

# TEXANS ON MISSION™

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The Texas Panhandle fires:  
**AN OASIS  
OF HOPE**  
in the midst of desolation **PG. 2**

**INSIDE:** From TBM to Texans on Mission

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# Texas Panhandle fires: Extreme disaster calls for extreme response

One million acres burned. Two people killed. Entire farms and ranches lost. Thousands of livestock dead.

The scope of devastation associated with a late-February complex of fires in the Texas Panhandle boggled the mind. It took more than three weeks for Texas' largest wildfire in history to be contained.

In the small Hutchinson County town of Fritch, more than 100 families lost their homes to the fast-moving Windy Deuce fire.

Within a day of the Fritch fire, though, the extreme disaster was met by Texans on Mission (TBM) Disaster Relief volunteers with an equally scaled response as assessors

began their work in preparation for massive relief efforts.

It began a one-month response that involved almost all of the ministry's services to answer, said David Wells, Texans on Mission Disaster Relief director.

"The turnout to help the families in Fritch was amazing," he emphasized. "We had a total of about 200 volunteers who helped complete 136 work orders (relief projects) to bring help to affected families." 🇺🇸

[Read more at TexansOnMission.org/panhandle-stories](https://TexansOnMission.org/panhandle-stories)



APPROXIMATELY **200** VOLUNTEERS HELPED → COMPLETE **136** RELIEF PROJECTS TO → **HELP** AFFECTED FAMILIES.



# We are on mission with Christ



**T**exas Baptist Men is at my core. My father was a founding member of this ministry. Longtime Executive Director Bob Dixon had more influence in my life than anyone outside my family. I was a Royal Ambassador and was even on the

first Builders' trip.

Years ago I asked my dad why they called the ministry Texas Baptist Men. His answer was direct: "We only worked in Texas. All of us were Baptist. And all of us were men. The name fit."

As God grew the ministry, the name continued even as the volunteer base expanded. Now, over 42% of our volunteers are women. Members of Bible-believing non-denominational churches and Baptist congregations without Baptist in their name have joined our ranks.

These Christian brothers and sisters are drawn to our Christ-centered, Gospel-focused mission.



This organization has always been and will always be about Texans on mission with Christ. As a result, the name Texans on Mission fits us well.

Christ has a mission for each of us: Deliver help, hope and healing to hurting people and teach the next generation of Christians to do likewise. We remain faithful to Him, His calling and His work.

Our ministry – the one you and I do together under the guidance of God – remains the same. We are committed to all of our historic, Bible-believing partners as we strive to keep our focus on the task of sharing God's love with a world that desperately needs it.

Last year, more than 1,100 people came to faith because you were on mission with Christ. This year, that work with eternal impact continues and is even expanding.

Please join me in praying we all will be Texans on Mission with Christ. That is our calling and our mission – together.

**Mickey B. Lenamon**

Executive Director/CEO

Texans on Mission





## Texans on Mission disaster response 'means survival for the family ranch'

**J**oe McMahan lives just outside Fritch on a family ranch in the Panhandle. Wildfires devastated the ranch.

"Everything is a total loss," he said, days after the Windy-Deuce Fire swept over his land. "This ranch is rather large. We probably have 30,000 acres. Maybe 2,000 acres is left."

The ranch lost 12 of its 32 bulls and too many cows to count. Every cow and calf needed medical attention after they were surrounded by the blaze.

Disaster relief volunteers with Texans on Mission (TBM) arrived with critical help – diesel that many ranches struggled to get after the fires and much needed hay to feed the surviving cattle.

The aid "means survival for the family ranch," McMahan said. "Without it, we'd all be lost."

"The affected area is hard to fathom," said Mickey Lenamon, Texans on Mission executive director/CEO. "Ranchers have lost their homes and how they provide for their families."

While the fires burned, David Wells, Texans on Mission Disaster Relief director, said: "People are hurting. We're providing hay, fuel and help. But more importantly, we're praying with people. We're sharing God's love." 🇹🇽

Read more at [TexansOnMission.org/panhandle-stories](https://TexansOnMission.org/panhandle-stories)



# Volunteers become like fathers to hurting homeowner

On her knees in the midst of the “nasty” dirt and debris left behind in her flooded home, Saphina Khalfan cried out to God for help. Within a minute, she heard voices outside. They were Texans on Mission (TBM) volunteers coming to help.

Texans on Mission responded in late January to flooding downstream from Lake Conroe north of Houston. Heavy rain in the area forced authorities to open floodgates on the lake.

