

August 2026

HomeMission Report

OUR TEAM. YOUR HOME. GOD'S MISSION.™

Volume 10, Issue 7

SPOTLIGHT CHURCH:

Delmarva church of Christ, Salisbury, Maryland

In a city of 50,000-plus (Salisbury, Maryland), this start-up congregation has had its ups and downs since beginning with a handful of people. Pictured below is about half the congregation as it stands today. They have been meeting in a hotel, and Brother Silbano Garcia and his wife Olga have been working hard with very little support. They have also been working this past year with the Boys and Girls Club and are having great success.

Silbano writes,

"**HomeMission** has blessed our growing congregation with Bibles, Bible study workbooks, and important tools for evangelism. This year, we used the **HomeMission Foundations for Disciples** book in our Sunday morning adult Bible class. In preparation for personal evangelism, we are about to start using the **HomeMission** book *The Rest of the Story of Jesus*. **HomeMission** has been a great help to the Delmarva church of Christ. Our congregation does not have the funds to hire a full-time minister who does the work of an evangelist.

Brother John Orr from **HomeMission** has been a great source of encouragement for me as a minister of the gospel of Christ. Brother Danny Aragon at **HomeMission** has been a long-time friend and brother in Christ, and in the past, we worked together on a few projects within the churches of Christ. **HomeMission** has been generous in providing us with their study materials and tools free of charge. We thank God for **HomeMission** and all they do to help the churches of Christ who are young and growing in the word of God and in the fullness and stature of Christ. I pray **HomeMission** will be around for the second coming of Christ.

Silbano Garcia II--Minister
Delmarva Church of Christ
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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,

In the past few months, we've presented **HomeMission** and the School of Evangelism to more than 30 churches, and requests keep coming. Ten years ago, we established **HomeMission** so congregations and individuals could sponsor the Lord's work—allowing us to offer workshops, materials, and our services at no cost. When you support **HomeMission**, you're eventually helping hundreds of congregations in the US, not just one.

We're seeing results, but we must build a lasting culture of evangelism in every church, regardless of size. If the Lord's church is to stop closing or declining and begin growing again, we can't depend on a preacher or one or two others to carry the load. Everyone in every church needs to heed the call of Jesus "to go." We can help. Someone

asked me the other day, "What is the program you offer?" I responded: Acts 2:42-47 and Matthew 28:19-20. Many congregations are one-generational, but that can change if God wills. We also offer the West Freeway School of Evangelism to train members in your congregation, all at no charge. Please help us get the word out: if your congregation would invite us to present **HomeMission** during a Sunday morning Bible class, Sunday evening, or whenever it is convenient, we'd be grateful. Many have heard of **HomeMission** but have no idea what we do or how we can help you create a healthy, growing church. Thank you for believing in us. We believe that together we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. We've seen it happen repeatedly. Some have gone from 6 to 50 members, and others from 40 to as high as 190. Some are having to build new auditoriums or expand their building space. Some of you have been behind this effort for a long time. We cannot thank you enough. The Lord will surely bless you in many ways. Your prayers and support are making a real difference in our own backyard.

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Love, John and Susie Orr

The Advancement Corner

SUPPORTING SMALL CHURCHES OF CHRIST THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND

At **HomeMission**, we are dedicated to revitalizing and strengthening small, struggling Churches of Christ so they can thrive in their communities. Scriptural stewardship reminds us of the joy found in supporting kingdom work: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). You can easily live out this calling by recommending a gift through your Donor-Advised Fund.

Have you considered giving through a donor-advised fund (DAF)?

Giving through a donor-advised fund offers key benefits: immediate tax deductions, flexible grant timing, and easy asset contributions.

Why Give via a DAF?

Tax Savings: Get an instant tax break when you put money in, and choose charities later.

Easy Giving: Send gifts to your favorite causes straight from your fund account without extra paperwork.

Growth Potential: Let your funds grow tax-free over time to give even more impact in the future.

How to Make Your Gift

Log in: Open your DAF sponsor account online.

Recommend a Grant: Search for **HomeMission** and input your desired grant amount.

Contact Us: DAF distributions often arrive without donor details. Please let us know if you have recommended a grant so we can thank you and keep you updated on our work.

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

IS THIS YOU?

