
July 2026

HomeMission Report

OUR TEAM. YOUR HOME. GOD'S MISSION.™

Volume 10, Issue 6

SPOTLIGHT CHURCH: Alpena church of Christ, Alpena, MI

The Alpena church of Christ has been meeting for about 60 years. At its peak, there were approximately 60 full-time members. At that time, there was an active Air National Guard Base in Alpena. Though the base is still there and has a small full-time contingent of airmen, the activities are no longer full-time or at full capacity. With the activity and personnel reduction, the membership of the church suffered a great loss from which it never fully recovered.

In 2015, the congregation had 5 members. That year, outside funds were made available to pay a full-time preacher for several years, and Jim and Kelly Myers took on the work and have served ever since.

Since 2015, the number of members has grown to 30-40.

Since 2014, we have had 27 baptisms, with 2 in 2025. We currently have several ongoing weekly Bible studies with lost souls and more recent converts.

HomeMission has been a true Godsend. They arrived two years ago and accomplished the task of encouraging our spirits and better equipping and training us for more effective evangelism. We are looking forward to a third visit from them this year.

HomeMission has provided and continues to provide us with invaluable resources and tools. One of the resources is the low-cost, high-quality website we now have through one of **HomeMission's** partners. For most small congregations, a lack of money is a significant concern and obstacle. **HomeMission** removes the obstacle, and so goes the concern. It is surprising that many more congregations of the Lord's church, especially small ones, do not take advantage of the **HomeMission** ministry, which only requires that the congregation be willing and committed to do the work in their own community with **HomeMission's** continuing support.

So, with a heart of gratitude from the Alpena church of Christ, thank you to the entire organization that is **HomeMission**; to all the congregations, institutions, organizations, and individuals who make **HomeMission** possible and productive. Most of all, with awestruck wonder, we praise the One True and Living God who blesses us all with initial ability and then adds his incredible increase to its faithful and collective use. (Submitted by Jim Myers)

info@homemission.org | homemission.org | 4100 McNeil Ave. Wichita Falls, TX 76308 | 940-692-0032

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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

Why are so many churches of Christ struggling or dying in America? The problem isn't doctrine; it's culture. Churches aren't drifting because the Word has changed, but because our habits, expectations, and priorities have shifted. We've built a culture where evangelism is outsourced, discipleship is assumed, and the mission is optional. We need to call this out with clarity. **WE NEED TO MOVE TOWARD A CULTURE OF EVANGELISM IN EVERY CHURCH, NO MATTER THE SIZE.**

A culture of evangelism is not created by events, programs, or hiring decisions. It is created when every member sees the Great Commission as their personal responsibility.

Why Culture Must Change:

Our congregations across the United States are facing a quiet crisis: we've become maintainers instead of missionaries. That is why **HomeMission** uses workshops, materials, and a school of evangelism to assist the Lord's church in going back to the passion and way of life of early Christians. Even in America, the great pioneers who preached meetings, planted churches, and challenged brethren helped to create a desire in every soul to share the good news of Jesus Christ and His church. Earthly cultures come and go, but patterns of faith, hope, and love can transform any church as **GOD GIVES THE INCREASE**. Pray for us, brothers and sisters. Pray for a restoration in America as we have never seen before. Join with us as we work to create a culture of evangelism in every church across the nation.

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

The Advancement Corner

After being out of town for a few days, I went out to the garden this morning, and I realized the 100-degree heat and no water are not a winning combination for a productive garden. The flowers had wilted, and the tomatoes were hanging over. When a once vibrant garden becomes neglected and dry, it does not mean the soil is useless. It simply means the plot needs intervention.

Across our country, many congregations are currently struggling. They face dwindling numbers, low resources, and discouragement. But at **HomeMission**, we believe that these fields are still ripe for harvest. Our strategy mirrors the exact steps a dedicated gardener takes to restore a failing plot of land to full health.

