



 **TBM**
TODAY

STORIES OF TEXANS ON MISSION

'I'VE
ALWAYS
WANTED
TO DO,
THAT

PAGE 8

ROYAL AMBASSADOR EARNS SIX AWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERING MORE THAN 2,500 HOURS

As a young boy, Ryan Woods looked up to the older students under his father's tutelage in the Royal Ambassadors program at their church. They always seemed to do things he wanted to do – like helping people.



“They seemed like they were having so much fun serving the Lord,” he said. “It really hit home at an early age.”

When it was time, Woods committed to being a Royal Ambassador in every sense of the word. He worked hard and grew in his faith. He found ways to express that faith through missions projects. And he did it with a smile.

“I enjoy helping people,” he said. “It’s a lot easier to help someone if you’re part of the Royal Ambassador program. I stuck with it and kept going because I wanted

to help people.”

Woods participated on a mission trip through his church, Birdville Baptist Church in Haltom City, each year, helping with Vacation Bible Schools, construction projects and other outreach efforts.

Later, Woods served as a TBM State Staffer where he led groups of boys during RA summer camps. The young men learned more about how God was working around the globe and how they could participate in His ministry.

In all, Woods recorded 2,517 volunteer hours of service between seventh and 12th grades, earning six RA awards. Woods didn’t volunteer for the awards. For the longest time, he didn’t know there were any. He simply wanted to serve.

“It’s always better to help someone than to be selfish about it,” said Woods, now a freshman at the University of North Texas in Denton. “The Lord will provide, whether it be in service or other people.”

TBM Executive Director/CEO Mickey Lenamon praised Woods’ hard work and dedication to following the Lord. Woods’ father and other men at Birdville Baptist Church poured into Woods’ life. In return, the young man invested in others.

“Ryan exemplifies what it means to be a Royal Ambassador in every facet of his life,” Lenamon said. “He seeks to serve. He devotes himself to following God. He shares God’s love with those he meets in church, school and everywhere in between. Strengthened by God, his future is bright.” **TBM**

Sound of new faith to echo loudly, thanks to TBM Camp Builders

This summer, the sound of new life in Christ will ring across Lake Lavon Camp and Conference Center.

Every child who makes a profession of faith will ring the bell in the new gazebo constructed last fall by TBM Camp Builders. The builders hope the bell will echo often across the camp.

“In Texas Baptist camps, over 8,000 people come to know Christ every year,” said Rex Bruton, TBM Camp Builders coordinator. “That’s the reason I do it. My wife and I have been doing it over 10 years now.”

The gazebo is one of 13 projects the Camp Builders completed last year at 11 Texas Baptist camps, helping the ministries expand to fulfill their God-given missions. In 2020, the Camp Builders will serve at 13 camps.

As they help build the kingdom of God, the volunteers build relationships with each other. Many of those bonds

become as strong the projects they construct.

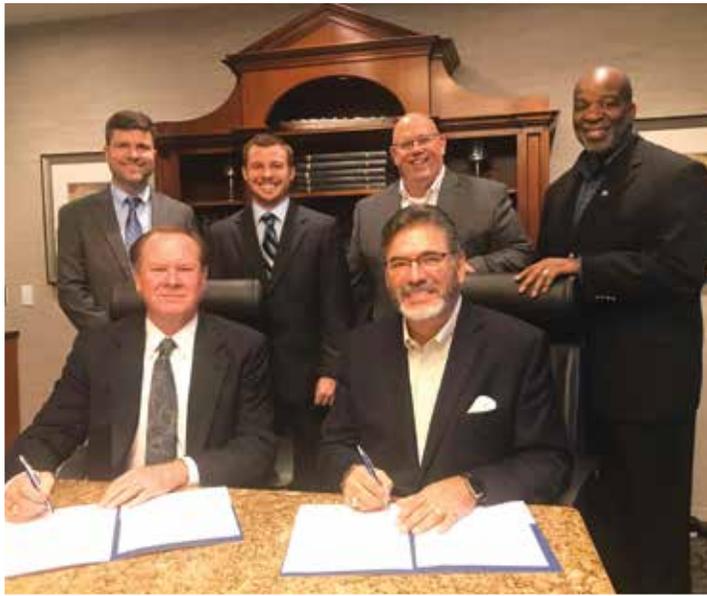
“This is a great group of people,” Bruton said. “The camaraderie is outstanding. We become as close or closer to these people as those at our home base. We spend eight months with these people.” **TBM**



TBM, Buckner to work together to help children and families

Buckner Children and Family Services and TBM have launched a collaboration to better serve vulnerable children and families in Texas and internationally.