"This is the true story of a congregation of God's people. They have a nice building in a good community. The congregation is about 45 years old at the present location. They have always used



Jim and Lisa Lucas

part-time preachers, been generous in doing good works, and have had regular services and gospel meetings. Their preachers knew well how to visit the sick members, marry the young, and bury the dead. But they did not know how to build a strong, growing church. They were like a hospital. They served those who came. They may be described as largely inward-focused. Their building seats about 300. Today, 45 seats would be more than enough. No classrooms are needed, as there are no children. The members are old, and so is the preacher. They have given up hope. No matter what is suggested, they give their negative reasons as to why it would not work. There seems to be no possible way for this church to be helped. It appears that death is inevitable unless an infusion of Christians from the general area starts attending. Even though there is only one class, they always insisted that the bell be rung at the end of the one adult class in the auditorium on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. A preacher friend of mine, visiting this church, tells of their only elder giving the signal to one of the members to go to the rear of the auditorium and ring the bell.

There are many other congregations that are in the same state of decline and, after a few more deaths, will expire. This has led the writer to assemble information on a number of causes of the death of churches and give this book the title, *The Last Groan of a Dying Church*. It did not have to be that way. Let me hasten to say that there are many healthy, growing churches. Growth is usually a sign of a spiritually healthy church." -Bro. Clayton Pepper

These words could have been written this week about any number of churches that gathered together this past Sunday. Does this describe your church? Will these words be written about your congregation 5 years from now? In reality, these words — and the booklet *The Last Groan of a Dying Church* — were written over 20 years ago in 2003. The challenge we face now is not new. As Brother Clayton Pepper stated in his book, it doesn't have to be that way. Are you ready to do something so that it is not said about the church you attend? More of the same, or time to change?

May God bless you and guide you as you seek to do His Will.

— JL

WFSOE



WOW! What an incredible, action-packed summer it has been for the West Freeway School of Evangelism! In just a few short weeks, we will officially launch our 5th year, and the momentum is absolutely thrilling.

We owe a massive debt of gratitude to everyone for their efforts and dedication throughout these past few months. God has truly been opening doors for us to labor in His vineyard. We had the immense privilege of celebrating the Rhome congregation's remarkable 122nd anniversary, and we hit the ground running to support and uplift our brothers and sisters in Millsap and Joshua. To cap it all off, we just returned from a powerful, uplifting time at the Connect Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Everywhere we went, our mission remained clear: sharing the life-changing gospel of Jesus and pouring out His love on friends, neighbors, and strangers alike.

The harvest is plentiful, and the excitement is carrying right into the classroom! We are thrilled to announce that we are expecting our largest enrollment since the school first opened its doors. Right now, we have 15 enthusiastic students locked in for our daytime classes, and at least 16 ready to grow their faith in our new Monday evening sessions.

Mark your calendars: the Fall Semester officially begins on Monday, August 24th!

This year, we are doing something brand new for those who need an alternative learning schedule. **We are hosting Monday Night Zoom classes from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM CST.**

Whether you join us in person or via Zoom, you will learn from the best instructors how to accurately divide the Word of Truth. You will gain modern, practical strategies tailored for sharing the Gospel in today's fast-paced society.

Enroll online today!

www.westfreewayschoolofevangelism.org/enrollment/

God is so good. As we stand on the edge of this milestone year, we ask for your fervent prayers. Pray for our faculty, pray for these incoming students, and pray that God continues to use this school to impact souls for eternity.

To God be the glory!

Ronnie Moore

Dean of Students

HomeMission Statistics Through August 2026

1. Churches reported 455 baptisms through July 2026. 1228 were reported in 2025.
2. We worked with 147 churches in 39 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 \$91,121.94 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. In this way, we have helped dozens of churches this year throughout the United States that need specialized material or to reorder material they have run out of. Some have had workshops, some aren't ready for one, and some already have active programs in place and just want our materials to fill needs. If you want to look at 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 interest in assisting next year.
5. Seven congregations are either expanding their buildings or building new ones due to growth. These are all churches HM has assisted in some way.
6. 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.
7. The fourth year of the West Freeway School of Evangelism has finished its classwork. All 13 students who have gone through the school have led at least 106 souls to Christ and are still going. Currently, we have 22 students signed up for the Fall session, which begins the last week in August and runs through May 2027. 30 students are signed up for the Monday night classes (7-9 p.m. CST), which will begin the last Monday of August. Please contact Jim Tyler if interested at 817-797-6325 or go to westfreewayschoolofevangelism.org.

