

## Heights location for Secret Church

David Platt, newly elected president of the International Mission Board, continues his annual **Secret Church Simulcast** Apr. 24 and Heights Baptist Church in Liberty will host the event in their newly remodeled sanctuary. Heights, TRBA and Wild Country Mission are sponsors of the event.

TRBA Director of Missions David Williams said Secret Church is a rare opportunity to engage in extended, concentrated and focused Bible study led by a passionate teacher.

"We are so used to taking our Bible study in small doses that, for most of us, the thought of spending 6 p.m. to midnight listening to someone expound on God's Word seems overwhelming," he said. "But once we've done it, we realize that the evening has been refreshing and exhilarating rather than exhausting."

Paid pre-registration is required through TRBA. The \$10 cost covers materials and refreshments. **Register by April 1 to be sure you receive a notebook.**



A large crowd gathers for missions, music and a meal at this year's A Heart for Missions Banquet at First Liberty.

## 110 TR Baptists gather for Heart for Missions banquet

Featured speakers for this year's Feb. 3 A Heart for Missions Banquet were Jerry and Sherrie Avery, international missionaries with ties to several TRBA churches.

Speaking to a crowd of 110 at First Baptist Liberty, the Averys, who serve as medical and construction missionaries to Zambia, told of their work and the needs of the people they serve. TR Baptists responded generously, putting \$701 on a

money tree to help support the Averys' missions organization, Bethany World Ministries. TRBA Women's Missions and Ministry Team, sponsor of the annual event, gave the Averys an additional love gift.

Music was provided by the Hardin Baptist Quartet, composed of Karla Burris, Dana Arthur, Norris Rhodes and Frank Green.

The catfish dinner was catered by the Haidusek Family.

Before the banquet, TRBA Executive Board held a brief meeting during which they heard reports about the formation of a youth minister network in TRBA, the March 9 senior adult luncheon at Kenefick Southern Baptist Church, and the April 24 Secret Church Simulcast.

David Williams, director of missions, updated the executive board on Pastor Essentials, the Monday evening training time for men called by God. Twelve students have enrolled in the class, he said.



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## Two TRBA churches ordain deacons same day



**Two TRBA churches ordain new deacons** on Sunday Feb. 15. At Calvary Dayton (left) are, left to right, Sharon Shumaker, Alicia Chachere, Chris Shumaker, Matt Chachere, Mark Moreau, Bernie Brown, and Rob Chachere. At Central Liberty (right) are, left to right, Alvin Tomlinson, Lee Gruver, Jerry Allen, Rodney Abshire, Mary Ann Abshire, Sam Knight, Harry Laxton, Norman Cook, and Lorinda Cook.



# Mission Journey

**It was another terrible terrorist act like so many we have seen lately. But there was something different that**

**caught my attention. The February beheading of 12 Egyptian Christians by Isis on a Libyan beach was clearly an act of war against the cross of Jesus. The terrorists released a graphic video of their barbaric act and titled it, "A Message Signed With Blood, To The Nation of the Cross." They called their victims "the people of the cross" who had been "carrying the cross illusion." In other words, they killed those men because those men loved Jesus.**

Before their deaths, the men cried out in unison, "Ya Rabbi Yasou," which means, "O my Lord Jesus!" Walid Shoebat, a terrorism expert who is a former Muslim and now a Christian, said their cry is evidence that the men refused an offer to save their lives by denying Jesus.

Pope Francis called the men Christian martyrs. Franklin Graham said, "We'd better take this warning seriously as these acts of terror will only spread throughout Europe and the United States . . . The storm is coming."

The Apostle Paul wrote that "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18, NIV).

Jesus said these times would come. "All men will hate you because of me," He said (Matt. 10:22, NIV). "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also" (John 15:20, NIV). "You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me," (Matt. 24:9, NIV).

In His vision to John, Jesus wrote to the church at Smyrna: "You will suffer persecution . . . Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life," (Rev. 2:10, NIV).

We Christians in the U.S. have been shielded from religious persecution but that is likely to change in the days ahead. We no longer live in a land where the majority accept Christianity as good and right, even if they don't embrace it themselves. These days Christianity is seen by many as a religion of hatred and exclusiveness. The cross has become offensive even in this nation we used to call Christian.

As David Platt says, "Our culture has shifted, and it seems that right and wrong

are no longer measured by universal truth but by popular opinion."

This year's Secret Church theme is "Christ, Culture and a Call to Action." What an appropriate and needed study for those of us who are "people of the cross" in a world that is growing in its hatred toward Jesus.



I hope you will join me and others for this study the evening of Apr. 24 at Heights Baptist Church in Liberty.

