



March 2019

Dr. Jim's Gems

Houston, We Have a Problem!

I have just read a 35-page document reported by the Houston Chronicle concerning Southern Baptist clergy sexual abuse recently made public. The report states that this has been going on for 20 years. Some very high-profile people are directly named in the story. I know this will be a very sensitive topic for months, even years to come. However, I feel compelled to address the issue. According to the article many abusive situations have continued for years in SBC churches; appalling was that those who were found guilty had moved on to serve at other churches. The article can be viewed by the Houston Chronicle at the link below.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/investigations/article/Southern-Baptist-sexual-abuse-spreads-as-leaders-13588038.php>

We know we live in a fallen world, but when pastors and clergy fall, it makes headlines for days. Southern Baptist have long been known for pointing the finger at other denominations and exposing their failures. However, in this article we find that no one is exempt from sexual abuse problems. The Roman Catholics have been in the news repeatedly for mishandling and disciplining priests in their church for sexually immoral behavior; specifically, with under-aged children.

As the spot light is on Southern Baptist, pastors and ministers of the Gospel, we cannot allow undisciplined sin to remain among our churches. John Piper wrote the book "Brethren we are not professionals" indicating we are not CEO's and presidents of corporations. There has been entrusted to us the vulnerability of fallen people who need our support, Christian love, and compassion. The Houston Chronicle identified these 700 victims over a 20-year period as casualties of "Predators." Regardless of where, when and who this behavior occurs, it must be addressed with an intentional process for recovery, repentance and restoration. Turning a deaf ear to sin in our midst is not an option. While churches do have autonomy, we have a common faith and belief about morality and Christian conduct.

Probably what alarms me most is that this topic has been addressed numerous times to the leaders of the SBC; yet very little has been done to address the problem. We cannot "stick our heads in the sand" any longer. Our churches must be a place of safety and security for all. 1 Peter 4:17, clearly indicates that judgement begins at the house of God. Church Discipline is often talked about but rarely implemented or done redemptively. It only takes one situation alleged or real to destroy the witness of the Church.

I think of Joshua 7 and the defeat at Ai because of Achen's sin. Southern Baptist have been brought under the microscope of the public. How we deal with this will speak volumes to our churches, neighbors and communities. What can be done? Obviously, this is a whole Church issue, we all must be concerned with protecting the innocent. As pastors and leaders of the Church, we can put in place strict measures

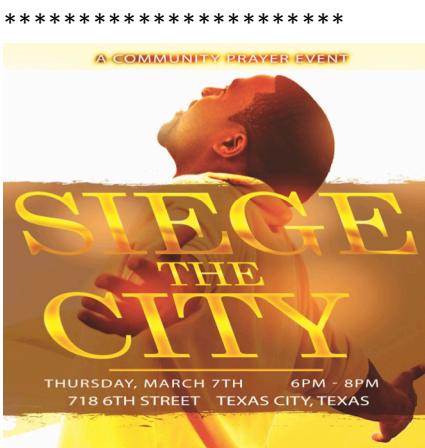


Senior Adult Game Day
Join us for Fun and
Fellowship

Tuesday, Mar. 12 @ 1:30 PM

GBA office
1221 Cedar Dr,
La Marque

Bring a friend, a snack to share and your favorite game.



Members of the Galveston Baptist Association send their condolences to Pastor Rudy and wife Kay Guerrero, Texas Ave Baptist Church, in the recent death of his mother, Cecila "Sally" Guerrero.

Christian Sympathy also to Pastor Clay and wife Belva Bowers, Northside Baptist, in the recent death of her mother, Jennie Barfoot.

