

# TIDINGS

JANUARY, 2023

VOLUME LXXVII NUMBER 1

## WEST TEXAS DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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Web site: westtexasag.org

*Upward In Worship, Inward in Discipleship, Outward in Evangelism*



## From the Heart of the District Superintendent

### The Declarations of God



*Glenn & Betty Beaver  
Superintendent*

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.” Isaiah gave this message to the children of Israel in chapter 46:9-11.

Consider some of the things the Lord declares in His Word which He would have us to continue in the New Year.

1) **He is declaring that His people must be a people of prayer.** Prayer has been and still is the means by which we move the hand of God. Paul tells us we must, “Pray without ceasing.” Martin Luther said, “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” In Philippians 4:6 (Amplified Bible), Paul wrote, “Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.” John Wesley so appropriately said, “God does nothing except in response to believing prayer!” R. A. Torey wrote, “If we would feed the fire of our prayers with the fuel of God’s Word, all our difficulties in prayer would disappear.” **We must be people of prayer.**

2) **God declares, we must be people of faith.** Paul declared to the Romans, 10:17 (Amplified Bible), “So faith comes by hearing (what is told), and what is heard comes by the preaching (of the message that came from the lips) of Christ (the Messiah Himself).” Paul also wrote to the Hebrew believers in 11:6 (Amplified Bible), “But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must (necessarily) believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him (out).” The kind of faith which pleases God is one that trust even though there is no sign of an answer. As 11:1 (Amplified Bible) of Hebrews records, “Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not see and the conviction of their reality (faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses).” Paul records a testament to Abraham’s faith in Romans 4:20-21 (Amplified Bible), “No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, Fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised.” During this New Year may our faith sustain us as we continue our God given assignments. **We must be people of faith.**

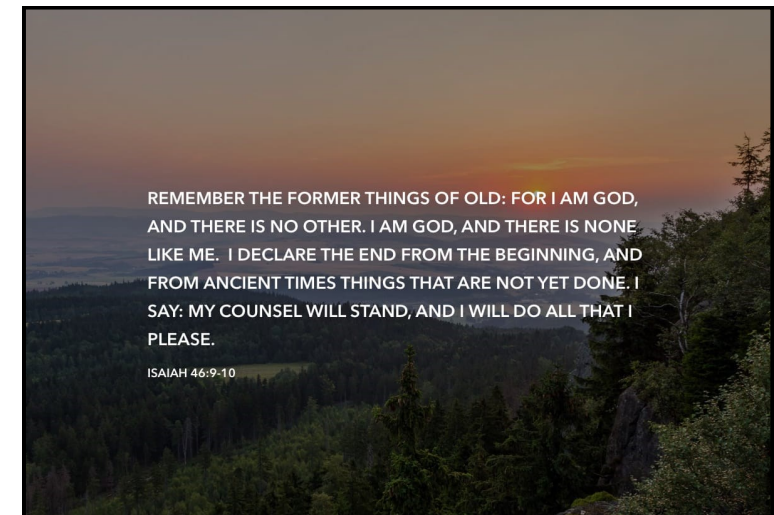
3) **We must be people of the Spirit.** As Jesus said, now that

the Spirit has been given, He is glorified of the Father and the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and will show us things to come, (John 16:13). As people of the Spirit we have the opportunity to not only live in the Spirit but also **to walk in the Spirit**, (Galatians 5:25). Thus the Amplified Bible reads this way, “If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.” The life which is controlled by the Holy Spirit will be one that brings glory to God. **We must be people of the Spirit.**

4) **God declares, we must be people of compassion.** One of the Fundamental Truths of our fellowship is to be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world. James, the half-brother of Jesus wrote in 1:17, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” Paul also wrote, “Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do” (Galatians 2:10). This must include more than just giving a helping hand to meet a physical need, it must include a love for every lost person! **We must be people of compassion.**

