

WEEK OF PRAYER • 2025

Faith & Hope

*Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having
the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*

-PHILIPPIANS 2:2



WEEK OF PRAYER &
MISSIONS OFFERING

Bea Mesquias



WEEK OF PRAYER & MISSIONS OFFERING

Bea Mesquias

UFM OF TEXAS

How did the Bea Mesquias Offering start?

—We read in Luke 8:3 how Christ was provided through faithful support of others, and especially through women.

It was in 2016, that several individuals noticed the financial support of a faithful lady servant, Bea Mesquias, who gave to missions with great joy. Several individuals, including Ruben Chairez, Bulmaro Luna and others recommended that a missionary offering be collected under the name, “Bea Mesquias”. Her personal goal is to spread the message of Jesus Christ to a hurting world, work toward missions, give generously, and inspire other followers of Christ, to give toward mission work in the Hispanic churches.

What is the Week of Prayer and Missionary Offering Bea Mesquias?

—It is a week that has been designated to pray, support, and give for missionary work in the state of Texas. Sister Bea Mesquias heart’s desire, as the first female President of the Texas Hispanic Baptist Convention, was to do missions.

Witnessing the love, the passion for missions, and what she has done in the work of missions in Texas, a group of leaders of the CBHT decided that the Offering of the Week of Prayer bear her name, Bea Mesquias.

Today, Bea Mesquias is the Executive Director-Treasurer of the UFM of Texas and does not accept a salary for her work; on the contrary, she gives generously to support financially in order to achieve the goal of each Week of Prayer, so that God’s work can be accomplished.

Bea, not only shows love, compassion, for mission work and people, but also encourages women to pray and give. Her encouragement and support also include scholarships to young people in order to continue their academic studies.

The effort to start the first Bea Mesquias Week of Prayer Mission Offering, started when Rolando Aguirre and Silvia Ake, as well as several other brothers, worked to print the first small notebook for the Week of Prayer. Not having the experience, but with the help and guidance of God, the first book of Week of Prayer was completed.

Who is Bea Mesquias?—Bea was born in Robstown, Texas. At the age of 9 she accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior during a Vacation Bible School. Her grandparents took her to the temple every Sunday to make sure she grew spiritually. She graduated

from Del Mar College with a degree in Nursing and Business. She then obtained her Medical Analyst Degree from St. Mary's University.

She married Richard Mesquias and they had four sons. I was with Bea when she shared this with me: "I remember my childhood days vividly. My story began in our home with my father giving life, with his gestures and sounds, to those biblical stories he told us! I also remember my grandmother talking to me about the Word of God so that I could have that relationship with my beloved Jesus. I desire to continue with the legacy of serving my Lord and Savior, by passing it on to the next generations".

Bea confesses that she never imagined what Christ would do with her to this day. Nursing study, her love for God, and vocation for people, led her to go do mission work. When she worked as a nurse, she asked a coworker to cover her work shift, and she sacrificed the salary she received to be able to do missions.

It all started in 1974, when she was invited to help out as a nurse together with dentists in the River Ministry. After this experience, Bea continued to go every year; bring young people with her to serve in that ministry.

Then in 1975, she was invited to Glorieta to give conferences for women nationwide. In 1976, WMU invited her to be the Texas Leadership Training (TLC) speaker formerly called House Party in Waco Texas.

After two years, in 1978 she was named the first Hispanic Director of the WMU for the Corpus Christi Association. In 1993, Bea went to live in the Valley

of Texas. In 2005, she was appointed as the first Hispanic WMU Associate Director of the Rio Grande Valley and served for four years. That's where she decided to start with the ministry called "Families in Missions."

Bea quotes: "I saw another culture, the Hispanic women taking their children wherever they went. It was there where the idea of "Families in Missions" was born, so that together as families, they could participate in the missions.

Our work began when we chose seven churches to help. One of the seven churches we helped was Acts Church in Elsa, Texas that needed a new roof, windows to be repaired, and walls in need of paint. We worked and completed the work for Acts Church. While the men labored on basic construction tasks, the young people and women had Bible and evangelism studies.

