



# GALVESTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

December 2018



Dr. James [Jim] and Kathy Grant

Jim was raised, along with his five sisters in Missouri until he entered the Air Force in 1972; having made a it a career, he retired from the military in 1997. He was ordained in 1994 to the Gospel ministry. Dr. Grant has pastored four churches over the last 21 years; pastoring in San Antonio and Fort Worth Texas, his last pastorate in Alton Illinois. He completed his seminary education with a Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages from Southwestern Baptist Seminary [2002] and his Doctor of Ministry in the concentration of Church Revitalization from Midwestern Baptist Seminary [2013]. He is a writer, contributing to two books and the Renovate magazine with its reader base of 20,000 subscribers; additionally, he is a blogger at [www.preachbetweenthelines.com](http://www.preachbetweenthelines.com). Dr. Grant is a conference speaker on Church Health and Revitalization. He annually speaks at the National Renovate Conference in Orlando, and has conducted conferences in Canada, Illinois, Kanas and Texas; teaching state, associational and local pastors on church health and strategic methods. He is married to the former Kathy Fassbender. They have been married for nearly 43 years. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.



### Christmas Stocking Thank You

Thanks to everyone who donated items, time and/or money to the Christmas Stocking Ministry. We took 500 stuffed stockings plus 150 extras, plus some more “stuffers”, and 78 joy bags for teenagers. We also be took Sunday school materials, clothes, school supplies, wheel chairs, walkers and miscellaneous items.

The ladies worked in the stocking room filling 121 more stockings, making and wrapping 113 more joy bags and 22 bags for the pastor’s wives. We also helped organize their work room.

The men worked on the steeple and painted the outside of the Iglesia Bautista y Omega church in San Juan.

We hope to have more people join us for the 2019 Valley Mission Trip which will be in the first part of December. By going in December, we can actually go into the “Colonials to help pass out the stockings and visit with the children and their families.

Orders for oranges and grapefruit are being currently being taken to help fund the 2019 Mission Trip.



### *GBA Pastor/Wife/Staff Christmas Party*

*Monday, December 3  
6:30 PM*

*Entertainment by  
David Gentiles  
FBC Friendswood*

*Come help welcome  
Dr. Jim and Kathy Grant*

*GBA/Family Unity  
1221 Cedar Dr., La Marque*

RSVP by calling 409-938-8942 or email  
[gbassociation1@gmail.com](mailto:gbassociation1@gmail.com)

## From Dennis .....

Once there was a little boy who was really mean. No matter what his parents did, he continued to be self-centered, selfish and...well, mean! Christmas was coming soon, so the little boy, in his usual selfish way, wrote his "Dear Santa" letter – 3 pages of gadgets and toys!

When his parents saw the monstrous letter, they were outraged. His father picked up the little boy and carried him to the living room, setting him firmly on the floor in front of the family's nativity scene. "I want you to sit right here and look at this scene until you remember what Christmas is all about. Then you must write a letter to Jesus."

So, the little boy sat there a while and then returned to his bedroom. Finding paper and pencil, he began to write: "Dear Jesus, if you will bring me all the presents I want, I will be good for a whole year." Then he thought for a moment and tore up the paper. He wrote again: "Dear Jesus, if you will bring me all the presents I want, I will be good for a whole week," but again he tore up the letter.

The little boy quietly left his room and returned to the living room to look intently at the nativity scene. He gently reached down and picked up the figure of Mary. Returning to his room, he placed the figure in a shoebox and set the box in the back of his closet. The he wrote another letter: "Dear Jesus, if you want to see your mother again..."

Like me, when you read this story, you probably chuckled. But with my chuckling came the realization that this story represents the world's idea of Christmas. Many think Christmas is an opportunity to satisfy their own desires. You undoubtedly have seen the gradual unfolding of the Christmas season in stores earlier and earlier each year. Most stores have had their Christmas decorations and products on the shelves for several weeks already.

The message of Christmas is giving – not giving to ourselves, but the giving of ourselves. Born almost 2000 years ago, Jesus came to earth for one reason: to provide a way for you and me to go to heaven. God gave Jesus to you and me because of His extraordinary love. It was God who set the precedent and started all the giving of gifts. He gave us the gift of Jesus to provide for us "life full of meaning!"

I want to challenge you this Christmas season to do something uncomfortable and give gifts that you have never given before. I am not sure what that would look like in your situation but allow the Father to impress upon your heart something that you have never done. Involve a friend, your family, your spouse, - share with people "the Good News that will bring great joy to all people." Ask Him to show you what to do and then be prepared to obey.

Have a great and joyful Christmas season!

