group, the range of years married was from four years to 35 years. It was great to see such a variety of couples gather together to brainstorm ideas.





On March 31, around 50 people gathered in The Hangar to hear three professionals from our UBC family provide information and resources to help us carefully love our aging parents.

One of our speakers was Heather Benzenhoefer who shared the legal side of caring for aging parents. Heather is an Associate Attorney with Waldron and Schneider. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from South Texas College of Law Houston and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Heather is passionate about helping people in all situations.

Linda Pouzar spoke about the emotional side of aging parents. Dr. Linda Pouzar is a family medicine doctor in Houston and affiliated with multiple hospitals. She received her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

Joe Pouzar led the conversation on the physical side of aging parents. Dr. Joe Pouzar is a Family Medicine Specialist in Houston, currently practicing in the Clear Lake area. He graduated with honors from Baylor College of Medicine in 1987 and has more than 32 years of diverse experiences, especially in family medicine.

The attendees, who were encouraged to send questions via text message during the presentation, received a treasure trove of information about how to love our aging parents and care for them effectively as they age.

Following this seminar, a four-week Caregiving Group was launched to study through the book, *How to Honor Your Aging Parents* by Richard Johnson.

to Rebellion."

### Parent Connect Conference

As a part of Vision Weekend, we had a Parent Connect Conference on Friday night. It began with 80 parents having dinner together with a lot of laughter and fellowship followed by Wayne and Linda Slay speaking on the topic of "Raising Responsible Kids." Wayne is the Pastor of Adult Ministries at The Avenue Church in Waxahachie. Wayne and Linda enjoy serving at their church together by leading a Bible study for married couples. They have three boys, each of whom are married, and a total of seven grandchildren.

The Slays began their presentation talking about the importance of establishing relationships based on Deuteronomy 6:5-10, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." They emphasized the relationship with a quote from Josh McDowell, "Rules without a **Relationship Leads** 

Parents in attendance gained terrific information. Here are some of the takeaways from the evening:

- See your child as a sinner, not a villain—sinners need grace.
- Start Where You Are—and you will have to hit a reset button; sometimes by calling a family meeting.
- If they don't like you because you're always mean to them, they won't listen to you.
- You have to be their friend, not their buddy.
- Reevaluate rules that don't matter.
- Choose your battles. Don't get upset about things that don't matter.
- Get to know their heart. Then you know why they do what they do.
- Pray that your children have wisdom beyond their years.
- Pray for your child's future spouse.
- Pray that your children get caught if they are doing something they should not be doing.
- Security—every person needs to know they are loved unconditionally. There is no behavior worth severing your relationship.
- 1. Love
- 2. Acceptance
- 3. Your home is a safe place (a place they want to come home to).
- 4. Children feel more secure when you have discipline in your home. They need structure.
- Never Give Up. Don't ever give up on your kids.

Parents were encouraged and challenged to be the parents that God has called them to be to the children that he has gifted. For more info, please feel free to check out Wayne's social media websites #teachthem2blikeHim.

### Date Night



### **Care** Ministries

### **Grief Share**

Over the last couple of years, UBC has hosted Grief Share support groups. Grief Share is a 13-week class for anyone who has lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, and who could use the support of people who understand the deep hurt of loss.

Why is Grief Share important?

A person doesn't get over grief; they get through it. Grief Share support groups help with that. The people in the room get it. They understand what it means to lose someone you care about. One part of the weekly sessions is a video lesson from counselors, pastors, and people who have lost loved ones. After the video, there a time to process and dialogue with each other. Getting the chance to talk and listen in a safe place with a group of people who get it and care is crucial for the grieving process.

How can you help someone who is grieving?

Maybe you have a friend or family member who has lost someone, and you're feeling unprepared to help them during this difficult time.

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Listen. Be available so when they're ready to talk about something, you are there to listen. It's important to be a place where they can unpack and feel emotions. Another practical tip is to say, "I know what it's like to lose a mother." Not, "I know how you feel." Everyone's grief is different. But you can show empathy in sharing your own path of grief.

Learn more about Grief Share at ubc.org/griefshare.

### **Apprentice Groups**

One of our core values at University Baptist Church is "Practicing Spiritual Disciplines." This spring, more than 150 adults gathered together in Apprentice Groups. Using Ruth Haley Barton's *Sacred Rhythms*, our groups discussed the importance of spiritual disciplines and how we can integrate those disciplines into our everyday lives to help us grow in our faith and become more like Jesus. This is our fourth installment of the spring Apprentice Groups. Each year these groups have provided a great opportunity to have more focused conversations about spiritual growth while we learn more about each other and *become a family*.

