

TEXAS ★ BAPTISTS®

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

SERVING UP HOPE

SERVING UP HOPE

At Bernard's Creole Kitchen on the Baptist University of the Americas campus in San Antonio, food is for sale, but second chances are plentiful and free of charge.

Café conversations center on the food's delectable sauces and seasonings — and sometimes about life journeys, hopes and dreams. The small eatery brings together people from all walks of life — politicians, military personnel, the hungry and the hurting, as well as BUA faculty, staff and students.

The restaurant is shaped by the life experience of its owner, Bernard McGraw, who seeks to help people in need as often as he concentrates on serving “the real deal” Creole cooking on the city's south side. In addition to his critically-acclaimed dishes, McGraw often can be found serving up an encouraging word, prayer or a free meal to folks who truly need it.

“I began to see that there were so many people who were lost, that needed a hand up, that needed some hope, something to believe in,” said McGraw, a student at BUA.



McGraw extended his ministry into his hiring practices, helping some of his employees who have checkered pasts, including homelessness and criminal incidents. Others simply were told they'd never amount to anything and seemingly sought to make those predictions reality.

“I've just made that my mission — to help one person along the way in hopes of being able to help many along the way,” McGraw said.

Because you give, scholarships are provided to ministerial students at Texas Baptist colleges and seminaries. Today, will you also pray for them, for Bernard specifically and for the people Bernard ministers to?

