



Kingdom Partners
Philippians 1:3-7

The ENCOURAGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLMES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2026

Encourage - Equip - Engage



MARCH – 2026
SPECIAL PROJECT 3.16 EDITION



Project 3.16 - One County. One Message. One Mission.

At the heart of the Holmes Baptist Association is a simple but powerful calling: **Encourage • Equip • Engage**. Project 3.16 is a focused expression of that mission—an intentional season dedicated to encouraging our churches to be boldly evangelistic and visibly present in their communities.

The name “3.16” reminds us of the Gospel itself. Just as John 3:16 captures the heart of God for the world, Project 3.16 calls us back to the heart of our mission: sharing the good news of Jesus in both word and deed.

Encouraging Churches to Be Evangelistic

Project 3.16 is not another program to add to a crowded calendar. It is a posture—a renewed emphasis. It is a season where pastors, leaders, and congregations are reminded that evangelism is not an event; it is the ongoing heartbeat of the church.

We will not be organizing evangelistic events, but through prayer, preaching, personal witness, and community engagement, we are encouraging every church—large or small to:

- Reignite a passion for sharing Christ
- Pray intentionally for lost people by name
- Create clear next steps for those responding to the Gospel
- Equip members to live on mission daily

This is about cultivating a culture where evangelism becomes natural, joyful, and consistent.

Engaging Communities with Purpose

Project 3.16 also creates intentional opportunities for churches to minister in tangible ways. HBA will help identify and coordinate potential avenues for community impact such as:

- Community outreach events
- Partnership projects between churches
- Service opportunities that open doors for Gospel conversations
- Seasonal ministry initiatives
- Collaborative evangelistic gatherings

Some churches may host neighborhood gatherings. Others may serve through disaster relief, family support, school partnerships, or community service projects. The approach may vary—but the mission remains the same.

We are not asking churches to duplicate efforts. We are helping create pathways where ministry can be shared, strengthened, and supported.

Equipping for Gospel Conversations

Holmes Baptist Association is committed to walking alongside our churches during this season. Our goal is not complexity—it is clarity. We want to equip churches with practical, doable strategies that fit their unique community context.

A Movement, Not a Moment

As part of Project 3.16, the Holmes Baptist Association is hosting an Evangelism Workshop designed to encourage and equip pastors and church leaders to cultivate a culture of evangelism.

This workshop will provide:

- Simple, reproducible Gospel conversation tools
- Practical training for pastors and lay leaders
- Prayer emphasis for lost people
- Clear next steps for follow-up

This is not about adding another event — it's about strengthening the heartbeat of our churches.

Join us **Tuesday, March 3** at 6:30 pm at the Association Office, as we Encourage • Equip • Engage our churches to share Christ boldly.

Project 3.16 is more than a date on the calendar. It is an invitation to renewal. It is a reminder that evangelism is central to who we are. It is an opportunity for churches across Holmes County to unite around the Gospel.

As an association, we believe that when churches are encouraged, equipped, and engaged—communities change.

Now is the time.

Now is the season.

This is Project 3.16.

A Preaching Challenge for Sunday, March 15

As part of **Project 3.16**, we are inviting every pastor in the Holmes Baptist Association to join together in a unified Gospel moment. **On Sunday, March 15, we are challenging every HBA church to preach on John 3:16.**

One verse.

One Gospel.

One unified witness across Holmes County.

John 3:16 captures the heart of the Gospel:

- The love of God
- The gift of His Son
- The promise of eternal life
- The call to believe

It is simple enough for a child to understand, yet deep enough to preach for a lifetime.

Imagine the impact of dozens of pulpits declaring the same message of hope on the same day, 'For God so loved the world...'.

Project 3.16 is about cultivating an evangelistic culture. March 15 becomes a catalytic Sunday — a visible expression that evangelism is central, not seasonal. March 15 can be more than another Sunday. It can be a unified declaration that the Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation.

Let's preach Christ.

Let's proclaim hope.

Let's make March 15 a John 3:16 Sunday across Holmes County.

