AMARILLO AREA
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Communicator

VOL. 41 / NO. 10 | 2123 S. VAN BUREN ST. / AMARILLO, TX 79109-2404 | DECEMBER 2026

A note from the Director of Missions

Wow, God is doing so many good things among us!

That's my No. 1 takeaway from serving in this role for just one month: God is using your churches to make Jesus and His Gospel known in so many incredible ways.

Thank you. Thank you, churches, for serving your communities so well, for praying for and encouraging one another, and, most of all, for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus throughout our area with boldness and love.

Of course, churches have struggles, too. Discouragement and exhaustion are real.

And so, friends, I'm **praying** for you — that God would uphold our churches and give you renewed hope. Mostly, I'm praying that Jesus and the Good News of His *inexhaustible* love would sustain you.

I'm also praying — expectantly! — for God to continue doing good things as we partner together throughout our area.

– Brad Newman
Director of Missions



AABA Christmas Luncheon set Dec. 14

The AABA's annual Christmas Luncheon for pastors and church staff is at 11:30 a.m. on **Monday, December 14**, at Second Baptist Church, 419 N. Buchanan St.

The event includes a catered lunch, Christmas carols, and a brief Christmas message. The cost is $15 per person.

For details and registration, call the AABA office at 806-372-6566.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supports missions

Gifts to the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** directly support IMB missionaries worldwide – more than 3,500 missionaries in 155 countries!

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

Thank you for giving this season! Your church's contributions help bring the Gospel of Jesus across the globe. For details, visit **imb.org/lmco**.

AABA holiday office hours

The AABA will be closed the week of Christmas, December 21-25.

It will also be closed on December 31 and Jan. 1.

Regular office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday at 2123 S. Van Buren St.

MINISTRY REPORTS

As we near the end of the semester, please pray for our two AC students serving in **South Asia** and **Mission Texas**! Both have worked hard preparing and fundraising, and these trips are firsts for each — one's first mission trip and the other's first time serving overseas. We are excited to see how God uses these steps of faith!

We are also currently recruiting **new student leaders** for Spring 2027, so please pray for intentional conversations with students who have demonstrated faithfulness and leadership as we seek to impact the AC campus for Christ.

We are already seeing students step into these opportunities; **one student recently led his very first Bible study**, doing an incredible job investing in and encouraging his peers! **Thank you!**

– Hannah Rose Green,
Amarillo College BSM Director and West Texas A&M University Associate Director
hannah.green@txb.org

With Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching, we are excited to send 20 students on **Christmas missions** across the world, Texas, and the USA! We are proud of these students and everyone serving over the break.

This year, we emphasized **2 Timothy 2:2**, challenging students to be discipled, disciple others, and equip others to do the same. It has been a joy to see multiplication happening through our students and ministry as they invest in others and carry out the Great Commission.

Please **pray** that the Gospel would continue to be made known through each student and the people they encounter in their mission fields!

– Ian Robinson, West Texas A&M University BSM Director
ian.robinson@txb.org

Our community continues to grow each week. Tricia has expanded our reach by sending quarterly newsletters to those incarcerated. This has resulted in new families coming to stay at the Hope Welcome Center.

We do have **needs we are asking the community to assist with.** We primarily need pantry items and meats to prepare our weekly meals. For a complete list of items or for our Walmart wish list, please email Tricia at: hopewc.ama@gmail.com

We are grateful for this community and all of the support. It truly takes a village.

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:8-9

– Marcus Ruiz and Tricia Moreno, Hope Welcome Center Directors
hopewc.ama@gmail.com

Connect with the AABA online:

amarillobaptists.com
fb.com/amarillobaptists
instagram.com/amarillobaptists

Read *The Communicator* online at **amarillobaptists.com/communicator**.

Also on the AABA website: Read our latest blog post, "Four Reasons to be Hopeful about the Local Church," at **amarillobaptists.com/blog**.

MINISTRY REPORTS

We're settling into retreat season here, welcoming groups and enjoying the opportunity to serve those who come through our doors.