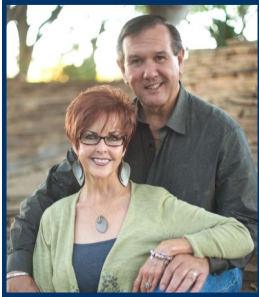
5) **We must be people of expectancy.** We live with the expectancy that Jesus’ return could occur at any moment. This is the imminent and blessed hope of the church. Recently, while teaching on the subject of the imminent return of Christ, the question was asked, “What about Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:14?” “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” In that moment, I sensed the Spirit say to me, “There could be a period of time between the fulfillment of the first part of the verse and the last part.” Since not all of scripture is laid out in moment by moment chronological order. Therefore, it is important to live with the expectancy of Christ’s return at any moment and with the purpose of helping to spread the gospel in all the world for a witness.

**We must be,**  
**People of Prayer,**  
**People of Faith,**  
**People of the Spirit,**  
**People of Compassion and**  
**People of Expectancy.**



# District Secretary/Treasurer

## The Two-Percent Advance: Lessons From the Tale of Nail Soup, Exodus 35:1-35



*Billy & Bettye Nickell*

One of the stories our class heard read in the early years of my elementary school era was entitled, The Tale of Nail Soup. A quick search of the Internet credits it as “A Swedish Folk Tale,” while other sources point to Eastern and Northern European variations, as well as French, Hungarian, Russian, German, Portuguese and Scandinavian versions. Each geographic rendition has its own twist of details replacing the nail with an axe, stone, and even wood, with all variations emphasizing the same principal. If you’re asking, “Since when did the Tidings become the platform for folklore?” the answer is found in a common thread which runs through this tale, as well as the Two-Percent Advance Ministry of the West Texas District. (Some of the information in this piece is a reprint of the article I wrote for the March 2011 Tidings.)

In the **Tale of Nail Soup** some accounts tell of a single traveler stumbling into town trying to find food and lodging for the night from a miserly widow or widower, while others tell of three monks or soldiers asking for assistance from any and all the citizens of the community. The jest of both tell of the influence and persuasion used to generate participation for a common good. After being refused help from the people of the town, the traveler was able to secure a large soup pot, fill it with water and station it above a blazing fire. As the water heated, the tramp attentively circled the fire while clutching a large nail in his hand. Soon thereafter, people of the town begin to gather near to learn what might be cooking in the pot, to which the stranger replied, “**nail soup**,” as he displayed the main ingredient to his growing audience. “Leave it to me,” he said. “I’ve learned things on my travels that most people have never heard.” As the growing crowd watched in awe, the newcomer dropped the nail into the hot water while commencing to tell that his soup had been eaten by kings and queens. As he slowly stirred the pot he announced, “I’ve been making soup with this same nail for over a week so our soup may be rather thin. Of course, if one had a speck of flour or sifted oatmeal to add to it, then we could be sure of a good meal.” No sooner was his words spoken than someone said, “Wait, I might have some flour somewhere,” rushing off and returning with the finest sort. After sprinkling the flour into the pot he wishfully said, “It’s coming along! It’s almost good enough to serve to company. If only we had some potatoes and a bit of salted beef, it would be a dish fit for gentle-folks.” Immediately some in the crowd rushed to their homes and returned with the requested ingredients. As he continued to stir the soup he remarked, “This will be a grand soup. It’s not everyone that gets to taste such delicious soup as this!” Someone was heard to say, “You don’t say! And just imagine . . . all from a nail!” By now the atmosphere of the people had changed from cynicism to anticipation. “All it lacks now is a little barley, some milk, a few carrots, onions, celery, salt and pepper. Then we could invite the dignitaries to join us, if we so please,” said the tramp. Within moments more than enough of each was brought and added to the mixture as the aroma of the pot filled the air. During the final few minutes the tramp continued to stir, stopping only long enough to remove the nail for the steaming kettle. “It’s ready,” he said. “Now we can feast, just like kings and queens, except, of course, when they eat this kind of soup, they always have a sandwich with it, and something cold and soothing to drink, along with tablecloths on the tables.” That evening the beggar and the town folks dined sumptuously on steaming bowls of nail soup, accompanied with cheese, butter, smoked beef, veal and the best of beverages. The tables could hardly hold it all. Never in the town’s history had there been such merriment and to think that it was all from a nail! The next morning as the traveler prepared to leave town the people showered him with food and a silver piece to help him on to his next destination. Before saying goodbye, they thanked him for teaching them how to make nail soup. “Now that we know

how, we shall always live in comfort.” As the tramp turned to leave he replied, “It’s easy if you remember to add something good to it.”