### FOCUS REPORT · JUNE 2, 2

### **Adult** Ministries

### Prep for Marriage

An important part of our history here at University Baptist
Church has been to help couples who are planning to get
married take the vital step of preparing for marriage. As we have
continued to develop this ministry to connect with and serve couples,
we recently shifted our format to an all-day Saturday workshop. This
allows couples a focused day to engage in guided conversations on several
critical marital issues. Three couples attended our first workshop on February
16. As part of this workshop, couples who attend all the sessions receive
a discount certificate toward their marriage license. Making sure
to plan your marriage while you plan your wedding, is
central to our Preparing for Marriage



ministry at UBC.



### Illumination Arts Ministry (IAM)

IAM has a new art show on the second floor! These incredible pieces were contributed by local artists, many from UBC, who were willing to share their talents with us. IAM hopes to draw more and more artists into a conversation about the creative process.

This ministry was founded and is led by Julie Ranna, who is currently working on her certification in Art and Trauma Healing. After a busy year, IAM is taking the summer off and looking forward to getting back to it in the fall.



### Women's Ministries

### **Women's Spring Retreat**

Camp Allen, Navasota February 22-24th, 2019

Even though the weather was drizzly, UBC women had a great time at Camp Allen. Speaker Rachel Norris shared her testimony and rich truths about the Christian life using pottery demonstrations. God is the Potter. We are the clay. We even got to make a clay figure and then repurpose it into a vessel for His glory, the way God does so well with our lives.

As we rode horses, shared meals, discussed Bible passages, walked trails, or just hung out, friendships were strengthened and new ones began. The Scavenger Hunt resulted in some hilarious photos! Sunday worship included a quiet half hour with a Bible passage that moved many women deeply.

Many thanks to Jenny Verghese and Sara Henderson for leading us in worship. Thank you to Tonya Wright for leading the incredible events team that put the weekend together.









### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES**

### Thinking Faith Academy

We have finished studying the whole Bible! Twice! We started with an overview of the entire Bible back in 2017. Then we did a survey of the New Testament in the fall. And now we have completed a survey of the Old Testament. The TFA women love the study and wish they had participated in this training years ago. Next semester? Church history! Come join us.

### **Genesis Study**

Our Tuesday morning group, led by Kathy Bailey, discovered how God orchestrates everything for His glory with the study *God of Covenant* by Jen Wilkin. Beginning with Genesis 12, they walked alongside the fathers of our faith to discern Jesus in the stories of His people. The Tuesday group had a wonderful time of study and friendship.





### Vision

Vision Weekend has, over the past 12 years, been the largest and most successful student ministry event we host with 180-200 students, 20+ host homes, 20+ college and young adult leaders, and an ongoing list of service opportunities throughout the city. This year we decided to turn Vision Weekend on its head. I had watched our students become very accustomed to what would happen over the entire weekend event. That high level of familiarity brought about a low level of apathy. Our goal this year was for our students to have an all-new experience that might shake the cobwebs off of that small bit of apathy.

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The weekend was a call for our students to become intentional about following Christ's words in Matthew 6:10, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We introduced our students to some new concepts this year in an effort to let them wrestle with the idea of how they can serve as agents in the Kingdom of God here on earth.

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The most significant stretch for our students, our ministry, and our church was taking our high school students to visit the Clear Lake Islamic Center (CLIC) on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday afternoon is typically the time when our students would all be serving at various mission projects.

Before heading over to the center, and under the direction of Aaron Glenn and Josh

& Hilary Morris, our high school students had a Q&A with Josh and Hilary who have a lot of

experience in this area.

COME LET US BOW AT HIS FEET



### Children's Ministries

### Vision Trip to the Dominican Republic

-By Karen Murphy

South Texas Children's Home International Ministries (STCHM) offers a Vision Trip each year. The purpose of the trip is to help cast vision about mission opportunities in the Dominican Republic. This year, I had the privilege of participating, along with Jennifer Ebell and Karol Peters. Each time I go to the Dominican Republic, I leave a little more of my heart there. To see the changes in the lives of children and adults is one of the greatest rewards imaginable. The stories of God's presence are limitless.

