
April 2026

HomeMission Report

OUR TEAM. YOUR HOME. GOD'S MISSION.™

Volume 10, Issue 3

SPOTLIGHT CHURCH: Lone Grove Church of Christ



Just outside of Llano, Texas, is the Lone Grove Church of Christ. Founded during the Great Depression, this small congregation has weathered many storms. But there have been no divisions in the church in all its history. They are solid and faithful and are starting to grow. For a good while, they operated with about 10-12 in attendance. When we visited a couple of weeks ago, they were up over 20. They now have a website and live-stream their services. The building (though leaning somewhat) is in good shape, with classrooms and an auditorium able to seat many more. They are

in the process of renovating the building, as they continue to add more attendees. People love the country setting and the warm reception they receive when they come. In fact, Lone Grove and some of their members support **HomeMission**. They want to send a message to all small churches: Don't give up, let God take control, and you'll be blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ. They remind me of the small church in Philadelphia in Revelation chapter three. Each year, Lone Grove conducts a gospel meeting, and Jonathan Orr of **HomeMission** goes down to lead singing for them. This is a great example of a church continuing to be faithful despite what goes on in the world. It is what the Lord's church is intended to be—a respite from the world. They have old-fashioned fans in the pews, which talk about their history. Their final words are: "Join us, you will not be disappointed." -J.O.

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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

When a Church of Christ Closes

- Local impact: No one is left to do the saving work of Christ. The message dies in that town or area.
- Member dispersal: Members often join other nearby congregations or begin attending a denomination.
- Community effect: Closure will leave a gap in local evangelism and service, especially in small towns where the congregation may have been the only Church of Christ.

This is the mission of **HomeMission**! Small churches that remain autonomous but cooperative often survive by focusing on grassroots evangelism, discipleship, and community service, rather than adopting denominational structures. People today are hungry for truth, hope, and love. They want and need the gospel, and they are looking for something authentic and foundational. **HomeMission** evangelists try to instill a healthy, growing faith when working with churches of any size. THIS IS THE LORD'S CHURCH, not ours. We believe in the power of God to give increase to any congregation if they have faith! 2 Chronicles 16:9 tells us: For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to HIS!

May the Lord bless and keep you. Love, John and Susie Orr

The Advancement Corner

Having the Right Attitude Toward Money

V.P. Black's book *Giving Our Way to Prosperity* tells us to lay a dollar down, look it over carefully, read the printing, study the symbols, analyze it any way you wish, even with a microscope, and the only conclusion you could draw is this: money is a harmless piece of green paper. The benefits or harm arise from the use that is made of it. The same dollar that can print cheap, filthy magazines can be used to print Bibles. It can build hospitals or gambling casinos. That same dollar can send evangelists into local congregations to support God's work.

Attitudes will determine if one is liberal or covetous. This is why the good steward must successfully pass the test of attitude toward wealth before beginning to think about the stewardship of the use of money.

Please pray for and consider supporting the work of **HomeMission**.

In Him,

Don Lallathin



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

None reported at time of printing.



Operations Director Report

Fellow brethren in the faith,

CHANGES ARE COMING!

We at **HomeMission** have spent long hours prayerfully considering how we can improve different facets of our ministry. While our focus has



Jim and Lisa Lucas

been – rightly so – on how we engage with and support dozens of congregations each month, we also have identified internal operational opportunities that will allow us to better serve our readers, donors, and supporters, as well as individual church members seeking to learn more about **HomeMission**. In the coming weeks and months, you will see several changes that hopefully will be viewed as improvements.

This month, I am happy to announce that we are changing our general mailbox email address. The previous email of “homemission444@gmail.com” is now replaced with “info@homemission.org.” Do not fear- the old email address is still connected; it will now be forwarded to the new email address. Additionally, our staff bookkeeper/accountant, Victor Jones, has an email intended specifically for financial communication. This email is “accounting@homemission.org.” Lastly, the editor of Elders’ Net now has an email just for use by him and others within that area of interest: “eldersnet@homemission.org.” We will be updating our email addresses on materials, our website, social media, and newsletters, effective immediately.

