

Week of Prayer for Associational Missions

**Recalibrate to
Reconciliation**

October 23-30

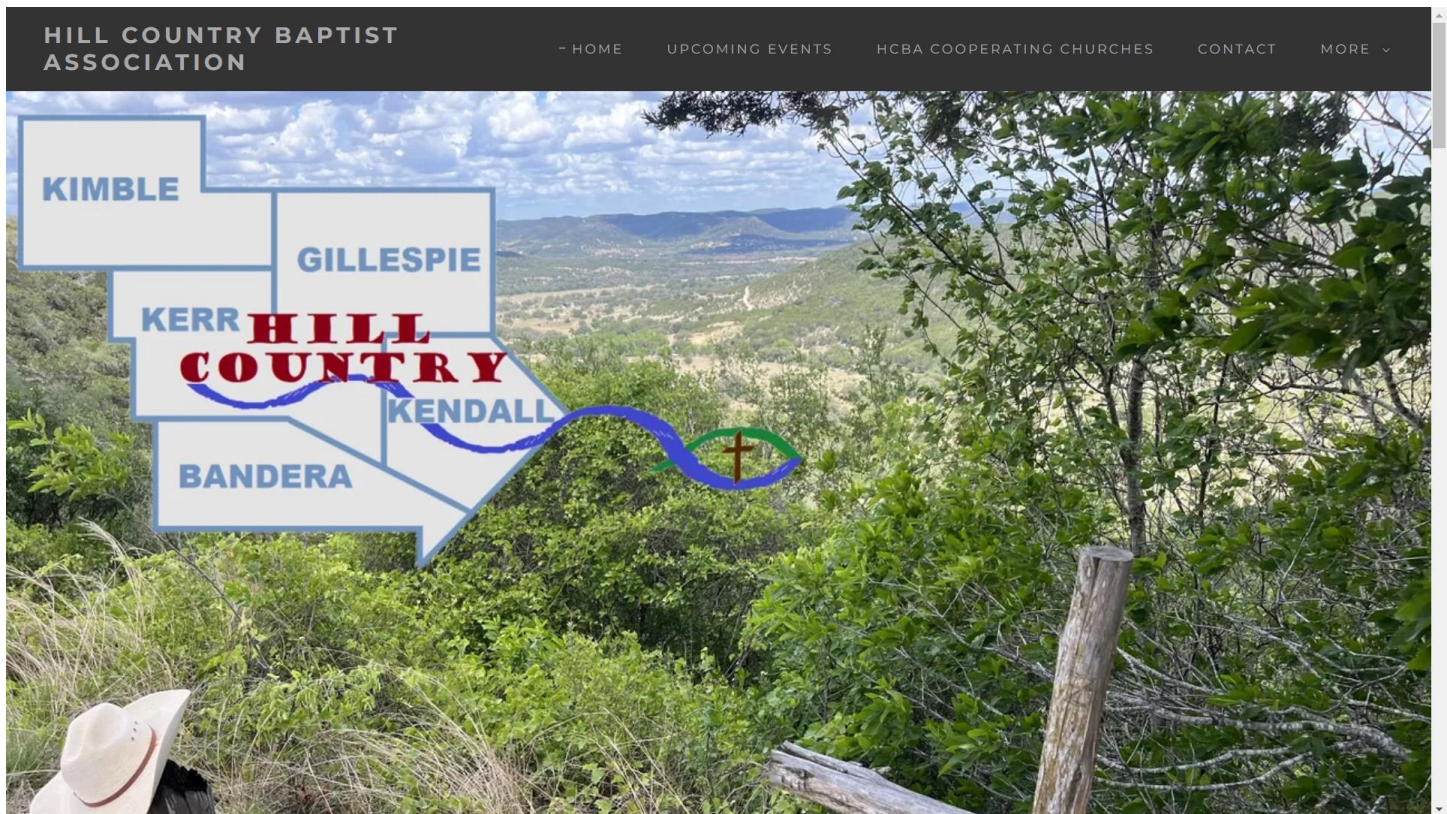
“And not only this...”