On this trip, we toured four schools, four orphanages, and two houses where STCHM partners with Dominicans. One stop along the way was Raquel's school. This was the school where our first UBC Family Mission Trip built a playground and helped clear out rubble from the addition of a new concrete roof. It was incredible to see the concrete school building that was recently enlarged by adding a second two-story structure. The student population at the school has more than doubled, and the school can now offer English and computer classes. One of the fun moments was having the kids come in and share their English-speaking abilities with us as we were enjoying coffee. They were proud, and so were we!

We also visited a school in Villa Altagracia. Our UBC team visited there this past summer, and several of our Samuel's Fund kids are from there. It was impossible to visualize the cramped, inadequate apartment of the past when I saw the beautiful school now. It was wonderful to hear the kids sing "Worthy is the Lamb" to our team in English. This facility now hosts a new church plant as well.

I finally got to see Rosa Elana's school! This school is another one where UBC has invested in teacher training. I had heard much about this school and Rosa Elana's story, and now finally, I had the opportunity to see the rebuilt school that was founded on the side of a deep ravine. Due to the mission efforts of so many, it now consists of multiple concrete buildings. We had the joy of sharing a meal with their leadership and visited with some of the Samuel Fund Kids that are sponsored by UBC families.



Another orphanage/school we visited was in Higuey. We spent a couple of hours playing games and eating lunch with them and then we went to the vacant land where they hope to build a future home for the boys someday soon.

This was such a beneficial trip for me to be able to see these places and experience the ministry that goes on. Kingdom work was evident everywhere we went, and UBC's presence was encouraging to me. It seemed as if at each stop along the way there was at least one or more Samuel's Fund Kids that a UBC family sponsors. In so many conversations with the STCH leadership, they refer to ministry at a particular place and, until now, I had no reference as to what areas they were talking about. Now, as we dream about future ministry opportunities, I can share in the vision.

Joanna Berry, STCH Vice President of Family and International Ministries has stated well, "the needs in every area are mind-boggling—hunger, disease, orphans, housing, abuse. Resources are so few in comparison." The vision has been cast to many – but few will accept the call.















fine-tune their cars. The race is open to all of the children of UBC, whether or not they participate in the weekly Royal Ambassador meetings.

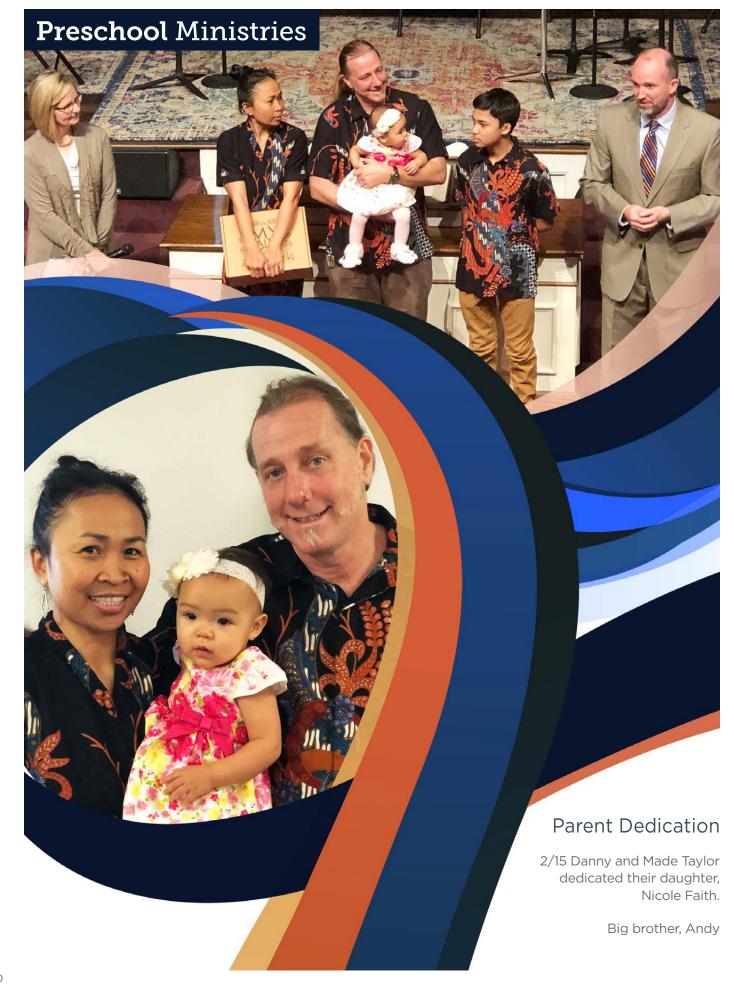
In the past, we had several girls participate, however this year it was all boys, sixteen in all with many family members to cheer them on! Eight high school students, college students, and other adults helped with the race, for which we say, "Thank you for your help!" In two age groups, trophies were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, Best of Show, and Best Christian Theme.