"Families in Missions" started in the Rio Grande Valley and as we saw how God worked, we decided to expand to other another area. We then went to San Antonio, Texas to support the Philadelphia Church "New Life Church".

We ministered to the homeless presenting the message of Salvation, reading the Bible, singing, feeding, and distributing food. In the afternoons we had Vacation Bible School for the children and adults from around the neighborhood.

In 2008, Bea was named President of the Women's Missionary Union of the State of Texas. She could not help speak about what she had seen God do during the past years she worked in mission efforts.

Bea quotes the Bible truth found in Acts 4:20” Because we cannot stop saying what we have seen and heard”. In this Bible verse, Peter and John, Disciples of Christ, witnessed many miracles and the power of God. Despite the dangers and threats from religious leaders, nothing prevented them from continuing to speak of God’s power, love, and great salvation that comes from God.

Our sister Bea Mesquias has done a great job in the ministry of “Families in Missions”, sharing with other sisters, not only the word of God, but also bringing toys, food, blankets, and clothes to share among the needy families of the Rio Grande. She has a great missionary heart which prompted her to organize missionary trips that included Nuevo Progreso, Torreón, Venezuela, Panama, Chile and Brazil. Bea traveled with women from the State of Texas to bring hope to those who are deprived of physical and spiritual growth.

Something that impacted Bea’s life, as a result of the trip to Chile, was not only the destruction of the tsunami that had just passed, but also the poverty conditions she saw in some places. She found people living in small houses similar to trailer homes without insulation, dirt floors, a space for a table with four chairs, and sleeping on the ground. These people shared bathrooms and sanitary facilities with the neighborhood. They visited a nursing home where they met 15 little elderly ladies. Their families couldn’t take care of them and the UFM of the Concepción Association had taken the responsibility of sending money to hire

six people to take care of them. The administrator and treasurer of the place were all volunteer employees. There were many UFM women who volunteered to keep the place clean and decent so that the elderly ladies could live well. This made a big impact on Bea’s heart and she decided to send an offering to help the needs of these people.

In her second trip to Chile, Bea prayed that God allow her to take with her at least five women. To her surprise, God gave her twelve women! Together, they prepared conferences, workshops, and other classes. All this work was done in conjunction with the Baptist Convention of Chile and the president of the Association of the churches they visited.

While they were there, they saw the great need to remodel the place. Immediately the group of ladies managed to raise \$380.00 to buy new chairs, since the chairs were missing armrests. The sisters accompanying Bea, committed to maintain the home of elderly women and to send money monthly for diapers. We all know there’s a great need around the world. Maybe some of us cannot travel far, but our offerings, prayers, can provide the opportunity for others to go. We all have the opportunity to do missions, to obey the command of our Lord. This is not an option; it is an order as we find it in Matthew 28:19-20: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

In 2013, Bea Mesquias had the

privilege of being named President of the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas (CBHT) being the first woman to hold that position. She expressed gratitude to God for being good, because in collaboration with the Buckner organization's ministry, a house was constructed and donated by Hispanics for a family in need.

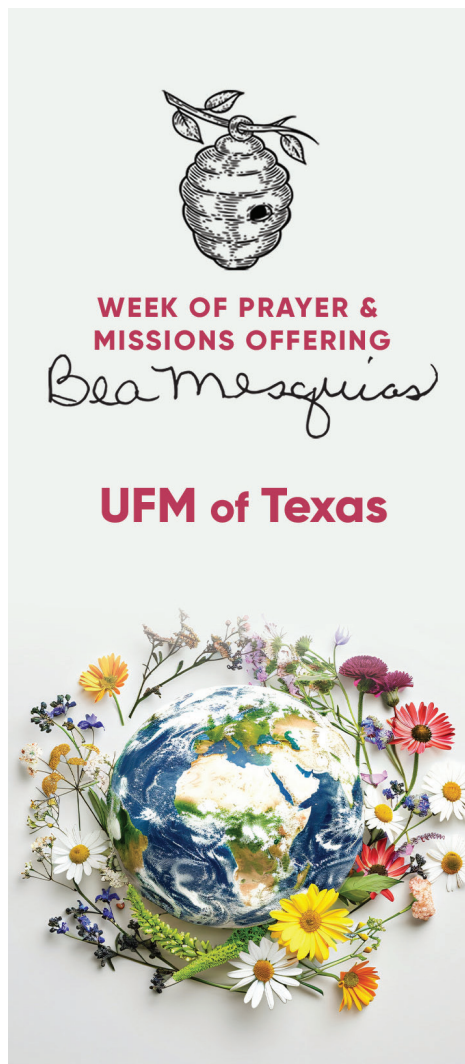
Preparation for the first Week of Prayer Missionary Offering Bea Mesquias at Convention.—The important part of work was the preparation of the first Week of Prayer for our CBHT. The work of publishing printed materials was done in 2014 in order to celebrate the event in 2015. In 2017, the UFM of Texas began to publish the offerings received for the Week of Prayer by providing a financial report of churches and individuals who gave, as well how the funds were used. In the magazine, “La Voz”, we included the first financial report of the Week of Prayer Missionary Offering Bea Mesquias of the year 2018. It is Sister Bea's prayer, that missionary trips be made possible through these funds.