Romans 5:11

7

**Day's of Prayerful Journey for
HCBA.life missions**

www.hcba.life



Connect – Converse – Cooperate

Our prayer is that you will seek God's direction in your life as you engage this prayer journey, as well as encourage the mission of HCBA.life here in the Hill Country. If you desire to know more about HCBA.life, please contact us directly:

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**“And not only this, but we also exult in God through
our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now
received the reconciliation.”** *Romans 5:11*

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Day 1

What is one thing you have enjoyed for some time now? Perhaps, you would recommend a

restaurant, store, vacation spot, school, book, movie, car/truck, mechanic, plumber, coffee shop, maybe even a church. Why would you recommend what you have enjoyed? Better yet, why would you invest in what you have enjoyed?

There is an intrinsic value for something/someone which has been beneficial on our journey. That is what we are on. **A journey.** For many, it will become a journey from crib to casket; nothing more, nothing less. Time, talents, treasure, and trinkets fade away with their memory.

However, we are called to more than just enjoyment in the here and now. We have been called to the Creator who gives breath and blessing; real life and real love. God is calling us to more than just temporary relationships and resources. He is calling us **to Himself**. So, how are we investing in that journey right here, right now?

The Church. That's right... God has called His Church to be involved in the ministry of reconciliation to Himself. Christ came, died, and rose again, according to the Scripture, that we might have abundant and eternal life!

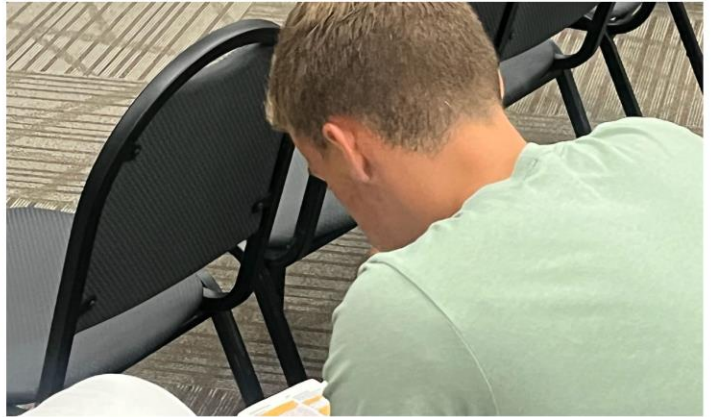
The key is not what restaurants, or movies, or books, or vehicles one may enjoy, but Who created and calls us to seek Him, trust Him, and follow Him each waking moment. The first part of Ephesians 3:17 declares: “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...”. More than anything else in this world, it is crucial that Christ dwell within, and our character declare the joy of Christ more than temporary worldly enjoyments.

Prayer: Father in Heaven, we recognize the temporary things of this world are passing away, but You are eternal and calling us to experience more abundant life in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to know Your love in Christ, and Your love in Christ reaching others through us. May we be faithful to recalibrate our hearts towards You and Your ministry of reconciliation this week. In Jesus Name, we pray... AMEN!

“And Not Only This” Fact: When you support **HCBA.life** through your church, we are more healthy engaging the dark culture around us as an Association of churches right here in the Hill Country. Together, we “shine bright”!

Learn more about HCBA.life by visiting our website: www.HCBA.life

Visit our Facebook page to see us in action: <https://www.facebook.com/HillCountryBaptistAssociation>



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“And not only this...”

Romans 5:11

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:17-19

Day 2

Do you know who your neighbor is?

This is not a question about “name,” address, color of hair, or type of vehicle parked in driveway. This is not even a question about what kind of flowers they grow out front, or type of dog running around in the backyard. This question is much deeper than just surface representation.

Years ago, an older gentleman asked a younger gentleman if he knew the head coach of a certain NFL Team. The young man exclaimed, “Oh boy, do I know that coach!” After a minute or two of expounding upon various details of that particular head coach – stats and all – the older man simply asked again: “Do you know that coach?”

The young man a bit perplexed, continued a litany other fascinating facts and stats which seemed quite impressive. The older gentleman asked again: “Do you know that coach?” The older gentleman went on to say, “It sounds like you know a lot **ABOUT** that coach, but do you **KNOW** that coach?”