Another year of UBC Bible Drill just concluded after drillers participated in the Church, Association, and State bible drills this spring. On average, fourteen 4th and 5th graders attended class weekly. On March 3rd, UBC held our Church Drill with eleven kids participating. Nine of them qualified for the Association Drill in Sugarland on March 24th, and six kids attended. Five of them qualified for and drilled at the State Bible Drill which took place at Tallowood Baptist Church on April 12th. We are SO very proud of our UBC drillers this year!

Aaron and Mandy McDonald and Robert Bradbury do such an excellent job with this program, and we are eternally grateful for their ministry to our kids.

We finished our semester with our annual family trip to Fiesta Texas! We had 31 folks go this year, and it is always such a fun time as we celebrate the entire family's commitment to Bible Drill. It does take support and encouragement at home for a child to be successful with Bible Drill, and we are so appreciative of the way many families embrace this. GREAT JOB EVERYBODY!



### Right at Home Moms -Spring Semester

by Megan Richards

Right at Home Moms (RAHM) is a ministry of UBC specifically for stay-at-home moms of infant to preschool aged kids. This is such a unique stage of life, and this ministry serves to be a place for these moms to come together for precious adult time, encouragement, and spiritual growth. We focus on three major areas: our marriages, our parenting, and our personal growth.

This spring, 15 women joined RAHM to read *The Ministry of Ordinary Places* by Shannan Martin. The author encouraged us to look for our ministering opportunities right where we are now, starting with the little ones at our feet and the people next door. By opening our hearts to see the people around us as the Lord sees them, the opportunities are endless to love as Jesus loved.

Each session, we met as a large group for teaching, discussion, and to dig into the Word of God, and then we broke into smaller groups for prayer. This semester we also gathered for a ladies' night out enjoying dinner and games together as well as play dates to the zoo and park.

To help offset the cost of the study and childcare, RAHM hosts an annual bake sale. We have incredibly talented ladies who supplied myriads of delicious sweets and sold \$1,004.25 worth of baked goods this year. We are most appreciative to this generous and supportive church for making this sale such a success!



### Springtacular





### **Embrace Life**

by Michelle Tanner

Embrace Life's spring semester focused on the people God placed in our lives and had us look to the future and all that God has in store. Participants created vision boards with the ladies' hopes and dreams for their future, as well as their children's, and discussed how to choose relationships (both friendships and romantic) that will encourage and strengthen their relationship with Christ. We focused on Ephesians 3:20, "God can do more than all we ask or imagine." Women in the group were empowered to voice the desires the Lord has placed in their hearts and they learned how to take small steps in that direction.

Each week, "Bloom Bucks" were earned by those who attended class, completed weekly homework assignments, participated in Adventure Days, and responded to weekly text checkins. In March, a churchwide Love Above initiative was created to raise money for gift cards. Bloom Bucks were exchanged for the gift cards to help fill various needs of these young mothers and their little ones. Because of UBC's generous donations, Love Above raised \$925 providing significant assistance to each of the five moms currently attending Embrace Life with groceries and diapers, gas and clothing, and even the occasional out-to-eat treat. Love Above and the Bloom Bucks have helped immensely with the overall mission of Embrace Life, which is to inspire and equip the church to love on single and pregnant moms and their families so that every girl with an unplanned pregnancy would have a church to come to for spiritual, emotional, and physical support.

For more information on Embrace Grace and Embrace Life, please contact the Preschool Ministries office or visit ubc.org.

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Women in the group were empowered to voice the desires the Lord has placed in their hearts and learned how to take small steps in that direction.





In January, the children made Valentine cards for the UBC deacons to take to church members who are homebound, living in assisted care homes, or are widows or widowers. The sweet words of love and encouragement made a significant impact on the hearts of those who received them.

February was all about supporting the Clear Lake Baptist Food Pantry. After the holidays and the government furlough, their shelves were in desperate need of restocking. Weekday families brought over 100 non-perishable items to help the food pantry continue to be a blessing to families in our area facing hardships.

To support Embrace Grace, UBC had a church-wide emphasis in March, so Weekday encouraged the families to also love on young moms in the program. Families brought gift cards to help the Embrace Grace moms purchase basic supplies for their babies. As a church, nearly \$1000 in gift cards was donated to support these moms and precious babies. What a blessing this will be as the moms start life with their new babies.

