
February 2026

HomeMission Report

OUR TEAM. YOUR HOME. GOD'S MISSION.™

Volume 10, Issue 1

SPOTLIGHT CHURCH: SOUTHGATE CHURCH OF CHRIST SAN ANGELO, TEXAS



When **HomeMission** started 10 years ago, the Southgate church of Christ was one of the first churches to support the work. Since then, we have shared a great partnership in saving churches and accomplishing the Lord's will. Paul Shero is the preacher there and has been for many years. He is a good and faithful preacher of the Gospel. Bill Stanley, one of my elders at Faith Village in Wichita Falls (when I worked there as an outreach minister), moved to San Angelo around the time when **HomeMission** began. He was one of their elders then and has continued to work with the mission committee. They have a great congregation of friendly, Godly folks who love the Lord. Thank you to all our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Southgate church in San Angelo, TX, for believing in the work of **HomeMission!**

—John Orr

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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,

Brrr. January ended with a real cold snap. We continually pray for those who were deeply affected by the storm. Despite this, work in January was heating up. Many are still calling to receive assistance. Jim Lucas and I have been working the phones and e-mails. The West Freeway School of Evangelism started its Monday night courses. Already, souls are being brought to Christ. Our Spanish literature has generated many calls lately. We are so thankful to have several workbooks in Spanish and are trying to secure more material. There is a great desire around the country to grow the church among the Hispanic Community. We are so thankful to be a small part of it.

It seems that when a new year comes, many make promises and commitments to the Lord. Our promise and commitment from the 58 brothers and sisters in Christ who work at **HomeMission** is to be the best servants we can be for His cause in the U.S. We will do everything we can to help build the church in our own backyard, BUT only God can give the increase. Jesus can save His churches in the U.S. and around the world if we motivate each other to spread the Gospel in our communities. In 2026, whatever else we do, let's keep the Main thing the Main thing (Matthew 28:18-20). May the Lord bless and keep you.

Love, John and Susie Orr

The Advancement Corner

"In 10 to 20 years, work will be optional and money will be irrelevant thanks to AI and robotics"

I'm often entertained by what I read in the news most days. I started my day today by reading a quote from Elon Musk. In the future, Elon Musk sees humans as metaphorical vegetable farmers. The Tesla CEO said at the recent U.S. –Saudi Investment Forum in Washington that in the next 10-20 years, work will be optional, likening the decision to have a job to the more laborious upkeep of a vegetable garden. "My prediction is that work will be optional. It'll be like playing sports or a video game or something like that," Musk said, "If you want to work it's the same way you can go to the store and just buy some vegetables, or you can grow vegetables in your backyard, and some people do it because they like growing vegetables.."

Ok, That's one man's opinion.

Jesus didn't leave behind a "Career Success" manual, but he had a lot to say about the spirit of labor and specifically our work in the area of evangelism. Since Jesus spent the bulk of his life as a craftsman/carpenter, his perspective was rooted in the grit of daily toil not just abstract theory.

In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25) Jesus uses work to describe spiritual responsibility. Jesus viewed evangelism not as a secondary hobby, but as the primary "industry" of his followers. He often used metaphors from the labor market of his time-farming, fishing, and management-to describe the work of expanding God's kingdom.

Before his ascension Jesus gave what many call his "final orders" Job description: "The Great Commission" This is the formal project scope for kingdom expansion. GO: It is an active,

outward bound job, not a desk job where you wait for customers to come to you. Make Disciples: The goal isn't just sales (conversions) but "training" (mentorship). Baptize and Teach: This involves bringing people into the community and providing ongoing education.

This is the work of each of us and the work of HomeMission. This work won't cease in 10-20 years. We need your help in this work. Please continue to pray for the work of HomeMission and please consider your support.

