



HOMEMISSION REPORT - JANUARY 2021

OUR TEAM, YOUR HOME, GOD'S MISSION

HTTP://WWW.HOMEMISSION.ORG ●

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Check out *HomeMission's*

[YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCChL7BfJRErWbvGBK3z4YsSQ?) for evangelistic videos!
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCChL7BfJRErWbvGBK3z4YsSQ?>

7 WEEKS AWAY!

Revive Us Again 2021 is going virtual! Though we would love to be together at the Brown St Church of Christ in Waxahachie Texas, we think this presentation of our Workshop will be exciting and may even reach many more people than could travel to be with us! Please watch our webpage, homemission.org, and your email for updates and information and join us March 24-27! If we DO NOT HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, please let us know at homemission444@gmail.com!

Elders of congregations of the Lord's Church are welcome to receive *EldersNet*, a quarterly newsletter written by elders, for elders. Please email homemission444@gmail.com to let us know your interest. You may leave your mailing address for a paper copy or your email address for a digital one.

We also want to thank an additional few who donated to our Dec 6 2020 Special Contribution and missed being listed with the many who helped in 2020!

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Glenda White | Jean Sikes | Lisa Wilson | Margaret York | Billie Holloway | Pod Davis |
| Lenora J Smith | Cindy Hines | Jeaneal Roper | John (Steve) Williams | Ollie Taylor-Brewer | |
| Joyce Moore | Sulamae Hooten | Sally Gist | Pamela Barnett | Susan McNutt | Vickie Roe |
| Carolyn White | Eddie C Morris Sr | James (Jim) Cantrell | Mary StewartTibbitt | Ryon Tibbitt | |
| Betty Kennedy | Olivia Kennedy | Courtney Tibbitt | Betancourt | Don Helmuth | |
| James and Sally Crossley | James and Janie Herring | Richard and Sheila Bessent | | | |
| Victor and Tracy Jones | Brandon and Anna Kaag | Michael and Debby Tinius | | | |
| Mr and Mrs James Turner | Ronald and Leslie Rutledge | Jack and Sandra Cummings | | | |
| Jim and Katie Hargrove | Robert and Shirley Durko | James and Elaine Sandel | | | |
| James and Tammy Hager | Mr and Mrs John W Cassady | Larry and Margaret Wakefield | | | |
| John and Fara Robertson | Johnnie and Nelda Dukes | Royce and Susie Frederick | | | |
| Jed and Jeannie Jennings | Dwain and Roberta Kasterke | Robert and Diane Estep | | | |
| Richard and Karen McIntyre | Poplar and Warner (Guthrie OK) Church of Christ | | | | |
| WVBS (World Video Bible School) | | | | | |

Memorial donations are a wonderful way to honor a loved one. We have very much appreciated those we have received in the past, but *HomeMission* wishes to begin acknowledging those we receive in 2021 by listing them in our newsletter.

January 2021

Bobby Beaves

Larry Lobley

Director's Report

Dear loved ones in the Lord,

Well, I don't guess we've ever experienced a January like this. And I hope we never have a desire to have another one. You never know. However, the work of the Lord goes on. And it is in this time that lost souls around us are afraid, isolated and depressed. Many are waiting till this pandemic is over to win souls. But we are seeing many that are wanting to know more about Jesus and his Church. Unfortunately, some churches have not opened their doors since March of last year. Others have opened but have closed down in the winter due to high Covid cases. Regardless, there is some great news around the country for those who have continues to reach out. Many Bible studies are going on. I have heard of a few baptisms from the east coast to the west coast. We have been trying to contact as many churches as possible to encourage during this time. Although we pray the crisis will be over soon, we don't know the future. But we know Who holds the future. So what is **HomeMission** doing?

We have spoken with 32 churches in 20 states this month. Most are hanging on. Some are experiencing difficulties, and some are dealing with division. It's a tough time. But, as many of them have told us, "it's good to know someone cares and is praying for us."

We are working on going virtual with *Revive Us Again* in late March. More information to follow.

We are also working on a 13-lesson series on evangelism and church growth. Many smaller churches are short of teachers at this time. This will be good for Bible classes and Summer Series. Most have expressed a desire to receive this. It should be ready by the first of March. Other churches need sermons to put out on their Facebook and web site.