In April, Weekday students wrote notes of support to the soldiers of the 274 FST. These cards will be hand delivered by a friend of Weekday to some soldiers who need some extra encouragement. The children had fun being creative as they drew, painted, and colored scenes of things that make them smile for the soldiers. The cards were filled with such sweet joy!







### Easter is Good, and Easter is Beautiful!

Weekday teaches children that Easter is beautiful and wonderful. At our annual Flowering of the Cross, an old, rugged, ugly cross is laid flat for the children to see. Each child brings a flower from home and puts it on the cross. At the end of the service, when the cross is standing upright, the children are able to see how beautiful their flowers made that ugly cross. We talk about how Jesus' love for each of us is just as beautiful and amazing. It's a meaningful morning for everyone and a fantastic way to begin our Easter celebrations.

Do you ever wonder what happens to the flowers the children placed on the cross? One of our wonderful deacons, Jill Tatum, had an excellent idea to take the flowers and make small bouquets and place them in a vase. The deacons are then encouraged to share the vases of flowers with others. What a unique way to use these flowers handpicked by our preschoolers to share love with others!









### Family Fun in Weekday!

On March 28th, Weekday held our annual Pizza Night and Art Show for students and their families. The night was full of celebration as each child's unique God-given creativity was on display for all to see.

The families were able to fellowship with each other and with the Weekday teachers while enjoying pizza and desserts. There was also a time to worship God and allow the kids to sing and dance. It's always a favorite night in the school year for everyone!

# Worship Ministries

### Welcome New Pastor of Worship Ministries

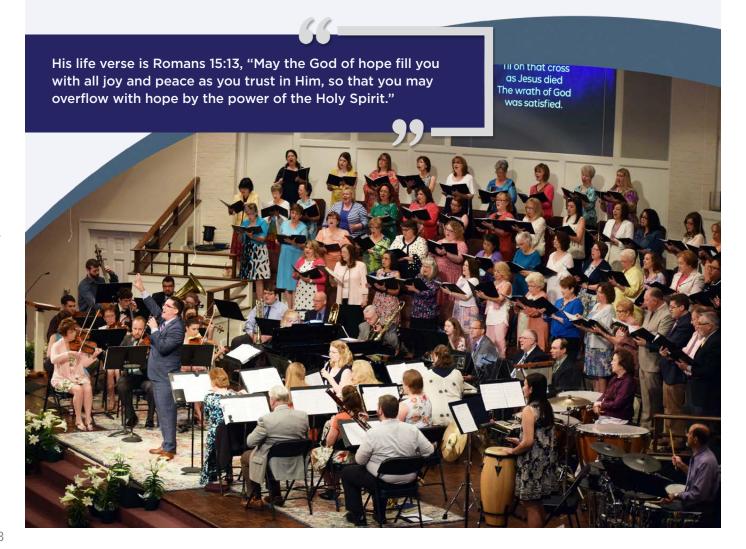
On Sunday, February 10, we voted to extend a call to Bart Morrison to serve as UBC's Pastor of Worship Ministries. The vote was unanimous! We've thoroughly enjoyed the last two months with Bart on staff and look forward to what's to come!

Bart is a lifetime member of the Baptist Church Music Conference and the American Choral Directors Association. In his spare time, Bart enjoys spending time with family, reading, watching movies, and traveling.

Bart and Becky have two children, Christopher and Hayley, both graduates of Ouachita Baptist University. Christopher has a degree in finance and works for Regions Bank. Hayley has a degree in math and physics education and teaches at El Dorado High School.



Bart's professional education includes a Bachelor of Music Education in Voice and Organ from Oklahoma Baptist University and a Master of Music in Church Music with an emphasis in Music Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently finishing his Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Abilene Christian University.



### Ben Sandstrom's Sabbatical

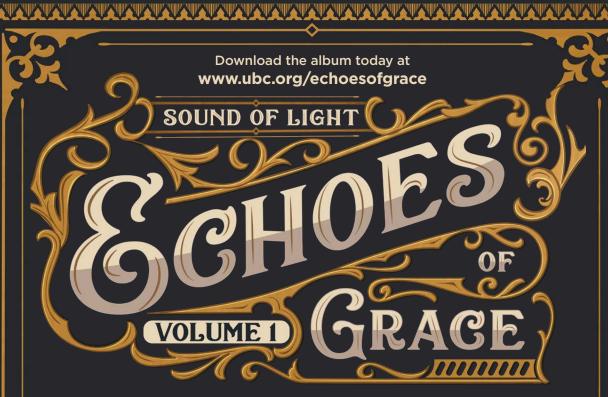
Recently, Ben Sandstrom marked his five year anniversary of service at UBC as Associate Pastor of Contemporary Worship. Here are some thoughts from Ben about the time spent on his 5-year sabbatical.