Amazing things can happen when people are challenged to work together for a common good! In the Tidings article I wrote for March of 2011, I entitled it, **The Two-Percent Advance: The Power of Little**. Here is a reiteration of that brief piece, “Some of the definitions given in the dictionary for the word little are, ‘not big, small in size or extent; small in comparison with related forms; small in condition, distinction, or scope; notmuch.’ In today’s culture, little merits no headlines or attention, yet the little things are what make impressive differences to the quality of our lives. How thankful I am for the little things - the kind words, the encouraging texts and emails, the notes of gratitude, the calls of appreciation, and the sacrificial financial gifts that have been given over the years. Two-Percent - not much by some standards, yet a great blessing to our district over the years. Back during the early-to-middle 80s, the 2% Advance Program was introduced to West Texas pastors and churches through the ministry of Rev. Richard Dortch, who served at the time as the Superintendent of the Illinois district. Shortly after his ministry in our district, the voting body at District Council passed a resolution to recommend that each church in our district give two-percent of their undesignated funds to support the district. Originally, those contributions went to the tithe fund, however, in later years the pastors and church delegates voted for half of the two-percent to be equally divided between three district departments (Christian Education, Women’s Ministries, and Men’s Ministries).” It was further pointed out that in 2010, the year prior to the article being written, thirty-two churches participated in the 2% Advance Program, giving \$45,045.67. With fifty-percent of that total being divided between the three designated ministries, each received \$7,507.60 for the year, averaging \$625.63 a month. That amount by no means fully funds these departments, however, it makes a significant difference in their month-to-month operation. If we fast forward to 2022, the books show from January 1 to December 14, \$28,884.72 has been given from fifteen churches, down significantly from previous years. Twenty-five churches gave \$40,381.73 in 2019, while twenty-two churches gave \$35,947.85 in 2020. In 2021 seventeen churches contributed \$30,522.05. Two-percent is not much compared to the giving of some, however, only eternity will reveal the lives that were touched and the progress that was made by the power of little! It’s reported that an English nobleman just before his death said, “What I spent, I had. What I kept, I lost. What I gave, I have.”

Exodus 35 is the record of God instructing Moses to direct the people of Israel to bring “a sacred offering to the Lord” (NLT), for the building of the wilderness Tabernacle. “Let those with generous hearts present the following gifts to the LORD” (Exodus 35:5b NLT). The directive that follows calls for some to bring gold, while others were to bring silver, and some bronze. Blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats’ hair, rams’ skins tanned red, acacia wood, oil for the light, spices for anointing oil and for fragrant incense, onyx stones and other stones to be set for the ephod and the breastplate, were the ingredients on the divine menu for this holy edifice. “And they came, each one whose heart stirred him up and whose spirit made him willing, and brought the Lord’s offering to be used for the (new) Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and the holy garments (Exodus 35:21 Amplified Bible). When hearts are stirred up and spirits are made willing, wonderful things can be accomplished!

It continues to amaze the masses what a spattering of flour, a sprinkle of salt, a dash of pepper, a parcel of onions, celery, carrots, mixed with a collection of meats, can produce as those with willing hearts combine their efforts. The songwriter of old wrote, “Little is much when God is in it, labor not for wealth or fame, there’s a crown, and you can win it if you go in Jesus’ name.” The **Two-Percent Advance: Lessons From The Tale of Nail Soup**.

## West Texas Assemblies of God 2% Advance Program

The **2% Advance Program** is a method by which the churches of the West Texas District can support the district. This program is a vital link in the support of the ministries made available through the district office. It is recommended that each church send at least 2% of their regular tithes and offerings (undesignated funds) to the district. This excludes any designated offerings such as offerings for evangelist, missionaries, building projects, etc. One-half of the amount designated as 2% Advance is divided equally among the Christian Education, Men’s Ministries and Women’s Ministries funds.