Bea quotes: “To God be the glory for the great things He has done. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as President of the Hispanic Missionary Women's Union of Texas. Thanks to my husband Richard, my children, and grandchildren for all their support in prayer, and financially support this beautiful work of God. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve the Lord. To Him be the glory forever!”

I am amazed by the life of this faithful servant; her desire is to give without expecting any reward. She is a woman who is always thinking on what her next mission will be. That is what God is looking for, women who are willing to

go do the missionary work, to deliver, and share what we have received. You do not have to own large sums of money to be a great giver in the eyes of God. God does not measure our giving by the size of our offerings. He measures it by the amount we give in relation to what we have. God looks at how much we sacrifice when we give.

Silvia Ake, Director of Recruitment and Expansion





WEEK OF PRAYER & MISSIONS OFFERING

Bea Mesquias

FEBRUARY 9-15, 2025

UFM de Texas

Faith & Hope

Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **Philippians 2:2**

GOAL \$30,000

Scholarships

Convención

Mission Work in Texas

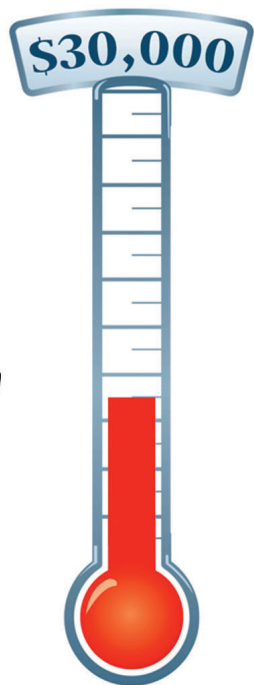
Christian Education & Training

Speakers & Retreats

UFMT



Keep praying and helping to reach this year's goal.



Purpose:

- ✓ Preparing and training young women
- ✓ Scholarships for college
- ✓ Bloom: Ministry for young women
- ✓ SHINE: Teenage Ministry
- ✓ Missionary work



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San Antonio, TX 78260*

Write on memo line:
Week of Prayer



**WEEK OF PRAYER &
MISSIONS OFFERING**

Bea Mesquias

To Live is Christ



Paul invites us in this letter to the Philippians to live a life centered on Christ. For him, living is Christ, and dying is gain. This radical focus challenges us to think about our priorities: Are we living with purpose, loving in unity, and serving with dedication? Is our life a reflection of Christ's love and an expression of His mission in the world?

Paul also encourages us to be "like-minded"—to be united in purpose. This purpose is to share God's love and advance His Kingdom. Paul understood that living in Christ means living in community, supporting each other in love and service.

It's not enough to say that Christ is our life; we have to show it through our actions.

Personal Reflection

In our churches, we often talk about missions, ministry, and evangelism, but are we willing to truly commit? Living for Christ means stepping out in faith and moving beyond our comfort zones. Maybe God is calling you to teach Sunday school, serve in youth ministry, lead a prayer group, or join a missions project.

The key is to adopt Paul's words as our own: "To me, living is Christ." When we understand that our life belongs to Him, service stops feeling like a burden and becomes a joy. We serve not out of obligation but out of gratitude, remembering that Christ gave His life for us..

