## Bible Drill

Calvary Baptist Church is interested in having their children participate in Bible Drill. If your church is involved in this, or if your church has been involved in the past, they would like to get



information from you. Or, if you are interested in beginning Bible Drill, they would like to talk with you.

Contact Teresa Jenkins at Calvary Baptist Church, 903-297 -2138.



Women's Day of Prayer Saturday, October 29, 2022 10:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon





**Keynote Speaker:** Tamika Jones Executive Director/ Treasurer, WMU of TX

**Lakeview Baptist** Camp **Dining Hall** 240 Camp Circle Lone Star, TX

Contact person to RSVP: Susan Green 903-918-3243 or Lwstgreen@gmail.com Hosted by East Texas Baptist Network Lakeview Baptist Camp East Texas Baptist Network PO Box 9067 Longview, TX 75608-9067

**Vision Statement:** A strong connection of healthy, reproducing, kingdom-focused churches.

**Purpose Statement:** 

The East Texas Baptist Network exists to facilitate connections among partnering churches.



You are invited to

East Texas Baptist Network's

## ETBN:

A family of churches sent on mission for God's Kingdom

> Tuesday, October 18 **Mobberly Baptist Church - The Crossing** Missions Fair - 5:00 p.m. Dinner - 6:00 p.m. (reservations required) Guest Speaker: Dr. Thom Rainer

> > 7:00 p.m.

r. Adult Rally Pastor's Breakfast 3 Calendar Ministry Lunch BGCT Meeting Bible Drill **Mobberly Worship Center** SBTC Meeting Day of Prayer

Inside this issue:

**East Texas Baptist Network** serving the Southern Baptist churches in our area for over 65 years

## East Texas planter discovers compelling — and surprising—need in hometown

When God called Teddy Sorrells to plant a church in 2020, he expected to be sent to San Francisco or Denver, one of the popular church planting cities. Instead, a quick demographics study led him to plant in the small East Texas town he'd been trying all his life to leave.

"I was born in Gladewater. I joined the Army to leave Gladewater. I came back to Gladewater and raised my sons here. I pastored a little country church just south of Gladewater. I thought, 'Now is the time for me to leave Gladewater,'" Sorrells said.

At his wife Marilyn's prompting, Sorrells requested demographics data on Gladewater from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. "I didn't think I was going to read through it and find anything surprising because I'd been in Gladewater my whole life," he said.

God used two statistics in particular about the town of 8,000 to grab Sorrells's attention: half of the town's residents are millennials or Gen Z, and a quarter of the homes are led by single mothers. "These families are next-generation families that need a church that will love them and care for them and minister to them," said Sorrells, who was saved and called to the ministry 20 years ago at age 29.

With a strong motivation to plant in Gladewater, Sorrells began building a core group and casting a vision. "I put the word out, and real fast God started bringing folks that were either in my past or folks that I had known just by acquaintance that wanted to be a part of what we were going to do."

Living Water Church launched in September 2021 with 122 people attending the first day. They have had 8 baptisms and average 70 per week.

Something unique is that they started with a building and with two services. the worship space accommodates 70 chairs, so two services allow room for growth. Sorrells had driven by a Family Video store in Gladewater and mentioned to Marilyn that he didn't see how they could stay in business with so few people renting videos anymore.

Days later, a "going out of business" sign appeared, and Sorrells was able to lease the building for his church plant. Now the church has a prime location on the main road in Gladewater.

"One of the things I wanted to do was partner with our city," Sorrells said. "I wanted people to come to our church on Sundays, but I wanted people to know us by what we're doing in our city."

They've had multiple block parties, and for teacher appreciation week they provided food for teachers at the local middle school and gave them gift baskets. Sorrells was invited to be the chaplain for the high school football team.



## The HOPE INITIATIVE

for the church leader who wants to reach the church's community with the gospel,
there is Hope

Churches in the East Texas Baptist Network are partnering together with Thom Rainer and the Hope Initiative. Participating churches will be involved for at least 1 year and have monthly Zoom meetings with Thom Rainer. Dr. Rainer will be at the annual meeting to share more about this. It is an exciting time that we HOPE all our churches will be involved. There will be a time to meet Dr. Rainer at the Mission Fair, and you will not want to miss him at 7:00 p.m. at the Annual Meeting.

**All Pastors are Invited** 

to a

**PASTOR'S BREAKFAST** 

with

DR. THOM RAINER

Wednesday, October 19

Mobberly Baptist Church—Elevation Building 7:00 A.M.

Make your reservation for breakfast by emailing greggba@gmail.com or call 903-753-9900

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	ETBN Calendar October 2022
6	Ministry Prayer Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Calvary Senior Adult Rally, Lakeview Baptist Assembly
10	Columbus Day
11	Network Leadership Team Meeting, 2 p.m., Calvary
18	ETBN Annual Meeting, Mobberly
19	Breakfast with Dr. Thom Rainer
31	Halloween

October 2022

**Ministry Prayer Luncheon** 

For ALL Church Staff



Thursday, October 6, 2022 11:45 a.m.

at

**Calvary Baptist Church** 

Bring your lunch and join your fellow church staff in a meal, fellowship and prayer.



November 13—15
Waco Convention Center