

# Work projects promote unity among Irving churches

May 23, 2012

IRVING—After hearing about needs of another congregation in their community, members of [First Baptist Church in Irving](#) took action.



During a workday, members of First Baptist Church in Irving participated in a variety of projects, including taking out several hundred pounds of asphalt from the parking lot to install a new flowerbed.  
(PHOTOS/Courtesy of First Baptist Church in Irving)

More than 100 members of First Baptist spent a Saturday participating in a workday at Calvary Baptist Church—helping with building repairs, cleaning, painting and landscaping.

"There was a lot of work to be done and a long list of things that needed repair and improvement," said John Durham, pastor of First Baptist in Irving. "The list included new flooring, new painting, new landscaping, cleaning, organizing, hauling away old things and small repairs."

The workday not only made a difference on the building and grounds at Calvary Baptist Church, but it also brought renewed vision to the congregation while increasing their ability to make an impact on the community.



More than 100 members of First Baptist Church in Irving participated in a workday at Calvary Baptist Church helping with building repairs, cleaning, painting and landscaping. (PHOTOS/Courtesy of First Baptist Church in Irving)

"We were amazed to see the number of people who chose to give of their time to help," said Daniel Litchford, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. "It was incredible to see so many people who were willing to do so much work and to do it joyfully. It was a great encouragement and example. During the workday, many people also offered to help in other ways in the future."

Leaders from both churches emphasized their common goal of working together and bringing glory to God.

"Our greatest hope is that the name of Jesus would be enlarged," Durham said. "We not only wanted to help Calvary Baptist for the short term, but we are committed for the long haul with them."

"We want them to know that we are not only in the same city, but also in the same kingdom with them. Our campuses and staffing are very different, and we are even in different state conventions, but we are pressing the gospel forward together."



First Baptist Church in Irving members Erica Valenta and Arianne Weber help with service projects at Calvary Baptist Church in Irving. (PHOTOS/Courtesy of First Baptist Church in Irving)

First Baptist Church supports the Baptist General Convention of Texas, while Calvary Baptist is affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. However, Durham sees both churches as having the same overarching goal.

"We both desire to share the gospel with our city and want to see light penetrate the darkness," he said.

Anthony Ball, missions director at First Baptist Church in Irving, agreed.

"This is what the body of Christ is supposed to look like—brothers and sisters in Christ, laboring together to serve one another and love each other through humility, as a family," Ball said. "We want Jesus Christ to be glorified and want to live out John 13:35, when Jesus tells us that we will be known as his disciples if we love one another.

"From this massive work project, we hope that Calvary Baptist Church will be able to spend their future time and resources sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the apartment complexes and homes in their vicinity. At the end of the day, we want the city of Irving to see that Bible-believing, Christ-worshipping churches work together to accomplish a singular purpose—to share the love of Christ with those around us."