

MBA of Texas April 2020 Mission Reports

April 1st beginning balance: \$74,810.09 / Offerings: \$17,675.96 / Missionary Support: \$13,450 / Adm. Salary: \$2,600 / Expenses: (designated-\$10)= \$10 / April 30th balance: \$76,426.05 (Minute Fund Expense: \$6,627.41)

Since November 1st there have been 8 souls saved, 3 baptized, 6 joined by letter; and 2 joined by statement. Due to Covid 19, the MBA of Texas was not shared with any churches in April.

Most of the missionaries and projects are having to use Facebook Live or Zoom to reach their congregations, but they are reaching even more because of this. Praise God! We want to let you know that all of our Texas Churches are in our prayers during this crisis.

Glenn McCarver- El Paso- Borderland MBC

Amy: Thank you for all who have been praying for my wife Amy. She was told that she had coronavirus by two doctors (one at the ER and our personal doctor). She has struggled with severe fatigue, frequent headaches, congestion and sore throat. It has been a long process, but she said she is now feeling about 75% better.

Opps: Even through this pandemic, God still sends opportunities. Sometimes it is with those that we know, and other times it is just noticing someone that needs prayer and encouragement.

Services: We continue to have services in our home. We have had our family of 6 for our services. We have used this time to broadcast our Sunday sermon on Facebook live and praise God for this new outreach. Thank you for your prayers!

Leland Acker- Early- Life Point MBC

Rocked: I'm not going to lie, the past month and a half have rocked me to my core, but God has done great things in this pandemic. We were told that 15 days of social distancing would flatten the curve, so I made the decision to suspend in-person services for two weeks back in March. The following week, mandatory shelter-in-place orders were given. Thus, for most of April, we have been unable to hold in-person services.

Finances: We launched a YouTube channel and gained 62 subscribers. We launched a YouTube Bible Study through the book of Revelation, and we held all of our services on Facebook Live on our Facebook page, Facebook.com/PointToLife.

Meanwhile, our membership, concerned about the financial impact of suspending services, increased their giving, mailing their tithes and offerings in to our PO Box. Thus, we collected more than \$3,000 from the local congregation, not including

support from the MBA of Texas and a generous offering from our Sponsoring Church, Rocky Springs MBC of Jacksonville.

Stats: Services held 4-26 had 15 from 2 services, (younger/older). Facebook stats= reached=2,637; Video views=2,244; Post engagements=2,272. Offerings=\$3,079 with \$400 given to missions.

Facebook: Our Facebook stats are both encouraging and concerning. First of all, we've been able to reach people we normally would not have reached had it not been for going online in the midst of Covid, and some who normally would not watch are now watching. All of my co-workers from both of my secular jobs have tuned in to at least one service, plus Bro. Roy Ramon shared our videos with his congregation in San Angelo, as well as in his Band of Brothers Facebook group. All of our members have been able to access these videos, and have offered good feedback.

The negative is that everyone who has done any Facebook marketing knows that 2,000 views is not a lot to speak of. A video view is counted any time someone watches at least 3 seconds of the video. That being said, we've added 70 new followers to our Facebook page, and that's a good thing. We have some improvements to make, and we will make them. And God will provide.

The thing to remember in times like these is to give God your best. The numbers are His to give, and He will draw those to your videos who need to hear what you are preaching. I am encouraged by looking at some of our brethren's videos of how much the actual Gospel is being preached!

26th: Acting on Governor Abbott's guidance to churches, I made the decision to resume in-person services on April 26th. We called for social distancing between family units, sanitized the church building, and held a special Sunday evening service for those who were 65 and older. The congregation is still engaged, they still love one another, and when we're able to open services up completely, and the fear of the disease is passed, I believe our membership will reunite for a glorious service.

This past month, I learned that, even when the worship services are taken away, we still have a church. We have a church in Early, Texas, by God's grace, and by His blessing your prayers and support. Thank you so much!

Victor Rice- San Antonio- Shiloh MBC

Blessings: This has been a time that I wouldn't thought I would see but in turn I have seen God do mighty things. We had a sister that had the virus for a little over a month and was very bad off but God restored her health and gave her a clean bill of health. God spared her husband, Bro. Jose, from choking on a piece of meat and not breathing for a while. We have been doing Facebook Live and live phone calls for Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening so we are able to worship

together.

Stats: Our offering was \$5,070, with \$505 given to missions, and \$1,200 paid on rent.

Services: We had services in the church house last Sunday morning abiding by the social distancing and face masks rules.

We are praying for our nation, the President, and all of the Lord's New Testament churches throughout the world to be in one accord with the Lord. May God return the favor of the USA by having this virus done, God bless the USA.