It is possible for us to know about our neighbors, but not know them. We may know some interesting facts about them, similar to the young man’s knowledge of that head coach. However, if that head coach of an NFL Team came into the same room as that young man, the NFL coach would NOT know that young man at all... even if he saw him in the stadium with thousands of others.

Ephesians 3:19 ends with, “that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” That truly would be a “knowing” wouldn’t it?

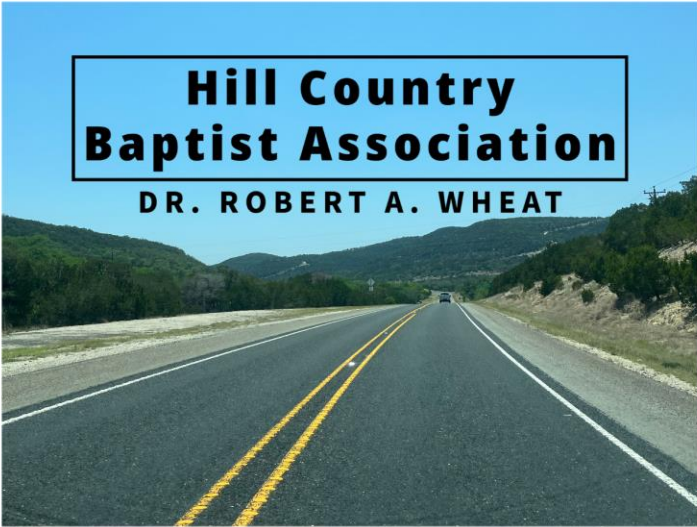
The difference in our pursuit is to know the fullness of God, and allow that fullness to overflow in our life to the neighbors around us – companions, chums, coworkers, clients, cohorts, colleagues, contacts, customers, compatriot, compadre, comrades... you name it.

We must know more than their name if we are capable of sharing this abundant life of Christ with them.

Prayer: Gracious God, You have given so many precious treasures around our home and work, and we may be missing the mark in treating them as such. Help us to know more than just a name and hair color. Help us to get to know their heart, so we can share Your heart with them in our daily interactions. Give us greater wisdom in how to share Christ with neighbors next door and down the street. In Jesus Name, we pray... AMEN!

“And Not Only This” Fact: As you support **HCBA.life** through your church, we get to share Christ with college students right here in Kerrville, Texas with the support of San Antonio BSM Leaders. Gospel conversations are taking place because of your gifts, even where you may not be able to go. We are getting to know these students beyond names and hair color!

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Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” *John 14:6*

Day 3

Do you know the language of your community? This is more or less, a trick question.

Most will simply answer with a simple “English” or “Spanish” dialect. However, this question really goes deeper than just the sound of words, to the meaning of life. There is a language which transcends natural sounds which a person can hear by linguistic vocals.

Study male and female verbal interactions – chatter and matter – you realize they can be quite different at times. Marriage counselors will confirm that men and women speak different languages, even though they verbalize in English (or other nationality). Trouble comes when we fail to “hear” what is being spoken, and thereby presume we understand what others are saying.

When it comes to a community surrounding the Church, it is important to understand people who live, work, and play right there in that neighborhood. That means, if the Church is verbally speaking a language which is not heard by its neighbors, the Church will have little impact on their life decisions. If a Church is speaking a language of “Welcome” on an outside sign, but “disgruntled faces” when strangers enter their domain, it’s a confusing message of despair for all parties involved. If a Church is speaking a language of “neglect” in their outside or inside appearance, then the community driving by will continue to “drive by” without any hopeful interaction. If a Church is speaking a language of serious displeasure or disappointment in another generations cultural voice, whether NEXT Gen or Older Boomers, there will be an animosity towards their so-called faith.

Again, when a man speaks poorly toward his wife, there is a cold night ‘a-coming.’ When a Church speaks more about the ills of another group or class of people, there is a cold detachment at work. **More people want to attend a play-off game than a funeral.** The excitement of a life-breathing environment tends to speak life into its participants. Our mission ought to be attractational and transformational.