Thank you in advance for your patience with these upcoming enhancements. If you have any questions or problems, please reach out directly to me at 615-428-2445 or homemission.jim@gmail.com. May God continue to bless us all as we strive to do His will.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Lucas

WFSOE



Can souls be saved in the 21st century? Yes, it is possible with the same gospel message taught since the 1st century. That is what the students in our Monday night classes are learning.

We continue to see a tremendous response each week. In one class setting, we had 8 students attend online and 7 in the classroom at West Freeway church of Christ.

We look forward to Chris Graham, Director of West Freeway School of Evangelism, wrapping up the spring classes April 6, 13, 20, 27 & May 4, 11 (back to Monday Evenings 7:00-9:00 pm CST). Don't miss this opportunity to get “Back to the Bible” and study *Does it Matter*, written by Bobby Bates.

The Fall Semester Schedule is here:

www.westfreewayschoolofevangelism.org/class-schedule/

The Mission is Calling: Are You Ready?

A new season is blooming, and at the West Freeway School of Evangelism, the call to harvest has never been clearer! In Matthew 28, Jesus didn't give us a suggestion; He gave us The Great Commission. He is calling every disciple to step out of the pews and into the mission field. But to reach a busy modern world, we need not only zeal; we need the right tools.

It is time to consider enrollment in the fall semester. We have our faculty and subjects set. All we need is for you to be in class. The School of Evangelism is re-igniting our commitment to teach students how to accurately divide the Word of Truth. Our upcoming fall semester is designed to transform your faith into action. These aren't just ancient lessons; they are practical, modern strategies tailored for sharing the gospel in today's fast-paced society, presented by the best teachers.

Enroll today:

www.westfreewayschoolofevangelism.org/enrollment

Once we receive your RSVP by email, we'll provide all class materials at no cost to you; your only investment is your time. We ask that you give prayerful consideration to this life-changing opportunity.

To God Be the Glory!

Ronnie Moore

HomeMission Statistics Through April 2026

1. Churches reported 185 baptisms through March 2026. 1228 were reported in 2025.
2. We have worked with 79 churches in 27 states in some way in 2026. We have worked with churches in all 50 states in some way in the past 10 years.
3. Since January, we have supplied \$37,099.46 worth of materials, tools, and Bibles at no cost to congregations. This is only possible because of churches of Christ and individuals around the country who support this effort.
4. Ten larger congregations have committed to working with ten smaller ones through **HomeMission**. Most of these help with Vacation Bible School, door knocking, or supplies. Two are helping with building construction. Several more have an interest in assisting next year.
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 will be trained to train others and build a team that works with them.
7. Elders' 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. 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 106 souls to Christ and are still going. One of our students, brother Tom Kane, finished the classroom part before he passed away 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 in August, there is no charge. We have also had great success with our Monday night classes (in person and online); we had 18 students last week. Please contact Chris Graham if interested (817-797-6325).

All praise and glory go to Jesus our Savior and King. -J.O.

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 several tools for churches to use. They are given without charge. One of these workbooks is "Men Who Serve." This book is a training manual for men who wish to lead in worship and other activities. Subjects include how to make announcements, leading a public prayer, how to read scripture, how to lead singing, how to deliver a sermon, conducting the Lord's supper, how to be a greeter, how to teach a Bible class, how to perform a wedding, how to preach a funeral, and how to baptize someone into Christ.

Several churches have shown interest in this for training young men, new Christians, and men who want to get more involved. If your congregation is interested, please contact us at 940-631-5530 or email info@homemission.org. -J.O.

Upcoming Events

Come See Us!