Be Blessed,

Don Lallathin
Director of Advancement



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

Mike Priddy

by

Trina Priddy and Family

“ONE BITE AT A TIME”

Fellow brethren in the faith,

Have you ever been in a situation where you simply felt overwhelmed? Many of us have been - and perhaps



Jim and Lisa Lucas

some of you are experiencing those feelings now. From time to time, we at **HomeMission** encounter congregations where the challenge to reverse their numerical decline seems overwhelming. Yes, we know that with God all things are possible, but we still struggle with doing what we can. The sense of urgency can often contribute to our discouragement. I am reminded of the proverbial question, “How do you eat an elephant?” You will remember the answer is, “One bite at a time.” The phrase is a metaphor for tackling large, seemingly impossible tasks by breaking them down into smaller, manageable steps. I submit to you that this applies to the way a congregation tackles the challenge of spiritual and numerical growth when the situation appears bleak... and urgent. Identify simple things that will make a difference and begin doing them intentionally and consistently. God, through His Holy Word, has told us that He is with us. We need to recognize what we can do and do it – “one bite at a time,” trusting that God will do His part.

May God bless us all as we seek to do His Will.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Lucas



West Freeway School of
Evangelism

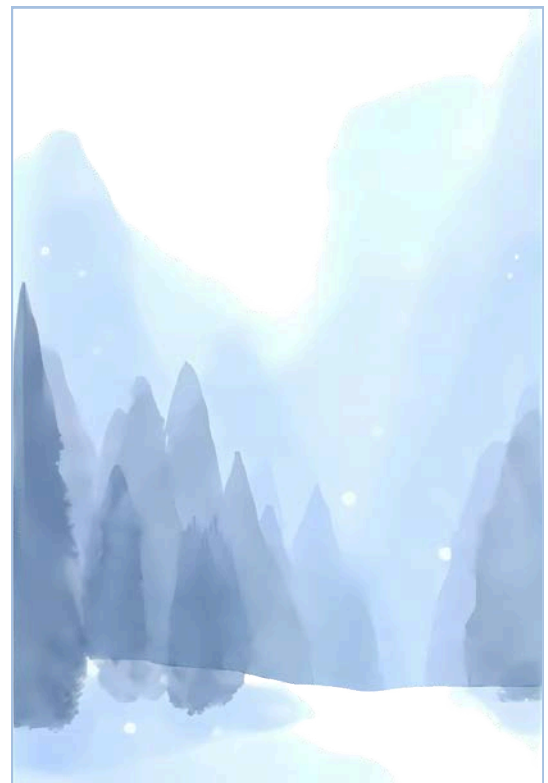
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As of this writing, we are going through our Monday night classes with John Orr. We are grateful to John for taking the time to teach these classes. Keep the School of Evangelism in your prayers. There are still opportunities for members of your congregation to attend the Monday night classes or be thinking about the full-time school starting again in the Fall of 2026. People in your community are seeking Christ. Learn how you can reach out to them. Contact us here at West Freeway Church of Christ, and we will be happy to share the school with you.

To God Be the Glory,

Ronnie Moore



HomeMission Statistics through February 2026

1. Churches reported 23 baptisms in January 2026. 1228 were reported in 2025. There was a slow start due to the weather.
2. We worked with 26 churches in 15 states in January 2026. We have worked with churches in all 50 states in some way in the past 10 years.
3. Since January, we have supplied \$8724.08 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 that support this effort. (Special thanks to Nat Stanaland from the North Houston Area for keeping up with this amount each month!)
4. Fifteen larger congregations work 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 10 years in some way, 95% are still up and running and trying hard to grow.
6. **HomeMission** has added two regional full-time evangelists. One works in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado. The other lives in Ohio and works 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 have been trained to train others and build a team that works with them. We plan to add one more evangelist in Eastern Pennsylvania this year to work in the Northeast, God willing.
7. Elder's net (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 finished its class work. The full-time student, brother Norfleet Stitts, is now engaged in his field work. He will finish in May. All 13 students who have gone through the school have led 94 souls to Christ and are still going. One of our students, brother Tom Kane, finished the classroom portion before he passed away recently from cancer. He had led 2 souls to Christ before he went to be with his Lord. If you know of anyone who would like to attend the school next August, there is no charge for the school. They can come on-site or via Zoom. Please contact Chris Graham if interested (8177976325).

