

WHEN OUR YOUNG HEAR THE CALL, WILL WE ANSWER?

The Baptist faith is growing in Texas. In inner cities, suburbs, *colonias* and small towns, an average of four new churches are started every week by Texas Baptists.

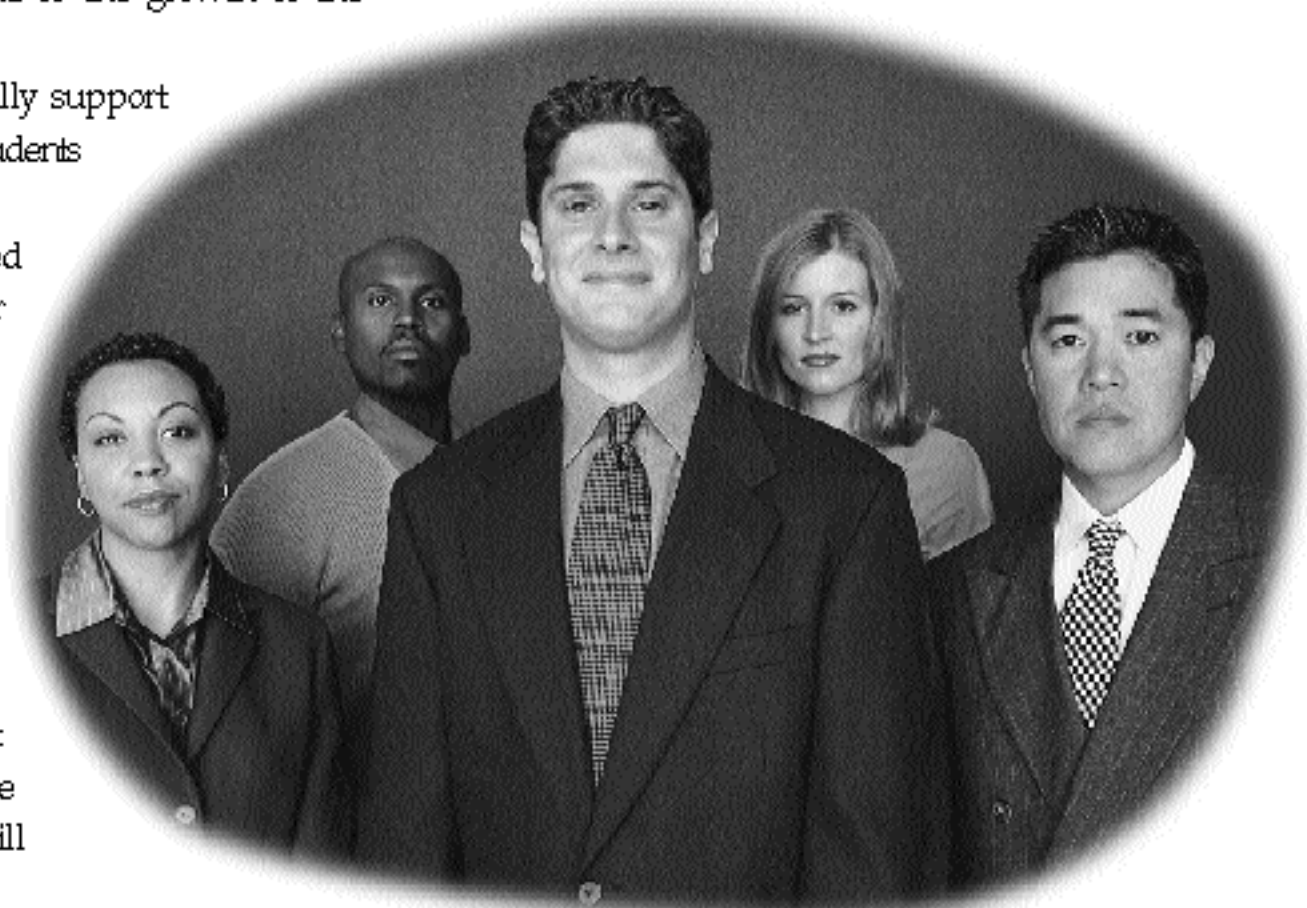
The question is, who will lead these congregations? And who will be prepared to reach the many cultures in our state? Who will speak Christ's message in words they understand? Many of these church members are young. Who will help them apply the tenets of our Baptist faith to the cultural challenges of tomorrow?

Actually, the answer is simple. More than 4,500 students at Texas Baptist schools and seminaries are preparing for ministry. Through the Texas portion of the Baptist General Convention of Texas budget, you support Texas Baptist universities, seminaries, and theological schools, where a vast majority of past and future ministers are trained. Thanks to your continued generosity, last year alone, BGCT churches provided over \$700,000 in scholarships for students at George W. Truett Seminary and Logsdon School of Theology—and over \$2 million in ministry scholarships at eight Texas Baptist universities. You supplied critical funding for an additional 140 students at the Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio. And you supported a Ministry Training Summit, a Theological Education web site, and numerous for-credit educational BGCT programs throughout the state. Such efforts have proven vital to the growth of the Baptist faith in Texas.

Yet the SBC doesn't financially support these BGCT programs or the students who participate in them.

Consider this. The Texas based SBC seminary enrolls far fewer ministry students and has said it expects no growth. And that makes it especially hard to understand why SBC leaders continue to urge reduced support of BGCT programs.

Let's ask ourselves, if we don't support the young who are called to the ministry, what will our future be?



We believe in and endorse the mission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the ministry students at our Texas Baptist institutions. And we grow weary of SBC leaders who urge you to decrease support for them.

Concerned Texas Baptists

Matthew Cook

Mr. Matthew Cook
First Baptist Church, Rowland

Jay K. Abernathy

Rev. Jay K. Abernathy
First Baptist Church, Palestine

Brent Beasley

Rev. Brent Beasley
First Baptist Church, Eagle Lake

R. Mitch Randall

Rev. R. Mitch Randall
First Baptist Church, Bedford

William Shiell

Rev. William Shiell
Southland Baptist Church, San Angelo

Chad R. Chaddick

Mr. Chad R. Chaddick
Fidance Baptist Church, Boerne

Kyle Reese

Rev. Kyle Reese
First Baptist Church, San Angelo



Response to this ad may be sent to the Baptist Standard. These responses will be forwarded to Concerned Texas Baptists.