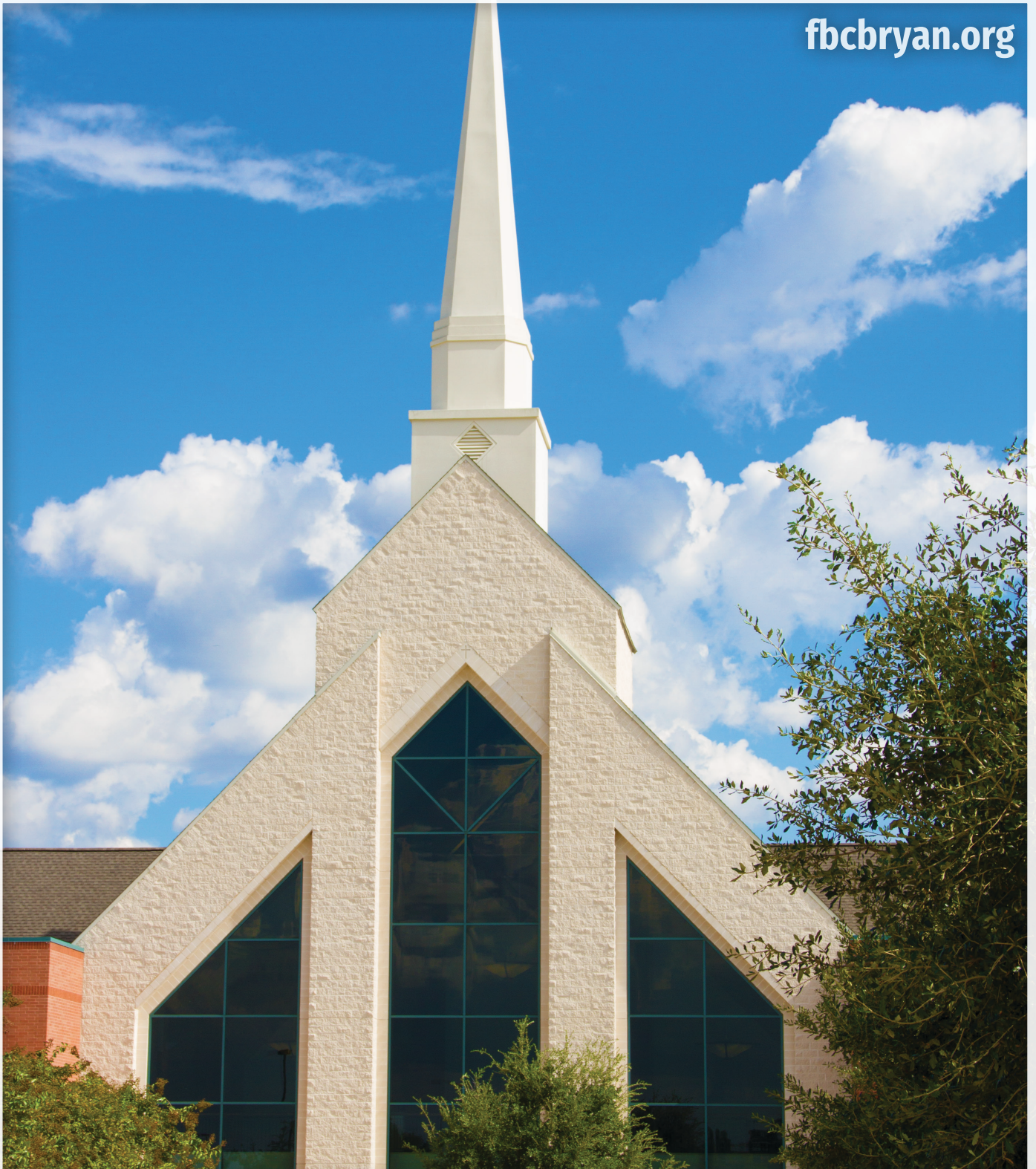


DECEMBER 2019

FIRST BAPTIST BRYAN

fbcbryan.org



YEAR IN REVIEW

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

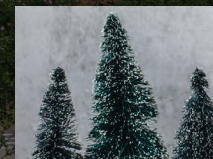


TOWN HALL MEETING

DECEMBER 15 | 6 PM

ALL-CHURCH Town Hall Meeting

On Sunday, December 15, join us at 6 pm in the Worship Center for our Town Hall Meeting to discuss the revised building proposal. We encourage everyone to come hear the new details.