Trained volunteers came to the area from throughout the state, and local volunteers pitched in from churches – including Fellowship of Montgomery, First Baptist Church of Conroe, West Conroe Baptist Church, Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy and the Church at Alden Bridge in The Woodlands.

Several days after the flood, Khalfan spoke through tears about what she experienced after returning home.

“I was so down, broken, confused, lost, sad, hopeless, helpless,” she said slowly. “When I was at that bottom, face down in the floor. ... I was on my knees. Right there, I knew there was nothing I could do. But one thing I knew, I can pray. So I started praying.

“In that blink of a second, ... I heard voices coming to my house.”


Texans on Mission volunteers were walking to her front door. She heard them talking as they approached.

“When they greeted me and told me what they’re here for, I held them for like 30 minutes, maybe one hour,” Khalfan said. “I cried out loud for the longest time because I couldn’t cry



presence until this disaster came.”

Through the Texans on Mission volunteers, “God gave me a hundred fathers,” she said. “They hugged me the same way my dad would. They talked to me the way my dad would. I feel they’re loving me the way my dad loved me.”

The Texans on Mission volunteers helped Khalfan connect with local churches and church members. And she also has the memory of those “hundred fathers” who “hugged me the same way my dad would.” 



when [the flood] happened because I was trying to put on the straight face and walk through this.

“I just broke down and cried and kept telling them thank you. I hugged them all; they hugged me back,” she said. “I could tell they feel my pain. They might not cry, but they held me so tight. I still feel it.”

Khalfan’s father died in February 2016. “To my dad, I was always a little girl. My dad passed, and I never felt his



# 'Here I am.

In Matthew 28, Christ made it clear what our mission as Christ followers is: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

That mission is personal for every person who serves through Texans on Mission (TBM) ministries. God has equipped and called each of us to minister in His name. We hear that call and, in the words of Isaiah, respond: "Here I am. Send me."

Send me to meet needs in Your name. Send me to pray with the hurting. Send me to share the Gospel. Send me to be the hands and feet of Christ.

"But He goes before us. He prepares hearts. He guides our words. He opens avenues for the Gospel to be shared. As a result, lives are transformed through a relationship with Christ."



**"And  
surely  
I am  
with you  
always..."**

# Send me.!

## SERVE

You deploy Christians to put their faith in action by meeting needs in the name of Christ. Whether they're drilling a well or serving after a disaster, their faith compels them to serve.

## SHINE



In the midst of crises around the world, people are hopeless. Faced with overwhelming obstacles, they are drowning in despair. You make it possible for Texans on Mission to encourage people, pray with them and help them know better days are ahead.

## SHARE

When the volunteers you deploy arrive on the scene, the people they serve almost immediately want to know why they're ministering. That opens opportunity after opportunity to share the Gospel. Already this year, more than 115 people have been baptized as a result of Texans on Mission ministry.



## DONATE NOW.

[TexansOnMission.org/donate](https://TexansOnMission.org/donate)



# Volunteers work to make spring break meaningful

**Repairing homes, doing yard work, serving homeless persons, preparing First Step kits, holding a party**

**T**wenty teenage Texans on Mission (TBM) volunteers and leaders spent their spring break as part of Revive San Marcos. Add in disaster relief volunteers who provided food, and 36 total volunteers were involved.

The volunteers did lawn work, painted, removed and installed flooring, fixed broken plumbing, packed First Step kits and more – all with adult guidance. Then, on Wednesday, they hosted a block party featuring Overcoming Obstacles Ministry. They did it all in partnership with Mission Able of First Baptist Church in San Marcos.

The teens served dinner to homeless persons, and after serving, they sat down to eat with those they had just served.

David McClintock, of Mission Able, worked with the teens doing yard work. “They’re eager beavers,” he said. “They get after it. They do whatever you ask them to do. They’re just like we older men.”

Wayne Barrick, of First Baptist Church in Gilmer, worked with the teens in flooring a house. “They had to learn from the ground up, and they jumped in and did great. And they also spent time talking with the homeowner.” 🇹🇽





# Next generation of disciples now in training

In Scripture, Timothy came from a strong family of faith, but then the Apostle Paul took him under wing. They embarked on years of ministry together.

Paul called Timothy his child in the faith. The elder also called the younger man his brother and co-worker.

Following Paul's example, Texans on Mission (TBM) for decades has stressed the importance of discipleship – coming alongside newer Christians to help them grow in faith through service. We disciple adults, and we emphasize discipling students, the emerging generation of Christ followers.

Texans on Mission supports the Royal Ambassadors and Challengers ministries to promote missions involvement and support. And we've added a broader discipleship effort to stress key aspects of the Christian faith and how they lead to service to those in need.