If we speak in a language which is not graceful, merciful, or even tactful, we will likely lose the **heart of communication** long before we lose the **art of communication**. In John 14:6, Jesus was communicating hope to His disciples; He was giving them a path of greater purpose. In John 14:12, Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”

Let’s come back to our first question: Do you know the language of your community? What you do, will speak louder than what you say.

Prayer: Father God, You are more gracious and merciful in all that You do; more so than I could ever be. However, let Your Spirit speak through me in ways that others can see Jesus living in me. In Jesus Name, we pray... AMEN!

“And Not Only This” Fact: Texas Baptist Men from **HCBA.life** churches make a profound difference in communities suffering from hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, or even just crisis which affects the lives of those living in that community. As you support **HCBA.life** we get to serve others who need to be restored, and hear the Gospel as we serve them.



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“And not only this...”

Romans 5:11

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” *Matthew 6:19-21*

Day 4

Did you know that money cannot buy you happiness? Famous old quote attributed to a French Philosopher around 1750, however happiness is not what we truly desire in this life. Did you know that you cannot take money “with you?” You can pay for a funeral and all of its trappings, but whatever is left over does not go in

the box. If you know what I mean? So what do we take with us?

If happiness is not all there is to this life, and what we earn is only going to be left for others to spend, what should we be investing our lives into? People. Jesus told His disciples: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, ... But store up treasures in heaven; ...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19–21)

God does not measure like we measure. This treasure-key of investing in eternity is more valuable than you can realize. It is not a stock on Wall Street, nor is it a 401k or 403b, or 457, or Security which only this world depends. It has been noted through several sources, that Jesus spoke more about money than He did about faith and prayer (mostly, He spoke about the Kingdom of God). Jesus uses dynamic moments to teach His disciples that money is an indicator of where man puts his value. Matthew 19:21, Jesus is telling a rich young man, “If you wish to be complete (perfect), go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” Do we store up treasures here on earth? Do we invest in heavenly treasures? How does one invest in heavenly treasures?

Even the early Church began to sell off their possessions so others would not be in need. “And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.” (Acts 2:44–45) Just review from the time Abram gave to Melchizedek, up to the widow who gave her two mites, the principle of investing has never been an earthly securement. It has always been a level of eternal forethought in the minds of God’s people to share the resources He has given in the first place to meet the needs of those He cherishes. **“For God so loved the world...”**. Who are we investing in this very moment; Wall Street or a lost world in search of eternal reward?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You created this world and desire that no one perishes. Help remind us that temporary treasures here are fleeting, but lives all around us are a treasure we can share the greatest treasure ever known – Christ. In Jesus Name, we pray... AMEN!

“And Not Only This” Fact: When your church invests in **HCBA.life** you give churches and communities with less resource the opportunity to see the love of Christ across this region. **HCBA.life** works with thirty-six churches across the Hill Country. Nine of these churches are Hispanic and have diverse pastors pulled in so many directions. Your blessings give hope to these hard working leaders who need encouragement during tough times. You invest in Kingdom work through each of these!



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“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men” *1 Timothy 2:1*

Day 5

Do you pray for your church staff?

Truly, the heart of a Pastor dives deep into the Word of God in order to drive deep into the world of

God around. We must realize the sacrifices many Pastors make on a daily basis to serve the Lord, willing and sacrificially, even when the support is not available.

The world of ministry on a church staff flourishes or crushes the heart of its leaders. There is no middle ground when serving the Lord. You are either refreshed from the mountain top experiences or walking in the valley of dry bones (hot or cold). There's no such thing as boredom in the Pastorate.

If there seems to be a sense of boredom, staleness, or even just dryness within a church, it's because the devil has captured the hearts and minds of people and there is no desire for Divine renewal, revival, or revitalization. There is the same old, same old...nothing new, nothing fresh, just nostalgic walk down memory lane trying to “get back to Egypt.”

