

In Touch: Proud of our directors of missions

May 17, 2013

Hello, Texas Baptists. I am, like so many of you, grateful for the work and ministry of our directors of missions in our associations. Recently, at [Mount Lebanon Retreat and Conference Center](#), I had an opportunity to speak to many DOMs as they had gathered for their team meeting. They do good work, and I'm proud to be supportive.



David Hardage Coming up on Sunday, June 2, at Independence Baptist Church, the Baptist General Convention of Texas will recognize two wonderful longtime, faithful servants with our first-ever Texas Baptists Legacy Awards. The Elder Statesman Award previously was given to deserving individuals but has been discontinued. This year, we are so delighted to honor Wilma Reed of First Baptist Church in Cleburne and Bob Feather of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas. If you can come that day, please do. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please RSVP to [Elizabeth Biedrzycki](#).

Thanks to Kyle Morton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Port Arthur, for allowing me to enjoy a wonderful Sunday morning with him and this good church not long ago. I appreciate the history of First Baptist Church and am excited for their future as they move to a new location.

Your BGCT staff gathered in your Baptist Building May 7 and 8 for

fellowship, worship, planning and prayer. I appreciate the commitment these men and women have to the Lord, his church and this convention. And a special thanks to Clint and Martha Twaddell of [First Baptist Church in Cleburne](#) for cooking a great lunch for all of us May 7. It was awesome!

One of the great joys of ministry came my way Saturday, May 11. I officiated a wedding ceremony for a young lady who grew up in Sulphur Springs, where I was her pastor. I was thrilled to unite in marriage Carroll Bonner and Grady Crowson at [First Baptist Church of Waco](#) .

I do hope you are planning to attend The Gathering July 14-17 in San Antonio. This is the name of this year's Texas Baptist annual meeting. We'll join the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas, the African-American Fellowship and all other ethnic fellowships for one big family gathering. It will be worth your time, and I hope you can come.

If you plan on attending this year's Southern Baptist Convention in Houston June 9-12, please plan to stop by our BGCT booth for a visit and some free stuff.

Congratulations to all of our spring graduates. Now, let's hope and pray for gainful employment. Their parents will appreciate our support!

—David Hardage is executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board.