The Challenge

As Hispanic Baptists, many of us come from a rich heritage of faith and mission

"Make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

PHILIPPIANS 2:2

work. Now it's our turn to carry on that legacy and commit to Christian service. Maybe this means getting involved in youth ministry, helping with a community feeding program, supporting missionaries, or joining an evangelistic team.

Each of us can find a way to live out the motto: **"To me, living is Christ."**

Today, I challenge you to take a concrete step toward service. Pray and ask God, **"Where do You want me to serve?"** Talk to your pastor or spiritual leader and explore ways to get involved in a ministry or mission project.

Remember, when we live for Christ, our lives take on meaning and purpose. Join Paul's call and make Christ's love your driving force, your mission, and your goal.

DARE TO LIVE FOR HIM!

*Jesse Rincones, Executive Director of
Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas*



The Fear of Living for Christ



For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain *es ganancia*, were the courageous words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians while he was in prison and in danger of death. This phrase is common among those of us who serve the Lord in any capacity, even though, deep down, we often wish that God would place us in comfortable situations, free from many difficulties or challenges. However, what would happen if you received an unexpected invitation that you simply cannot decline?

The first few days were filled with uncertainty, as I didn't know how God might use me, even though I knew I wasn't prepared. All I could do was pray and seek the Lord's guidance. I remember one night during a prayer meeting at church, God impressed upon me the conviction that I should not worry, because He was going to surprise me.

As I was driving home that night, I received a phone call from Victor Castillo, a pastor friend of mine, who wanted to introduce me to a logistics manager who was looking for a church to take on large weekly donations of food. The manager was very friendly, told me he was a christian, and then asked me a question: What would you do if we gave you a trailer full of several tons of bread every week, in perfect condition?

I replied, I would use it to distribute to the Hispanic churches I represent in Texas and to feed those in need. The manager was convinced by my response, and we began the process and signed agreements. Just a few days later, the first trailer arrived—I

couldn't believe it! God had everything planned and under control.

Today, we have distributed bread to many parts of Texas and Mexico. Just a few days ago, I was informed that over 1,000 people are benefiting daily from this new ministry of the Hispanic Convention in shelters, hospitals, orphanages, rehabilitation centers, and other places. I won't deny it—it's exhausting. But if truly, for me to live is Christ and to die is gain, I must work for His kingdom.

Let us pray:

1. *That God continues to send more workers to the field.*
2. *That God gives courage and provision to these workers.*
3. *That God grants these workers good health.*
4. *That God raises up volunteers who will join the projects of these workers.*



*Edson Lara, President of
Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas*



Faith, Hope & Love

When I learned about the *Union Femenil Misionera* (UFM), I began to participate in missionary work within the community. We have also traveled to do missionary work, visiting an orphanage called Casa Bethesda in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, where we brought supplies to the young people. A few years ago, we started visiting a nursing home twice a month, sharing the Word, telling them about the great love that God has for each one of them, and the hope they can have if they accept Him into their hearts. We sing hymns, celebrate their birthdays, and much more. Each of these places needs a lot of love, and these have been unforgettable experiences. Thank God for the opportunity to serve and share the great love I have received from God.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love..
1 Corinthians 13:13.

This year, our missionary project for the UFM of Texas was to take a missionary trip to Uvalde, Texas. When I contacted Sister Rosa María Barboza from Uvalde to ask if we could hold a missionary event, she got excited and said, “Yes, sister!” I asked her to invite the other churches in her area so we could have a meeting to plan the event.

Something very special happened when we asked my sisters in the “Prayer Time” service for help. The next day, some sisters called me to contribute financially, and others said they would bring supplies to share.

The day of the event arrived, and it took place at Jardín de los Héroes Park. Churches from different parts of Texas attended. The Word was shared by Pastor Eduardo Anderson, praise was led by groups from Uvalde, and sisters shared songs and a testimony. When the pastor made the call, two women came forward to pray, and they accepted Christ as their Savior. What a blessing it is to fulfill our



"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love..."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

mission and the great commission that God gave each one of us.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... Matthew 28:19-20

Let us pray that the UFM of Texas continues to bring the message of Hope and Love to those who do not know Him. Let us pray that more churches learn about the UFM of Texas and support the Bea Mesquías Prayer Week.