Combined Service

ALL-CHURCH Combined Service

On Sunday, December 22, join us for a combined service at 10 am in the Worship Center. There will be no GroupLife or Rooted in Worship on that day. Don't miss this special time of worship together.



Christmas Eve SERVICES

ALL-CHURCH Christmas Eve Services

Join us on Tuesday, December 24, for one of two identical candlelight services. Childcare for kids 3 and under will be available during the 4 pm service. There will be no childcare during the 6 pm service.



Lessons & Carols

ALL-CHURCH Lessons & Carols

Come enjoy a wonderful time of worship in the atrium with our Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 22, at 6 pm. Childcare will be provided for kids 3 and under.



ALL-CHURCH Christmas Caroling

Come help us spread Christmas cheer to our homebound members as we go caroling on December 22 at 4 pm. Don't miss the wonderful time of fellowship together.

WORSHIP

GROWTH

Our overall average attendance on Sunday morning has gone from just over 1,100 at the end of last year, to over 1,250! What this translates to is that we have seen on most Sundays around 200 more people present across all of our services. It has been such a blessing each and every week to not know most of the faces you see, and then to get to know them and make them feel welcome.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Ash Wednesday

We kicked off the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service, a time to ready our hearts and minds for the 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday. Our staff compiled a 40-day devotional entitled “In His Own Words” that coincided with that season.



special time every year where we get our eyes and hearts on what Jesus walked through during the week before His death and sacrifice for us on the cross. It’s always a powerful lead-in to our Easter Celebration Services.

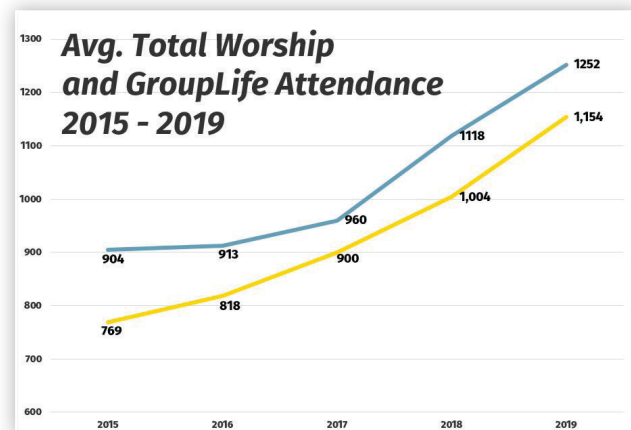


Holy Week & Easter

Our 3rd Annual Holy Week featured three luncheons with Dr. Joel Gregory who focused on the perspectives and characters around the cross, a Maundy Thursday Service with the Lord’s Supper in the Atrium, and a Good Friday service in the Worship Center. This is a

4th of July

The Symbols of Liberty Concert has become a wonderful community event, featuring patriotic songs and a celebration of our country. It’s



a wonderful way for us to honor those who have and continue to sacrifice so that we are able to enjoy the freedom that we have.

Night of Worship

Every August we have a church-wide night of worship in the atrium before the beginning of the new ministry year. This has become a great time of prayer together for our church and community as well as an opportunity to pour out praise to our great God all together.



Thanksgiving

A Night of Thanksgiving is unlike any other service that we do all year long. It’s a night solely dedicated to the remembrance of all God has done and a celebration of who He is! There’s nothing like gathering all three of our services together to just “give thanks to the Lord for He is good!”