La Feria, TX- April 17-19, 2026

HomeMission Habanero Meeting / Field Training – La Feria church of Christ – Danny Aragon

Vienna, WV – April 19-22, 2026

LAUNCH Workshop – 36th Street church of Christ – Austin Woodfin

Bowling Green, KY – April 23-26, 2026

EQUIPPED Workshop – Cumberland Trace church of Christ – **HomeMission** booth (Jim Lucas)

Savannah, GA - May 2-3, 2026,

HomeMission Presentation / Class & Sermon – Central church of Christ – Jim Lucas

Harrisburg, PA – May 17-20, 2026

LAUNCH Workshop – Harrisburg church of Christ – Austin Woodfin

Temple, TX – May 23-24, 2026

HomeMission Training – Avenue T church of Christ – Rodney Carter

Altoona, PA – May 23-24, 2026

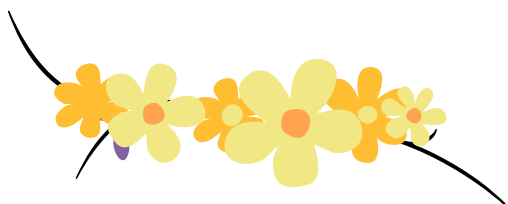
Lads 2 Leaders – Blair Convention Center – **HomeMission** booth (Austin Woodfin)

Richland Hills, TX – May 31, 2026

HomeMission Presentation – Baker Blvd church of Christ – Danny Aragon

Temple, TX – May 30-31, 2026

The Rest of the Story Workshop – Avenue T church of Christ – Rodney Carter & Alfredo Heredia



Evangelist Activity Reports: April

RODNEY CARTER

Ave T church of Christ/ Temple, TX: I attended the monthly men's meeting on March 14 to discuss an interest in conducting a Re-LAUNCH and a Rest of the Story Workshop. The men voted to have both workshops conducted (May 23-24 and May 30-31, respectively). I will be conducting a condensed, two-day Re-LAUNCH to assist the congregation in establishing new goals and the Habanero Ministry. Additionally, I have facilitated a "Rest of the Story" evangelism training workshop on May 30-31. Al Heredia, pulpit minister at the Bedford (TX) church of Christ, will be presenting The Rest of the Story to the Hispanic congregation, and I will simultaneously present the same to the English congregation. More specifics will be worked out during the next men's meeting.

Smith Chapel church of Christ/ Gainesville, MO: I spoke with Stacy Hambelton (elder), and he mentioned that the remodel work they had planned is now complete (foundation repaired, new flooring, new ceiling, new doors and windows, bathrooms remodeled, and pews installed that had previously belonged to another area church). He also mentioned that in two weeks, they will be holding a three-day Gospel Meeting. The guest speaker will be Coleman Smith from the Thayer church of Christ. They are also planning another Gospel Meeting in the Fall. In one month, the congregation will be hosting an area-wide Women's Day.

Southside church of Christ/ Killeen, TX: I have arranged to meet with the elders on April 13 to give a formal introductory presentation about HomeMission – who we are and ways we can assist them.

DWAYNE HAGEMEIER

A table was set up at Crocket Rd Church of Christ for the annual Give Me the Bible conference. We were able to meet with and get to know preachers from various congregations throughout the East Texas area who are involved with Give Me the Bible. Future contacts were set up for an introduction to **HomeMission**. I attended "The Rest of the Story" presentation that John Orr gave at the Deerbrook C of C in Humble, Texas. It was very informative, and I met many of the members there. I have been assigned to be the **HomeMission** evangelist for that congregation. They will have a VBS this summer with help from the New Road C of C in Waco. I will help with door-knocking as well as other means of getting the VBS advertised. I am excited and looking forward to opportunities to serve the Lord with that congregation.

I attended a men's breakfast in Fairfield, TX. This is a monthly meeting including the men from both Fairfield C of C and Teague C of C. It was well attended, and after breakfast, I gave a **HomeMission** Introductory Presentation to both congregations. Both Fairfield and Teague are considering the possibilities of having a LAUNCH Workshop.

I was invited to the Longview Church of Christ in Longview, TX. I taught the adult Bible class and preached that Sunday morning. After services, I met with the elders of the congregation and presented the **HomeMission** program. They are also considering doing a LAUNCH Workshop.

The Needville Church of Christ contacted me and said they are still considering working with **HomeMission** in some way.