Claudia Treviño, President of UFM





Is by Faith



I am in my third and last year of university. I had a hard start being alone for the first time. I went to the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) when I was alone. I wasn't open to people at first, but slowly I started opening when I met an amazing friend there. Later that friend invited me to a mission trip out of the country. I was scared because I had no money for it, and I knew my parents wouldn't let me. She assured me that she would convince my parents, and that money should be the issue that I am not going. My parents were happy for me and the UFM was able to give me a scholarship to go.

At the airport, I sat down at the gate with the group and suddenly the girls introduced themselves to us and started asking me questions. I found that to be a true blessing because those girls never made me feel like an outsider. Our flight ended up being canceled, however we were still able to do work where we

were. We helped the ministry "Texans on Mission" pack up from the disaster relief in Houston and help renovate a church. The trip was fascinating to me because it showed the different personalities of people and the jobs they had, but they all had love for God. We did go out of the country, and it was beautiful on the other side of us. God was still working and the smiles I saw reflected people's love for doing God's work. What I can say is the biggest blessing that God has given me from that trip was sisters in Christ.

Going back home I became a leader at the BSM and I love it! I get to help students connect with God. We give free lunch to college students with the help from different churches. The leaders sometimes lead a bible study, and we try to help the students as much as possible with anything they need. God knows who to send to us, this semester I have seen people coming with spiritual conflict that they need help with. We are there to pray for them and guide them.

Right now, I am struggling for direction in my life. Patience from negative people who can get to me. For my family conflicts and to trust that God will always take care of me.

Maria Luisa Silva
Life Fellowship at Denton, Tx





Faith & Hope

PHILIPPIANS 2:2



In Philippians 2:2, we find a beautiful call to unity that transcends our differences. Paul's invitation to be of the same mind and to love as Christ loves, reminds us that true community is built on the foundation of a sincere heart and a unified mind. In a world full of divisions, let us be bearers of this message of love and unity, always seeking the well-being of others and reflecting the character of Christ in every action and word. Together, we can make the joy of the Lord visible in our lives.

The challenge is for you and for me, as believers today. We live in a time when division, polarization, and individualism are becoming increasingly common in our society. Paul's call to unity is a reminder that our identity in Christ should be more important than our cultural, political, or social differences. Philippians 2:2 invites us to work together, to have the mind of Christ, and to love one another unconditionally. Instead of seeking our own interests, we need to seek the well-being of others and glorify God with our lives.

Bea Mesquias Executive Director-Treasurer
of UFM de Texas



PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.



Messages of Faith and Hope



The Bible is full of messages of faith and hope that have inspired millions of people throughout history. Within its pages, we find words of encouragement, comfort, and strength that remind us that God is always present in our lives. In times of difficulty, the Bible invites us to trust that God has a plan for us and that everything works together for our good. Faith helps us to maintain hope even in the midst of trials, knowing that God never abandons us and that His love is unbreakable. In every story, in every verse, we find the Christian inspiration that can transform our lives and fill us with peace and joy. May the Word of God guide us on our journey of faith, reminding us that in Him we find true hope that never disappoints.

Have you ever wondered how faith can bring hope to your life in the midst of difficulties? Christian messages of faith and hope remind us that, despite adverse circumstances, we can find comfort and strength in the promise of a God who loves us unconditionally. These words of encouragement invite us to trust that, through faith, we can overcome any obstacle and find the peace that only comes from God's presence. Discover the transforming power of faith in every message of hope that you receive throughout the Word of God!

In times of difficulty and adversity, Christian messages of faith and hope

take on special relevance. These messages remind us that, despite difficult circumstances, God is with us and will never leave us. Christian hope goes beyond a mere positive expectation; it is grounded in the certainty that God is in control of all things and that His love and faithfulness are unshakable. In the midst of trials, messages of hope invite us to cling to the promise that all things work together for good for those who love God.

Let us pray that God increases and strengthens our faith in this time we are living.

Let us pray that we learn to wait, trusting in the divine plan for our lives and in God's work.