It will be useful to you, I know, because now — before the persecution comes — now is the time for you to nail down the absolute truths of God's Word and prepare yourself "so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand," (Eph. 6:13, NIV).

When that day comes, I want to be like those 21 believers on the beach who refused to deny the Jesus who took up His cross for them. I want my final words to give testimony to the Jesus who saved me.

*Wanting to be found faithful,*  
**David Williams**

## TRBA Senior adult lunch set at Kenefick

A free lunch, missions program and great fellowship are in store for senior adults who attend the TRBA Senior Adult Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 9, at Kenefick Southern Baptist Church.

Those coming are asked to make their reservation by March 5 with Iris Whittington, TRBA senior adult ministry director. Her phone number is 936-549-7052.


The program will include informative and inspiring reports from community ministries sponsored or supported by TRBA, including Liberty County Jail Ministry, Family Visitors' Center at the prison units, Pregnancy Care Center in Dayton, Spirit of Sharing (SOS) in Liberty, and House of Destiny in Votaw, Texas.

**Please . . . . .**  
**email David Williams pictures and information about special events that have happened in your church.**  
**We especially like baptisms, ordinations and community outreach events.**

### Pray for our pastorless churches

**Gum Grove**, since February 2015  
**West End Saratoga**, since August 2014  
Bill Fabriguze, interim  
**First Hull**, since February 2014  
John Guedry, interim  
**First Concord**, since January 2014  
Richard Stidham, interim  
**Oak Island**, since December 2012

Welcome **Daniel Harris**, called February 15 as pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, New Caney.



**SIMULCAST WITH**  
**DAVID PLATT**

**Christ, Culture,**  
**and a Call to Action**

**4.24.15**

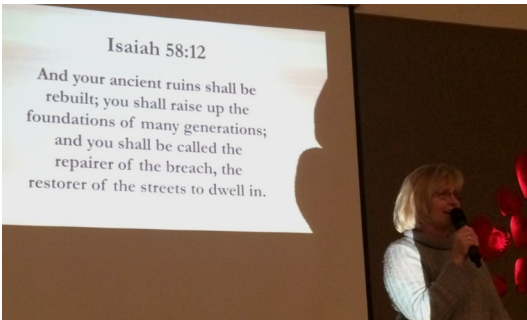
**Intensive Bible study,**  
**worship, fellowship,**  
**refreshments**

**Cost is \$10 each; register**  
**through TRBA Office**

**HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, LIBERTY, TEXAS**

**Beginning at 6 p.m., lasting until midnight**





# First Liberty to redo sanctuary

In a Feb. 15 called business meeting, members of First Baptist Liberty voted to renovate their sanctuary, add a modular youth building, and begin planning the replacement of their south building.

The church is moving forward immediately with the \$409,500 remodeling job and purchase of the \$90,000 youth building, said Steve Bean, pastor.

As for the demolition and replacement of the south educational building, a team will now begin to discuss that project with architects and begin planning a capital stewardship program to fund the project, Bean said.

**A Heart for Missions** — Left, Sherrie Avery, medical missionary to Zambia, shares her life verse during TRBA's A Heart for Missions Banquet Feb. 3 at First Liberty. Right, the Hardin Baptist Quartet shares a 30-minute concert of Christian music. Left to right are Karla Burris, Dana Arthur, Norris Rodes, and Frank Green.

## TRBA presentation offered to churches

David Williams and Scott Tidwell would like to visit your church on a Sunday or Wednesday evening to share information about the TRBA Church Planting Pipeline and the Pastor Essentials class.

Williams is TRBA executive director. Tidwell is discipleship director and former moderator of the association.

"God has given us a vision of training men for ministry and planting new churches throughout our area," Williams said. "This is something that will require all of our churches praying, planning, and working together."

The Monday evening Pastor Essentials class has 12 students enrolled and 12 of our pastors involved as trainers/mentors. Williams is trusting the Lord that the result will be 12 new church starts during 2015.

"Each of our 41 churches can have a part in what God is doing," Williams said. "Scott and I want to come and tell the

story and offer ways for your church to join God in this miracle."

Pastors can contact Williams at TRBA to schedule a time for the presentation.



**Love and Respect** — Rodney Sellers reports 39 attended the Feb. 13-14 Love and Respect Video Conference at Mt. Calvary in Marysee, those attending calling it "eye-opening," and "a blessing of insight." Carlton Bailey is pastor. From top left, clockwise, attendees learned from the video, made new commitments, and enjoyed a Valentine's Day breakfast together.

