

Week of Prayer • January 23-30, 2017

Love ONE Another



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
- John 13:34-35



Bea Mesquias

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What a great opportunity we have for this New Year. An opportunity to pray for our beloved Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas and to praise the Lord for the works that He is doing among our churches, using pastors and leaders to spread the gospel.

Acts 1:8 says “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and

Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

We must remember that “our Jerusalem” is wherever we are present and wherever we keep personal contact with the people; and what a great opportunity to share Christ and to show love for the people praying for their needs.

If someone asks you who is Jesus? What will your answer be? I invite you to pray together so that God may grant us the boldness to share Jesus.

Also, I ask you to give to the special offering. **Our goal this year is \$30,000.** This offering will be used to reach more people, reaching them showing the Love of Christ and serving them.

Prayer Requests:

- To impact our community with the Word of God and to show the love to our neighbor in an important and visual way.
- For the mobilization of a weekly evangelism team for our communities.
- To have quality time with our families praying and looking for ways to love our neighbors.
- To develop our church as a loving place for our community, working to be used so see saved souls for the Kingdom.

Let's think of creative ways to encourage our churches to participate in this offering.

An example is to decorate a small milk carton as a church and use it as a money box. That way the whole family can participate in this offering.

Even the small 8oz water bottles can be decorated as piggy banks. These little examples can be children's craft ideas so that the church can be active supporting missions.





Day 1 of Prayer

Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas



Dr. Rolando D. Aguirre

President of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas

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Dear Member of the Hispanic Convention of Texas,

We are thankful to God for the faithful work of the Hispanic Baptist churches and their leadership whom have diligently served for more than a century across the State of Texas. What a great testimony of God's grace and faithfulness!

The vision as Hispanic Convention reads, **“to be a family of diverse and spiritually healthy churches that connect and develop resources to impact Texas and the world with the presence of Christ in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.”** As the third largest Hispanic Baptist Convention in the continent, our main objective is to serve our congregations and their members to fulfill their unique God-given vision and mission. In order to achieve this overarching goal, our collaboration and partnership with State Conventions such as Texas Baptists, regional associations, fellowships, and local churches become crucial linking pieces that work together toward God's kingdom expansion and relevant missional work in the midst of a post-modern world.

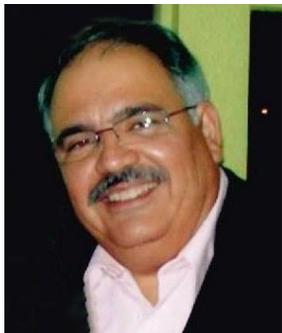
In cooperation with different entities, organizations, and higher education institutions, the Hispanic Convention offers leadership training/labs, various resources, college scholarships, mission trips, regional events, fellowship gatherings, UFM activities (among others), to serve our churches, partners, and their families. As president of this Convention, I sincerely invite you to consider praying for the following:

- Pray for our network of churches, partners, and leadership of Convención such as the executive board, elected officials, and permanent commissions.
- Pray for our future partnerships and collaboration with agencies and/or churches that are considering joining our network for God's kingdom expansion and lasting impact.
- Pray for the planning of our next annual gathering entitled, “Transformed,” which will take place from June 25- 27th, 2017 at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas.
- Pray so that Convención would become more relevant to all the generations represented in our churches by wholeheartedly honoring our rich heritage and effectively embracing the promising future that God has uniquely designed for us.

Finally, as Convención, we pray enouncing the words of the apostle Paul when he rightly asserted, “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people.” (Col. 1:3-4)

Day 2 of Prayer

MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC



Robert Cepeda

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Elizabeth lives with her three children in a small, cramped room in a Brownsville, Texas motel. Her family has slept in their car, lived with other families, and suffered through month-long stays in motels since becoming homeless. Elizabeth's children are among the more than 1,500 homeless students enrolled in the Brownsville school district. Medical care for her family is non-existent.

Manuel, Socorro, and their children live in a travel trailer that to outsiders looks uninhabitable. To the young parents, their family's difficult living conditions are worth the sacrifice so that their children can attend school in the U.S.A., learn English, and go on to have a better life. Socorro is a stay-at-home mom while Manuel works at a tire repair shop where he earns less than minimum wage. Healthcare is only dream for this young family.

Alicia is high school freshman who would like nothing else that to make her school's girls' soccer team. To even be considered for the team, she must first get a sports physical. The lack of transportation and finances make it impossible for her to go to a clinic to have the required physical exam. And, without the physical, her dream of playing high school soccer and possibly qualifying for a college scholarship will remain only a dream.

The one hundred forty churches that make up the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association are located in Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo, and Starr counties, the four poorest counties in Texas. **The association offers its affiliated churches a Mobile Medical Clinic as a resource for evangelistic outreach.** The thirty-six foot long vehicle contains a reception and triage area, an examination and treatment room, a small counseling room, and a workstation. The mobile clinic's air-conditioning, lighting, and other electrical needs are met by an on-board, diesel-powered generator or by being plugged into a typical RV electrical connection.



Local and out-of-the-Valley healthcare professionals volunteer their time to offer free health clinics, immunization events, and sports physicals. Pastors and laypersons volunteer alongside the healthcare professionals to share the Gospel with and pray for patients.