"The time away came at an important moment in my life. The last couple of years have been difficult for me and my family, and the sabbatical provided time to rest, unplug, and focus on soul care.

One emphasis I had during the sabbatical was journaling. Journaling is not a normal part of my routine, but I wanted to spend time processing what God was teaching me by writing about what I was learning. To be able to write out my thoughts and feelings was one of the healthiest things I've done. It deepened my relationship with God, helped me process my thoughts and feelings, and provided a much needed rest.

One week I was able to spend some time in the mountains with my wife, Linzi! Being in nature, breathing in fresh air, and seeing God's beautiful creation was a very energizing part of the sabbatical.





Ben Sandstrom and Sound of Light released a new album, Echoes of Grace, in February. This instrumental album was designed to take you on a meditative musical journey with reimagined hymns and also includes devotionals written by a handful of our UBC pastors and some other guest worship leaders. Our hope is that this album will be a powerful spiritual formation tool for you and your family for years to come.

# HYMNS ON THE ALBUM

The Doxology
Be Thou My Vision
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Grace Greater Than Our Sin
Give Me Jesus

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Trinity Medley Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus It Is Well



WORSHIP AVERAGES				
9:30 11:00 Totals				
Sept-Dec 2018	567	405	972	
Sept-Dec 2019         542         390         932				

ADULT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS			
	Enrolled Average Attended		
Jan-Apr 2018	862	384	
Jan-Apr 2019	878	395	

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS (BIRTH-PREK-4)		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Jan-Apr 2018	424	192
Jan-Apr 2019	295	163

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Kindergarten was moved from Preschool Ministries to the Children's Ministries in Aug 2018. Last year's Spring quarter numbers included Kindergarten.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS (K-5TH GRADE)		
Enrolled Average Attended		
Jan-Apr 2018	392	146
Jan-Apr 2019	485	160

STUDENT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS			
	Enrolled	Average Attended	
Jan-Apr 2018	429	161	
Jan-Apr 2019	437	162	

PRESCHOOL AVG. JAN-A	APR 2019
Praise Kids Choirs	17
Mission Friends	10
Easter Springtacular	350+
Egg Stuffing	40
Right At Home Moms Ministry	20
Embrace Life	7

CHILDREN'S AVG.	<b>JAN-APR 2019</b>
Chorus Kids	37
Handbells	14
Bible Blast/Drill	21
Royal Ambassadors	25
Girls in Action	25
Pinewood Derby	40+

ADULT MINISTRY AVG.	JAN	-APR 2019
Women's Retreat		63
Men's Breakfast		31
College & Career Retreat		20
PT Pastors Lunch	•	55

STUDENT MINISTRY AVG. JAN-A	PR 2019
Vision	175+
IS Late Night	22
Crave	30+
Merge	20+

# Financial Report

# University Baptist Church 6 Months October 2018 to March 2019 (50%)

	Actual	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent
Budgetary Contributions	\$1,904,004			
Ministry Contributions	\$19,831			
Other Income	\$7,281			
Total Revenue	\$1,931,115			
Missions Ministry	\$190,400	\$371,500	\$181,100	51.25%
Communications Ministry	\$28,577	\$114,000	\$85,423	25.07%
Serving Ministries	\$4,052	\$18,200	\$14,148	22.26%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$27,262	\$55,800	\$28,538	48.86%
Family Ministry	\$7 <b>,</b> 595	\$34,500	\$26,905	22.01%
Women's Ministry	\$9,391	\$11,500	\$2,109	81.66%
Adult Ministry	\$20,173	\$69,200	\$49,027	29.15%
Student Ministry	\$25,334	\$62,000	\$36,666	40.86%
Children Ministry	\$6,552	\$49,000	\$42,448	13.37%
Preschool Ministry	\$6,940	\$23,600	\$16,660	29.41%
Total Ministry	\$326,276	\$809,300	\$483,024	40.32%
Administration	\$103,519	\$219,700	\$116,181	47.12%
Personnel	\$997,588	\$2,196,000	\$1,198,412	45.43%
Total Administration	\$1,101,107	\$2,415,700	\$1,314,593	45.58%
Facility	\$228,329	\$490,000	\$261,671	46.60%
Capital Improvements	\$48,750	\$0	(\$48,750)	
Total Facility & CP & Funding	\$277,078	\$490,000	\$212,922	56.55%
Total Expenditures	\$1,704,461	\$3,715,000	\$2,010,539	45.88%
Net Income	\$226,654			
	Begin	Activity	End	
Designated Funds	\$521,906	\$329,045	\$850,951	
Prior Year Budget Funds	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	
Reserve Funds	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	
Unrestricted Funds			\$283,860	
Total Cash & Investments			\$1,654,811	
Current Other Assets (a)			\$1,457	
Current Liabilities			\$33,579	
Mortgage/Long-Term Liability			\$0	