## First Liberty hosting BUA donor dinner

First Liberty will be the location for what Baptist University of the Americas is calling their First Annual Southeast Texas Friends and Donors Dinner.

The 6 p.m. event will be Tuesday, Apr. 16 in the church's activities building.

Carlos Garduno, BUA development officer who once served as an intern for TRBA, asks that those interested call or email him for reservations by Apr. 1. His phone numbers are 210-298-3180 and 936-776-1387. His email address is Carlos.Garduno@bua.edu.

**PASTORAL CARE LINE**



**1-844-PASTOR1**

(1-844-727-8671)  
8:00AM - 10:00PM ET



**Heights Remodeling** — Heights Baptist Church in Liberty is remodeling their sanctuary, including the installation of new windows. Pastor Tim Gruver said the project is expected to be completed by Easter Sunday and TR Baptists who come to Secret Church on Apr. 24 will get to see the finished product.



**Senior Pastor Prayer Time**  
**9 a.m. each Thursday**  
**TRBA Conference Room**

## Family Visitors' Center Schedule

Sun, <b>March 1</b> AM Hinch, Gault PM Snell, Catchings	Sat, <b>March 21</b> AM Davis, Goff PM Hortmans
Sat, <b>March 7</b> AM Mendoza, Longoira PM Dossier, Skinner	Sun, <b>March 22</b> AM Smarts PM Herring, Morales
Sun, <b>March 8</b> AM Presnulls PM McGuires	Sat, <b>March 28</b> AM C. & G. Theis PM K. & L. Yielding
Sat, <b>March 14</b> AM Thomas, Clark PM Garvins	Sun, <b>March 29</b> AM Shaws PM Herring & Kinney
Sun, <b>March 15</b> AM Radley, Gault PM Baldrigdes	



**TRBA Youth Network launched** — Conducting their first meeting over pizza Feb. 17 in the TRBA office. are, left to right, Derek Brown, First Liberty; John Pages, Hardin; Omar Cantu, North Main; Rodney Sellers, Mt. Calvary of Marysee; and Jo Beth MacTavish of Kenefick Southern. Cantu, TRBA youth director, said the first meeting was very productive. "We discussed everything from type of Sunday School material to what our Wednesday night services look like," he said. "We also talked about challenges we have with our youth and how we deal with them. Also events coming up for this year such as summer camps, mission trips and back to school events as well as DiscipleNows." The group is open to all TRBA youth ministers.

## Receipts January 2015

	Jan 15	Jan 15
Batson Prairie	0.00	0.00
Berean Tabernacle	0.00	0.00
Calvary, Dayton	500.00	500.00
Calvary, Liberty	257.64	257.64
Center, Thicket	131.00	131.00
Central, Daisetta	0.00	0.00
Central, Liberty	107.51	107.51
Covenant	0.00	0.00
Eminence	0.00	0.00
First Anahuac	833.33	833.33
First Batson	200.00	200.00
First Concord	93.99	93.99
First Daisetta	0.00	0.00
First Dayton	1,461.65	1,461.65
First Devers	627.26	627.26
First High Island	0.00	0.00
First Hull	0.00	0.00
First Liberty	2,395.71	2,395.71
First Saratoga	326.94	326.94
First Sour Lake	741.89	741.89
Grace Community	0.00	0.00
Grayburg	0.00	0.00
Gum Grove	23.30	23.30
Hardin Baptist	1,257.20	1,257.20
Heights	720.80	720.80
House of Living Waters	0.00	0.00
Kenefick Southern	972.35	972.35
Mt Calvary	525.86	525.86
North Main	0.00	0.00
Nuevo Amanecer	0.00	0.00
Oak Island	44.34	44.34
Old River	1,166.67	1,166.67
Pathways	84.00	84.00
Primera Dayton	75.00	75.00
Smith Point	56.60	56.60
South Dayton	50.00	50.00
Sweet Home	0.00	0.00
Trinity	100.00	100.00
West End	0.00	0.00
Whispering Meadows	421.00	421.00
Wild Country Mission	0.00	0.00
Interest	7.00	7.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,181.04</b>	<b>13,181.04</b>

*Trinity River Baptist Association*  
*P.O. Box 1269*  
*Liberty, TX 77575*  
*Address Service Requested*

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Liberty TX  
 Permit No. 38

## Trinity River Baptist Association

## March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Gideons	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> VBS Convention <i>Spring (Texas)</i> <i>Baptist Church</i>
Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, March 1-8						
<b>8</b> Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)	<b>9</b> 11:30 am TRBA Senior Adult Mission Luncheon <i>Kenefick</i>  6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday	<b>30</b> 6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	<b>31</b>				