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

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 workbooks designed for church use and church growth. One of those workbooks is entitled "Effective Community Outreach." It contains various ideas that churches can use to make contacts in the community. It briefly covers the event, description of what to do, and expected outcomes. Many times, churches get stuck in a rut, wondering what they can do to reach the community. As always, you are trying to get information from participants in order to invite them to future events such as Friends Day or VBS. If anything is to be successful, it needs prayer, planning, coordination, and follow-up. Remember, you can feed and clothe everyone in town, but if you don't get contact information, it will seldom lead to anything productive. If you wish to look over this workbook, call John Orr at 940-631-5530. We'll send you samples at no charge.

Let's go to work for the Lord!

Upcoming Events Come See Us!

- CYC - Pigeon Forge, TN — February 20-22, 2026
Pigeon Forge, TN – **HomeMission** booth (Austin Woodfin)
- Rest of the Story Workshop – Humble, TX Feb 21-22, 2026
Deerfield church of Christ (John Orr presenting)
- Men's Inspiration Day – Zanesville, OH – March 7, 2026
Norval Park Church of Christ – **HomeMission** booth (Austin Woodfin)
- Affirming The Faith – Oklahoma City – Mar 6-7, 2026
North MacArthur church of Christ – **HomeMission** booth (John, Jonathan Orr)

Evangelist Activity Reports: February

DANNY ARAGON

The month of January started with a bang, with new churches wanting to know more about **HomeMission**. Jim and I held introductory calls with the East Prairie St church in **Denton** and the church in **Rotan, TX**. Both congregations seem to be excited about learning more from **HomeMission**.

I will be spending the weekend of February 6-9 with the congregation in **Cyril, OK**, to encourage their continued work with **HomeMission**. They have begun the Habanero Ministry, and during my time there, I plan on working not only with the minister but with the whole congregation to assist in follow-up with their contacts from their food and coat drive. **La Feria COC**: I have been in contact with the brethren and am planning a follow-up visit in the next 4-6 weeks.

RODNEY CARTER

30 January 2026/ Tanglewood church of Christ/ Odessa, TX/ I spoke with Kevin Adkinson (elder) and Don Potter (pulpit minister). At the time I spoke with Kevin, the congregation was conducting a clothing giveaway, and two women in the community who had received a flyer during the weekly Saturday for the Savior came to the giveaway. Building improvements are also in progress.

DWAYNE HAGEMEIER

I am in discussions with two congregations concerning potential further HM involvement.

Bill and I have been invited to set up a table and make a five-minute presentation at the next "Give Me The Bible" annual conference. This is a national TV broadcast that Dan Manuel has been producing for the past couple of decades.

MIKE KING

January - The elders of the Port Charlotte Church of Christ in **Port Charlotte, Florida**, agreed to host an area-wide invitation seminar. The purpose of the seminar is to encourage, equip, and challenge our fellowship in recognizing our covenantal responsibilities to mature and share our faith. I am scheduled to present at the **Sharing Our Faith Seminar** on 14 March 2026.

MARK MCLEAN

Continuing to follow up with **Sturgis, SD**, since the August LAUNCH.

DAVID MILLER

David's wife Carolyn has had a series of medical struggles over the past several months. We are happy to report that she is doing much better after the most recent treatment plans. We pray that God will continue to grant healing for our dear sister.

JONATHAN ORR

I went with John Orr to the **Callisburg Church of Christ**, where he gave a presentation. This is a congregation I am assigned to and also attend when we are in town. John went there to thank the congregation for support and give a 2025 **HomeMission** update. This is a congregation that has doubled in size since I conducted a LAUNCH in 2022. They have gone from averaging in the 40s to regularly hitting in the 90s and 100s. They have had 4 baptisms this year (2026). They will continue to utilize **HomeMission** further as a new building is finished, and a fresh eldership is helping build momentum. They currently have 3 elders installed in the past few years, after 2 other long-tenured elders passed away. God is really working there!