Mike Herman, Treasurer

Footnotes:

a) Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable and any prepaid expenses.

# Membership Report

### **UBC** Membership Additions

January-April 2019

#### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

- Sarah Cunningham
- Karen Draper
- Chase Heins
- Kaiden Hewson
- Ella McDonald
- Camden Slazer
- Keaton Smith
- Ethan Spezzapria
- Talia Summey
- Taylor Sun
- Traneice Thomas
- Emma Woolry

#### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER

- Donna Jackson
- Jeff Jackson
- Evan S. Knight
- Bart Morrison
- Becky Morrison
- Dottie Short
- Leo Spezzapria
- Rachel Spezzapria
- Vanson Spezzapria
- Eddie Weller, Jr.

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY STATEMENT

- Guy Cagle
- Jan Clark
- Thomas R. Clark
- Janet Cowey
- Michael Cowey
- Alexandra Flores
- Michael Flores
- LaRinda Horan
- Randolph Steven Rust
- Rose Rust
- Dell Schooler
- Gary Schooler

### **UBC** Membership Deletions

January-April 2019

#### MEMBERS LETTERED OUT

- Denton Davies
- Lesley Davies
- Nathan Kapner
- Mary Kapner
- Sharon Ott

### MEMBERS BY ERASURE

- Lynne Long
- Lavoyda Williams

#### BY DEATH

- Mamie Atkinson
- Rana Peper

# **Administrative** Report

### Focus Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2019

The Focus Meeting was held in the Chapel at University Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday January 27, 2019. Dr. Steven Laufer, Senior Pastor called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. There were 73 people in attendance.

The Senior Pastor's Report is on page 4 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Executive Director's Report is on page 5 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Church Family Picnic Report is on pages 6-7 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Fall Festival Report is on pages 8-9 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Serving Ministries Report is on pages 1-13 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Faith @ Home Ministries Report is on pages 14 -16 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Adult Ministries Report is on page 16 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Men's Ministries Report is on page 17 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Women's Ministries Report is on pages 19-21 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Student Ministries Report is on pages 22–23 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Children's Ministries Report is on pages 24-25 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Preschool Ministries Report is on pages 26–28 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Weekday Ministries Report is on pages 29–31 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Worship Ministries Report is on pages 32-36 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Attendance Report for Weekend Bible Study and Worship are found on page 37 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

The Financial Report is on pages 38–39 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

A full report of the membership changes during the period September-December are on page 40 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019. During that period, 5 were received by baptism; 9 by letter; and 2 by statement.

#### Requests for letters

- · Katie Kinsey Adams
- Bruce Bristow
- Peggy Bristow
- Kathy Carnes
- Elizabeth Conner
- Bob Needham
- Joan Needham

### By Erasure

Lisa Bradbury Torrealba

### By Death

- Richard Bingham
- Harold Hill
- Bill Platt

The changes in membership were reviewed and the requests for letters were approved by voice vote after a motion by Wayne Hale and a second by Skip Inbody. A prayer was offered for those leaving, that they would be productive in their new churches and for new members who had recently joined UBC by Richard Simmons.

The minutes of the September 30, 2018 Focus Meeting are on pages 41–42 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote after a motion by Kathy Ozenberger and a second by Pete Reeder.

The UBC Foundation Report is on pages 43-46 of the Book of Reports dated January 27, 2019.

An update was given on the Worship Pastor Search by Terry Reeves. On February 10, 2019 Bart and Becky Morrison will be coming in view of a call. Bart will lead worship at 9:30 a.m. on February 10 and at 3:00 p.m. a question and answer session will be held in the Chapel and at 4:00 p.m. the people will vote.

Updates were given by David Mobley and Steve Laufer about the master plan for facilities in the future.