We are excited to share with you and (possibly) hundreds of congregations of the Church of Christ, an article entitled, "Church Growth in a National Crisis." This will be included in this report. If you want additional copies, please call our offices—940-692-0032, and they will send this or any other material free of charge. You can be a small church or a larger church. But we put this together, because we need to do something now as a brotherhood and take advantage of the uneasiness in our nation. Already, some are starting to implement some of these ideas. We will report next month on some of the results. Please let us know if this helps your congregation.

If you have any good news to report, please let us know what you are doing. We need to build each other up in the most holy faith! Thank you again for your love and support. The response to our December fundraiser was unbelievable. Thank you all so much. And May God enrich your lives 4-fold in all you do for Him. God bless you.

Love,

John and Susie Orr



Director of Outreach Report



My name is Tommy Simonton and I am the Director of Outreach for **HomeMission**. My focus is to tell individuals and churches around the country about the good work **HomeMission** provides through the teaching of evangelism in helping the local church grow. I look forward to speaking with those who have helped support **HomeMission**, (Thank You), while also starting to build a relationship with those who will help in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me: homemission.thomas@gmail.com or 817-372-4565.

This month, Tommy visited the *Southside* (Mineral Wells TX) congregation and is busy making many future appointments for visits.

Evangelist Reports

Please continue to remember all **HomeMission** evangelists and the work they are doing to further the Gospel in the US!

Russell Blackwell – 4th Annual Back to the Bible summer Campaign

The *Childersburg* (AL) church of Christ's *Back to the Bible* Campaign will be 4-10 June. The elders are moving forward along with the elders at *Cox Blvd* (Sheffield AL) church of Christ in planning a campaign to contact and ask each person in Childersburg to study the Bible. They will be using the *Open Bible Study* method called "The Safety Chain of Scriptures" to teach the lost. Please pray for this campaign and the 'reapers' that will be going forward to reach and teach the lost. For more information please contact Russ Blackwell at 256-366-4226 or email-judrus@gmail.com.

Steve Hunley – Working with the *Groveland* (FL) church of Christ - The congregation is preparing to assemble 100 "Blessing Bags" like those described in the attached magazine article. Two of these will be put into each of the 40 local police patrol cars for the officers to hand out as needed. We are not only hopeful that people receiving these bags will learn of the Church of Christ, but that patrol officer families will be introduced to the local church of Christ and our caring nature for our fellow man.

Congregation Reports

Metro (Grisham OR) reports a new sister in Christ – Ember Wojcik! Praise God!

Faith Village (Wichita Falls TX) has four *AIM* (Adventures in Missions – Sunset International Bible Institute) students working with them to evangelize locally. They have been busy with various ministries, in which the congregation is involved (see pic below.)

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Growing the Church During a Crisis

Since March of 2020, our nation has faced crisis. Pandemic, economic fluctuation, political strife, civil unrest--all these things have affected each of us in one way or another. Rather than looking back on how things were in the past, it is time for churches to start thinking about our future. In a time where "getting back to normal" is a common phrase, we need to be figuring out our new normal, taking in all the changes that have happened, and adapting to them rather than hoping for them to disappear on their own. We were created for such a time as this.

The team at *HomeMission* put together this list of ideas to start implementing in your congregations. It is our hope that these suggestions will lead to greater connection within your church walls and serve as a push to reach outside your walls to the lost souls seeking answers when there is seemingly no hope in the world. We know where our hope lies, and it's time to spread that news to those around us.