Advent

The season of Advent is always a favorite as we celebrate the coming of our King Jesus through special performances, programs and services from all of our Worship Arts Ministries!

Spanish Speaking Service

We were so excited to welcome Teo Cisneros as our Spanish Ministry Pastor in January! Teo and his wife Sandra have already brought such wonderful leadership and direction to and we have seen the Lord do incredible things in the Spanish service.



SUMMER MISSIONS

Estonia

Our construction team continued work on the Christian camp outside Tartu. Each year, thousands of students enjoy the facilities our church has helped build.

Niger

Our mission team partnered with local missionaries to host kids clubs, work with university students, meet with new believers and show the Jesus film on the streets of the capital.

Canada

Our team partnered with local churches to host numerous Vacation Bible School style Bible clubs throughout the city and reach hundreds of kids during the week.

Germany

We continued our 14-year partnership with Christugemeinde Sigeburg to host a baseball camp for youth in the city. Together we hosted over 100 kids during the week-long camp.

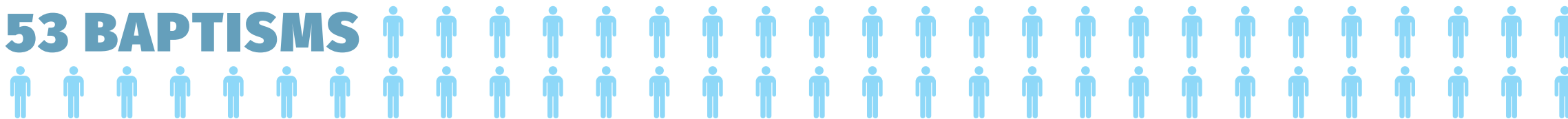
South Texas

In the scorching heat of the South Texas summer, our team provided a respite by hosting Vacation Bible School at the local school for the kids in the community.

Nicaragua

Our team traveled to remote villages in the Nicaraguan rainforest to assist in seed distribution and health training, as well as assisted in water well drilling.

53 BAPTISMS





As we look back at 2019 God continues to grow our church spiritually, relationally, and on mission through GroupLife participation. In 2019, we created four new classes increasing Group Life participation by seven percent. We have also added 38 new GroupLife leaders. When looking at our overall Sunday morning worship attendance, we are thankful for the 88 percent of our church who believe in the importance of making Sunday morning GroupLife a priority.

So why are so many people involved in GroupLife? If you are not a part of GroupLife, let me share with you what are you missing out on.

First of all, you are missing out on learning and challenging one another through Scripture. This past fall Pastor Jim preached a sermon series on the book of Ephesians. All of our GroupLife classes followed along with an in-depth Bible study of Ephesians. As a part of the Ephesians sermon series, we provided a church-wide Wednesday night spiritual gifts assessment for over 100 members. To better equip our leaders, in September 150 GroupLife teachers, In-reach leaders, and Outreach leaders participated in a three-hour GroupLife training and appreciation banquet.

2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Be diligent to present

yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

Secondly, if you are not involved in GroupLife you are missing out on deep and fulfilling relationships. GroupLife provides an atmosphere where church members can encourage one another in brotherly love. All of our classes have regular fellowships with one another outside of Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity for you to connect with others in our body.

Thirdly, GroupLife provides an opportunity for you to be on mission with others. This past year we have had classes interact with missionaries on Sunday morning from all around the world by way of the internet. These are great opportunities for us as a body to encourage and pray for the specific needs of our missionaries. This year many of our classes partnered together to bless Still Creek Ranch,



whose mission is to rescue children from abusive situations and train them up in the Lord. We provided an extensive work day to update their facilities. Many of our GroupLife classes are involved on missions through local ministry opportunities such as the Bridge Food Pantry, Hope Pregnancy, Anchored Love, Discovery, Kairos, and SOS Ministry.

In 2019, we are thankful for the generous donations of our church family to provide us with the opportunity to continue to grow by the addition of a youth facility and additional portable buildings for our family ministry.

