



## Passion 2013



Passion 2013 was such a blessing for so many in so many ways. Our group of 15 joined 65,000+ college students from around the world in Atlanta, GA, for four days of teaching, worship and seeking God. It is really hard to pinpoint one thing that stood out to me during that time, but I was really convicted and challenged in a couple of areas.

First, I was challenged in my own life to see how independent of the Holy Spirit I have become. We see the Spirit of God at work in Ezekiel 37 bringing wind, breath and Spirit into the dry bones and causing them to stand on their feet, and in Luke we see that Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit to the desert for 40 days. I have been reminded of my need of the Holy Spirit in my life, day-to-day, week-to-week. I want the Holy Spirit to lead me and breathe life into me. Secondly, I was challenged about the need for Christians to be concerned and to be actively

pursuing restoration of the last and least of these in our world. February will be the launch of the END IT Movement. The goal of this movement is to shine a light on the fact that there are more than 27 million people in slavery TODAY. This is more than has ever been enslaved at one time in history, and the church cannot stand on the sidelines, because this is happening in our cities and all over the US and world. Check out <http://enditmovement.com/> and see how you can do something to see modern-day slavery gone forever. Make your stand that you are in it to END IT. Below are a few testimonies from students that attended Passion 2013.

• "I think God softened my heart for the struggles that I'm going through. It was an affirmation that although I'm not where I want to be in life, He has me right where He wants me. Instead of being so angry at what I'm struggling with, He affirmed that, yes, these struggles are supposed to be happening right now. I'm thankful that He loves me enough to want to challenge and change me." -Brittany Burkman

• "Over multiple trips to Passion I have learned that (continued on page 2)

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Milwood Baptist  
Church  
2013

Our core values are biblical community, global missions, sound doctrine and godly character. These values function as the lens through which we view and evaluate ourselves in efforts to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. They are rooted in the teaching and example of the New Testament church and its head, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## Verse of the Month:

### ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER WITH THESE WORDS

#### To Him Be Dominion!

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of sufferings are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

-1 Peter 5:1-11 ESV

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Christ is worthy of all my praise, and all my life. This year God showed me the power of embracing suffering as opposed to enduring it. This has empowered me to live boldly for Jesus at Texas State. Instead of avoiding ridicule, as I would have in the past, I now seek it. I know the temporary suffering I may endure could lead someone to a relationship with Jesus. Furthermore the suffering will certainly allow me to relate more with Christ who embraced suffering for us. It is sufficient to say I would not have as well-rooted a faith in Jesus if not for the opportunity to go to Passion.” -Paul Pruneda

• “Oh man, what a blessing it was to be able to go to Passion. God made it abundantly obvious that I needed to just flat-out trust in Him; a simplicity that I just never gave much thought to and never even regarded. Prior to Passion, I was overwhelmed with thoughts that questioned my current state. I would be filled with anxiety (completely unnecessary) about finances, school, or the future, which in turn did nothing but add more stress and anxiety. God has placed all the events I experienced, and am currently experiencing, in my life for a specific reason. Passion served as the great reminder that God is doing everything for our own good and the good of others. I am now anxiety-free and thankful knowing that whatever, whether a tribulation or awesomeness, God has placed it in my life to allow for growth, love and ultimately to glorify Him.”  
-Izzy El-Ubaydy



## Member on Mission: JD Swiger

On January 3, 2013, I returned from my three-week stay in China. During the first part of the trip, I got to see the orphans, missionaries, and college students that I spent time with. It was a great time to see and encourage old friends. One highlight from the trip was going to a former unreached people group and seeing their Christmas celebrations. The way they celebrated their freedom in Jesus was truly a beautiful thing to see. The second part of the trip I got to see a former Longhorn BSM student, Becky, who is a missionary in another province. I met with the team of four students from the BSM, and we did college outreach in Becky's city. During this time, it became evident to two of the students that they were called to missions in some form or fashion in the future. We saw many seeds planted and a decision for Christ made. There are many neat stories to be told, but for the sake of time I won't share everything.

Please be praying for:

- **Jason:** that he would continue to have the desire to learn and grow in Christ.
- **Bern:** I met him in China. He has given following Christ much thought, but it is very hard for him to trust in God.
- **ShuKui:** I have talked about him before. He is from China and attends BSM events. He attends my Friday Bible studies, and we have spent a lot of time together. Please pray that he would continue to ask questions and that his interests in spiritual things would continue.
- **The Waysons:** (the missionaries I spent time with in China) that the Lord would bless them in their ministry reaching an unreached people group.
- **Myself:** as this school year is half way over, I must start thinking about what is next. I am praying about going back to school or possibly returning to the BSM for one more year. Please be in prayer for that.
- **BSM Staff:** that we would be attentive to the Lord and His leading for us for the year of 2013.

Here is a photo of some of the students at the BSM. Be praying for them as well, that God would use them to reach the great campus of UT.



### A Letter from Austin Baptist Chapel

"Dear Milwood Baptist Church,

Thanks to you and your gifts we were able to serve 146,318 hot meals and provide 11,256 families a food box this year. Along with a great amount of furniture, clothing, and food to the victims of the Bastrop Fires we were able to assist in the provision of two mobile homes. Our goal to feed the hungry was extended also as we delivered over 108,000 lbs of dog and cat food.

Sincerely,  
Frank R. Deutsch  
Sr. Pastor/Director  
Austin Baptist Church"

We as a church  
donated \$800 to Austin  
Baptist Church in 2012.