The two nonprofits have worked together numerous times in their decades of service, but their joint response to last fall's Dallas tornadoes reminded leaders from both organizations that children and families are best served when the groups cooperate.



"This partnership has the potential to radically transform the lives of children and families around the world," said Mickey Lenamon, TBM executive director/CEO. "God has uniquely equipped both organizations and brought them together now for maximum impact."

TBM will assist Buckner in foreign countries and domestic locations where TBM and Buckner both provide services. The broad categories of service include disaster relief, construction projects, and water wells and filtration systems.

More specific areas of collaboration will include TBM's involvement in home builds and agricultural projects for clients of Buckner in the Rio Grande Valley, water wells and school repairs in Kenya villages and home improvements in Latin America.

In turn, Buckner will aid TBM with importing humanitarian aid items into countries where Buckner has key contacts; coordinate mission trips into countries Buckner has an operational presence, such as Mexico, Dominican Republic and Kenya; and consult in areas of expertise falling under Buckner programs, such as family preservation, family strengthening and trauma informed care.

"We look at this collaboration as a way to play to our respected strengths in order to best achieve our core mission of serving the most vulnerable in society," said president/CEO Albert Reyes, Buckner International. "Whether it's through disaster relief or proactive approaches to helping those in need, we are excited for the impact this collaboration will have on so many people." **TBM**

The sun never sets on TBM ministry



In the last few weeks, TBM disaster relief volunteers ministered in the wake of an explosion in Houston, TBM Cabinet Builders completed three projects and Royal Ambassador leaders filled the TBM Dixon Building to

plan for summer camps.

As I write this, TBM Water volunteers are providing clean water in Ghana villages and we are preparing to send water filters to the Philippines following a massive volcano eruption.

In the following pages, you'll see the sun truly never sets on TBM ministry. How does this happen?

It starts with God's calling. 2 Corinthians 1:3 tells us that God cares deeply for those who are suffering. He is a God of compassion who calls His followers to share His love in word and deed.

God's work in our lives is incredible, and TBM volunteers respond to it in incredible ways such as feeding the hungry, giving clean water to those who don't have it, praying with people and sharing the gospel.

That brings me to second reason TBM ministry has the impact it does: you. I tell people all the time that TBM volunteers are the best in the world. I have yet to be proven otherwise. In fact, I have yet to find someone who disagrees with me.

No matter the need, no matter the location, no matter the time, TBM volunteers and supporters are ready to serve. You overcome obstacles and work hard. You're committed to deliver help, hope and healing to the hurting. Driven by faith, you move mountains.

Recently, someone shared a message from someone TBM had helped. It included a photo of a TBM volunteer with his arm around this person. The caption was simple. He called the TBM volunteer his "hero." I couldn't agree more. You encourage and inspire me daily.

Thank you for your support of TBM ministries.

In the SONshine,

Mickey Lenamon

Executive Director/CEO

‘WE WERE THE ONLY ONES, WHO COULD DO IT’

For years, Marsha Relyea-Miles had prayed for 36 remote villages in Papua New Guinea. She lived in them, ministered among them. She and her husband created the first written language for many of the Aruamu people. They then translated the first New Testament in 2005 and soon, the first complete Bible in the language will be published.

The people in these villages thirsted for water – the living water that is Jesus Christ – as well as clean drinking water that wouldn’t make the children sick and cut their lives short.

Marsha and her husband began serving in Papua New Guinea in 1985. The field was fertile, and people

responded. Churches were started, as well as a Bible college. The gospel has taken root and is flourishing.

Physical water proved more challenging. Marsha tried every avenue she could find. Local drillers couldn’t get their equipment in. Some non-profit organizations could drill the well, but weren’t working in the area. Others could teach churches how to drill a well. But only one could do it all: TBM.