Encouraging the Soil (Breaking up Hard Ground)

A struggling church often suffers from the heavy weight of discouragement. Before any new growth can happen, the ground must be softened. **HomeMission** steps in to encourage congregations. We remind them of their purpose and breathe hope back into their community. Your financial partnership acts as the initial cultivation, breaking up the hard ground of despair so that life can take root again.

Equipping the Builders (Providing the Tools)

A gardener cannot work empty-handed; they need spades, shears, and nutrient-rich fertilizer. **HomeMission** equips local churches by providing practical ministry tools, leadership training, and strategic resources. When you give to this mission, you are directly purchasing the tools these congregations need to rebuild their ministries and sustainably tend to their local flocks.

Evangelizing the Community (Sowing and Reaping)

The ultimate goal of any garden is to produce fruit. For **HomeMission**, that fruit is lives transformed by the Gospel. We help churches evangelize their neighborhoods, turning inward-focused congregations outward toward the harvest. Every dollar that you invest is a seed planted in fertile ground. It allows us to launch outreach initiatives that bring the lost to Christ and fill church pews again.

Partner with the Harvest

Restoring a struggling church takes time, resources, and shared labor. We cannot do this vital work alone. By investing in **HomeMission**, you are not just funding an organization; you are becoming a co-laborer in God's field. Together, we can encourage the weary, equip the worker, and evangelize the community to ensure no local church is left to wither away.

In Him,
Don Lallathin
Director of Advancement

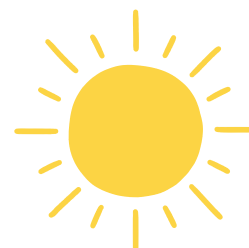


Don and Phylis Lallathin

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

None reported at time of printing.



Operations Director Report

Fellow brethren in the faith,

Once again, we find ourselves at that time of year where we are in the middle of summer, and with it, the numerous excellent brotherhood workshops and conferences; small in number but mighty in substance. Others are some of the largest gatherings in the brotherhood. **Polishing The Pulpit (PTP)** in Branson, MO, is the first of the two PTP events that truly are national in scope. The staff and team that organizes and manages these events continue to exceed all expectations. The end of July features the well-structured **CONNECT Conference** in Nashville; this is now “the” brotherhood event in that region. As I write this, I am preparing to attend the brotherhood conference in the Northwest, the annual **FaithBuilders Conference** in Tacoma, WA. These and several other events can be a blessing to you – excellent speakers, powerful lessons, and uplifting fellowship. I urge everyone who can do so to purposely plan to attend one or more of these events. Truly, you will be blessed by these opportunities for encouragement and edification.

May God continue to bless us all as we strive to do His will.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Lucas



Jim and Lisa Lucas

WFSOE

West Freeway School of Evangelism

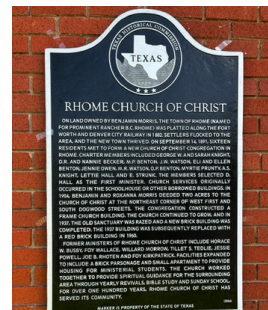


VISIT US ONLINE!
wfsoe.school

Rhome Church of Christ Honored with Texas Historical Marker

A century of faith and community service received official state recognition at the Rhome church of Christ Historical Marker Dedication. Representatives from **HomeMission** attended the special ceremony to celebrate this momentous milestone. Among the attendees were Ronnie Moore (Elder at West Freeway church of Christ), Jim Tyler (Evangelism Coordinator), and Norfleet Stitts (2025 School of Evangelism graduate and current Assistant Minister).

The dedication honors the local congregation established at this location in 1904. For over one hundred years, the Rhome church of Christ has served as a spiritual beacon for the surrounding area. Through dedicated Sunday school programs, deep Bible study, and powerful yearly revivals, the congregation has worked together to share the Gospel and provide spiritual guidance. **HomeMission** is proud to celebrate this rich heritage of enduring faith and community impact.