God continues to do amazing things through GroupLife, and we look forward to what He will do in 2020.



LOCAL MISSIONS

Still Creek

This year we had the opportunity to help one of our local ministries with a construction workday. We had an incredible response with over 130 volunteers from 14 different GroupLife classes responding. Together we were able to: level and repair a gazebo, repair a fence, paint four rooms in a boys house, a front porch, a treehouse, a playground, barriers in the parking lot, prep and paint the main entrance fence, install a skirt on a mobile home and install all new flooring in the second story of the school, over 3,500 square feet.

Kairos

Our volunteers, along with others from churches all over Texas, spent three days inside the prison helping men understand the love and redemption found only in Jesus Christ. During those three days the men learned about the love of God and many had their lives transformed.

Share the Gift

This Christmas season, we have been able to bring joy to many of the families in our area with Share the Gift. Our church provided all the gifts for the children involved at Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach. We also provided gifts for 40 girls and 30 boys in the teen ministry at Save Our Streets ministries. We were also able to provide gift cards for all the children at Still Creek. What a blessing to see the church respond in such a tremendous way by supporting these local children and organizations



ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability groups are designed to provide a spiritual formation context unlike our Worship services or GroupLife classes, where the focus of each session is the group members' growth in making Jesus their all and sharing Him with all. Group members immerse themselves in the spiritual disciplines of prayer and scripture reading through the week and come together to discuss what the Lord is teaching them in the scriptures, and how their walk and witness are being lived out each week.

It's been a little over two years since we launched Accountability groups at First Baptist Bryan. At the two year mark this September, we surveyed adult Accountability groups for a review of Accountability's effectiveness in making disciples. There were several trends that the survey revealed.

Whereas women's groups started slowly, they now make up nearly half of adult Accountability Groups and are leading the way for youth Accountability Groups. 13 out of our 37 GroupLife classes currently have representation in Accountability groups. This is both something to be celebrated, but also highlights the opportunity for a greater percentage of GroupLife classes and ministry areas to fully engage the vision of the church for making disciples who make Jesus their all and share Him in places of influence.

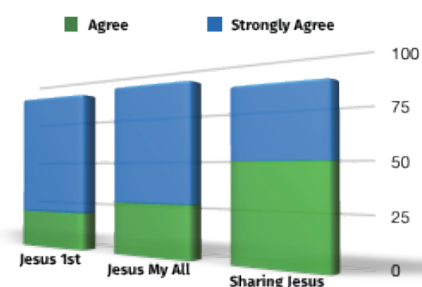
In those 13 classes, we currently have 45 groups and 165 persons involved in Accountability. 27 percent of them are in their 2nd or 3rd group, meaning most of our

groups have met for about one year and are poised to send one or more out to start new groups and find others in our church family desiring to be more intentional about making Jesus their all and sharing Him with all.

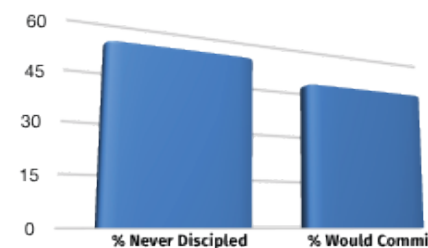
Beyond quantitative insights, the survey also uncovered the quality of disciple making that was going in the groups. 89 percent (68 percent strongly) agreed that Accountability groups had helped them prioritize their relationship with Jesus. 91 percent (63 percent strongly) agreed that Accountability groups helped them make Jesus their all. And 86 percent (36 percent strongly) agreed that being in Accountability helped them to share Jesus in their places of influence. Here are just two of the testimonies shared in the survey:

I find myself digging deeper into scripture and reading more, I understand the importance of the aspect of fellowship with fellow believers more and I am building more confidence in sharing Christ and in how Christ sees me.

I am thinking more frequently about how I can make Christ my all, I'm in the word almost everyday if not every, and I am looking for ways to share Christ with others which I have struggled with in the past.