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!

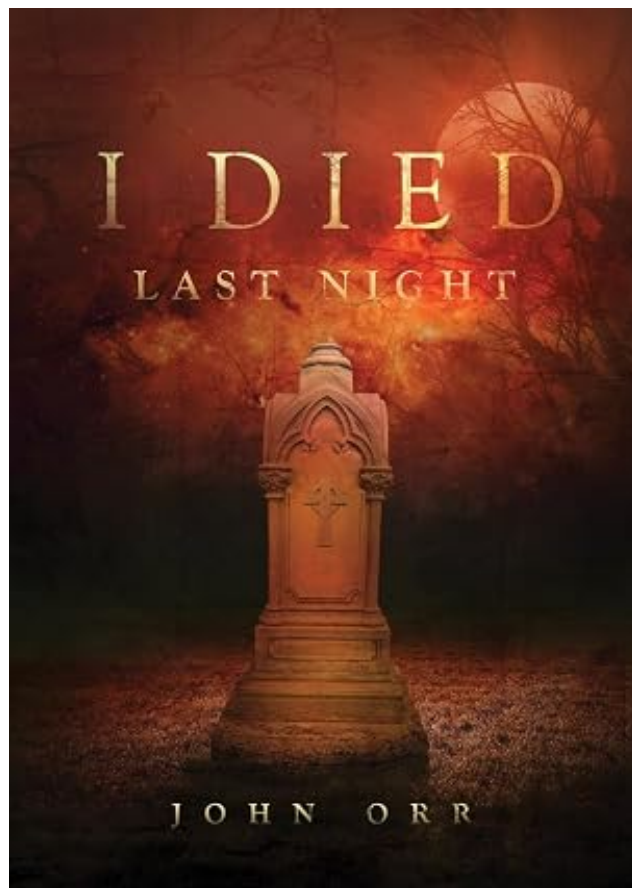
HomeMission offers a powerful booklet titled *I Died Last Night*. It is a fictional story about someone raised in the church who never took Jesus seriously. It draws from Scripture and early Christian writings on eternal punishment. The booklet uses vivid language and imagery to create a strong emotional and spiritual wake-up call.

This book has gone across the United States and into countries such as Kenya and Canada. Its purpose is simple: to stir a deeper love for the Lord with all your heart, mind, and soul. It is especially helpful for those who have drifted away from faith.

At the back of the booklet, readers will find resources from Apologetics Press and World Bible School for those with questions about salvation.

If you take a copy, please read it carefully and prayerfully, and then pass it on to a friend or loved one. Though the book is free to you, it is not free to our sponsors. Your support helps us place this life-changing resource into more hands.

Read it. Share it. It will make a difference.



Evangelist Activity Reports: August

DANNY ARAGON

I spent a week with Jim Lucas in Branson, MO for PTP.

I visited with Roger Goodwin from LeFeria COC (TX) about doing a weekend Habenero workshop for the Spanish congregation.

I visited with members from the Nacodoches congregation about doing a **HomeMission** intro with the congregation there. I will be following up with them this month.

RODNEY CARTER

Tanglewood Church of Christ/ Odessa, TX/ Jim and Lisa Lucas went to Tanglewood July 24-26 to deliver some clothing they had received from donations in the Flower Mound (TX) area. On July 25, the Tanglewood congregation held a successful clothing giveaway. At the same time, several of the men, including Jim, were busy beginning repairs on a section of the roof that had been damaged by recent storms. If anyone in the Odessa/Midland area is available to assist with repairs, any help would be greatly appreciated.

Avenue T Church of Christ/ Temple, TX/Ave T is in the process of fine-tuning their Visitation Ministry to fit the specific needs of the congregation to better engage the community and be effective in this ministry. On Saturday, August 1, the congregation will have a Congregational Prayer Breakfast as part of their continued effort to grow spiritually.

DWAYNE HAGGEMEIER

I followed up with Northside church of Christ, Athens. They had one restoration.

I recovered from back surgery and assisted with the Connect conference.

BILL HAWKINS

I followed up with Teague church of Christ and Fairfield church of Christ (TX). Fairfield wants help with a VBS next year. They are still considering a LAUNCH workshop.

I assisted with the Connect workshop.

