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# October 2025

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# HomeMission Report

OUR TEAM. YOUR HOME. GOD'S MISSION.™

Volume 9, Issue 11

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## SPOTLIGHT CHURCH: Fifth & Beechwood church of Christ (Pittsburgh, PA)

In July of 2024, we reached out to Brother Dave Deagel at the West Virginia School of Preaching. We asked him if he knew of anyone who could serve at the Fifth and Beechwood Church of Christ in Pittsburgh, PA, one of the most livable cities with lots of hospitals and universities. He did not know of any brethren but told us about **HomeMission**. We made contact with brother Jim Lucas, who explained **HomeMission** to us. As a congregation, we decided to move forward, and Jim came to conduct a LAUNCH Workshop from February 2-5, 2025. It was exactly what our congregation needed. Our strength is sharing Jesus; we just needed someone like Jim to lead and organize us with a plan. We made our teams and set our goals. Since our LAUNCH, 4 studies have resulted in baptisms and new, faithfully attending members. Other studies are ongoing. We started with around 33 active members and are now up to about 41. One of our goals from the LAUNCH was to have an outreach picnic in the summer. We had that event in August, and Brother Jim brought Brother Austin, and they served all weekend.

People are getting excited and telling their friends to come to worship. We have a New Christians class. Our members have almost completed the Bible study "Foundations of Discipleship" that **HomeMission** provided. The goal is for members to be equipped to do this study with new Christians and to share the load. Our next goal is for **HomeMission** to give us some feedback from a recent survey the congregation completed, and to have another Habanero Ministry Meeting to set 4 more goals. Our card team has written some of the kindest cards, and this has made a huge impact. We keep a running list of our Yellow Team visitors, and it is encouraging to see one after another get baptized.

-KC and Jen Branson



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**HomeMission** is a Biblically-based church growth ministry that seeks to assist struggling congregations of the Lord's church through an evangelistic method of equipping with onsite training, guidance, tools, and resources - thus enabling them to revive and thrive as a spiritually healthy body of Christ in their community.

# Director's Report



John & Susie Orr

Dear Loved Ones in the Lord,

Thank you for believing in us. This year (through October), we have worked with over 204 congregations in 42 states. Over 1100 baptisms have been reported by some of these churches. The school of evangelism has 4-5 students this year, and thus far has had close to 80 baptisms from their graduates. 11 students have graduated and are still very active in evangelism. One former student has had 22 baptisms this year. Praise God.

Many congregations have reported growth since **HomeMission** has assisted them in some way. One congregation has grown from fewer than 20 members (on the verge of closing) to nearly 100 in attendance in a year and a half. They had a gospel meeting recently with over 240 on Sunday night. WOW. This is just one story among many.

While we are still losing 2-3 churches in America each week, **HomeMission** is stemming the tide in many around the country. 97% of the churches we assist are still going and trying to grow. The work is not easy, but it is rewarding. Thank you for supporting us in many ways. Since we do not charge the churches for anything, your support has been a tremendous blessing to these churches and the work of the Lord in the United States. Again, THANK YOU ALL!

Love, John Orr and the **HomeMission** group

## The Advancement Corner

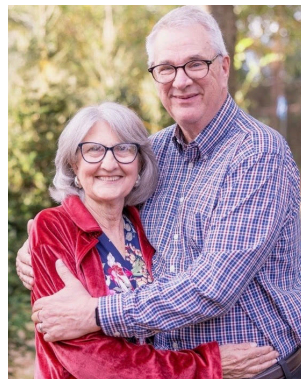
### "Pay It Forward: An Urgent Movement of Kindness"

As you are aware, we at **HomeMission** do not charge for any of our services. To continue assisting churches across the country, we are asking for your help. If you, as an individual or as a congregation, can support churches in need of assistance, please help us keep going and growing by paying it forward. So far, we have worked with over 700 churches in all 50 states in some way. Below is what one individual said:

"On behalf of the entire congregation, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude for meeting with us about the organization and preparation as we begin our church replanting. Your guidance, dedication, and unwavering support will be instrumental in bringing our vision to life. The replant of our church will be a monumental task, and your contributions will play a critical role in ensuring its success. From the initial planning stages to the final touches, God's increase and your expertise and commitment will shine through, making a significant impact on God's work in our community. Thanks to your efforts, we can start forming a plan that will serve as a beacon of hope, faith, and fellowship for many years to come. The transformation will truly be remarkable, and we are excited to see how our new environment will inspire and nurture the spiritual growth of our congregation."