Consider for a moment the benefits that our local churches receive by being affiliated with the Assemblies of God. The local church receives an opportunity for fellowship, advice, and encouragement through the district officary. There are also benefits of being able to call upon the district to assist in securing a pastor, have a solid Biblical standard for membership, a resource concerning legal matters and receive reports of the advancement of the Kingdom across the district as well as around the world. The local church has the privilege of cooperating in joint efforts such as Youth, Men’s and Women’s Ministries, and missionary endeavors both home and abroad. Through cooperative support the local church has part ownership in Southwestern Assemblies of God University and Pleasant Hills Children’s Home.

For many years, Psalm 133:1, “**Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!**” has been the guiding scripture for our district work. What a great work can be accomplished as all the local churches in the district join together to further the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As a cooperative part of the West Texas District of the Assemblies of God, we the people of:

Church Name	City	State
commit ourselves to contribute 2% of our general fund to the ministries of the West Texas District.		

Please mail this completed form to:

West Texas Assemblies of God  
P.O. Box 64778  
Lubbock, TX 79464

# Director of Church Ministries



## Announcing New App: Forecasts of Life & Events

**"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"** (John 16:33 NIV).

We live in a society that has an app for everything. I will admit that I like my apps. There are many of them that cause convenience for life. The apps for drinks are great for the fact that you can earn points towards free drinks. I like being "rewarded" for spending. Wouldn't it be great to download an app that would forecast upcoming changes in life; difficulties that will be blowing in; or God's calling moving us in our job or location or both? What if the app extended further into forecasting for weeks ahead; months ahead; or even years ahead? If we knew the future, would we be more cautious in our decisions? Would it change our choices? Or would it just be nice to know what is ahead?



Tracy & Cara Lynn  
McWilliams

In the movie "Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade" Indiana faces a giant chasm. There's no way he could ever come close to jumping across, and he eventually realizes that it's a leap of faith. Indiana takes a giant step off the edge and Boom! There's an invisible bridge. He slowly walks across where he needs to be. Each day of life brings a new challenge. Our relationship with God and our faithfulness to His word and prayer will get us through whatever comes our way. I don't like surprises; or unexpected changes; or life blindsiding me. There is no forecast that I can tune in to. There is no app to download to give me warning or preparation of anything that would come against my routine or plans. There are a few things I like to remember in whatever lies ahead that is unplanned or unexpected.

**1) Uncertainty:** There are many moments of uncertainty that arise in both good and bad situations. There is the moment when you open your completed income tax return, from the accountant, only to be put into a moment of shock at what the form says that you still owe after paying throughout the year. Or what you thought was a routine doctor's appointment turns into a life changing diagnosis. Or in your moment of contentment where God has you, He leads you elsewhere and the physical/financial aspects of it just does not seem possible. This is where faith comes in. We must also remember the faithfulness of God. **"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze"** (Isaiah 43:2 NIV).

**2) Undetermined Outcome:** Each storm; speed bump; accomplishment; acclamation; or sorrow will have a different ending. Yet, there is one thing for sure. You will come out stronger; more mature in wisdom; and better off than if you had known about the future and avoided things altogether. **"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him"** (James 1:12 NLT).

**3) Undeniable Faithfulness:** In everything that we may go through or experience, one thing is for sure, God is faithful. He will remain by our side through the good times and the bad times. All we need to do is obey Him; remain faithful to His word; and keep in constant communication with Him through prayer. Be faithful to obey His commands and leading. We are not expected to sit in the middle of the storm and not move. We can't go around the storms. But we can march right through the storms with God by our side. Jesus is near for me to call on Him in the storm. When He calls to a different ministry post, He is already paving the way if we will just obey. I think of Jesus in the boat with the disciples. A storm arises and there is Jesus, fast asleep. Though the disciples see someone sleeping and seeming to not care about the storm; or the boat being tossed about; or about the disciples' safety, one might think that Jesus had peace in the storm. He was at peace to a point that He could rest. **"Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides"** (Psalm 119:90 NKJV).