HomeMission Statistics Through July 2026

1. Churches reported 455 baptisms through June 2026. 1228 were reported in 2025.
2. We have worked with 136 churches in 37 states in some way. We have worked with churches in all 50 states in some way in the past 10 years.
3. Since January, we have supplied \$68,014.63 worth of materials, tools, and Bibles at no cost to congregations. This is only possible because of the churches of Christ and individuals around the country who support this effort. In this way, we have helped dozens of churches this year throughout the United States that need specialized material or to re-order more material. Some have had workshops, some aren't ready for one, and some already have active programs in place and want our materials to fill needs. If you want a list of our materials and/or workshops, please contact us at info@homemission.org
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. 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.
6. The fourth year of the West Freeway School of Evangelism has now finished its class work. All 13 students who have gone through the school have led at least 110 souls to Christ and are still going. One of our students, brother Tom Kane, finished the classroom part before he passed away recently, with 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), with as many as 18 students. Currently, we have 12 students signed up for the Fall session, which begins the last week in August and runs through May 2027. 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!

The United States is the third-largest mission field in the world. For years, we have faithfully gone beyond our borders to other nations. For the most part, they are hungry to hear the true word of God. In America, however, it isn't always that way. Missionaries to India love the fact that people will line up for hours to hear the gospel. But in the States, if we go past 30 minutes on a Sunday Morning, we get restless. Why? Maybe it's because for years we have been blessed with more Bibles than we can read, more facilities than we can use, more programs than we can continue, and more fellowships than we can enjoy. We certainly have been blessed. However, it is time we started paying attention to those around us. There are 359 million souls in these 50 states. There are many ways to reach people, but only one way to bring them to Jesus: the gospel. That's one reason we changed the name of our **HomeMission** evangelists to "missionary evangelists." Because we are so blessed financially in this country, it is up to us to provide more missionaries to other countries. But with 10 churches of Christ closing every month (and many on the verge), our missionaries are having to come home. So, in many ways, we are missionaries in our own backyard. That is why **HomeMission** was started over 10 years ago and why so many support it today. Churches of 5, 10, 20, and 30 can grow again. Larger churches can grow even more if we view our towns, neighborhoods, and cities as mission fields. Many towns in the United States do not have a church of Christ. So, our missionary evangelists are on a mission to re-energize, plant and replant, and build up the Lord's people. In first Timothy 3:15, the Lord's church is called the "pillar and groundwork of truth." Thank you for supporting our missionary evangelists in the United States. God is blessing our efforts, and in time we will see the church growing again, planting again, and supporting more foreign missions again.

Upcoming Events: Come See Us!

July 15, Richardson, TX-**HomeMission** Presentation
Greenville Ave. COC (John Orr)

July 15, Marianna, FL- **HomeMission** Follow-up Visit
Caverns Rd. COC (Randy Reagan)

Upcoming Events (Cont.)

July 15-20, Branson, MO-Polishing the Pulpit Conference
Branson Convention Center (J. Lucas/D. Aragon-HM booth)

July 19, New Lexington, OH-LAUNCH Workshop
South Main COC (Austin Woodfin)

July 19, Bourbonnais, IL-**HomeMission** Follow-up Visit
Bourbonnais COC (Randy Reagan)

July 19, Boerne, TX-**HomeMission** Presentation
Boerne COC (John Orr)

July 26, Fond du Lac, WI- **HomeMission** Follow-up Visit
Fond du Lac COC (Randy Reagan)

July 26, Brentwood, TN-**HomeMission** Update
Concord COC (John Orr)

July 29-31, Nashville, TN- Connect Conference
Crieve Hall COC – HM booth (various HM staff)

Aug. 9, Fort Worth, TX-**HomeMission** Presentation
Western Hills COC (John Orr)

Aug. 14-20, Sevierville, TN-Polishing the Pulpit Conference
(Jim Lucas/Austin Woodfin-HM booth)