This congregation had 6 in attendance on the Sunday before our visit. By the time we presented our workshop, they had 19 in attendance. They have great potential, and with God giving the increase, this church will survive and thrive. There are many more churches like this across the United States. With your help, we can continue workshops, materials, Bibles, and boots-on-the-ground assistance. However, as we approach the end of this year, we find ourselves at a critical crossroads.

Our mission to save churches on the brink of closing, uplift lives, and spread the Gospel remains stronger than ever, but we urgently need your help to continue this work. We are adding 3 more evangelists who will be regional trainers around the country. Without additional financial support, many of the initiatives we have worked so hard to build are at risk. The programs that bring hope to struggling churches and empower the faithful rely on the generosity of those who believe in God's mission. So, we are coming to you with a special plea: Our goal is to raise \$250,000 above our regular contributions to ensure our ministry continues without interruption. We hope many of the churches we helped in the past will make a special contribution in December. We pray that God will raise up churches and brethren to meet this goal. If you have questions, please contact John Orr at 940-631-5530 or Jim Lucas at 615-428-2445.



Don and Phylis Lallathin

### Please keep **HomeMission** in mind when estate planning!

Your donations will leave a legacy that will last many lifetimes. We also encourage you to check with your employer about matching donations to 501c3 organizations. If they participate in matching funds, you can make tax-deductible donations to **HomeMission** that will be increased through the generosity of your employer. **Contact me to learn more about how to support HomeMission in this way!**

## Memorials

Will be reported in next month's issue.



# Operations Director Report

Fellow brethren in the faith,

Over the years, the American military has been known for some inspiring recruiting slogans. One of the oldest – which dates back to 1779 – was used by the Marine



Jim and Lisa Lucas

Corps. The slogan “A Few Good Men” has inspired countless young men to join “The Few, The Proud.”

**HomeMission** has at least one thing in common with the US Marines: we are also looking for a “few good men,” and also women. For our readers who may not know, we are heavily reliant on volunteer men to serve as traveling evangelists or missionaries to congregations across the country. Most are retired from ministry or other careers and are financially self-sufficient/self-supporting. **HomeMission** does reimburse most travel expenses. As God continues to open more doors for **HomeMission** to work with congregations seeking to grow, we are in need of a few more “good men.” We also have roles for volunteer women who would like to assist **HomeMission** in some way.

**HomeMission** can be a wonderful opportunity to truly make a difference in the Lord’s Kingdom. It is not a fit for everyone, but for those who are “hands-on,” this might be a great fit for your special gifts and abilities. If you would like to know more about the roles and duties of a **HomeMission** volunteer missionary/evangelist or ways that volunteer women can help, I would love to talk with you. Reach out to me at [homemission.jim@gmail.com](mailto:homemission.jim@gmail.com), or 615-428-2445. May God continue to bless us all as we seek to do His Will. –Jim Lucas

**Evangelist Activity:** Oct 12-15: LAUNCH Workshop @ Cyril COC (OK) w/ Danny Aragon; Oct 18-19: Habanero Refresh, visit & meeting with leadership @ La Feria COC (TX) w/ Danny Aragon; Oct 26: Preached at Throckmorton St COC (McKinney, TX) and afterwards met with the preacher to discuss growth opportunities and planning. -JL

# WFSOE



It has been a busy month for the School of Evangelism. We had two opportunities for outreach. In the middle of the month, we had a community hot dog and taco event, and at the end of the month, we had a Trunk-or-Treat. Both were well attended, and we got a good list of contacts for the students to work with. As November approaches, we will be engaging with these contacts in the community through a door-to-door campaign. With the help of the students, members of the West Freeway church of Christ, and Gospel Sharing, we should have a great impact. Please pray for the studies and visits that will lead people to Christ.