Prayer requests:

- More opportunities for evangelistic medical outreach events.
- Teams of medical professionals to volunteers to staff the mobile clinic.
- Churches to sponsor evangelistic medical outreach events.
- A team of local volunteers to take charge of the RGVBAs mobile medical ministry.



Day 3 of Prayer

“LA OLA” CASA HOGAR ORPHANAGE



Mary Frances Barrera

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This past July, two previous UFM Presidents, Frances Barrera & Sylvia Tostado, their Pastor husband's & church members, (Abundant Grace, Plainview and New Generation Fellowship, New Braunfels), joined efforts for a mission trip to Jalisco, Mexico to minister to young girls at La Ola-Casa Hogar Orphanage. We went expecting to make a difference in these young souls but returned back to Texas where these beautiful angels made an impact in our lives. We met little girls that had been used for

prostitution at the age of 8 years, and one at the age of 18 months was drugged and rented out to be used to beg for money. Despite their past, they were the happiest little girls that we learned to love. We truly witnessed the ministry of La Ola to be a transforming place for those that are left behind for dead, to find a way to invest into their lives so they can become self-supporting citizens.

La Ola - Casa Hogar is a girl's shelter located in Jocotepec, Mexico, 25 minutes outside of Guadalajara. Their scope is more than that of an orphanage in that they care for abandoned and abused children as well as orphans. They opened in January 2010 and are a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. They are supported solely by private donations. They currently house 16 children ranging in ages from 2 - 17, providing shelter, food, clothing, medical, dental, Christian psychological services and education.



While our stay, we cleaned, folded and sorted clothes, had a spa day for the girls, but mostly loved on these young girls, we prayed in their rooms and made commitments with them to always pray for them. They have outgrown their current facility and when we left were building a dormitory on land that was donated. God's provision continues over these children. We especially were blessed by putting a face with a picture and knowing that we in Texas can make a difference in a young girl's life by praying and donating.

Prayer needs:

- Stability for each girl to accept Christ & grow in Christ
- It takes \$117-\$177 USD per month per child to attend school
- New Dormitory furnishings
- Expand their donor base for funds to manage daily operations of La Ola

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Day 4 of Prayer

VALLEY BAPTIST PREPARATORY



Carol L. Schwarz

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“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good spirit lead me on level ground.”

Psalm 142:10

Valley Baptist Preparatory, the Rio Grande Valley’s newest Christian School, opened at the Primera Iglesia Bautista de Santa Maria in August of 2015, with the plan of starting with grades 9-11 and then adding the other grades.

The school’s mission: To provide a learning environment where academic excellence is expected, achieved, and valued, where Biblical character and respectful conduct are standard, where responsibility and initiative grow, and where each student graduates with a Biblical world view and is prepared for the next step in his unique life, according to God’s plan.”

The school’s most popular ministry has been the one-semester program to strengthen English speaking, reading and writing skills. English is taught all day in a variety of classes including Bible, cooking, and art.

During the program in 2015-16, TEKS, (Texas state requirements) and grade-level textbooks and workbooks were woven into the daily activities, so that by the end of the semester, a student’s English was strengthened, AND he was prepared to return to the public school and excel. We expect the same results in 2017.



The vision for Valley Baptist Preparatory is to obtain at least 50 acres near Mercedes to be able to house boarding students in dormitories. Now, we have three classrooms; the school will need additional classrooms and facilities so it can offer students in grades 11 and 12 not only courses with college credit but also courses in agricultural science, carpentry and construction, electricity, renewable energy, and other careers.

Prayer requests:

- We ask your prayers for students, teachers, the administrator, Carol Schwarz, the pastor’s wife. We ask for God’s blessing and guidance.
- We ask your prayers so that God provides the land, the facilities, and a tractor.
- Please agree with us as we ask valley churches to support this ministry to the Christian leaders of the future.



Day 5 of Prayer INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS



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We continue participating in missions in our beloved Mexico by the grace and mercy of God. This reminds me of what the Lord told his disciples: "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35. Yes, Mexico is a great field ready to be harvested.

In July 13-17, 2016 we worked together with the Baptist Regional Convention to have an evangelistic crusade in Chiapas. God gave us a great harvest with the 19 churches working together in this crusade. 214 people gave their lives to Christ, 20 reconciled with the Lord, 27 children accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pastors, brothers and sisters were greatly used by the Lord. Additionally, we also had Vacation Bible School in three different churches.

In October 13-15, the Women Federation of the Baptist Regional Convention of South Veracruz invited the Ministry "A Night with the King" to share conferences. Speakers for the women were: Bea Mesquias, Melida Musquiz, Silvia Aké, Brenda Rincones, Magdalena Ramos and Raquel Luna. Speakers for men were: Jesse Rincones, Abiel Ake and I.



In April, we also participated at the Baptist Regional Convention of the West in Jalisco during their Youth Congress. Speakers were: Jesse Rincones, Luis Rodriguez and I. It was a big blessing to participate at this congress.