Christian Sympathy to Pastor Jack Thompson and wife Debbie in the death of his mother Mamie Thompson



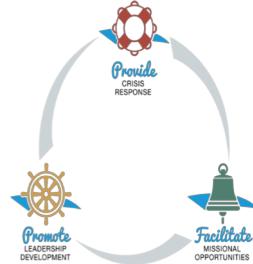
Dr. Jim's Gems, cont'd

that will protect both children and adults from abusive behavior from anyone. Also, there needs to be policies in place to rightly report and restore the victims and those guilty of such behavior. Additionally, there must be in place a process to protect people from false accusations.

The hypocrisy of the World cannot be found in our Churches and our personal lives. We must Walk what we Talk. I am sure this will be a significant topic at our annual meeting in Birmingham this June. We cannot begin the healing and restoration of victims or offenders until we, recognize, repent and admit that we have a problem.

I know there are multitudes of godly, well respected and upright pastors and leaders in our midst. I am not lumping everyone into the same bucket. We must pray for each other and hold one another accountable before God and men. If we do not heed the clarion call to do the right thing, how can we expect people to trust us or the Gospel we preach? This issue must be a PRIORITY in our ministries.

Dr. Jim



Summer Outreach Assistance

If your church is desiring assistance with a summer outreach event such as VBS or block parties, please contact John Eckeberger, chair of the Missional Opportunities Team, and he will connect you with churches who inquire about needs.

Additionally, if your church needs financial assistance in order to provide a "special summer missions opportunity," you are encouraged to submit a Grant Request to the Missional Opportunities Team for consideration. Contact John Eckeberger for more info or an electronic copy of the Grant Request form at john.eckeberger@bayarea.church.

John Eckeberger

Connections / Missions Pastor

www.bayarea.church

office 281.332.2133

mobile 713.628.2453

bayarea
 CHURCH

Bay Area Church
 & Christian School
 4800 West Main Street
 League City, TX 77573



May By The Bay

Adult Camp

May 6-9, 2019

Speakers:

Robert Krause, Rick DuBroc

Darrell Tomasek, Donnie Melton and

Walter Jackson

Music: James Collins

Special music concert Wednesday evening

Missionary:

Bobby Fuller

Bible Teacher:

Jerl Watkins

Devotionals:

Richard Baurs

Reservations and deposits for motel rooms are
Needed by February 28.

For reservations and information call Jeanie at
Texas Baptist Encampment 361-972-2717

Welcome New Pastors

Arcadia First Baptist
Joshua and Erica McDonald

Second Street Hitchcock
William and Kathleen Busch

Both Feet In

A Journey to Surrender, Sacrifice, and Service

A Mini Book Study Retreat For the
Women of Galveston Baptist Association

Saturday, March 9, 2019

First Baptist Church,

LaMarque

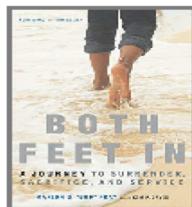
(Church at Painted
Meadows)

7124 Autry Road, LaMarque

9:30 Registration and Mingle

10:00 Sharp - Study Begins

2:00 Go Home and take a
Nap!



Reading the Book prior to attending **Not** a prerequisite.

Register a friend and Bring Your Bible!
\$5.00 Donation for Lunch

Preferred Registration by email:
Pfmikel@outlook.com
Or by phone: 281-615-1400



Sending Hope

MARCH 3-10, 2019

OFFERING GOAL: \$70 MILLION

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® is named after Annie Armstrong who was the first corresponding secretary for the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). This annual offering celebrates Annie Armstrong's life and legacy--one that centered around encouraging and stirring up others to support and be involved in missions endeavors. She wrote over 18,000 letters in one year to spur on giving towards missions. Her love to reach the lost did not start there. Annie Armstrong also worked diligently in her community to reach out to those around her through a kind word, giving a hug, or handing out clothing. The offering is given to missionaries serving in North American through the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"We must not love with words or speech, but with truth and action."

(1 John 3:18, HSB)

Church Happenings

Events and happenings from your church can be shared with members of the association by calling 409-938-8942 or email to office@galvestonbaptist.org.

To help keep us informed, we would like to receive your newsletters – digital or hardcopy

Where Will You Serve This Year?