I am very happy to report that the small congregation at North Side Church of Christ in Athens, TX, is finally getting its roof repaired. This small congregation of about 9 had their 5th Sunday Friends and Family Day after the LAUNCH, and they had 45 in attendance! They have also had one restoration since the LAUNCH Workshop. I am securing new songbooks for them as the ones they presently use are in extremely poor condition. I am also considering going back and presenting "The Rest of the Story" to them to help them in their studies with new contacts.

Evangelist Activity Reports: April (Cont.)

BILL HAWKINS

2/20-2/22: Deerbrook Church of Christ, Humble, TX: I supported John Orr in his presentation of "The Rest of the Story."

3/7: Fairfield Church of Christ, Fairfield, TX: I supported Dwayne Hagemeyer during their men's breakfast as he introduced **HomeMission** to the men from Fairfield and nearby Teague.

MIKE KING

I conducted the "Sharing Our Faith" seminar at the Port Charlotte, Florida Church of Christ on Saturday, March 14. Three other congregations participated in the seminar, with a total of 48 in attendance. I have also been in contact with multiple congregations in MI as we make plans for follow-up visits with them this summer.

AUSTIN WOODFIN

3.8.26 / Kenton Church of Christ / Kenton, OH / I visited with the Kenton Church of Christ with David Miller. I presented the lessons for both the class and the AM sermon, then, following the fellowship meal, we held a Habanero meeting and assigned new teams to help restart Habanero ministry efforts here. I later met with the Habanero coordinators on March 31st to further help them get things up and running. We will conduct a congregational survey in the near future to identify needs within the congregation.

3.9.26 / 5th & Beechwood Church of Christ / Pittsburgh, PA / I have remained in contact with some members at 5th & Beechwood, helping provide necessary material for them, and working with them as needed. I will be returning for a visit and training session with them on April 12th.

3.11.26 / 36th Street Church of Christ / Vienna, WV / Throughout the month, I have remained in contact with 36th Street Church of Christ as we continue to prepare for our upcoming LAUNCH workshop in April. I will be holding a LAUNCH workshop with them on April 19-22.

3.12.26 / Strasburg Church of Christ / Strasburg, VA / I have remained in contact with the members at Strasburg while helping them achieve their "first four" goals. I also compiled all data from their recent congregational survey and shared that information with the men's leadership. I will be returning to Strasburg on May 8-10 to help them set up a booth during a community event.

3.19.26 / Plattsburgh Church of Christ / Plattsburgh, NY / I have remained in contact with a few members at Plattsburgh and have been assisting them in whatever way I can. I have scheduled a follow-up visit with them for August 9th.

Throughout March, I have been in contact with 12 congregations in 6 states. 10 of these are actively working with **HomeMission** or utilizing some of our material. I presented **HomeMission** to the other two congregations, and I will be following up with them shortly. I also set up a booth for **HomeMission** on March 7th at the Norval Park Church of Christ Men's Inspiration Day. All went well here, and I made multiple contacts in my area. March has been a busy month with mostly "local" travel and work, as there is a great need in the Ohio Valley region! May we give God the glory for all that we do in His Kingdom!

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. Hm is blessed to have David Fittz serve as Editor of Elders' Net.

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 David Fittz at eldersnet@homemission.org

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HOMEMISSION****

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 HomeMission, 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 "HomeMission Report" newsletter and a free quarterly "Elders' Net" newsletter written by elders for elders.
7. Most HomeMission missionary-evangelists are former preachers, teachers, or church leaders now volunteering to help churches.
8. HomeMission offers the missionary-evangelist's assistance, travel, training, and core materials at no cost to the congregation.
9. HomeMission 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.

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From the Field



Austin Woodfin interacting with some visitors to the **HomeMission** booth at CYC Pigeon Forge.



HomeMission booth at CYC (Austin Woodfin). Note the monitor and looping video created by Austin.



New roof in progress at North Side church of Christ, Athens, TX (Dwayne Hagemeier assisted).



Mike King conducting the "Sharing Our Faith" seminar at the Port Charlotte, Florida Church of Christ



John Orr delivering a sermon and **HomeMission** presentation at Whitney Church of Christ (Whitney, TX).

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