There are no apps to download for help seeing what's ahead. But we can be reassured that God is faithful to walk with us through the good, the bad and the ugly. If God calls us to make changes, we know, by faith, we can take the first step even though I might not know the next step like Indiana Jones. When the storm clouds arise, we can be assured that God is still the Master of the wind.

(Due to Tracy being in San Antonio with Destry while he was in the hospital being treated for shingles, his article was written by Cara Lynn McWilliams)



# Around West Texas

## Churches

## West Texas Bible Institute

## Ministers

### Open Church List & Relaunch Opportunities

- \*\*Dalhart, First Assembly of God
- \*Pampa, New Life Assembly of God
- \*Sunray, Assembly of God  
Contact: Kevin Anderson, Presbyter  
P.O. Box 511, Stratford, TX 79084  
Phone: 806.922.2840
- \*Plains, First Assembly of God  
Contact: Danny Williams, Presbyter  
1801 CR 151, Snyder, TX 79549  
Phone: 325.575.2861
- \*\*Spur, First Assembly of God  
Contact: Raymond Mizelle, Presbyter  
408 Broad Way, Roaring Springs,  
TX 79256 Phone: 806.422.1092
- \*Imperial, Assembly of God  
Contact: Mike Hanks, Presbyter  
100 West Wadley, Midland, TX 79705  
Phone: 432.528.8592
- \*Whiteface, Living Water Fellowship  
Contact: Glenn R. Beaver  
P.O. Box 64778, Lubbock, TX 79464  
Phone: 806.792.5835

- \*District Affiliated Church
- \*\* Relaunch Opportunity

February 11, 2023

**Certified:** New Testament Survey

**Licensed:** Acts

**Ordained:** Prayer & Worship

If you are interested in attending classes in 2023, please contact Tracy McWilliams to register. The first class is Saturday, February 11. You must be registered three weeks prior.

### Transferred Out:

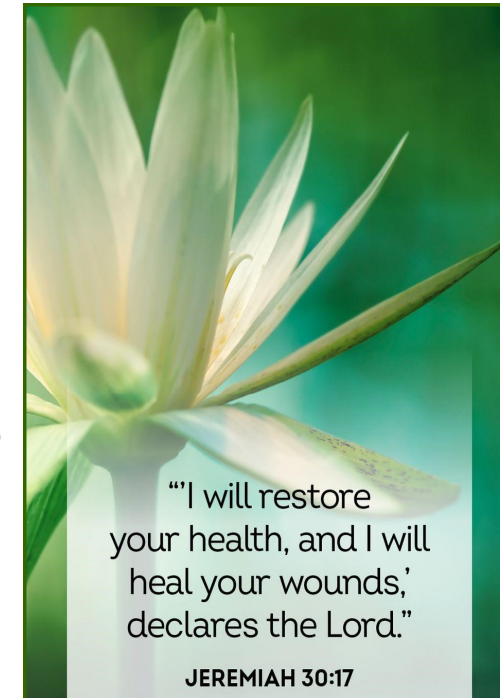
Edward Soules, Ordained  
Rocky Mountain District Network

### Transferred In:

Joseu Maldonado, Ordained  
Arkansas District  
Benjamin Ramos, Ordained  
Puerto Rico District

### Available for Ministry:

Gene Benningfield	806.456.2029
Emilio Bustamante	432.385.5626
Larry Boyd	806.778.7677
Kelly Breckenridge	806.787.0355
Eric Brooks	940.473.1297
Danny Brown	806.577.3580
Brad Froese	806.928.2815
Margie Gonzales	806.282.0534
Byron Jones	432.258.3873
Mike Matheny	806.200.9959
J.C. Owen	432.254.8629
Jerry Pollard	806.330.0969
David Sasse	806.300.8717
Marcus Tanner	903.330.1560
Justin Unwin	806.220.3200



### Annual Church Ministries Report

It is time for churches to submit their **ACMR**. The deadline is January 31, 2023. Please help the district achieve 100% participation in reporting. The information submitted is beneficial for the West Texas District as well as the General Council records.