- #1 Update your directory. Remove those who have moved or passed away, make sure new members have been added. Take the time to verify addresses and contact information.
- #2 Multiply your ministry. When the early church faced persecution, when thousands were dying of the Black Plague, when war tore through the world, ministry didn't stop—it grew. We need to be looking for new ministry opportunities, adapting our current ministries, and focus our energy on bringing people to Christ right now in this season.
- #3 Reach out to your visitors. Send a card to every visitor that has come through your doors in the last 5 years. Let them know you are thinking about them, praying for them, and would love to see them again soon. Have visitor cards and gifts available and visible near your entrance.
- #4 Offer online Bible study. Check into World Bible School (WBS), World Video Bible School (WVBS), or House to House, Heart to Heart to provide additional resources to your online community. Use services like Zoom, Skype, and Google Meet as a safe environment for small group Bible study.
- #5 Purchase an FM transmitter. Transmit audio directly to car radios for parking lot worship services. Use a projector with a large screen to project lyrics and verses. We recommend the Signstek ST-75 FM transmitter for this purpose
- #6 Obtain a video license and show family-friendly movies. Use the same set up as above to have drive-in movie nights in your parking lot. Church Video Licensing (CVLI) offers an inexpensive annual license that allows you to show a long list of authorized titles.
- #7 Train your people. Use this time to teach your core group how to train, plan, and connect as restrictions are lifted. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to plan for your future.
- #8 Encourage courage. Show the world you are not afraid. Be a blessing to your friends and neighbors. Show respect and common sense by following local safety protocol in public spaces. Take the advice of your doctor, but let the world know where your faith lies. For we do not rely on men, but on God. Be a role model of true faith. Romans 14:8
- #9 Keep Meeting. Return to a regular schedule as soon as possible. Follow your local safety guidelines and protocols. Churches that are staying open during this time are growing. Young families are searching for churches that continue having Bible classes for children.

#10

Set up a Prayer Line. Advertise your church's contact information online or in the local paper with times people can reach out to you. Offer prayers for those who are sick, lonely, afraid, and out of work. Sometimes people need not only prayer, but someone to talk to. Schedule in-person prayer meetings for those willing to gather to pray over these requests.

#11

Call or text each member and family. Connect with your congregation. Ask how they are doing; ask if there is anything they need. Are they still employed? Are they in need of prayer? Make a plan to check on them regularly. Have both leadership and members involved in reaching out in this way. Don't let your members fall through the cracks. Community in Christ could save a life.

#12

Build a Blessing Box. Build a small weather-proof pantry where people can donate shelf-stable groceries, or take what they need. This will become a symbol of a loving, caring church. Advertise your blessing box to the community.

#13

Use social media. Many are stepping away from social media for various reasons, but these platforms are a mission field filled with people who don't normally attend church, or those who are in need of encouragement. Post scriptures, encouraging thoughts, invitations to attend church, pictures of activities, etc. Canva and Adobe Spark are great free tools available for creating graphics for social media.

#14

Send digital invitations. Christians have peace knowing where we will go when we die, but others are afraid and struggling to find hope right now. Don't be afraid to reach out. Send a nicely designed e-invite to your members and ask them to share it online with their friends.

#15

Connect with others. Social distancing is a practice to keep us safe, not to keep us apart. Take time to visit with your visitors and members before rushing out the door. Social distancing is not a good excuse for failing to reach out at this time. Talk with your masks on and gather outdoors if necessary. Use the HomeMission STARS card as an example for using the HOPES dialogue with others.

#16

Don't forget the kids. If you aren't having in-person children's lessons, post a lesson, puppet show, or kids' singing time on YouTube and Facebook to keep your families involved. This also helps families who are looking for a church to attend once the pandemic lifts. Check out Saginaw church of Christ on YouTube for examples of this.

#17

Become a resource center. Post a list of places and organizations that have services available for those in need on your website and Facebook page. For example—food distribution centers, organizations that help with rent and utilities, job opportunities, etc. Your church may not be able to meet everyone's physical needs, but you can be the place they turn to for answers when they need help—physically and spiritually. Show them you care!

#18

Develop mentors. Have your older members reach out to the younger members. Parents whose kids are grown and out of the house have valuable knowledge to teach young families struggling to balance life and school at home. Older couples can give advice to newlyweds about loving each other through tough times. Older men and women reaching out to younger men and women forms bonds that will grow the church into a strong community of support for one another.

#19

Spread the Gospel. Don't worry too much about developing "programs". People know when they're being enticed with things that aren't genuine. Focus your vision on Christ's life, death, and resurrection and what that means for the lost--making sure that everything you do points toward that vision. Love people deeply, speak Christ into their lives, encourage seeking truth in the Word, and you will see growth in your church--both numerically and spiritually.