JIM LUCAS

7/6 – Traveled to Van, TX for strategy meeting with Randy & Deb Reagan / **7/8-12** – Attended and had booth at Faithbuilders Conference in Tacoma, WA where **HomeMission** has near zero recognition; had some extended conversations and made several solid contacts interested in help and more information. Attended Springbrook COC (Renton, WA). Returned home on 7/13 and left for PTP Branson, MO the next day. **7/14**– Traveled to Decatur to meet with prospective evangelist Tom Box. **7/15- 7/20**: PTP Branson, MO - Danny & Tina Aragon and I manned the booth; this was the first opportunity we have had to give away John Orr's "I Died Last Night." There were several powerful responses to this book. Also, after PTP was over, we had a request for 100 books from an elder in Oklahoma to give to his congregation. **7/22** - Met with elders and preacher (separately) New York Ave COC (Arlington, TX) as post-LAUNCH follow-up. **7/23-26**: Tanglewood COC (Odessa, TX) – Note this congregation is around 15-18 average in Sunday attendance. Rodney Carter is the assigned evangelist working with them. As a follow-up to our prior visit, my wife Lisa had collected specific clothing items needed by Tanglewood. One of the goals from the LAUNCH workshop was to implement a clothing giveaway ministry focused on local neighborhoods and the community. She collected, sorted, and folded 9 bins/boxes to take to Tanglewood. Upon arriving at Tanglewood Friday, we were informed of roof damage earlier in the week caused by strong straight-line winds. So, instead of the planned community outreach visits, I worked on the roof repair alongside 4 others, including both elders in their 70s. The 80+ year old minister walked door-to-door handing out clothing giveaway fliers. Lisa worked with the ladies organizing and prepping the clothing ministry rooms. (Update: Lisa received word that the church had five first-time visitors the Sunday after the clothing giveaway! Follow-up is planned. More work is being done to finish the roof repairs; please pray for this church. I plan to return at my next opportunity. **7/28-31** – Connect Conference in Nashville: Supported booth and related activity. Thanks to Malvin Guy (Barkers Mill COC) who arranged a couple of introductions to struggling churches. Initial presentations were made. Another new contact is working to secure an invitation to present **HomeMission** in East Tennessee following PTP Sevierville. God is good. ALSO: We handed out *I Died Last Night* books to interested attendees as we had at PTP Branson. After reading it, Tim Estes (Timeless Talks) requested I do a short video introduction of the book for his podcast, and he would mail the books at no charge to anyone who requested them. At time of this writing he has had a handful of requests. All glory to God! Additional evangelist activity: Firm scheduled LAUNCH workshops with Walterboro COC (SC) and Central COC (Savannah, GA) for October. Church followup support activity in JULY: 14 churches, 12 states.

JONATHAN ORR

In July 2026, I made two different visits. The first was a trip to Llano, TX, to the Lone Grove Church of Christ and their annual Gospel meeting. They are a supporting congregation, and it was great to see the enthusiasm they have for the work of the kingdom. We go every year to thank them and participate in the meeting; this time I led songs. My other venture was preaching two Sunday mornings and a Sunday evening for the Callisburg Church of Christ. They are also a supporting congregation, and a participant in **HomeMission's** program. I taught on several different topics all centered ultimately on outreach.

Evangelist Activity Reports: August (Cont.)

RANDY REAGAN

July 18 & 19/ Bourbonnais church of Christ/ Bourbonnais, Illinois/ Deb and I supported the VBS held by Echo Hills church of Christ. We also met with the elders and caught up on current congregational activities, plans in place, and discussed plans and opportunities. I also met with the elders and three men of the congregation who are beginning to step forward to preach and teach at Bourbonnais. We discussed many aspects of taking such a leadership role and the responsibilities that accompany such work. Deb met with the wives of the two elders, and they discussed future joint efforts with the ladies of Bourbonnais and Echo Hills. We also planned another visit to Bourbonnais in October, Lord willing.

Deb and I will be traveling to Janesville, Wisconsin, on August 20, where I will be speaking on August 23. We received a great phone call from one of the brethren in Janesville who relayed that their individual Bible study efforts had resulted in several baptisms. They also had several families visit who were looking for a vibrant, engaged congregation with which to work, and found that very thing in Janesville and the brethren worshipping at the Lord's church there. We will leave Janesville and go to Marshfield, Wisconsin to visit with the brethren there. They have already scheduled an evening in the local park where we can greet and invite people for Bible studies and to visit the congregation. Once again, the brethren are reaching out to the community in multiple avenues. They have scheduled regular Bible studies open to everyone willing to study from the community. They also have regular Gospel singings where anyone is welcome to join with them. We are so excited to see these beloved brethren again and share in their excitement and joy for serving the Lord. I will be teaching and preaching August 30, Lord willing.