**David Riley**, father of **Reyna Little**, went home to Jesus on Monday, November 7, 2022. Reyna is a minister with the West Texas District and serves as the District Chi Alpha Ministries Director. Please be in prayer for the family during this time of sorrow.

**Prayer Requests:** **Becky Nenstiel**, is waiting on results on a lung biopsy, pray for her complete healing from cancer; **Sarah Garrison**, (daughter of Joe and Becky Nenstiel), who has battled Lupus since she was 17, had to be airlifted to Dallas due to a blocked artery from her heart to her stomach. This same artery was also separating from her stomach. She made it through the surgery and remains in ICU due to a high heart rate; **Andrea Unwin**, recovery from surgery; **Sondra Bocchieri**, (retired World Missionary and daughter of Kay Stafford), had a heart attack this past weekend which resulted in having surgery to implant two stints; **Kay Stafford**, full recovery from a stroke; **Marvin Gilbert**, malignant tumor, wisdom for doctors for treatment; **Mylin-da Wood**, (sister of Tracy McWilliams), is facing having a feeding tube placement due to the progression of ALS; **Annette Newberry**, recovery from hand surgery & dementia; **Regina Gonzalez**, medical issues and Ankylosing Spondylitis (an autoimmune disease); **Chuck & Judy Redger**, complete healing and return of energy; **Charlotte Boyd**, Alzheimers; **Rey Rodriquez**, Muscular Dystrophy; **George Mullins**, recovery from a stroke; **Cliff Houghton**, autoimmune disease, asthma; **Patsy Anderson**, (mother of Kevin Anderson), heart issues; **Sue Stevens**, (mother of Darla Anderson), Dementia; **Brenda Van Hoose**, Ankylosing Spondylitis (an autoimmune disease); and **Perry Shuffield**, healing & strength.



Christian Sattesahn

# 2023 EVENTS

February 10, 2023

**Sectional Rallies**

August 25-26, 2023

**PHCH Project**

April 1, 2023

**Spring Conference**

September 29-30, 2023

**Girls Minisry Event**

June 14, 2023

**Celebration Luncheon**

October 27-28, 2023

**Fall Retreat**

[wtwomen.com](http://wtwomen.com)

[facebook.com/wtxwomen](https://facebook.com/wtxwomen)

JANUARY 14-16

2023

PK  
RETREAT

ROARING SPRINGS CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

Registration Fee: \$30.00

Registration closes 01/08/2023

JOEY ALCALA

KIDS CAMP 1  
May 31 June 3

SCOTT BERKEY

KIDS CAMP 2  
July 12-15

PETER REEVES

YOUTH CAMP 1  
June 5-9

JOSH WELLSBORN

YOUTH CAMP 2  
July 17-21

FOLLOW



NICK, ALICIA,  
NASH, & ANNA

Need more info about  
our events?

[WWW.WTXNEXT.COM](http://WWW.WTXNEXT.COM)

has everything you need!

DUPLICATE FEBRUARY 2, 2022

\$65

INCLUDES 3 CATEGORIES & T-SHIRT  
\*ADDITIONAL \$10 PER EXTRA CATEGORY

FINE ARTS.

2023  
WTX  
DISTRICT  
FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023

LOCATION: CHRISTIAN LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD - LUBBOCK, TX



# H.A.M.R.



High Altitude Men's Retreat

**February 16-18, 2023**



**Tim Enloe**  
Evangelist

**Bonita Park  
Ruidoso, NM**



**Phil McGeachie**  
Men's Ministry Director

**\$160 - Early Bird Rate**  
**\$175 - After 2/03/23**  
(Includes 2 nights stay and all meals)

**\*\*Private rooms available at an additional \$100/room\*\***  
(Reserve online)

For more info and to register, go to: [wtmen.com](http://wtmen.com)

**Registration now open!**