August 23, Janesville, WI-**HomeMission** Follow-up Visit
Janesville COC (Randy Reagan)

August 30, Marshfield, WI-**HomeMission** Follow-up Visit
Marshfield COC (Randy Reagan)

Sept. 6, Fort Worth, TX-**HomeMission** Presentation
West Freeway COC (John Orr)

4 Sept. 11-13, Pigeon Forge, TN-Transform Ladies Conference
(Don and Phyllis Lallathin – HM booth)

Evangelist Activity Reports: July

RODNEY CARTER

Johnson City CoC/ Johnson City, TX/ I will be visiting Johnson City Church of Christ on July 11 to meet with as many of the members as possible, and then teaching how to deal with the statement, "I am spiritual, but not religious" during Bible class, preaching during the morning worship, and teaching again after the fellowship meal. There is a young couple who recently placed membership and expressed a desire to work with the congregation.

Ave T CoC/ Temple, TX/ I've been in constant communication with one of the Habanero Coordinators as the congregation "revamps" their Habanero Ministry. Last month, I conducted a LAUNCH to assist them in establishing new goals. Jim Lucas also held a Zoom meeting with the new coordinators to walk them through some of the finer details of the ministry. Ave T also just finished up their VBS on the 30th of June. The numbers will be in my next report.

Smith Chapel CoC/ Gainesville, MO/ The congregation has just completed some remodeling of the building and is still participating in weekly nursing home visits, where they conduct a worship service for residents with a nearby sister congregation.

Tanglewood CoC/ Odessa, TX/ I visited Tanglewood with Jim Lucas on June 12-14, 2026. We assisted with a monthly clothing giveaway on the 13th, and Jim preached "Six Biblical Principles for Maintaining a Christ-like Attitude in this World," taken from 2 Peter 1:12-15, as a reminder of the things they already know.

JONATHAN ORR

On June 7th, I preached at the Chillicothe Church of Christ, right before VBS. The name of the sermon was "We Trust in the Name of the Lord," which is straight out of Psalm 20:7. I encouraged them to expand their horizons in their outreach and evangelistic efforts, and was excited to see they had a community outreach event planned for just weeks afterwards! We have a tentative plan for a "The Rest of the Story" workshop there in August to further equip them for studying with the people they are connecting with.

I also helped the Callisburg Church of Christ with their VBS. They broke both their VBS attendance record as well as their Sunday morning record in June! The attendance was 192 for a special celebration service, and has remained in the 90s and 100s. We are really thrilled to see the congregation's commitment to growth and service! They have gone from averaging in the 40s to where they are now after the **HomeMission** LAUNCH session in 2021.

RANDY REAGAN

June 19, 2026/Westgate church of Christ/Beaumont, Texas/ I taught the Sunday morning Bible class and preached at Sunday morning worship. The ladies of the congregation presented Deb and me with a beautiful handmade quilt to celebrate our marriage in February. We enjoyed a time of Bible study and fellowship on Sunday evening. The congregation continues to implement evangelistic community outreach in many different ways. They are working to coordinate opportunities for young people to thrive in their personal lives, where spiritual matters can be emphasized while providing them with skills to live productive lives.

Deb and I will be traveling to Caverns Road church of Christ on July 15 to speak at their Wednesday evening summer series, as well as see how the changes they implemented to their Habanero program have progressed. We will then head to Bourbonnais, Illinois, to help the church there with their annual Vacation Bible School July 17-19. Finally, we will go to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where I will be speaking at their assembly on July 26, then sharing a time of fellowship where we can discuss their Habanero program and how they are doing with their goals.

Evangelist Activity Reports: July (Cont.)

AUSTIN WOODFIN

5.31-6.3.26 / Latrobe Street Church of Christ / Parkersburg, WV / I held a LAUNCH workshop with this congregation throughout this week. Latrobe St is one of the smaller congregations in the Parkersburg area, but they all have a mind to work and were engaged throughout all of our sessions. We averaged over 75% of the congregation in attendance during all of our sessions, which shows their dedication to this program! I plan to follow up with the Habanero coordinators in the coming weeks.