Let us pray that we become instruments to help others be strengthened in the faith and hope that only comes from God.

Silvia Ake
Primera Iglesia Bautista Edinburg

SAT
FEB
15

One Mind and Purpose

As believers, one of our main purposes is to glorify God and be light in the darkness. We are called to shine wherever we are, sharing the message of hope and faith with those who do not yet know Christ.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to participate in a short-term mission trip. During one of our activities, I met a nine-year-old girl who belonged to a different religion. When I presented the plan of salvation to her, she firmly said, “I don’t believe in the same God you believe in.” Her words deeply impacted me. How could a child speak with such conviction about her faith? Her firmness left a lasting impression on me, and in that moment, many thoughts crossed my mind. That experience made me more aware of the enormous need this world has to know Christ, and at the same time, of the responsibility we have as believers to share the Good News.

As Christians, we must be prepared to speak with conviction about who our Savior is, grounded in the Word of God and ready to counter the ideologies of this world.



Each of us is a missionary in the place where we find ourselves. Imagine how much we could accomplish if we were united with one mind and purpose. However, we often doubt our ability to serve God. We think we are not capable enough, that we cannot preach His Word, or we are simply afraid. We ask ourselves, “Can God use me?” or “Why would God choose me?” But I ask you: Why wouldn’t He?

God created us to worship Him and glorify His name, reflecting Christ through our actions and being light in the darkness. He loves us deeply and wants us to share that love with others. We are not alone in this mission: God is with us, He supports us, and He has promised to always be by



our side. He equips those He calls.

Let His light shine through you. Do not be afraid to share His Word. It's time to leave excuses behind and begin being light in your home, your workplace, your school, or wherever you are.

God loves us! Let's share that love with those who do not yet know Him. Let's bring this message of faith and hope to a world that needs it so much. May our lives reflect Christ, and may we work together with one purpose.

Marix Paola Marquez

**"LET THE
PEOPLES
PRAISE YOU, O
GOD; LET ALL
THE PEOPLES
PRAISE YOU"**

-PSALM 67:3



How to plan your Week of Prayer?

- 1. Meet with your Pastor** and plan about the time and place of where to celebrate the Week of Prayer.
- 2. Put a goal as a church** to reach **this year's goal of \$30,000.00.**
- 3. Encourage women (femenil) and the whole church** to join to celebrate the Week of Prayer.
- 4. The goal is that our Baptist Churches** can join to pray and support the ministries that are presented here.

Suggestions:

—Each Director of the UFM in the local Church must assign a Week of Prayer Team for the occasion.

—The team will help to sensitize the church and will be responsible for preparing the event. (If your church never had a team for a Week of Prayer, but you are reading this material, just gather your own team and offer the event to your church!)

—The team must begin their own work, the Team must meet to prepare the Week of Prayer.

—Pray for direction as you take this great challenge to prepare the local church to celebrate the Week of Prayer. If necessary, teach about the importance of prayer.

—Sensitize your church by distributing announcements with details about the date and place of the Week of Prayer.

—**Plan the details of the event:** Make invitations, send text messages, distribute envelopes to promote the offering, encourage people to make book markers, be sure to explain that this offering will support each of the ministries that are mentioned in this week of Prayer.

Preparation of Decorations:

Most people appreciate an elegantly arranged room. Arrange the space of your local church to decorate for the occasion.

Have that area decorated with colorful balloons, flowers, ornaments that represent the state of Texas. Put the Bible in the center of the table.

Print in large letters the verse for the Week of Prayer 2025: *Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:2.* And put it on display to make it easy to read .

Think of ways to encourage church members to be part of this offering. An example is to decorate small milk carton, giving it the shape of a church and having the container work like a piggy bank to encourage the whole family to deposit coins every day.

Even the 8oz/240ml water bottles can be decorated like piggy banks. These examples can be made as projects for children within the churches and thus be involved in supporting the missions.



Send your offering to:
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San Antonio, TX. 78260

108 ANNUAL MEETING



CALLED TO *Serve*

MARCH 7-8, 2025

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO, TX



SAVE THE DATE

JULY 1 | CONVENCIÓN
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SAN ANTONIO, TX

OCT 3-4 | PRAYER RETREAT
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