JACK SKINNER

July 26, Newark church of Christ, Newark, TX: At the invitation of the leaders, I taught the Bible class using the Foundations for Disciples After Care material they use for class. The specific lesson was on fellowship. The sermon expanded on fellowship as taught in the Bible in all its meanings. The congregation is small but persistent in their effort to grow. One visitor, a mature Christian, was present for both class and the worship service.

July 31, Eagleville church of Christ, Eagleville, TN: The Rest of the Story workshop had been scheduled for the end of July, but leadership indicated it needed to be rescheduled due to illness and vacations. The plan is to reschedule within the next 60 days, with the date to be determined after the Connect Conference.

AUSTIN WOODFIN

7.1.2026 / Plattsburgh Church of Christ / Plattsburgh, NY / I have held a few follow-up phone calls with one of the members at the Plattsburgh Church of Christ, primarily discussing how I can help them more moving forward and helping identify "areas of improvement" to help them serve their community better in the future. I will be visiting with them again on Sunday, August 9th.

7.5.2026 / North End Church of Christ / Parkersburg, WV / I had the opportunity to present two lessons (July 5th & 15th) at North End. I hope I was an encouragement to the congregation during both visits, and I always look forward to opportunities to visit with them.

7.12.2026 / Camden Avenue Church of Christ / Parkersburg, WV / I also had the opportunity to present a lesson here for their summer series, focusing on how we need to keep our eyes on Jesus so that we do not fall away. Camden Avenue is very active with the Habanero ministry, and they are doing a great work in their area.

7.19-22.2026 / South Main Church of Christ / New Lexington, OH / I held a LAUNCH workshop with South Main this week. All went very well throughout the week. The congregation set four evangelistic-minded goals to reach their community better. They also have multiple contacts of fallen-away members and recent visitors that they can begin to follow up with to get the Habanero ministry up and running. This congregation has a lot of potential to grow; please keep them in your prayers as they start this new work. I will be following up with the Habanero coordinators in the next few weeks to address any questions and help them move forward.

7.23.2026 / Latrobe Street Church of Christ / Parkersburg, WV / I met with the Habanero coordinators for the evening to discuss how things are going following their recent LAUNCH at the beginning of June. Their members all have a mind to work and are constantly asking what they can do moving forward and desire to jump in and help at any possible opportunity. They have scheduled a community picnic at their church building for August 15th. Please pray that all goes well at this event and that multiple new contacts are made within the community.

7.29-31.2026 / Connect Conference / Nashville, TN / I had the opportunity to attend the Connect Conference this week with many others from HomeMission. This conference is a wonderful opportunity to connect with members of churches in my area and listen to many lessons from the Word. I look forward to this conference every year, and I am thankful that I get to attend it each year.

Throughout July, I have been in contact with and visited 9 congregations in 4 states. This month has been very fruitful with visits to congregations that are "close to home" for me, with many preparations for visits on a much broader scale coming up in August. I am very thankful for each opportunity that I have been blessed with through my work with **HomeMission**, and I thank you all for your continued support in my efforts. To God be the glory!

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



Danny and Tina Aragon with Jim Lucas at the **HomeMission** booth at PTP Branson.



VBS at Bourbonnais COC (IL), supported by Echo Hills COC, July 18-19.



Randy and Deb Reagan with the elders and elders' wives at Bourbonnais COC.



Austin Woodfin with the South Main COC (New Lexington, OH) during their LAUNCH workshop July 19-22.



John Orr leading singing at a Gospel meeting at the Lone Grove COC (TX).



Jim Lucas and members making roof repairs at Tanglewood COC (Odessa, TX).



Lisa Lucas gathered, sorted, and folded 9 bins of clothes that matched Tanglewood COC requested items.



Connect 2026 **HomeMission** crew.



The FaithBuilders Conference in Tacoma, WA, was a great opportunity for Jim to spread the word about **HomeMission** in this region. Among the contacts made was Damon Rutherford, a former elder at a local church. He and Jim first met in the Navy on the East Coast back in the early '80s.