We have been invited to share conferences in 2017 in the following places:

- **Puerto Vallarta, April.**
- **Mérida Yucatán, May.**
- **Morelia Michoacán, September.**
- **Chiapas "Evangelistic Crusade", July.**
- **Chiapas "A Night with the King", October.**

Please be praying for these missionary trips. May God give us the opportunity to keep serving Him with passion. Pray for the pastors, brothers and sisters that have their hearts and sources ready to serve in these places.

Day 6 of Prayer

UNIÓN FEMENIL MISIONERA of TEXAS



Silvia Aké

President of the UFM of Texas

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What is metamorphosis? The word comes from Greek: Meta=Alteration and Morph=Form. In the life of a living creature represents an enormous change. Butterflies suffer several changes before arriving to their adult stage, starting as small egg, then in a caterpillar, then a chrysalis, and finally changing into a butterfly.

Similarly, the Lord that has already changed our lives now invites us to make radical changes to serve and to love. “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

There are many opportunities to serve the Lord, one of them is opening a Women’s Missionary Union in your church.

The heart of the UFM lies in six tasks through which the UFM does its work. These are tasks taught by the Apostle Paul in the New Testament. They are necessary actions to support the missionaries and their work and to fulfill God’s call in our lives. 1) Praying for missionary work, 2) Supporting missionary work, 3) Learning about missionary work, 4) Doing missionary work and testifying 5) Developing spiritually towards a missionary lifestyle 6) Participating in the work of the church and of the denomination.



Everything the UFM does is the result of lives transformed by God to carry the message that Transforms lives. God’s plan is TRANSFORM US TO TRANSFORM, so that His gospel may be expanded. God has a ministry for each of his daughters, whether it be preaching at the office, at the hospital, in your car, in your church, on the radio, on television, in the movies, or in any job, through worship, but the important thing is to know: In what ways will God use us to transform lives?

Prayer Requests:

- May God continue transforming the lives of women.
- That as women in Texas we serve with passion in our call to the missions.
- May God help us and provide the resources to develop the ministries of education of our youth and children.
- May young women rise to follow the legacy that has been entrusted to us.
- May God renew our minds to seek to always do His will.



Day 7 of Prayer HBCT MISSIONS - LOUISIANA



Jesse Rincones,

Executive Director of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of TX
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“What kind of mission work could you do 9 days from today?” That was the challenge when a group of leaders returned from Baton Rouge, Louisiana on August 24, 2016. After visiting with the Hispanic Baptist churches in the flooded areas, we knew that God was calling our Hispanic Baptist churches in Texas to a part of the ministry in these areas. However, there were many challenges.

The Challenge of Missions: The first challenge was that the mission trip was scheduled for Labor Day... only 9 days later! We only had nine days to prepare, organize, travel and show up in Louisiana.

Additionally, the local churches in Louisiana that we were working with had their own challenges. Many pastors and church members had lost their vehicles, homes and jobs. Most of the churches were young churches with under 10 years in existence. The church coordinating the Hispanic relief work was Istrouma en Espanol. The pastor and the ministry had only been there for 6 months! None of us were smart enough or prepared enough to “make it happen.” But, God is able!

The Results of Missions: God was “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20): • 56 volunteers from 10 churches and the Baptist University of the Americas • 37 trailer homes and families were impacted with ministry • Donations included 1,200 pairs of new shoes, \$1000 in clean up tools from Oasis Baptist Church, Clothes, water, nonperishable food, toiletry items, and more • Provided love offerings to 4 Hispanic Baptist pastors affected by the flooding. • Provided \$5,000 to help with the feeding and ministry efforts in the area (\$3,000 from Convencion’s Mission Offering and \$2,000 from our collaboration with CLC’s Hunger Offering).

The Key to Missions: First, of course, this was all possible “according to His power that is at work within us” (Eph. 3:20). God is the reason that any of us can do missions. Next, the mission work and ministry impact would not be possible if it was not for cooperation.

No one person or group could handle the planning, logistics, transportation, and funding. God brought together Hispanic churches, state leaders like George Zapata, organizations like Buckner, Hearts 4Kids, and Children’s Hunger Fund (San Antonio), the Asociacion Bautista Mexicana de San Antonio (Martin Martinez, President) and Baptist University of the Americas. “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor” (Ecc. 4:9). We are thankful for God’s return on our labor! **I challenge you to do missions. Do missions with challenges. Do missions with God. Do missions with others. Do missions today!**

Please pray for:

- The families and businesses that will be recovering from these damaging floods for many months to come. Pray for material, financial and especially spiritual recovery.
- The Hispanic Baptist churches in the Baton Rouge area, most of which are young church starts.
- The Pastors that are leading and serving their churches and communities.
- The churches, organizations and other partners that will collaborate to minister to the flood victims.

convención

BAUTISTA HISPANA DE TEXAS

Annual Meeting of Convención
June 25-27, 2017

Trinity Baptist Church
319 E Mulberry Ave, San Antonio, TX 78212

Centennial Celebration

Monday, June 26th, 2017



UFM
de Texas

Missionary Offering 2017
Goal: \$30,000

Please send your offerings to:

Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas
5825 34th St.
Lubbock, TX 79407