When I was a boy growing up in Alberta, Canada, we lived out in the country and had several gardens around our house. The largest garden was used for growing potatoes.

I remember those potato planting days. I remember the whole family being involved. After my Dad had tilled the soil, we all went to work. Me, being the youngest, may have done more playing in the freshly tilled soil than actual planting. My Mom, brothers and sister went to work. One of my assignments was my job to drop the little seed potatoes in the rows while my Mom dropped handfuls of fertilizer beside them. The little seed potatoes were then covered with the freshly turned earth.

For months afterward, I would look over at the garden while I played outside and wonder what was going on underneath the ground. When the harvest time came I was amazed at the huge size of the potatoes my Dad pulled out of the soil. Those little seedlings had grown into bushels and bushels of sweet sustenance. They would be turned into meal after meal of baked potatoes, boiled potatoes, fried potatoes; they would keep the entire family well fed throughout the whole year. It truly was a miracle to behold.

Thinking back, I wonder how many other seeds I have planted in this life that have grown unseen in the hearts and minds of others? How many times has God used some little thing that I said or did to grow something beautiful? How many times has Heaven used these little seedlings to provide another's soul with sweet sustenance?

Every single day of our lives we step out into the garden of this world. I am reminded in Colossians where Paul exhorts the believers to "...put on your new nature...clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...clothe yourselves with love...and whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus." I believe that we are encouraged and commanded to do that because those actions become the seeds that can grow into something beautiful. We may never see the growth that comes from the kind words or loving acts we share. God sees them and I believe He uses those actions and words as sun, soil and water in the lives of people around us.

Blessings, Dennis

## Preaching Schedule

Sept. 2 FBC Galveston

9 Truth Missionary

16 Open

23 Open

30 Open

## Senior Adult Game Day Join us for Fun and Fellowship Tuesday, Sept. 11 @ 1:30 PM

Northside Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (next to playground) 2801 25<sup>th</sup> Street N Texas City

For more information call Betty Sumners @ 409-945-2081.

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## Hispanic Nominating Committee Saturday, Sept. 8

4 PM

Primera Iglesia Galveston 5809 Broadway

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## GBA 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 16 Arcadia First Baptist Church 14828 Hwy 6, Santa Fe

Preacher for Annual Sermon Rev. Richard Scott, Pastor Family Unity Baptist Church

Contact the GBA Office, 409-938-8942 or office@galvestonbaptist. org to make reservations for lunch.

Display tables will be available upon request.

Please let us know by Oct. 1 about corrections and/or additions for your church to be printed in The Annual Book of Reports which will be available at the annual meeting.

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#### **ACP Reports**

Please return your ACP Reports to the GBA Office, 1221 Cedar Dr., La Marque, TX 77568 by Nov. 16.

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## **Staff Positions Open**

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## <u>Arcadia FBC</u> - Media Secretary position in Church Office

The Personnel Committee at Arcadia First Baptist Church is looking to hire a full-time Media Secretary. This person will be responsible for all the media of the church, various

### From The Moderator

As most of you know, our annual meeting (Oct 16) will be here before you know it. With our annual meeting comes some important roles to fill. First, we have 4 spots on the Admin team that need to be filled. Whether we have a full time, part-time or interim Executive Director, the Admin team provides an important leadership function for the association and the Executive Director. They help fulfill the wishes of the association from year to year as well as other important decisions throughout the year.

In addition to our Admin team we have four teams that are vital in helping us fulfill our mission of Advancing God's Kingdom through the work of Promoting Leadership Development, Providing Crisis Response and Facilitating Missional Opportunities. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read a short synopsis of what each team is tasked with doing to help our association reach it's goal. These positions can be filled by pastors, staff members or laymen from our supporting churches. As your Moderator and fellow pastor, I urge you to get involved in our association by serving on a team, sitting on the Admin Team or attending any of our monthly pastor gatherings. Together we can advance Gods' Kingdom.

Clay Bowers, Moderator Pastor, Northside Baptist Church 409-945-4820 Office 409-539-2070 Cell www.northsidebaptisttxc.org

## **GBA Team Job Descriptions**

**Pastoral Care** – will provide necessary structure and support for all pastors, churches and church staff of the GBA when times of personal or congregational crisis arise.

The team will promote ongoing personal and congregational health through training events and resources.

**Leadership Development – Aaron Sanders, Leader -** The Leadership Development Team is responsible for equipping pastors, staff, churches and volunteers for the work of ministry. The team will promote leadership development through training opportunities, resources, coaching and personal relationships.

**Missions Team – John Eckeberger, Leader -** will promote opportunities for individuals and churches to engage in mission work locally and world-wide. The team will provide opportunities to learn more about mission work.

Crisis Response Team – John Knape, Leader – will be responsible

## What Happened This Summer.....

First Baptist Alta Loma, John Newton Pastor

VBS "Time Lab", 190 enrolled, 4 salvations Power Plus Youth Camp at Pinewoods Baptist Encampment, one student gave his life to Christ and one rededicated his life.

Northside Baptist Church, Clay Bowers Pastor

VBS – 59 enrolled, no decisions but plenty of seeds planted One Camp Youth Camp in Palacios, 17 attended, 8 professions



**FBC La Marque,** Pastor David Smith, August 13, 1939, 79 years

New Hope Baptist Church, Pastor Dick Sumner, July 1989, 29 years

**Primera Iglesia Bautista Hitchcock,** Pastor Leonardo Diaz, celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> year





## Christmas Stocking Work Day Wed., Sept. 19, 9:30 AM

Items needed are: small balls, small dolls, color books, girls jewelry, draw string bags – 4"X6", jump ropes, jacks, play doh, soap & wash cloths, stockings and yoyos.

Items for the teenagers include deodorants, cologne, perfume, nail polish, lip gloss, playing cards, small games, tooth paste & brushes, small items that can fit in a gallon size zip lock bag.

Bring your favorite salad or snack and join us as we continue our goal of preparing 500 stockings.



### 3 Labor Day – office closed NO PASTOR'S BREAKFAST THIS MONTH

- 5 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon, New Life
- 6 GBA Prayer time @ 10 AM, Family Unity
- 7 Hispanic Nominating Committee @ 10 AM, Primera Galv
- 9-16 Mary Hill Davis Week of Prayer
- 10 Pastor's Monthly Meeting, 10 AM, Northside
- 11 Senior Adult Game Day @ 1:30, Northside Baptist Sisers Who Care @ 6 PM, TMBC
- 12 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon, New Life Fellowship
- 13 GBA Prayer time @ 10 AM, Family Unity

# Vraming Events

#### October

- 1 Pastor/Staff Breakfast @ 7:30 AM, Kelley's
- 4 Admin Team Meeting @ 2 PM
- 16 GBA 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Arcadia FBC
- 29- 2 Valley Mission Trip

#### November

- 1-4 Lone Star Motorcycle Rally, Galveston
  - 5 Pastor/Staff Breakfast @ 7:30 AM, Kelley's
  - 19 Mission Galveston Thanksgiving Lunch

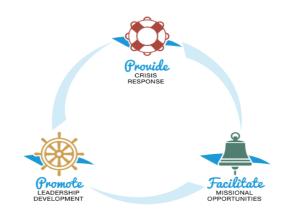
#### December

2 Pastor/Staff Breakfast @ 7:30 AM, Kelley's GBA Christmas Party



Thank you to all who participated in the "Change for Change" project; \$26,000 has been collected so far.

These funds will keep the



## Advancing God's Kingdom