RANDY REAGAN

January 18, 2026/ Westgate church of Christ/ **Beaumont, Texas**/ I spoke at the Sunday morning worship assembly and taught the adult Bible class. Van COC: I continued filling in for the Van church of Christ in **Van, Texas**, teaching a Sunday morning Bible class and preaching on Sunday mornings.

I am scheduled to speak at Caverns Road church of Christ in **Mariana, FL**, on March 1, 2026. We also made plans for Zoom meetings with the Habanero groups before the March visit. The **Marshfield church of Christ in Wisconsin** is attempting to get involved in an annual Community Culture Fair. They are awaiting approval from the organizers. The Westgate church of Christ continues a monthly community meal along with a weekly Sunday evening meal and Bible study with a community invitation. The congregation has set up a community food bank. On Wednesday, February 4th, a representative from Heart to Heart Hospice will come to give a presentation about hospice care and what Heart to Heart offers. The congregation hosts three weekly AA meetings open to anyone. Every Friday, the ladies of the congregation meet to sew items for the community. All of these activities have resulted in multiple baptisms and restorations. This congregation epitomizes the saying, "spread the seed, water the seed, then let God give the increase." A great group of Christians spreading the Gospel.

Evangelist Activity Reports: February (Cont.)

JACK SKINNER

Newark, TX church of Christ: Plans are set for a meeting with them on Sunday, Feb 8, to discuss plans and organization for a re-launch effort. This meeting will reveal the best "First Four Goals" path for them to have some quick success, as well as address any weaknesses and barriers that impede their progress. I fully expect this meeting to start a series of meetings to develop action plans for them to pursue and for **HomeMission** to assist with. **Eagleville, TN church of Christ:** The Eagleville church continues to make good progress on its original goals, and we have discussed a follow-up second-year planning meeting with them in the second quarter of 2026. **Sojourners Alignment with HomeMission Support:** In the first half of 2026, I will draft a procedural document with Mike King for the churches we work with to request help in physical maintenance needs and improvements. This would be specific guidance for our evangelists to use with churches we work with so that they can submit a Request for Help (RFH) to National Evangelism with Sojourners (Sojourners). The RFH will be posted at the Sojourner workshop held in October each year for assistance in the following November-September timeframe. Since Sojourners travel and work out of their RVs (tongue-pull trailers up to class A motorcoaches), **HomeMission** evangelists will need detailed guidance in making sure our churches can maximize the likelihood their RFH is assigned to a Sojourner team with the skills needed for the work requested. In the first half of 2026, I will co-develop with Sojourner leadership criteria for an "extreme need" class of sojourn. This was discussed in October 2025 with their leadership, and the concept was approved. More information will be forthcoming as this collaboration develops. Also, Jim Lucas has requested that I review the suitability of adapting the Listening Lab material from the Sojourners currently taught as an instructional sojourn for a workshop series for **HomeMission** evangelists. The eleven listening skills taught in this lab could significantly improve evangelist-church interpersonal relationships.

AUSTIN WOODFIN

1.5.26 / Strasburg Church of Christ / **Strasburg, VA** / I continue to remain in contact with our brothers and sisters at the Strasburg Church of Christ. They are continuing to work on their "first four" goals, and I am working to assist them as I can. We are working on gathering results from a survey to help the Habanero Operations team be more effective; those results will be available to the congregation in the near future. I plan to make a follow-up visit in the spring of 2026.

1.10.26 / 5th & Beechwood Church of Christ / **Pittsburgh, PA** / I met with some of the congregation on Saturday, January 10th. We had great fellowship with one another, then worked towards setting four new goals to kick off 2026 (since they accomplished their "first four" goals following the LAUNCH last year. I also had the opportunity to discuss Habanero team roles with some of their new members, who will begin to become involved in Habanero ministry. I plan to visit with them again later in the year.