Seasoned disciples who may not feel the need to be more intentional about following Jesus can ask the question, "who can I help in their discipleship journey?" There are many church and GroupLife attenders who have yet to discover the depth and joy of following Jesus as a disciple who influences others to do the same. But they would commit to that if given the opportunity. Mature disciples are needed to be a spiritual guide and encourager for those who desire Accountability and intentional discipleship. The survey showed 51 percent of those in Accountability had not had someone help them understand and begin a successful discipleship journey. 44.6 percent strongly agreed that if given the opportunity, they would make being discipled in this way a top priority.



Taking the next step to explore Accountability is easy. You can write your name, email address and check the Accountability box on the Next Steps card in the back of every pew in the Worship Center. Or, you can go to fbcbryan.org/accountability. There, you will find an overview video, Information Packet, and Next Steps form where you can indicate your desire for information, to begin Accountability, or to further explore being an Accountability group facilitator.

Under the leadership of our pastor, our church has developed a clear disciple-making vision. While we heartily affirm it as a whole, we have yet to engage it as a whole. Perhaps 2020 will be the year that you not only see the vision more clearly, but jump into it headlong. Blessing upon blessing awaits as you become intentional and invest in others to become disciples who make Jesus their all and share Him with all.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARIES

Countries & Regions Supported

- Panama** – Taking the gospel to expats & English speakers in the country
- Turkey** – Translating the Bible and other materials into native languages
- Nicaragua** – Planting churches among the Mayagna people
- Japan** – Church planting, discipleship and music ministry in Kitakyushu
- Germany** – Using baseball camps to reach kids in the city
- Russia** – Taking the gospel to the unreached peoples of the Caucasus Mountains
- England** – Sharing the Gospel with muslim refugees in London
- South Asia** – Sharing Jesus with local Hindus in the community
- Niger** – Sharing Jesus with the Zarma people in the capital city
- South Asia #2** – Serving muslims in one of the largest unreached regions
- Estonia** – Ministry through seminary, ESL and camps
- East Asia** – Partnering with local churches to reach unreached people groups
- Iraq** – Leading Bible studies with the Kurdish people

On the Map





As years often do, they fly by; and 2019 was certainly no exception. However, what made this year distinct and cause it to slow down in our minds is the God-directed responses of finances, time, and talents that have given First Baptist Bryan a sense of security and wondrous anticipation for the future. Throughout the course of this year, the Lord directed His congregation to give above and beyond what was needed. The Lord directed His congregation to invite others to come and be a part of all that He is doing at First Baptist Bryan. The Lord directed His congregation to seek His face as to where we need to be in 5 years and what it will take to get us there. And the Lord directed His congregation to take the necessary steps to improve the spaces where we worship Him. The Lord directed and His congregation responded. Let's review some of those responses in detail and divine together how we need to continue to respond in the days to come.

Financial Status from Finance Committee

As is our financial procedure, we started 2019 off with a proposed budget that anticipated the expected gifts to be given to the church over the course of the year. With great joy we can report that from the very first gifts given on January 6 we have exceeded that expected total. Furthermore, we have grown each and every month in the amount over what was necessary! As of this writing, we are currently over \$340,000 above our

projected giving; praise be to our heavenly Father for His generosity on His people and for giving them a generous spirit in return. What this has allowed the church to do is multifaceted. As will be described in greater detail below, continuing care of our guests and proliferating an increasing number of new guests, a surplus in our budget allows for dreaming a little bigger, and the maintenance and proper renovation of God's house. In addition, the church's generous spirit of giving has allowed for the expansion of our staff and everyone's ministry budget in 2020. The Finance Committee is always talking about how exciting and encouraging it is to coordinate the finances of a church that is so generous. So thank you!