All of those efforts are done in partnership with local churches. ➔



**Disciple NOW Weekends**  
10 events  
1,927 youth  
54 churches  
158 professions of faith



## Ministry Partnerships

- 58 professions of faith
- 11,935 attended Texans on Mission interactive experiences
- Make Life Count church program piloted
- Blueprints for LIFE Leadership Program piloted
- Several new partnerships with churches and ministries

## WILD Camp for Outdoor Training

- 49 participants
- 6 finished Frontiersman training
- 1 finished Basic Instructor training
- 14 completed training in archery, rifle safety, HAM radio, blacksmith and Challengers



# Board by board, Church Builders transforms old structure into new center for ministry

**T**hink about it: \$50,000 in free labor per week.

That's what Texans on Mission (TBM) Church Builders provided for construction of a mentoring center for fatherless children in Corpus Christi this spring.

They and other Texans on Mission volunteers began by ripping out old walls and conduit. Then they rebuilt the internal structure for its new purposes.

"Every piece of wood, we put it in. Every piece of conduit, we put it in," said Wayne Pritchard, director of Texans on Mission Builders.

The building is a 13,200-square-foot former monastery. It is being remodeled by Majesty Outdoors for its broad-based ministry.

The Church Builders had a big assist on this project from teenage Challengers and others from First Baptist Church in Hempstead. Challengers is a program for teenagers that is part of Texans on Mission's Royal Ambassadors program. 🇺🇸



# Texans bring water, help, hope to Arkansas city

**T**exans on Mission (TBM) volunteers come with all kinds of skills and experiences. At least one of them is a mayor – Pastor Michael Evans of Mansfield, population 77,000.

In late January, Evans and Texans on Mission’s Rand Jenkins were in Memphis when they learned of an emerging disaster in nearby Helena-West Helena, Ark. Much of the city was without drinking water because of busted pipes and other needed infrastructure repairs.

Evans and Jenkins headed over to help. “It is a disaster when you don’t have drinking water,” said Evans, who is also pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mansfield.



Arkansas officials expected it to take two weeks before the city’s water would be back online.

“They had a terrible snow and ice weather event that busted the pipes,” Evans said. And “the infrastructure in the city was in need of repair” before the freezing weather.

Texans on Mission quickly arranged for 24,000 gallons of water to be shipped to Helena-West Helena. But Evans also put his mayoral experience to work. He met with city leaders.

Afterward, the Arkansas mayor said he felt he had a better understanding of what the city needed to do. Also, he indicated Texans on Mission’s presence could be a catalyst for the city to unify and take care of some underlying issues.



Texans on Mission set up water tanks at the Eliza Miller school in West Helena. “The Eliza Miller location is important because this is the more

depressed side of town,” Evans said. “These good people in this area are doing some great things, some positive things, but they don’t quite get the help or the resources they need.

“There are other parts of town that are being pretty well taken care of regarding their immediate needs as it concerns water, healthy water, but this part of the city, they don’t have that,” he said.

Helena-West Helena is now planning to bring together community partners. Texans on Mission has helped the community come together “so they can discover ways to help themselves after we come in and do our part,” Evans said.

“We knit people together, make sure they are trained.

“When we leave we know we have a lasting missionary and missional opportunity that has taken place,” lifting up “the kingdom of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.” 🇺🇸



**VOLUNTEERSPOTLIGHT**

## Texans on Mission Volunteer State Chaplain Coordinator: Chaplaincy ‘A Ministry of Presence’

**M**elanie Howington loves people. When Texans on Mission (TBM) responds to a disaster, Howington’s love draws her toward the hurting people.

Howington, a member of First Baptist Church of Nocona, is volunteer state chaplain coordinator for Texans on Mission Disaster Relief. She is one of about 40 active Texans on Mission Disaster Relief chaplains.

“I think to be a chaplain, you have to have a love for people, and you have to be able to just sit and listen to people,” she said. “You’re there to love on them and encourage them through the hard stuff, let them get through the hard stuff and then just love on them some more.”

She took a break recently in Fritch, Texas, after visiting with a local rancher who was partnering with Texans on Mission volunteers in distributing hay to ranches affected by the Panhandle fires. Howington and the rancher, a woman named Roper Cox, had already developed a strong bond in a matter of days, a bond strengthened by the crisis.

For Howington, being in Fritch was one way to answer God’s

call on her life to minister to others in times of crisis. She called being a chaplain in times of crisis “a ministry of presence. It means just being there, and sometimes there’s no words spoken, and you have to be comfortable with that silence.” 🇺🇸

Read more at [TexansOnMission.org/howington](https://TexansOnMission.org/howington)