To God be the Glory,

Ronnie Moore



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# HomeMission Statistics through October 2025

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1. Churches have reported 1120 baptisms so far in 2025. 1174 were reported in 2024.
2. We have worked with (in some way) 201 churches in 42 states so far this year. We have helped over 700 churches in all 50 states in the past 10 years.
3. Since January, we have supplied \$173,483.60 worth of materials, tools, and Bibles at no cost to the congregations. This is only possible because of churches of Christ and individuals around the country who support this effort.
4. Fifteen larger congregations have worked with sixteen smaller ones through **HomeMission**. Most of these have helped with Vacation Bible School, door-knocking, or supplies. Two are helping with building construction.
5. Of the 700-plus churches **HomeMission** has worked with over the past 9 years in some way, 97% are still up and running and trying hard to grow.
6. **HomeMission** is adding two regional full-time evangelists; one to work in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado, and the other will live in Ohio and work primarily with West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Western Pennsylvania. We have been praying for this to happen. The call for assistance is increasing. They will be trained to train others and build a team that works with them. We plan to add one more evangelist in eastern Pennsylvania next year to work in the Northeast, God willing.
7. Elder'sNet (a quarterly publication for elders by elders) is being sent to 738 elders in 31 states representing 224 congregations around the country. Ask your elders if they are receiving this quarterly newsletter.
8. The fourth year of the West Freeway School of Evangelism has now started. 5 students are currently studying. If you know of anyone who would like to attend the school next year, there is no charge for the school. They can come on-site or via Zoom. Please contact Chris Graham if interested (817-797-6325).

All praise and glory go to Jesus, our Savior and King.

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## HomeMission- Did You Know...?

Each month in this column we explain some of the terms and tools used by **HomeMission**. The intent is to give you, our readers, a better understanding of how we assist congregations. Reach out to us if you have questions or would like to know more!

**HomeMission** has many materials and tools for congregations that want to grow the Lord's church. As you know, they are free of charge for anyone who can use them in God's kingdom. We offer a great variety of subjects for churches that have needs in those areas. We currently have a **HomeMission Handbook** that explains what **HomeMission** does, along with our list of materials in English and Spanish. We are continually striving to update the material to offer the best workbooks, tools, and workshops for congregations. If you would like a copy of our **HomeMission** handbook, please call me at 940-631-5530. That is my personal phone number. Thank you for your support, prayers, and involvement in making **HomeMission** a tool God can use to build his churches in America.

God bless you all,  
John Orr, Director

### \*Upcoming Events\*- Come See Us!

None reported at time of printing.

*IN ALL  
Things  
GIVE  
Thanks*



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# Evangelist Activity Reports: October

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## DANNY ARAGON

With the training I have received from Jim Lucas, and the churches that have been assigned to me, I feel like my plate is definitely filling up. **First**, I was trained on the LAUNCH Session by Jim at the church in Rhome, TX. It is a church that I have been assigned to work with as part of the **HomeMission** Organization. After the LAUNCH, we have visited twice with their outreach minister, Norfleet Stitts, to set up and implement the Habanero Ministry for the church. I also met with their minister, Roy Deaver, and discussed the history of the church in Rhome and possible activities that can be done to further increase community awareness of the church. I plan on making a second visit in the near future to ensure all goals, activities, and ministries are still progressing to help this church grow. **Second**, I was able to be involved with the church of Christ in Cyril, OK. I was able to attend the first meeting on September 21, in which Jim and I met with them to discuss the work of **HomeMission**. Three weeks later, October 12-15, I was able to conduct my first LAUNCH Session. This was extremely rewarding as Jim and I were able to build a good working relationship with their minister, Adam Potts. I was able to sit down with him and create a plan to finish the year strong, of which he has already made progress through implementing the Habanero Ministry, making visits with fringe members of the church, and beginning weekly articles for the local newspaper. All these will increase the visibility of the church in Cyril since most members are from the surrounding towns and farms. **Third**, on September 28th, I was able to go to Kim, CO, and present the work of **HomeMission** and specifically what I will be doing. They are a great congregation of the Lord's church, which is genuinely concerned about the condition of the churches in America. **Fourth**, I was able to go with Jim to the La Feria church of Christ in La Feria, TX, on October 19th. It is a **HomeMission** church, and I have been assigned to work with this church going forward. While we were there, we met with their minister, Roger Goodwin, and their Spanish minister, Ezequiel, about some benefits and challenges of a bilingual church, the Habanero Ministry, and their worship together as one church. I am planning my return visit.