One Church One Body Recommendation

With growth in our worship services and GroupLife, we are starting to feel the pinch of space being tight; and while this is a good issue to face, it is not ideal for our ability to welcome new believers and new attendees to First Baptist Bryan. In response, our One Church One Body Advisory Council—our long range planning team for the uninitiated—has been prayerfully considering options for the past year to handle our projected growth for the next 5 to 10 years. In November they held two town hall meetings to present to the congregation a way to maximize our campus layout and build additional GroupLife spaces. This presentation outlined a plan to build more space for our adults and

children, and furthermore provide a chapel for our Spanish-speaking service to flourish.

Improvement Projects from Properties Committee

Furthermore, alongside these awesome plans for new spaces, our Properties and Interior Decorating Committees have directed numerous improvements to our current facility. Almost to its completion, our Children's Wing has undergone a tremendous transformation. What was once a series of hallways, is now a forest scene like no other; as each and every week children arrive with smiles on their faces and leave with a desire to come again. Especially as they go down the 2-story slide inside a tree trunk! In our Worship Center, we saw three needed improvements: the giant center screen, the center aisle, and a renovated choir loft. Having been used now for several weeks, the center screen has both made it easier to see the words for our hymns, but also focused everyone toward the stage. The addition of the center aisle has also brought everyone closer together in that more of you now sit in the middle! This new entrance space is performing as desired by alleviating the much feared social awkwardness of having to step over so many others to find a seat. And in front of them all is a newly expanded choir loft, filled with new choir members! This expansion of the choir loft added two more rows of chairs and allowed for an additional 40 choir members. We have also added new carpet, new offices, and painted so many walls we have lost count!

The accomplishments above are only a few of the many things that we have seen God do in our midst so far in 2019. Incredible changes have taken place in such a short time. But what is amazing still is that our God gives us the opportunity to do it all again next year; 2020 is on the horizon and He has given us the charge to keep moving forward. We as a church need to only stand on Him; for He has been with us and He will be with us, for the Bible makes this certain.

MISSIONS SPENDING

Missions Offerings

Annie Armstrong	\$15,961.00
Mary Hill Davis	\$9,088.00

Offerings Total	\$25,049.00
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Local Missions Support

School Supplies South Texas	\$2,343.65
BSM Intern	\$500.00
Gideons	\$2,862.70
Still Creek	\$2,992.29
Missions Dignity	\$9,267.00
Associational Missions	\$22,500.00
Direct to Local Organizations	\$43,900.00

Local Total	\$84,365.64
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International Missions

Germany Trip	\$50,409.00
Estonia Trip	\$30,480.00
San Isidro Trip	\$3,496.00
South Texas Trip	\$3,400.00
Niger Trip	\$7,714.00
Canada Trip	\$13,972.00
Direct to Missionaries	\$29,300.00

International Total	\$138,771.00
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VOLUNTEERS

Canada Trip	25
Germany Trip	18
San Isidro Trip	28
Estonia Trip	14
Nicaragua Trip	6
South Texas Trip	3
Still Creek Workday	131
Kairos Prison Ministry	2