“We were the only people who could do both,” said DeeDee Wint, vice president of TBM Water. “We couldn’t get it out of our minds. We felt God impressed it upon our hearts. We had to do it. We don’t decline projects just because it’s hard.”

For Wint and her husband, Tim, it didn’t matter that it took three days to get from Texas to the nearest city to the Papua New Guinea villages. It took three days to gather supplies. It took another day crossing World War II era bridges to get where they needed to get. They slept in open bamboo huts with little electricity and no running water. All that mattered was the need and God’s call to meet it.

The TBM team overcame all the obstacles, sensing God’s presence with them along the journey. They found the parts they needed and made the necessary connections on an exploratory trip. The villages came together to support the effort, volunteering to help however they could and offering encouragement along the way.

Still, with the rainy season nearing, it seemed all the effort to drill a well in late November would be for



Missionaries in 36 remote Papua New Guinea villages prayed for years that God would provide clean water for people to drink. Last fall, He did through a TBM Water well drilling team.



The TBM well drill will have a lasting impact in these villages. Local church leaders will use it to provide clean drinking water to other villages and share the gospel with their neighbors.

naught. When the rains begin, transportation in or out of the villages is impossible. After two weeks of hard work, it came down to one day for the team. If they were successful, the first village would have clean water. If not, the entire effort would have to wait another year.

“People doubted that it could be done but they had underestimated God’s people. We were amazed at the Aruamu people’s capacity to learn, their physical strength, their faith in God and their positive attitude. They didn’t see obstacles. When something went wrong, they just figured out how to fix it; no complaining, no doubts,” DeeDee said.

“At one point we thought the borehole had caved in on the bit 40 feet down. If this happens you can not only lose the borehole, you will likely lose the bit and drill pipe. Replacements are in Utah. After prayer, and discussion they just went back and started drilling again and it worked. We still don’t know exactly what happened. It was another God thing.”

The entire community participated in the effort. The hope and desire of the village was clear as they worked together for the betterment of all.

“The entire village came and watched, and helped,” DeeDee said. “The ladies carried water, the men worked the rig and the children dug clay out of the ground and made clay marbles to seal the borehole below the surface. When it was done, it was a community accomplishment.”

When the community dedicated the well, tears filled people’s eyes. When a child filled a five-gallon container with clean drinking water, people felt they were seeing the impossible. Several individuals remarked how God had shown Himself to be “plenty big” enough to meet their needs.

A local church team, The Aruamu Water Projects, there now, has the TBM drill and can use it in other villages. To qualify for a well, a village must raise 15 percent of the

needed funds, form a committee to care for the well and have at least one toilet. Already, communities are working to become eligible. Another TBM team will visit the area in June to further train and drill more wells and encourage the church.

“It’s a groundbreaking thing,” Tim said.

Everywhere the church goes with its drill, it leaves changed lives behind. Church members will share the gospel as they drill the well. People will be healthier spiritually and physically as a result. The water is a visible reminder of how God loves His people.

“They will be healthier because they’re not drinking out of a contaminated river,” DeeDee said. With open defecation everywhere, the water is quite bad. They are sick all the time.” **TBM**





TBM

TEXANS ON MISSION

Since 1967, TBM has been taking on the world's biggest challenges in the name of Christ. That journey has led TBM volunteers to deliver help, hope and healing in their hometowns, throughout the state and to the ends of the earth.

Everywhere they went, they transformed lives through radical acts of grace and service. Together with friends and supporters like you, that legacy continues today. Will you be part of the movement that's growing God's kingdom daily?





256,578
lives impacted through
Royal Ambassador
summer camps.



1,600 camps and churches
have grown with the
help of TBM Builders.



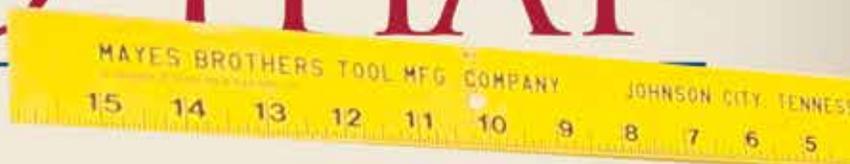
66,000+
who now have clean drinking water as a
result of TBM water ministry.