## RODNEY CARTER

Johnson City coC/ Johnson City, TX/ In-person visit on November 16; preached and taught. We discussed the Habanero ministry efforts and other goals. / Ave T coC/ Temple, TX/ I scheduled a Zoom meeting with the Habanero Coordinator, preacher, and one of the former elders to determine a date to make a visit and meet with members interested in participating in the Habanero Ministry in an effort to bolster involvement.

## JONATHAN ORR

Needville Church of Christ: I visited the Needville Church of Christ for their 25th anniversary celebration. I spoke in Bible class and talked to them about how **HomeMission** could benefit them. Spring Creek Church of Christ: I went with John Orr to thank the Spring Creek Church of Christ for their support. John spoke to the congregation. Many great friends attend there! Petrolia Church of Christ: I went to the Petrolia Church of Christ to thank them for their support. I got up and gave an update during worship. Always a highlight of my year visiting there! Throckmorton Church of Christ: I visited the Throckmorton Church of Christ and thanked them for their support. Another great highlight visiting the congregation there! Callisburg Church of Christ: I preached twice at the Callisburg Church of Christ. They are a supporting congregation and one we work with. It's always an honor to fill in when I'm needed and available!

## RANDY REAGAN

October 19, 2025/ Westgate church of Christ/Beaumont, Texas/ I spoke at the Sunday morning worship assembly and taught the adult Bible class. I attended a Community Fall Festival (one of the goals from the HomeMission Launch!) at the church building on Saturday, October 18. It was very well-attended by those in the community. The personal evangelism outreach continues to grow; four have obeyed the gospel in the past six weeks, with others in Bible studies with people desiring to obey the gospel. October 2025/ Bourbonnais church of Christ/ Bourbonnais, IL/ I am working with the elders to locate and utilize the best materials to conduct classes and Bible studies for community members, as well as new Christians within the congregation. I continued filling in for the Van church of Christ in Van, Texas, by teaching a Sunday morning Bible class and preaching on Sunday mornings.

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# Evangelist Activity Reports: October (Cont.)

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## JACK SKINNER

The Eagleville, TN church had a booth for the community's Fall Festival Day on September 27th. This effort produced 75 contacts; 8 prize baskets were delivered, and 68 other contact visits were made following the festival. On October 26th, they began open-invitation monthly fellowship meals after morning worship, with singing afterwards. They have handed out 25 Bibles, some to people who had never owned one before. They have planned a one-day VBS on December 6th called "Shop and Drop." It is intended to provide parents a way to do Christmas shopping without a babysitter and provide contact information for follow-up with their Habanero Ministry. Children get VBS lessons, games, and a meal, and everyone benefits.

National Evangelism with Sojourners (Sojourners) is a mission ministry that helps churches with needs expressed in a Request for Help (RFQ) application submitted to the Sojourners office in Marshall, TX, at Camp Bee. Jim Lucas and I explored with their leadership, six co-directors, whether they would approve an "extreme need" category of RFQ for churches that **HomeMission** works with. The idea is that a church we work with might need fairly immediate help with some physical repair or modification to their property that is impairing their ability to grow. Sojourners themselves have received the same kind of requests. What situations might constitute "extreme need" were discussed, and as a result of our meeting with them, the concept was approved. We plan to define "extreme need" with the Sojourner co-directors and ourselves in the November-January timeframe. Normal (non-extreme) RFQs will be handled using their standard process by submitting an RFQ online at [sojournering.com](http://sojournering.com). A **HomeMission** guidance document to ensure our evangelists can submit an RFQ will be developed within the same timeframe.

