



What does *HomeMission* do?

HomeMission is a group of evangelists and support staff that visits and helps churches or individuals throughout the United States that contact us and asks for help. Some ways we help are: a three-year growth plan, one-time workshop visit, providing materials and supplies, helping in a preacher search, *Revive Us Again* workshop, website resources, *New Life Behavior* training, evangelism training, and more. Basically, we “encourage, equip, and evangelize”. In Acts 11, Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch where he encouraged, equipped, and evangelized with the help of Paul. We at *HomeMission* have taken these 3 “E’s” as our mission. We **encourage** our churches that we visit both during and after our visits. We **equip** them through planning and providing tools to use. We help them plan to **evangelize** through example and teaching. This is an ongoing, looping process as we return to visit our churches.

Over the past 3 1/2 years, *HomeMission* has evolved and is still evolving. We started out with the concept of working with a church for three years. Many of our contact churches are following this plan in various stages. An initial visit is made when we make plans to work with a church. Our visits are around 4-5 days each. The first visit we’ve named the *Launch*. After that, we return and, based on what the churches decide, we come back with various workshops and activities. Each visit builds on a previous one. Between visits, we check on the church and encourage them.

Our first week on the three-year plan, we've named the *Launch*. This usually starts on Sunday and goes through Wednesday night, but it can go on a weekend from Friday night through Sunday. If beginning on a Sunday morning, during Bible Class, a lesson on *How to Get Visitors and Fallen Away Members to Come Back* is presented. The morning sermon, based on Deuteronomy 6, encourages members to study the Bible daily. Sunday night will involve the presentation of the *HANGER* session that involves getting to know the congregation and assessing their needs and goals. On Monday night, we introduce a study for new Christians called, *Foundations for Disciples*. On Tuesday, the *Habanero* Visitation system is introduced to help the congregation institute a program for visitation. Finally, on Wednesday, we end with the *Take Off* session, which allows the congregation to choose four things they would like to focus on in the future. We try to visit with members during the week, so we can submit 12 possible choices for the *Take Off*.

On our three-year plan, our second official visit is a 3-5 day workshop called *Circle of Influence*. These lessons teach members how to make connections to people they already know in their circle of friends, family, acquaintances, and coworkers. Using scripture and role play, attendees gain confidence and have tools to use to evangelize others.

If you attend a church conference or workshop you might find a booth for *HomeMission*. We attend several a year in order to make people aware of what we have to offer a church. Our Director, John Orr, has also been a speaker at some of the conferences. Those we have gone to include, *SIBI* Conference (Lubbock TX), *Red River Family Encampment* (Red River NM), *Oklahoma Christian University* lectures (OKC OK), *Harding University* Lectures (Searcy AR), *Affirming the Faith* Lectures (OKC OK), and *Polishing the Pulpit* (Sevierville TN). We've found new evangelists, support churches, and churches to work with, as well as groups to be our partners at these conferences. We've also attended classes and been encouraged and uplifted, ourselves.

When we work with a church, one area that most want to improve in is community outreach. *New Life Behavior* is a program that focuses on reaching out to meet the needs of those in a community. Based at *Kings Crossing Church of Christ* (Corpus Christi TX), *NLB* was originally a prison ministry that has evolved into 14 topics using the Bible as a guide. Some topics are *CASA* (Christians Against

Substance Abuse), self-esteem, parenting, marriage, anger management, and more. John Orr is a regional trainer and *HomeMission* has already trained and certified three of our churches to use the material in their communities. The training takes three hours. Our plans are to have all our evangelists able to be trainers.

Of course, a major effort of *HomeMission* is our annual *Revive Us Again* Evangelism and Church-Growth Workshop held at *Faith Village Church of Christ* (Wichita Falls TX). This four-day event brings approximately 700 attendees from many states to class sessions and key-note speeches with evangelism as the thrust.

Most churches don't give a second thought about needing supplies and materials. Some just say "Bring your receipt and get reimbursed." Others have a church credit card or accounts for needed items. Many of the churches we work with don't have this luxury. Some barely keep the doors open. Because of this, we don't charge a church anything when we come work with them. We've also furnished, free of charge, such items as a water fountain, building supplies, visitor cards, tracts, Bibles, study books, pew pencils, curriculum, and more. Thanks to our sponsoring churches, individuals, and God's grace, we've been able to help in this way. The books we use for our workshops are also free. Consequently, part of what we have to do is fund-raising to pay for materials, salaries, and expenses. This is done by visiting and meeting with churches/elders/missions committees and presenting what we do, sending out emails and fliers about our work, all done to request monetary support and assistance in our efforts. The *HomeMission* booth at the various conferences we attend also advertises our efforts, and we find sponsoring churches and individuals, as well as churches that need our help. We have 22 sponsoring churches and several individuals that contribute to our expenses. To find out more about *HomeMission* , please visit our website, homemission.org.