MILLIONS
have experienced God's
love in the wake of a
disaster as a result of
TBM feeding, chainsaw,
mud out and other
TBM disaster relief
ministries.

'I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT'

Story and photos by John Hall



For some, it happens at a young age when their friends are doing something they can't yet. For others, it happens when they watch a favorite television show and begin pondering a different life.

People get a glimpse of the life they want to lead. Call it a vision or a dream. **Don Stansell describes it as a calling.**

For Stansell, it happened when he met a fellow church member 20 years ago. It seemed as if the man always was on the road with TBM, serving after disasters — hurricanes, tornadoes, storms of all sorts. His tales captured Stansell's attention.

"I've always wanted to do that," he said.

When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston, the Southeast Texas native couldn't wait any longer to live his dream. He retired and started volunteering with TBM alongside his wife Kasey. TBM volunteers have ministered in the wake of nearly every major natural disaster in the United States since 1967, beginning with Hurricane Beulah in the Rio Grande Valley, which Don lived through.

The more the couple served, the more joy they experienced. They've cut limbs with chainsaws after



“

Don and Kasey are so easy to get to know. They bring a calming and upbeat presence to every situation, and people are just drawn to them. They pray with homeowners. They offer encouragement. They also work hard. They embody what TBM means when we say we deliver help, hope and healing after disasters. – Dwain Carter, director of TBM Disaster Relief

”



storms. They've cleaned out flooded homes. Along the way, they've connected with volunteers as well as people affected by the disasters—first in Houston, then in Rockport and most recently in Beaumont.

The Stansells — members of North Fort Worth Baptist Church — enjoyed the ministry so much, they outfitted a trailer to make it easier to serve. From the outside, it appears like any other tool trailer, and it contains plenty of tools. But it also includes a dropdown bed, air conditioning and even a television.

“The truth of the matter is, it’s fun,” Don Stansell said. “We’re with people we enjoy being around. The work’s not fun. There’s a lot of gross in what we do, sometimes digging in the wet slop and who knows what shape the home is in. It’s hard to describe that as fun. But the relationships and being with homeowners and caring for them is a lot of fun.”

The Stansells have helped others learn about TBM as well. Just as stories of one volunteer once captivated Don Stansell’s attention, their adventures are capturing the hearts of others who want to serve as well.

“Since we’ve started, a number of other couples have gone





to yellow cap training,” he said. “Our pastor wants us to build a team big enough to do mud out or chainsaw on our own.”

“We get to bring our friends along,” Kasey Stansell added. “It really builds friendships and bonds. He smashed his finger on the last one. I had to be first aid.”

The couple is extremely effective at serving after a disaster, said Dwain Carter, director of TBM Disaster Relief. Homeowners almost instantaneously relax in their presence and begin to take the first steps toward recovery.

“Don and Kasey are so easy to get to know,” he said. “They bring a calming and upbeat presence to every situation, and people are just drawn to them. They pray with homeowners. They offer encouragement. They also work hard. They embody what TBM means when we say we deliver help, hope and healing after disasters.”

While the Stansells have enjoyed all the ways they’ve served after disasters, they’ve particularly cherished working as part of TBM Rebuild teams. A new, fast-growing portion of the ministry, TBM Rebuild teams install drywall in houses that have been gutted, making them safe to live in again.

The couple most recently served as part of a TBM Rebuild team in Beaumont, where they had the opportunity to help the same homeowners they assisted right after Tropical Depression Imelda.

“This is my prayer that we could come back and that we can do this,” Kasey Stansell said. “The homeowner might never be able to rebuild. She just lost her job. She works two full-time jobs.”

The mud-out and rebuild processes are time and labor intensive, giving volunteers an opportunity to connect with the people they are helping. Through conversations each day — and often working alongside each other — people learn about each other. In the process, the Stansells hope to encourage people who have suffered from a disaster.

“In some cases, before we’ve gone we’ve gotten to see a homeowner pray to accept Christ,” Don Stansell said. “There’s pure joy in that because another person is part of the kingdom. But also when you leave, there’s hugs and tears. And presenting a Bible — there’s joy that comes from that. We’re thankful they trust their homes to us, and we’re thankful we’re there.” **TBM**



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