## AUSTIN WOODFIN

10.14.25 / Ligonier Church of Christ / Ligonier, PA / I introduced **HomeMission** to the men on 9/30/25. They met and agreed to do a LAUNCH workshop in 2026. We scheduled the LAUNCH workshop for January 11-14, 2026.

10.14.25 / Plattsburgh Church of Christ / Plattsburgh, NY / I made a follow-up call to see how their Habanero ministry is currently going. I have scheduled a Zoom call/Habanero meeting with the congregation for November 9th.

10.19.25 / North End Church of Christ / Parkersburg, WV / I presented the AM sermon to "fill in" when their minister was out of town. I also set up a booth for **HomeMission** at their area-wide singing on Friday, October 10th. The elders at North End oversee my work, and I attend here when I am able.

10.19-10.24.25 / I attended the West Virginia School of Preaching lectureships and set up a booth for **HomeMission**. I made new contacts with congregations in the Ohio Valley and am continuing to make my presence better known throughout this region.

10.23.25 / Strasburg Church of Christ / Strasburg, VA / I had a follow-up call with two of their members. They have had several visitors over the last couple of weeks and have made a few "red team" visits. Their Habanero ministry is starting to work well, and they are beginning to see some results from it. I am attempting to schedule a follow-up visit in the near future.

10.25.25 / 5th & Beechwood Church of Christ / Pittsburgh, PA / Jim Lucas and I have had multiple conversations and follow-up calls with them over the last several weeks. They have reported four baptisms this month and started a New Christians class on 10/26.

10.12.25 - I presented HM to the congregation in southeastern Ohio. We are possibly looking at a LAUNCH workshop in the spring, but have not made plans at this time.

Throughout October, I have made contact with multiple congregations and presented HM to two congregations in total. I am also working on scheduling another LAUNCH with a local congregation for the spring of 2026. Aside from "official" HomeMission work, I held a Gospel meeting at the South Main Church of Christ in New Lexington, Ohio, on October 5-7. During the meeting, they had a baptism! I shared copies of the Foundations material with the minister.



# From the Field



One of several baptisms at Fifth and Beechwood COC (PA)



Jim Lucas and Austin Woodfin with the brethren at Fifth and Beechwood COC



Danny Aragon preaching at Cyril COC (OK)



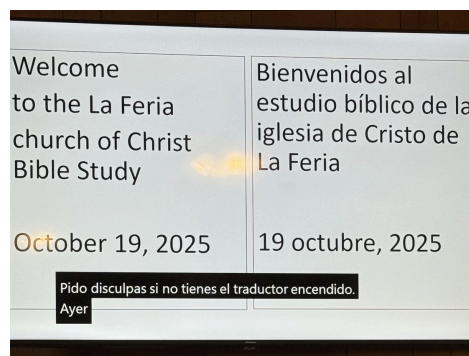
Cyril: Danny & Jim with Adam Spotts' (minister) family



Kitchen generals at Cyril COC



David, Roger, Jim, Danny, and Ezequiel. Jim and Danny met with La Feria leadership (La Feria COC, TX)



HomeMission booth at West Virginia School of Preaching Lectureship (Austin Woodfin)



## From the Field

Oct 6 • 🌐

We celebrated 25 years since the church was planted in Needville, TX. Former members returned. We had great food, singing and fellowship. Met new friends and shared memories. John preached Sunday and Jonathan taught class. We had a Friday night meal to start things off.



# Happy Thanksgiving

**HOME**MISSION

OUR TEAM YOUR HOME GOD'S MISSION

