

This week, the Church Ambassador Network and Philly Gospel Movement traveled to Dallas, Texas, to visit [Bonton Farms](#), a faith-driven initiative that has helped transform one of South Dallas' poorest communities.

Bonton was once marked by violence, crime, and poverty, with a median household income of just \$19,000. But through the gospel of Jesus Christ, community ownership, and innovative economic and social initiatives, Bonton is experiencing remarkable transformation.



The story of Bonton Farms reminds us of God's call in Jeremiah 29:7: *"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."* (ESV)

Under Daron Babcock's leadership, Bonton Farms takes a different approach to serving. Rather than simply handing out resources, the initiative worked alongside residents to help them take ownership of their community, develop skills, and create lasting opportunities.

Today, Bonton Farms includes urban farming, a market, restaurant, café, community and health services, entrepreneurship and wealth-building programs, and a Christian school committed to helping children grow in a biblical worldview. These efforts address immediate needs while creating opportunities for long-term community flourishing.

The lesson is clear: addressing poverty requires more than meeting immediate needs. It requires relationships, dignity, opportunity, and a community working together toward a better future—all grounded in the hope of the gospel.

We also recognize that strong communities begin with strong families. Broken marriages and struggling families contribute to many of the challenges facing our communities, affecting children, economic stability, and overall well-being. That is why the Church Ambassador Network is partnering with [Communio](#) to equip churches with strategies, data, training, and coaching to strengthen marriages and families. We believe the local church is uniquely positioned to build healthy relationships, prevent family breakdown, and help families flourish. **Contact us to learn more by replying to this email!**

What if we could see this kind of transformation in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania?

The [Philly Gospel Movement](#) has been working to bring churches together to make a lasting impact in the city of brotherly love. This trip opened our eyes to what is possible when churches, community leaders, and residents unite around a shared vision. Imagine what could happen if churches across Pennsylvania worked together to strengthen families, serve the vulnerable, address addiction and

poverty, and develop sustainable, community-based solutions.

At the Church Ambassador Network, we believe the local church is one of the greatest resources available to address the social welfare challenges facing our communities. The Church is not simply called to identify problems; we are called to love our neighbors, make disciples, serve the vulnerable, and help restore what is broken.

Our communities' needs are real, but so are the opportunities. God has equipped His Church with people, resources, compassion, and the hope of the gospel to make a difference.

The question is not whether our communities have needs. The question is what could happen if the Church stepped forward to meet them?

Please join us in praying for the Philly Gospel Movement and churches across Pennsylvania as we consider how the lessons from Borton Farms can help us better serve our communities. May God give us the vision, courage, and faithfulness to seek the welfare of our cities and demonstrate the transforming power of the gospel.



Kurt Weaver

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P.S. Want to keep standing for life? [Join us for our Christian Worldview Workshop on October 29th](#) in Lancaster. It's for pastors, church leaders, parents, students, and anyone who wants to grow and strengthen their biblical worldview. Tickets are going quickly! [Click here](#) for info and registration.

P.P.S. The Election is only a few weeks away. It's one of the best ways we can transform our communities – by picking good leaders. [Please check out our Church Toolkit](#) with great church-friendly resources and voter guides. [You can also order bulk voter guides here to distribute to your congregation.](#)

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