When Moses was leading the Israelites out of bondage, God did miraculous things to disprove the Egyptian gods, redeem His people, and even despoil the Egyptians as they left. Not long into the journey to a land flowing with milk and honey, they wanted to go back to the misery of bondage and brick-laying. It's fascinating how long we enjoy God's favor, only to want the brokenness of the world. This is what most Pastors engage in week after week, after week. Their hearts desire is to lead their faith-fellowship into the Great Commission obediently, all the while following the Great Commandment regardless.

Noah was a righteous man in his generation, but the description of the generation he lived in was scandalous. “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” (Genesis 6:5–6) WOW! Read that again... slowly.

When Pastors get burned out, like Moses, David, and many prophets ... it's easy to throw in the towel or give in to decline. Pastor's health is just as important as the Pastor's family. When one suffers, the other suffers even more. How can you support your Pastor and engage in seeing a renewed or revitalized spirit in the midst of your church? Pray for them. It's not as necessary to agree with them 100% of the time, but oh how necessary to pray for them as often as you are able.

Prayer: Holy Father, Please grant our Pastor and staff, wisdom, courage, strength, peace, and joy as they serve You right here. Bless their family as well; supply their needs ... In Jesus Name, we pray... AMEN!

“And Not Only This” Fact: As you give to **HCBA.life** you increase the health of Pastors and leaders in your church, as well as across this region. Pastorless churches, hurting churches, and declining churches are given tremendous support through **HCBA.life**. There are numerous resources to help your leadership and your church engage in revitalization.



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“And not only this...”

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“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” *Acts 1:8*

Day 6

Who is the closest missionary that you know?

This might surprise you if your “thinker” is not fully charged. Most people think of missionaries to

foreign countries: William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Hudson Taylor, Jim Elliot, Annie Armstrong. However, did you know there were missionaries right here in North America? Names may be a bit scarce as they have been sent by various churches where the Bible Belt was prominent to much darker regions of the states.

The Women’s Missionary Union became a major sending force within the local church as they trained young people to BE on mission right where they lived. Mary Hill Davis was the President of the WMU in the early 1900’s for about 25 years. From organizing Girl’s in Action to organizing Royal Ambassadors, she was also encouraging work among the colleges as students left home for real world and real life experiences on their own. Today, we celebrate Mary Hill Davis as a Mission Offering to Texas as well as Week of Prayer for State missions. There have been numerous missionaries who have been processed through the ranks of GA’s and RA’s, and especially through Baptist Student Ministries over the decades.

What about missionaries within your church? Do you know any missionaries for which your church supports; whether state-side, or international? It would be a noble thing to know and support missionaries who can go into environments for which you cannot. They can be the hands and feet of Jesus to a world in need. You can be the fuel for which keeps their engine running through vast territories and landscapes “even to the remotest parts of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

One more question: Did you know that **YOU ARE A MISSIONARY**? Perhaps you did not realize that YOU have been sent by God into the environments you live. It is necessary for you to understand the calling for which God has given you right where you are. Where you live, where you work, where you spend leisure moments and where you worship. You can be a Sunday School teacher, a choir member, a member of the Praise Band, a Greeter, or even a volunteer in the nursery. Can I tell you that Ms. Naomi was a genuine missionary in a small church within the rural countryside of Kaufman County? She would hold a baby in her arms and sing Scripture songs or repeat Scripture verse to their little ears. **No matter where, no matter when, no matter who...** YOU have been sent to share Christ’s love with someone. Many times without even saying a word. Most of the time, by simply being present when someone is in need. (The Good Samaritan)