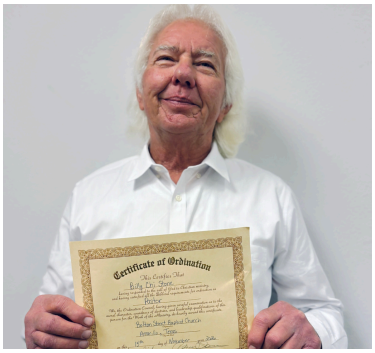
I recently returned from the **Texas Baptist Camping Association**'s annual conference. It was a good time of encouragement, learning, and connecting with others who share in this ministry. I came away grateful for the community I get to be a part of and refreshed to hear how Texas Baptist camps are being used by God to change lives!

Lately, I've heard and felt a recurring reminder on my heart: **Start with prayer.** As we move through this season and look ahead to what God may have next for HPRC, I keep coming back to that simple but important reminder. Before we make plans, pursue ideas, or try to figure out what's next, let's begin by praying. Let's ask God to give us His vision, provide what is needed, and bring the right people and resources alongside us. We've seen Him do exactly that time and time again here at HPRC. He has been faithful to provide, often in ways we couldn't have anticipated, and I don't want us to lose sight of where that provision comes from. Would you pray with us? Pray for God's direction for the future of HPRC, for wisdom as we consider new opportunities, and for Him to provide everything needed for the work He has called us to do. Most of all, pray that we would be faithful to follow where He leads.

As always, we continue to seek a steady base of monthly supporters if you feel led to contribute in that way. Thank you for being part of this ministry, for your encouragement, your generosity, and your prayers. We're grateful to walk this journey with you!

– **Torie Groomer**, Executive Director, High Plains Retreat Center







Scenes from the AABA

Executive Board Meeting set in February

The AABA's next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled at noon on **Monday, February 22,** at the AABA office, 2123 S. Van Buren St.

The Executive Board of the AABA consists of the pastors of all member churches, plus up to two elected members from those churches.

Lunch will be provided.

PASTOR BIRTHDAYS

Jere Ellison	December 5
Larry Capranica	December 6
Claude Tugwell	December 24
Gerry Lewis	December 24

PRAY FOR PASTORLESS CHURCHES

First Baptist Church, Channing
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida
South Lawn Baptist Church
The Church at Quail Creek
First Baptist Church, Hartley
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

The Communicator
Published monthly by the
Amarillo Area Baptist Association, Inc.
2123 S. Van Buren St.
Amarillo, TX 79109-2404
806-372-6566
amarillobaptists.com

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Brad Newman | Director of Missions, brad@amarillobaptists.com

Cherrie Bland | Secretary/Clerk, cherrie@amarillobaptists.com

Hannah Green | BSM Director, Amarillo College

Ian Robinson | BSM Director, West Texas A&M University

Torie Groomer | High Plains Retreat Center Executive Director

Marcus Ruiz, Tricia Moreno | Hope Welcome Center Directors

CHURCH NOTES

First Baptist Church in Claude completed a renovation of its sanctuary in November. The project included new pews, lighting, floors, and an updated stage area.

The congregation gathered for its first service in the updated space on Nov. 22.



Second Baptist Church in Amarillo is seeking:

- a part-time youth pastor,
- an associate pastor of worship and discipleship,
- a children's director, and
- a receptionist.

For details, email connect@sbcama.org.

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Amarillo is seeking an energetic and passionate full- or part-time youth pastor. The person would lead students in grades 6-12.

For details, email pvbc@pvbcama.org.

Bolton Street Baptist Church ordained its new pastor, Billy Stone, on Sunday, November 15.

The ordination service included an ordination message by Linvell Tisdale. A churchwide meal and fellowship followed the service.

*Do you have a church update, announcement, or other news from your congregation to share? Email **brad@amarillobaptists.com**.*

Merry Christmas
FROM THE STAFF
OF THE AABA