1.10-1.14.26 / Ligonier Church of Christ / **Ligonier, PA** / I held a LAUNCH workshop with the congregation this week. Overall, I believe it was a very positive and impactful week, with a lot of participation from the congregation. All seemed to be excited, encouraged, and ready to get to work! They picked four "very achievable" goals as they kick off these new evangelistic efforts. They are beginning to use our Foundations material in their adult Bible study on Sundays as well. I have a Zoom meeting scheduled with their Habanero Operations team in February to help them move forward.

1.25.26 / Plattsburgh Church of Christ / **Plattsburgh, NY** / I have remained in contact with some of the members here as I look to assist them in evangelistic efforts moving forward. We had scheduled a Zoom call with the whole congregation for Sunday, January 25th, but had to reschedule due to winter weather. I plan to schedule an in-person visit with them late spring/early summer.

1.26.26 / Kenton Church of Christ / **Kenton, OH** / I made contact with one of the members at the Kenton Church of Christ to discuss an upcoming visit and further help/working with them in 2026. My fellow evangelist David Miller has been working with them; he has been sidelined for the past 6 months or so due to his wife's serious medical struggles. At Jim's request, I will visit the congregation in March of 2026. I will be working "behind the scenes" to help the congregation until David can resume his role.

Elders' Net Information



Elders' Net: Connecting Elders with Elders

Elders' Net is a **quarterly newsletter, for elders, by elders**, created to share insights, experiences, and encouragement from across our broader brotherhood. Each issue highlights the voices, wisdom, and perspectives of Elders who continue to serve and inspire.

We warmly invite any Elder who is interested in submitting an article for inclusion in Elders' Net to do so—your reflections and stories are welcome.

Looking ahead, we also hope to include a Q&A section in future editions. If you have a question you'd like to put forward, please send it along.

Elders' Net is associated with and offered as a resource through **HomeMission**. To sign up to receive **Elders' Net**, submit an article, or send a question, contact the general **HomeMission** email account at homemission444@gmail.com.

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HOME**MISSION**

1. We are traveling missionary-evangelists who work with churches of Christ across the United States. We are under the eldership of the West Freeway church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas.
2. With a large number of churches of Christ closing their doors in the United States each year, we work to assist congregations struggling to grow, with special emphasis on smaller churches. We work with them, not for them, facilitating a growth plan. God has worked through us to help in some way over 700 congregations in all 50 states, and to our knowledge, over 95% are still open.
3. We work with at-risk congregations, at their request, for a period of three years or more, and with other congregations as deemed helpful. None of our missionary-evangelists is involved in the direct decision-making process of the church.
4. As part of Home**Mission**, the West Freeway School of Evangelism offers 5 months of courses that increase evangelism skills, then provide coaching for 5 months of hands-on evangelism in the field.
5. We seek to connect larger churches with smaller churches to be of mutual encouragement and partner of resources.
6. We offer a free monthly "Home**Mission** Report" newsletter and a free quarterly "Elders' Net" newsletter written by elders for elders.
7. Most Home**Mission** missionary-evangelists are former preachers, teachers, or church leaders now volunteering to help churches.
8. Home**Mission** offers the missionary-evangelist's assistance, travel, training, and core materials at no cost to the congregation.
9. Home**Mission** provides materials, tools, and training proven to be effective for spiritual church growth and community evangelism.
10. We are supported by churches of Christ and individuals who want to see the Lord's church in America survive and thrive.

OUR TEAM. YOUR HOME. GOD'S MISSION.

From the Field




Austin Woodfin at the LAUNCH in Ligonier, PA.



John at the SIBI Workshop.

John at Callisburg COC.



Jim Lucas
Presenter from Homemission

Brother Lucas was with us January 10 & 11 to encourage us in our evangelistic endeavors with a workshop on Saturday. He also taught our English language adult Bible class on Sunday morning and presented an excellent lesson based on the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin from Luke 15 during the English worship service. Thank you Bro. Lucas for being our guest!



Jim's Evangelism Workshop at Northwest COC (Houston, TX)

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