Engage Where the People Are

As part of **Project 3.16**, we are encouraging churches across the Holmes Baptist Association to consider being a host for our booth at the **Down-Home Street Festival in Bonifay on Saturday, March 21**—not merely as a presence, but as a ministry platform.

This participation presents a powerful opportunity for churches to move beyond their walls and engage their community in meaningful, Gospel-centered ways.

Why Participate?

Community events create natural, relational space for conversation. People who may never attend a Sunday service will stop at a friendly booth, receive a smile, and engage in dialogue.

This is an opportunity to:

- Share the Gospel in a clear and simple way
- Pray with community members
- Offer encouragement
- Promote church ministries and upcoming events
- Connect with families who may be spiritually disconnected

When churches show up with joy and purpose, the Gospel becomes visible.

Ideas for an Effective Booth

Rather than simply handing out information, churches can create engaging and intentional ministry space:

- Free bottled water with a Scripture tag
- A prayer request board
- Kids' activity table with Gospel-themed crafts
- Simple Gospel conversation cards
- Church ministry brochures and invite cards
- A drawing for a family gift basket (collect contact info for follow-up)
- A "How Can We Pray for You?" station

The goal is not volume—it is meaningful engagement.

Unified but Unique

Each church can reflect its personality and strengths. Some may emphasize children's ministry. Others may highlight recovery support, discipleship groups, counseling resources, or outreach ministries.

Holmes Baptist Association can assist with:

- Evangelism tools
- Shared signage ideas
- Follow-up strategy guidance
- Coordination between churches
- A unified Project 3.16 presence if desired

This is not about competition between churches. It is about a collective witness across Holmes County. Project 3.16 is about encouraging churches to be evangelistic and equipping them with opportunities to minister intentionally.

The Down-Home Street Festival is more than an event. It is a mission field. If you wish to host a time of this event or help set up the tent and supplies, please contact us at the office. The event is sponsored by the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce and is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 from 9am until 2pm on Veteran's Boulevard in front of the HCHS Football Stadium in Bonifay.

Let's show up. Let's serve well. Let's share Christ boldly.

Project 3.16 is not a single Sunday.

It is not a one-month emphasis.

It is not a short-term campaign.

It is a year-long movement across the **Holmes Baptist Association** to cultivate an evangelistic culture in our churches.

From pulpit challenges to community festivals, workshops to outreach initiatives, Project 3.16 is about helping churches live out the Gospel consistently — not occasionally.

A Continuing Commitment

Throughout the year, churches will be encouraged and equipped with evangelistic and ministry opportunities that include:

- Community engagement events
- Evangelism workshops
- Cooperative outreach moments
- Prayer emphases for lost people
- Practical training for Gospel conversations
- Partnership opportunities between churches

Our goal is simple: to help every church — regardless of size — have clear and doable pathways to share Christ. This is how we **Encourage • Equip • Engage**.

Summer Mission Opportunity

One of the highlights of Project 3.16 will be our **Annual Summer Mission Trip to Meridian, Mississippi, July 11–18**.

This trip provides a tangible opportunity for churches to:

- Engage in hands-on ministry
- Serve alongside fellow HBA churches
- Share the Gospel in a new context
- Strengthen inter-church partnership
- Give members a practical evangelism experience

Mission trips often reignite passion. When members serve outside their comfort zone, they return home with fresh urgency and renewed conviction to live missionally in their own community. Contact us for more information about this exciting opportunity to show and share the love of Christ.

A Movement Across Holmes County

Project 3.16 is about building momentum.

Momentum in preaching.

Momentum in prayer.

Momentum in outreach.

Momentum in partnership.

As churches unite around the Gospel throughout the year, we believe God will:

- Deepen evangelistic conviction
- Strengthen church vitality
- Raise up new leaders
- Expand Gospel impact

This is a season of opportunity.

Let's keep going.

Let's stay engaged.

Let's make 2026 a defining year of evangelistic faithfulness.

Holmes Baptist Association

Encourage • Equip • Engage



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