Steven Haney- Lubbock- Texas Tech MBSF

Shutdown: The shutdown has continued in Lubbock and with Texas Tech. Unfortunately TTU will not be re-opening the campus until the fall semester. This means that the students will not be coming back until late summer if they come back at all. Two of the leadership students in the MBSF had to move back home due to the campus shutdown and losing their jobs when the businesses shut down and are having to get jobs in their home towns. Both of them have been praying about whether or not to come back in the fall or look at other colleges closer to their homes. We are so thankful for the continued support during this time even with the campus completely shut down. We are staying in contact with the students as much as we can and trying to make plans for this coming fall when the campus opens back up. Please continue to pray for us as we figure out how to move forward. This virus and the quarantine really pushed back the progress we had made on the campus for the MBSF and it has been hard not to feel like we had taken one step forward just to take 2 steps back. We know God is in control and that even through this He can do great things if we remain faithful. We are not stopping this ministry and will continue to try to get a foundation going so that we can rebuild in the fall. We have been using group apps and programs to try to keep everyone engaged as much as possible. Most of our students don't have Facebook so we haven't been using the live feature of Facebook on our MBSF page much and have had to find other avenues. Pray that churches will continue to see the need for this ministry and that those two students will be able to come back in the fall to maintain their positions in the MBSF! If anyone has any questions or concerns about what's going on please let me know at (903) 722-1545 or s_hanymbsf@outlook.com! Thank you so much for all the thoughts, prayers, and support!

David Smith- Mansfield- Lifeline BC

Ready: We are ready to reopen services, simply waiting on Adventist Church to advise us as to when we can reoccupy the building. Pray it will be soon.

Outside: We will be having our first in-person Bible Study tonight with all the

guidelines in place. Hope to have 6 or 7 tonight. We will be using our Mobile Church outside patio for our services.

Roaming: Alice and I have been having Bible Studies and prayer groups with our members and friends. We would meet them outside and read the Word and pray with them. We did this with several individuals from our church.

Stats: We had 4 first time guests and over 400 views to our live streaming. Our offering was \$3,157 with \$200 given to missions and \$650 paid on rent.

Streaming: We have been live streaming for over two years already, so we were ready to keep on going. We have been having well over 400+ views every Sunday.

Video: I have been developing video devotions that averaged @ 2 min. and sharing them on Facebook and with friends across the area. We have had good response from those videos as well. One video received over 900 views.

Re-opening: I'm afraid we may have to start all over again, but at least we are starting with about 10-14 people! Praying for a brand new beginning now.

Landmark MBC- Rockdale

God is still on His throne and prayer changes things! The church has been holding drive-up services with about 13 people attending, where they can also listen on the radio. We have not called a pastor as of yet, but have a regular person filling the pulpit. Sis. Marilyn had the virus and was unable to attend for 3 weeks.

Joe Bozarth- Conroe- Fellowship BC

Streaming: The mission has been streaming live on Facebook and on our website this past month. We have had a total of 139 views for those Sundays. The past two Sundays, we have had services in our parking lot and encouraged social distancing. Some people sat in their cars and some people brought their lawn chairs. There were some members who were still uncomfortable with attending. We even had two visitors who attended BOTH of these services! May 2nd will see the return of our services back in our sterilized building. Everyone is pretty excited about coming back home to worship our Lord.

Stats: We averaged 12 for our drive up services. Our offering was \$6,548 with \$679.80 given to missions.

Daniel Tijerina- Mission- A New Beginning BC

Praises: God is worthy of all praise and has protected, provided, and richly blessed us during these trying times. On April 6th my son moved our truck so we could get to the backyard with the mower. He accidentally floored the gas pedal and crashed into our neighbor's truck. God spared Joseph, 4 neighbors, and me from death. I sustained hip, waist, knee, shoulder, and back injuries. I am feeling much better. Keep us in your prayers.

Missionaries: We continue to pray for and assist missionaries in Quintana Roo, Saltillo, Hidalgo, Monterrey, and Carmargo. We have been praying, sending offerings, Bibles, Hymn books, and school supplies to these missions. They have been praying for us as well.

Ministry: We have been meeting online with our sponsoring church through Zoom. It has truly been a blessing. On Easter Sunday, Pastor Jonathan Robles, Pastor Josue Vasquez, and I preached three sermons on Facebook from the building in Pharr. We had a great time of fellowship.

Stats: We are averaging 8 families.

Future Plans: We have plans to visit the works mentioned above as well as the Navajo Nation this year. We purchased a camera, a tripod, and an online service in order to stream our services from home until we are able to meet in person again.

Thanks: We thank our gracious God, our sponsoring church, Unity MBC of Longview, and for those who support the MBA of Texas, TMD, and TMB.