6.9.26 / Kenton Church of Christ / Kenton, OH / David Miller has been engaged with this congregation, and I am assisting him in efforts there. We recently conducted an anonymous congregational survey to help determine any underlying concerns from each of the members, and to help determine what percentage of the congregation is willing to be more engaged in their evangelistic efforts. I compiled all of the results from this survey and submitted them to one of my contacts there. The results were shared with the congregation, and we will address the next steps moving forward in the coming weeks.

6.10.26 / Harrisburg Church of Christ / Harrisburg, PA / I have been in contact with the minister multiple times throughout this month, following their recent LAUNCH workshop in May. They have been active in their work with Habanero, and their professionalism and dedication to this work is worthy to be noted. They have been blessed with a new couple who desire to place membership, as well as some new visitors whom they have followed up with and are currently setting up Bible studies with. In my last conversation with their minister, he said: "Overall, we're seeing progress as people begin working together more effectively, and we'll continue making adjustments as needed."

6.22.26 / Ligonier Church of Christ / Ligonier, PA / I have been in contact with their minister multiple times throughout this month. They recently held a VBS (their first in 5+ years). All went well; there were 13 kids in attendance, including one family that was a completely new contact. They are tasked with following up with these new contacts and will continue to work as time goes on.

6.22.26 / South Main Church of Christ / New Lexington, OH / I held a call with one of their elders to go over final details for their upcoming LAUNCH workshop, July 19-22. They are currently working through our "Foundations for Disciples" material in their adult Bible study classes and have seen increased congregational involvement in evangelism already! They have reported 4 baptisms in the last month alone! I am looking forward to working with them more closely in the coming weeks.

6.28.26 / Pennsville Church of Christ / Pennsville, OH / I had the opportunity to present **HomeMission** to the congregation and present a sermon during AM worship as well. I was the full-time minister here for 5 years before I came on board with **HomeMission**. I am thankful for the opportunity to share more information with them and to be with this loving group of people once again.

I have an upcoming LAUNCH workshop at the South Main CoC in New Lexington, OH.

Throughout June, I made direct contact with 13 churches throughout 6 states. Of these 13 churches, 9 are currently working with **HomeMission** or using some of our materials. I believe it is also worthy to note that June 23rd marked one year since I came on board with **HomeMission** full-time. In the last year, I have been blessed with opportunities to work with and/or visit 25 churches across 8 states. I have been blessed with great opportunities thanks to **HomeMission**. Thank you all for your continued support of this work, and to God be the glory in all that we do!

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

HOMEMISSION
OUR TEAM YOUR HOME GOD'S MISSION



From the Field



Jonathan Orr helped the Callisburg COC (Callisburg, TX) with their VBS. This year, they broke their VBS attendance record!



Austin Woodfin at the LAUNCH workshop with the Latrobe St COC (Parkersburg, WV).



Austin introducing HM at the Pennsville COC (Pennsville, OH).



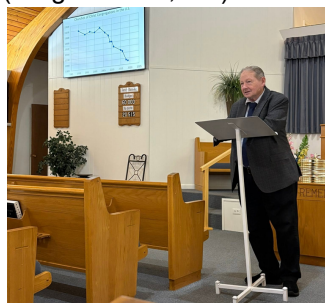
Jim leading a LAUNCH Workshop at New York Ave COC (Arlington, TX). Great food and fellowship as well!



A flyer for the upcoming Campaign for Christ at Niagara Falls COC (Niagara Falls, NY).



The Niagara Falls COC had a successful community booth for the Juneteenth celebration. Jim works with this congregation.



John presenting an HM update at the Liberty COC (Jasper, AL).



Randy and Deb Reagan were presented with a handmade quilt by the ladies at Westgate COC (Beaumont, TX). Their sewing ministry prepares these quilts for disaster relief all over the country.