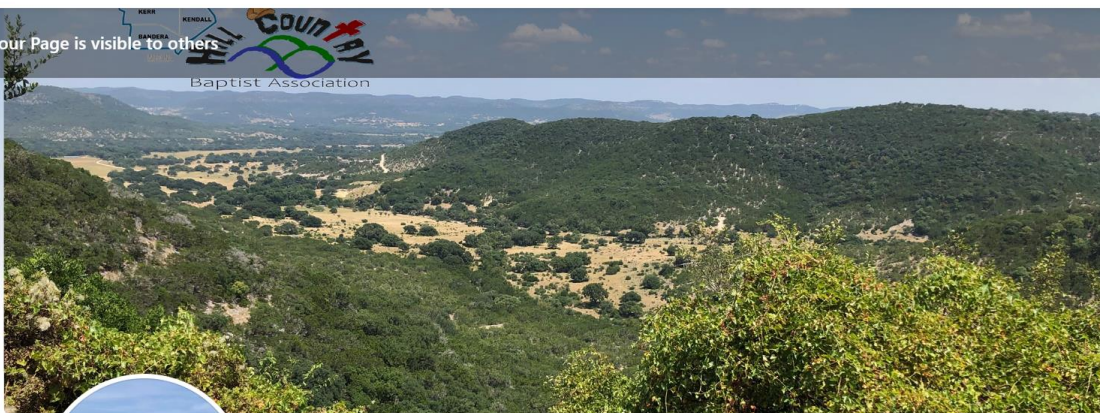
YOU can make an eternal difference!

Prayer: Sovereign Father, Help me to know that You have called me to be a witness each and every day, in so many ways. Give me courage and wisdom to share the love of Christ with those around me. In Jesus Name, we pray... AMEN!

“And Not Only This” Fact: When you give to **HCBA.life** you help promote and produce events which empower local missionaries like yourself. We are engaging the culture around us in the Hill Country with local residents right here within our cooperative churches. Ask your Pastor and Staff how you can get involved with local missions. You might be surprised how easy local missions can be!



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Our presence in the Hill Country

Our Commission

Our mission is to serve alongside our member churches to fulfill the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;..."

Our Commandment

Our God-given-command is to "love God and love others" by bearing with one another according to the Word of God.

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 22:37-40

Our Community

Our community of churches serve together under these truths and promises proclaimed in God's Word. This allows us the incredible joy of serving around the Hill Country, the state of Texas, the nation we call home, and the global connections we call neighbors, both near and far.

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“And not only this...”

Romans 5:11

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” *Romans 5:3-5*

Day 7

What will you do this day?

Scripture is replete with stories of unimaginable situations where an Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent God shows up and shows off. Not because God is egotistical or arrogant. You see, in the beginning... “God.” He created, He breathed,

He spoke into existence, He provided, He blessed. God knew us before the world began. God knows us still. He desires to do something unimaginable in and through you.

Yes, there are trials and tribulations. Jesus said, “...in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) Yes, there are impossible circumstances: Red Sea, Walls of Jericho, Goliath, Burning Furnace, Lion’s Den, Whale, Valley of Dry Bones, you name it. “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37) But wait... “And not only this...”; 2 Corinthians 2:14 states, “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” Did you catch that? “In every place!”

Tribulations come, but we exult – celebrate, boast, take joy – knowing that perseverance brings about proven character. That means, we not only pass with an A+, we surpass with the highest of honors; proven character. When someone mentions your name, there is a smile which exudes on their face that you are the “real deal.” “And not only this...,” there is a hope which exudes within the trials and tribulations because “Christ overcame,” we will overcome. You have the Holy Spirit living inside of you, if you’ve chosen to put your faith in Christ and His sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection. From our Scripture above, it continues, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

If you have never put your faith in Christ, “He says, ... Behold, now is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold, now is ‘the day of salvation.’” (2 Corinthians 6:2) What will you do?

If you have professed faith in Christ, what is God calling you to do for Him... right now?

“Love God with all your heart... and love your neighbor.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

“Go, make disciples... of all nations, baptizing and teaching them all that Christ commanded.”

(Matthew 28:19-20)

“Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

(1 Corinthians 10:31)

The question is not just what is God asking of you... but what **will** you do this day in response?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may I know more of You, and declare more of You in my daily walk. Let me be a light in the darkness around me, right here in the Hill Country... for Your glory! In Jesus Name, we pray... AMEN!

“And Not Only This” Fact: As you give to **HCBA.life** you sustain local missions right here in the Hill Country as our churches reach further together, fluid whenever, better wherever, stronger than ever. Pastor Health, Church Revitalization, Texas Baptist Men, Baptist Student Ministry, and Cooperative Missions are our heartbeat.

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