I have been privileged to serve you these last six months here at the Galveston Baptist Association. It has refreshed my heart to see the diversity of the body of Christ. Not everyone is accomplishing God's mission and His plans the same way. We are all one body, but there are different parts of this one body doing different parts-things and that is good. I believe there are great things ahead for the GBA and I am glad to have been apart of them. If I can assist you in Advancing the Kingdom, I would like to be a part of what you do.

You are loved – Dennis Janz



National Goal \$160 million

## Nassau Bay Baptist

December 2 – 5:30 PM Staff Open House

Staff members prepare holiday goodies for the church body to say “Thank You” for their love and encouragement during 2018.

December 5 – 5:00 PM Student Chick Fil A Night Fundraiser

December 7 – 6:30 PM Ladies’ NativiTea with Houston AD Players performing “The Littleboro Valley Story”

December 15 – 7:00 PM “I’ll Be Home For Christmas”  
by Adoration Choir and Drama Team

December 16 – 2:30 PM and 6:00 PM “I’ll Be Home For Christmas”  
by Adoration Choir and Drama Team

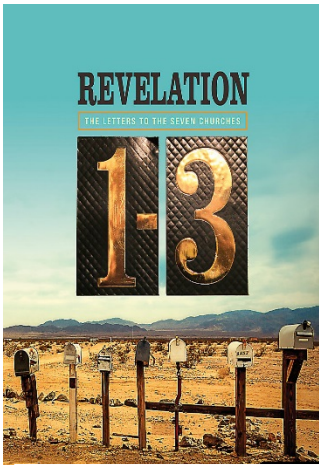
December 24 – 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service



## Primera de Hitchcock

Primera de Hitchcock is having the children Christmas program on December 16 at 10:30 AM.

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## Winter Bible Study

Taught by

Dr. Jim Grant  
GBA Executive Director

January 2019

If your church is interested in participating,  
please contact the GBA Office at 409-938-  
8942 or [gbassociation1@gmail.com](mailto:gbassociation1@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Events

2-9 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer

3 No Pastor/Staff Breakfast  
GBA Pastor/Wife Christmas Party @ 6:30 PM

5 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon, New Life Fellowship

6 GBA Prayer time @ 10 AM, Family Unity

11 Sisters Who Care @ 6 PM, TMBC

12 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon,

13 GBA Prayer time @ 10 AM, Family Unity

19 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon

20 GBA Prayer time @ 10 AM, Family Unity

23-Jan 2 Office Closed for holidays

### January

1 Happy New Year!

3 Admin Team Meeting @ 2 PM

7 Pastor/Staff Breakfast @ Kelley's

12 Hispanic Fellowship, Primera Hitchcock

15 GBA Executive Board, FBC Friendswood, noon

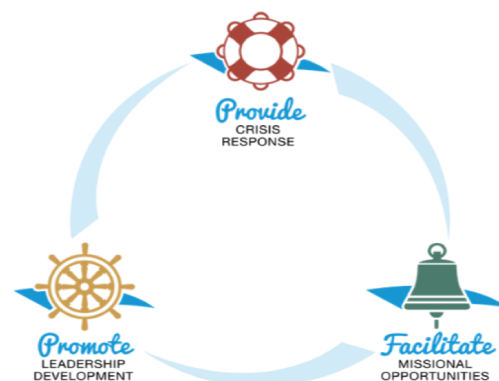
19 IMS Study, Refugees @ FBC Arcadia 9 AM -12

### February

19 Administrative Assistant Luncheon

Merry Christmas

# Advancing God's Kingdom



## Galveston Baptist Association Senior Adult 2018 Rio Grande Valley Fruit Sale



### Just in time or Christmas

Orange and Grapefruit orders will be taken through **November 28**. Profits this year will be used to fund the 2019 Valley Mission Trip.

We just got back from the Valley Mission Trip this week. We tried the fruit while we were there and it is excellent – this will be a good year for the fruit from the Valley Baptist Retreat Center in Mission Texas.

#### **ORANGES**

Naval (seedless) or  
Smaller Marrs  
18 lb bag  
Cost \$12

#### **GRAPE**

Ruby Red  
18 lb bag  
Cost \$12

Because of special pricing, bags will only 1

**Thank you in advance for your**

Order your fruit today by calling Caroline @ 409-  
[gbassociation1@gmail.com](mailto:gbassociation1@gmail.com).



Make check out to GBA

Mail to GBA Office, 1221 Cedar Dr.  
La Marque TX 77568

**By November 28**

Fruit may be picked up at the GBA Office on  
Wednesday, Dec. 5  
9 AM till 4 PM