Volunteers are needed for the GBA Team as shown below:

Pastoral Care – needs leader - 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 - 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 for maintaining associational equipment for use during a natural disaster. The team will provide ongoing training for volunteers who wish to serve in a crisis situation.

Church Planting and Revitalization Team – Aaron Sanders

Assists GBA churches who are planting or replanting churches within the association's geographic footprint.

Please contact the GBA Office, 409-938-8942 or office@galvestonbaptist.org, or the team leader for more information or to volunteer.

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

YELLOW CAP ORIENTATION
Fri Mar 1 - 6PM to 9PM
Online Pre-registration required

SPECIALTY TRAINING
Basic Chainsaw
Sat Mar 2 - 8:30AM-4PM
Online Pre-registration required

SPECIALTY TRAINING
Flood/Fire Recovery
Sat Mar 2 - 10AM-Noon
Online Pre-registration required

SPECIALTY TRAINING
Shower/Laundry
Sat Mar 2 - 9AM-10AM
Online Pre-registration required

MEN AND WOMEN 16YRS AND OLDER

Where:
UBC
16106 Middlebrook
Dr.
Houston, TX
Go to
WWW.TBMTX.ORG, select DISASTER RELIEF, then DR TRAINING from the menu. On the calendar click on the class to register.



Mission Galveston – Santa Fe

Ministry for homeless and the Low income families

Food
Cloths
Hygiene Products.

Open Every Saturday from 10 to 12

Rockview Church
4002 Cark Ave.
Santa Fe
Texas.

These are some of the items that we need at Mission Galveston -Santa Fe.

Rice, Beans, Fruit cups, Fruit Juice, Mac and Cheese

Cup A Soup, Vienna Sausages, Roman Noodles soup

Cookies/Crackers, Can Corn/Beans, Peanut Butter

back pack, Blue Jeans, T- Shirts
socks, Underwear (Men/Women), Netted caps

Tooth Brush, Small tooth paste, Disposable shaver

Small soap, Toilet paper, Small shampoo, underarm deodorant

"No eyes have seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him".

*In His Love,
Raju Samuel, Director*

Mission Galveston/ Texas City

Home of Hope Ministries (India)

*P. O. Box 625
Galveston, Texas 77553
409-789-3936
mgmdir312@aol.com*

MARCH

- 1-2 Yellow Cap Training, University Baptist Church
- 3-10 Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer
- 4 Pastor/Staff Breakfast @ 7:30 AM, Kelley's
- 6 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon, New Life Fellowship
- 7 GBA Prayer time @ 9:30 AM, GBA
Siege The City, 718 6th St., Texas City @ 6:30 PM
- 9 WMU Book Study & Retreat, 9-11 AM,
FBC La Marque
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12 Women on Missions @ 11:30 AM, GBA
Sr. Adult Game Day @ 1:30 PM, GBA
Sisters Who Care @ 6 PM, TMBC
- 13 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon, New Life
- 14 GBA Prayer time @ 9:30 AM, GBA
- 20 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon, New Life
- 21 GBA Prayer time @ 9:30 AM, GBA
- 26 WMU Leadership Meeting @ 6 PM, Northside
- 27 Grayson Glass Prayer Time @ noon
- 28 GBA Prayer time @ 9:30 AM, GBA



Upcoming Events

April

- 2 Admin Team Meeting @ 1 PM, GBA
- 5-6 WMU Annual Meeting, FBC Woodway
- 15 Ex Board, 6:30 PM, FBC Hitchcock
- 19 Good Friday, Siete Palabras @ 7 PM
Primera Galveston
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 27 Senior Adult Banquet, TBD

May

- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 6-9 May By The Bay, Palacios
- 21 WMU Spring Gathering/Salad Supper

IMPORTANT NOTICE

GBA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2019
6:30 PM
FBC Hitchcock, 6601 FM 2004

