

## FBC & Mission Arlington in Texas

**What does a missional church look like?** The best way to find out is to examine both their heart and their fruit. First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas is a church with a heart that expresses itself through fruitful missions. They are out to change the world. Pastor Dennis Wiles and his partner in marriage and missions, Cindy Wiles, are leading their church to be on mission with God.

Change your life and the lives of others in the world. Challenge yourself to grow deeper by joining Global Ministries on a trip in 2010. [Click here to register for any of the trips below.](#)

January 18-29: Niger  
Jan 26 - Feb 1: Costa Rica  
March 15-19: Sr. High Mission Trip  
March 17-20: New York  
March 19-27: Sierra Leone  
April 12-23: Niger  
May 21-29: Central Asia  
June 5-9: New York  
June 7 - 18: Sierra Leone  
Mid June: Jr. High Mission Trip  
July 2-10: Costa Rica  
July 3 -9: Rio Grande  
July 17-24: Torreon  
September 8-12: New York  
September 27 - October 10: Sierra Leone  
October 18-29: Niger  
November 2 - 13: Niger  
December 17-22: New York

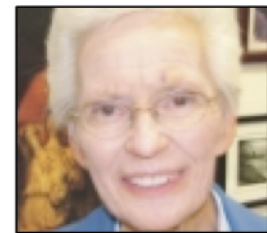
The church's Global Ministries offer opportunities for their members to get directly involved in the U.S., Latin America and West Africa.

Beyond this personal global involvement, FBC Arlington hosts a mission house for furloughing foreign missionaries, and actively supports international missions through

such agencies as the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

The most dynamic fruit of FBC Arlington's missional passion has come through the ministry of one of their members, and now associate pastor for missions, 72 year-old Tillie Burgin. Tillie accepted Christ, grew as a Christian, and heard her call to missions through FBC Arlington. Tillie, her husband Bob, and her two children spent 10 years as missionaries in South Korea.

Due to the illness of one of their children, the Burgins returned from the foreign field in the late 70's. While Bob took a job as a local school principal, his wife Tillie began doing for Arlington what she and her family had been doing in Korea. The result was **Mission Arlington**. Mission Arlington is one of the most vibrant church planting forces in the United States today. **Since 1986, Mission Arlington has started nearly 300 churches in the Arlington-Dallas-Ft. Worth area.**




Tillie Burgin

From their humble beginnings in 1986, Mission Arlington has grown into a \$2.8 million ministry that never raises funds, never seeks volunteers, and never charges for services.

Last year hundreds of volunteers from 47 different states, and numerous countries descended on Arlington, Texas to assist in reaching the tens of thousands of lost people that live in apartment complexes in the city. Mrs. Burgin and her staff of missionaries go into tough, gang-infested apartment complexes and begin Bible studies that eventually turn into churches. Dr. Jim Burgin, Bob and Tillie's son, now coordinates the thousands of people that come to minister the poor and needy through the course of the year.

How do they see these kind of results in the heart of secular, urban America? The answers can be found in a walk through the ministries of Mission Arlington. Though Tillie Burgin never lets her team forget that church planting is the ultimate solution

to crime and personal needs, neither does she shy away from engaging those needs.

 **MISSION ARLINGTON**  
**MISSION METROPLEX**

*2004 - 2009 Annual Summary* ★

MINISTRY	THOSE HELPED						SUMMARY
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
After School	1,500	1,800	2,042	3,010	3,218	3,862	15,432
Basketball	600	650	900	300	405	445	3,300
Bible Olympics	201	202	225	121	188	208	1,145
Bible Studies & Congregations	7,400	7,800	8,000	9,000	8,000	8,400	48,600
Camps	1,251	1,265	1,088	1,457	1,478	1,654	8,193
Christmas	21,821	22,694	25,474	28,018	30,028	33,207	161,242
Dental	2,543	1,111	1,200	1,091	1,197	1,212	8,354
Easter Egg Hunt	3,000	2,400	3,000	1,939	4,000	5,000	19,339
Easter Store	1,360	1,736	1,642	1,770	1,871	2,253	10,632
Emergency Assistance	192,959	211,896	177,532	194,906	221,755	223,868	1,222,416
Fall Festivals	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	3,200	14,700
Furniture/Appliances	5,989	3,550	5,652	2,516	4,021	3,385	25,113
Groups	29,000	31,675	28,934	31,396	32,251	34,000	187,256
Medical	2,238	4,000	4,376	4,810	5,259	6,049	26,732
Rainbow Express	12,761	12,419	11,000	11,577	29,816	31,081	108,654
School Supplies	7,000	9,250	9,500	7,000	8,334	8,832	49,916
Summer Missionaries	33	35	31	36	32	52	219
Tent Revivals	1,500	1,575	1,750	2,000	1,200	1,500	9,525
Thanksgiving	10,294	11,534	14,000	16,908	22,000	24,000	98,736
Transportation	2,558	1,487	2,113	1,947	--	--	8,105
Volunteers (agency)	5,477	5,956	5,916	5,704	6,866	6,959	36,878
Youth Rally	--	108	163	240	502	411	1,424
Total Number people helped	311,785	335,143	307,022	326,701	362,146	399,578	2,042,375
Recorded # spiritual decisions	1,335	1,622	1,068	2,299	2,641	2,972	11,937

A look at Mission Arlington's ministry summary for 2004 - 2009 offers a glimpse into a community of dedicated church-planting Christians who are evangelistically involved in the lives of the lost. You can see the ratio of ministry to salvation in the figures to the left: a) more than 2 million people helped, and b) nearly 12,000 spiritual decisions over a 5-year period.

Thousands of people over the past twenty-five years have come to Christ and been baptized through Mission Arlington's church planting efforts. Apartment complex owners are now begging

Mission Arlington to come to their apartment complexes. Studies have shown where Mission Arlington is present in an apartment complex, crime goes down, occupancy goes up, and the living conditions improve. One would expect that when the grace of God appears through the ministry of missional church.

## So, what is preventing Mission Arlington and its nearly 300 "church starts" from qualifying as a Church Planting Movement?

Well, a closer examination of Mission Arlington's nearly 300 church starts reveals that many, perhaps most, of them are stuck as points of ministry, unable to get over

the hump to becoming self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating and self-feeding/correcting.

Now, lest I appear critical, let me say, "I am a big fan of Mission Arlington, Tillie Burgin and the Wiles of FBC Arlington!" What I've found, though, is a church that functions like many mission structures around the world. It is doing a great job at penetrating lostness with the good news of Jesus Christ, but is less successful at forming self-sustaining churches that will thrive and even reproduce after the umbilical cord to the mother church is removed.

In the weeks ahead, we will be talking about how to turn ministry points and Bible studies, such as those created by Mission Arlington, into healthy reproducing churches.

In the meantime, join me in praising God for what He is doing through the vision and passion of First Baptist Church Arlington and their dynamic Mission Arlington.

Contributed by imb missionary Neill Mims with content from W. Burleson and analysis by David Garrison. See Mission Arlington's website at <http://www.missionarlington.org/>.