Total	227
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NEW MEMBERS 2019

Aaron Brownell	Clint Williams	James Hodges	Lisa Fuller	Renee Isbell
Adam Delancy	Clyde Williams	James Johnston	Luis Rivera	Reyna Galindo
Alex Rhoades	Conner Simank	James Polasek	Lyndsey Miller	Ric Anderson
Alyssa Davison	Coralys Pagan	James Stracener	Lynn Moseley	Richard Roades
Amanda Compton	Cortney Ferguson	Jan Patranella	Lynne Knight	Richard Trumps
Amanda Rawlinson	Crissy Hodges	Jana Raymond Legg	Lynnette Schlandt	Rick Simmons
Amy Reeves	Danny Bauer	Janet Karr	Madeline Hodges	Rogelio Pagan
Andra Arnold	Dave Roberts	Janeth Babilonia	Madelyn Russell	Roger Pagan
Andrew Owens	David Barker	Jared Jones	Makenna Hawkins	Romi Willingham
Anna Nava	David Clegg	Jeanann Goss	Maria Pedraza	Ronald Mojena
Anthony Garcia	David Fenno	Jeannette Moseley	Maria Hernandez	Rose Delancy
Antonio Hernandez	David Rivera	Jenny Hollowell	Marilyn McMillian	Rosy Luna
Aron Hutchins	Dawn Bybee	Jessica Perdon	Marlys Tjossem	Rudy Schultz
Ashlea Holcomb	Debbie Munson	Jillian Jones	Marquette Hixon	Russell Stilley
Ashley Ferguson	Deloris Conley	Jim McMillian	Martha Stracener	Sandra Cisneros
Ashley Jones	Destiny Trevino	Jimmy Owen	Mary Tausch	Scott McDuffie
Aubrey Karr	Devon Lee	JoAnn Browning	Matt Ferguson	Scott Webber
Austin Graham	D'Layne Fargason	John Compton	Matt Miller	Serenity Delancy
Barbara Simmons	Dyala Corleto	John Davison	Melisa Thane	Sergio Reyes
Beatrice Lopez	Dylan Compton	John Ellison	Michael Black	Shannon Weatherford
Ben Boyer	Dylan Thomas	John Fargason	Michele Wilson	Sharon Jackson
Ben Fuller	Effie Littlejohn	John Stephens	Mitchell Munson	Sheila Trumps
Benjamin Clegg	Eleanor Rivera	Johnny Smitherman	Natalia Compton	Sherrie Hopkins
Betsy Goss	Elisa Southern	Jonathan Kennedy	Neta Kennedy	Stacey Garcia
Beverly Love	Erica Fisher	Josh Holmes	Neva Jack Caffey	Starlene Delancy
Bobby Littlejohn	Errin Bullard	Josiah Hodges	Nick Ciggelakis	Stephany Fenno
Bradley Carpenter	Ethan Lawhon	Juany Davila	Nicole Holmes	Sydney Miller
Brent Dawson	Ethan Savage	Judy Compton	Noah Hernandez	Teo Cisneros
Brianna Reyes	Ezra Hernandez	Karli Wolfe	Nolan Owens	Teresa Tunsel
Britt Bullard	Gay Johnson	Karyna Diaz	Oliviah Graves	Terry Browning
Brittany Owens	Gerardo Pedraza	Kathryn Fellers	Parker McVay	Terry Hammond
Bryan Penalzoza	Glenda Johnston	Kathryn Stephens	Pat Dean	Tim Knight
Bryce Fuller	Grace Lopez	Kathy Smitherman	Pat Maldonado	Timothy Huffman
Camila Reyes	Gracie Topel	Kay Pack	Patricia Savage	Tobi Russell
Candace Hefti	Griselda Andino	Kevin Babilonia	Paula Barker	Toby Falcon
Carlos Corleto	Hal Senkel	Kim Isbell	Paula Williams	Tommi Ivey
Carol Palmer	Haley Layton	Kimberly Tunsel	Payton McVay	Travis Compton
Carolyn Senkel	Hallie Hutchins	Kirsten Dawson	Pearson McVay	Tristan Peevey
Carrie Lightsey	Hallie Weatherford	Kyle McVay	Peggy Williams	Vernell Owen
Chris Haischer	Harold Hogard	Kyler Davison	Phinley Davison	Vernon Legg
Chris Holcomb	Helen Walker	Lamar Groce	Quade Goss	Veronica Stilley
Chris Lightsey	Hilda Zevallos	Laura Bauer	Rachael Carpenter	Wannell Roberts
Chris Ferguson	Jace Lee	Layne Miller	Rebecca Hernandez	Wayne McVay
Christopher Tausch	Jack Rivera	LeAnne Boyer	Rebecca Hurst	Whitney Lightsey
Chuck Wilson	Jacob Southern	Lilia Sanchez	Rebecca Roades	William Whitley
Cliff Isbell	Jairo Lopez	Linda Clegg	Reed Handley	Yadira Pineiro
Clint Compton	James Conley	Linda Schultz	Rene Rivera	Zachary Nunley