Dr. Laufer asked for a motion to end the meeting. A motion was given by Jim Tatum and a second by Wayne Hale.

Dr. Laufer closed the meeting with a prayer.

Virginia Thomas Church Secretary



### Minutes for Special Called Business Meeting

February 10, 2019

3:00 p.m. Chapel

The called business meeting was called to order by Dr. Steven Laufer with a prayer. There were 251 members in attendance for the meeting. Dr. Laufer introduced Terry Reeves, Chairman of the Worship Search Task Force team. Terry introduced the candidate, Bart Morrison and his wife, Becky. Bart & Becky shared their story and answered questions from the members in attendance.

After questions were answered, the Morrisons were asked to step out. The Executive Council and the Search Task Force Team passed out the ballots. Steve explained that you must be a Church Member in order to cast a vote. He asked people to mark their ballots and the ballots were picked up.

The members of the Executive Council, Search Task Force Team and a Trustee representative left and counted the ballots.

Steve Laufer announced that the vote was unanimous, and Bart Morrison was approved. He was offered the position and accepted at this meeting.

Steve asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Stuart Skeeter and a second by David McCauley. Steve invited the Deacons down to the front to lay on hands and pray. Steve led the prayer and after praying the meeting was adjourned.

Virginia Thomas
Church Secretary

# **UBC Foundation** Reports

The UBC Foundation is excited to announce the launch of a Planned Giving Program in 2019. This program has been in the works for 3 years and is ready for rollout this year. In addition, the Foundation will continue to award student scholarships, support ministries and mission locally and around the world, and will hold the annual Golf Tournament and two Dine Out to Donate events.

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM -

www.ubcfoundationlegacy.org

The UBC Foundation has worked with a company called Crescendo Interactive to create a special webpage to educate UBC members on ways to give through their estate plans.

Visit www.ubcfoundationlegacy.org to:

- Find out different ways to give through your estate plans
- Potential tax advantages of planned gifts
- Sample bequest language to share with your attorney
- Tax i.d.# for the UBC Foundation
- Sign up for the monthly UBC Foundation Newsletter

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring Dine Out to Donate - Monday, May 20

Fall Dine Out to Donate - Monday, October 21

UBC Golf Tournament - Monday, November 11

### FACEBOOK PAGE -

**UBC** Foundation of Houston

The Foundation has created a Facebook page "UBC Foundation Houston." Please visit and "like" our page and feel free to "share" with your friends. Here we post about special events, organizations we support, scholarship recipients, and general information about planned giving.

### 2019 BOARD MEMBERS

Butch Sheehy - Chair

John Hammond - Treasurer

Mary Ann Shallberg - Secretary

Candace Griffithe - Communications

Shawn Broddle - Investment Oversight

Alan Wylie - Projects and Grants

Debs Cofer - Member

Kelly Dean - Member

Jason Demers - Trustee Liaison

Brynda McCormick - Executive Committee Liaison

John Kinsey - Deacon Liaison and Policy

Wally Long - Administrator

Ex Officio Members:

David Mobley - Staff Liaison

Steve Laufer - Pastor

# Serving Ministries Financial Report

Denominational Mission Special Offerings	\$11,000
Missionary Support	\$66,500
Partner Organizations	\$68,000
Mission Trips	\$175,000
Ministry Teams	\$16,000
Denominational Support	

BGCT - State Association \$140,000 UBA - City Association \$80,000

### "City" Ministries

- Beltway 8 Crisis Pregnancy Center
- The Bridge over Troubled Waters
- Bay Area Turning Point
- Anchor Point
- Interfaith Caring Ministries
- Mission Centers of Houston
- Mercy Tree Support
- · Practical Care
- 1000 Hills
- Anchor Point Camp
- · Celebrate the Light
- Crossing Cultures
- Kids Hope
- Vastago de Gracia Spanish Congregation

#### "Country" Ministries (U.S. Based)

- Buckner Rio Grand Valley
- Redeemed Ministries Human Trafficking
- The House LA Church start
- New City Church NYC
- UT Rio Grand Valley BSM
- · Buckner Home Build
- Serving Trip Scholarships
- UM Army Youth Mission Trip

### "World" Ministries

- WOW Philippines
- Genesis South Africa
- Chela Program/Seminary in India
- Venezuelan church plant and shelter
- Living Water International (two wells)
- · Coats for Katya Russia
- Vine and Branches Mexico
- Dominican Republic / STCHM

\$41,000

\$29,500

\$24,000