## News from Mission E

The Missions team met for the first time in 2013 on January 16. We got to work planning for the year. But we took a minute to realize that we are no longer in the UPG Initiative. We now have adopted the people of Haiti and the United Arab Emirates! Its time to "GO"!

Below is news from our friend on the front at Mission E in the Middle East. This is part of an email received on January 11, 2013.

"I thought I would pass along these pictures of one of our recent dinners. We were very grateful that we had a number of the gardeners, drivers, and builders in the neighborhood join us that evening. A number of the sanitation workers came as well.

It was really quite nice. Some of my friends from the hospital joined us to help serve and to translate. I learned a lot about all of these guys. We were able to pray for them, give them a meal, and provide some (hopefully useful) gifts. When we gave out the gifts, we told them that it was our custom to give out gifts at this time of year. We were able to explain why and how a gift is distinctly different from something that we earn or deserve.

Our sons really enjoyed putting the gifts together and distributing them. At the end, one of our sons went inside and brought out a box of toys to give. He said, 'Maybe some of them have kids'.

We included a number of things that you brought over when you came (September 2012), such as gloves, sunglasses, and socks. The gloves you brought were a bit nicer than the ones we could find here, so we made sure they went to the sanitation workers. It was a blessing to us to be able to give the gifts that you guys provided. Thank you very much!

These guys come over whenever they see me out now. One came over to tell me he had just passed his driver's license test. I will probably never speak Urdu or Bengali well enough to talk to them more deeply, but I am hopeful that they will see a glimmer of light that would be attractive.

We appreciate your friendship!"





## Texas Baptist Children's Home

We received several thank you cards from the cottage we sponsored at the Texas Baptist Children's Home. Here are some excerpts from those cards:

- "Thank you so much for your contribution to our HOPE Christmas parties. The kids were truly blessed by your giving. We could not have given them such a wonderful evening without your help and support."
- "Thank you for serving us and giving us stockings. This will be the night I will never forget. Thank you."
- "Thank you for making my Christmas extra special this year. May God bless you for your giving."
- "Thank you so much for all the gifts to the girls at Cottage 4. You made a difference in their Christmas. One of my girls started crying and said she had never had a Christmas with such nice presents. She is 16. Thank you again for your generosity."

## Pastor Hugo and Our Friends in Acuna

In January, we had the privilege to spend an afternoon with Pastor Hugo and his family (wife Betti, sons Jahaziel and Elliu). It was great to connect with them again here in Austin. We spent a lot of time catching up on how they were doing, how the church was doing, and laughing. We had a great time talking and thinking about ways that Milwood can continue to partner with them as they reach the city of Acuna. God is blessing them and allowing them to start planting two more churches around Acuna, as well as starting a soccer league for children. This year we plan to partner with them as they continue reaching their neighborhood and city, and hope to help encourage other pastors in Acuna as well. We left our meeting encouraged, excited and thankful that God has brought this wonderful family and church into our lives. Excited to see how God will work through this relationship in the years to come!

Pastor Randy



## Awana Missions Month

The month of February is Awana Missions Month, and I wanted to find a way that we could tie our mission month emphasis together with our UPG initiative. So I started praying as to how that could happen. I knew that Awana International reaches over 950,000 children weekly with the gospel in 100 countries, so I thought maybe we could reach the UAE through Adopt-a-Club (AAC). The Awana Adopt-a-Club program helps a club get started by training and equipping Christian leaders with Bible study materials, lessons, and resources focused on introducing children of all ages to Christ.

I went to [AwanaInternational.org](http://AwanaInternational.org) and found that there are Awana Adopt-a-Clubs in the UAE but that they don't need funding. My next step was to contact the Awana Missions Month coordinator, Chris Dunrud. I explained our UPG initiative to Chris and how we wanted to align our missions month emphasis with UPG. Chris responded saying he would need to check with the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Area Director to see if there were any specific funding needs in UAE. The UAE Awana clubs are self-funded and do not utilize Adopt-a-Club funds so he would need to get back to me. The very next day I received the following response from Chris:

"Tom, It sounds like your email came at a good time. This is the response from the MENA Area Director: 'Currently all of the clubs that are operating in the U.A.E. are "expatriate" clubs. Alber (MENA Regional Director and National Director for Egypt) wants to reach out to the Arabic speaking churches in this country. It will take some time, but, we are moving in this direction. These new efforts can use AAC support. So, I am suggesting now that we set ourselves up to begin receiving AAC donations for the U.A.E. in support of this new work that we will be developing. Do keep in mind that it will take some time to get it off the ground.'

So with that said, we already have an accounting code for UAE Adopt-a-Club from the past but had been set as inactive since all the clubs were self-funded. It looks like things will move in a new direction so you will be able to designate your funds to AAC-UAE, and you will also know that you are helping in this new initiative in UAE. Keep in mind however, as Steve Cohoon (MENA Area Director) said, 'It will take time to get it off the ground'. You can tell your clubbers and your congregation you are breaking new ground in U.A.E. Please let me know how I can assist you further.

-Chris Dunrud"

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What an answer to prayer! God's timing is always perfect. We get to be part of breaking new ground by spreading the gospel in UAE through Awana International. We plan on raising funds for the UAE by doing a Verse-A-Thon on February 17, and you can help by sponsoring clubbers for the event and/or help with listening to kids recite Bible verses. For more details, see our Awana Missions Month webpage ([www.milwoodbaptist.com/awana-missions-month](http://www.milwoodbaptist.com/awana-missions-month)).

In His Service,  
Tom Nelson

Here is a photo from our  
3rd floor renovation

