



**Kingdom Partners**  
Philippians 1:3-7

# The ENCOURAGER

February 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLMES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Encourage - Equip - Engage

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We have several events on our associational calendar as well as state convention activities for the coming weeks.

**-Minister's Breakfast. Saturday, February 8, 8:30 – 10 am, New Hope Baptist Church.**

Brother Ed Scott and his wife will speak of Balance in Ministry and provide encouragement to pastoral staff and their wives. Brother Ed serves as Sr Pastor of First Baptist Church of Geneva, AL.

**-Next Generation Ministry Forum. Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Hickory Hill Baptist Church**

Brother Doug Moore will speak words of encouragement and enlightenment for those that work with the children and students of our churches. He will provide insight in establishing a pathway of ministry to the families of our church community. Our ministry leaders will also break out into age level groups to learn more about working together for ministry. Brother Doug is the Assoc. pastor of Student Ministry at Emerald Coast Fellowship, Lynn Haven, FL.

**-Executive Committee Meeting. Tuesday, February 18, 6:30 pm HBA Conference Room**

**-Replant Summit. Monday – Wednesday, February 24-26, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.**

A few of us will be attending the annual Replant Summit to be better equipped to serve you, as the local church. We will be working to establish a Renewal team to come alongside the declining or plateaued church and identify the areas in need of renewal or revitalization. Please be in prayer for this effort as the team begins to identify areas of need and ministry.

**-Men's Bible Study. Third Monday; January, February & March, 6:30 pm, HBA Office – Conference Room**

We had our first session last month with five in attendance as we began looking at a study of being God's Uncommon Man by Coach Tony Dungy. This study is produced by Right Now Media. Please encourage your men to join us for the second and third sessions.

**-Healthy Church Summit. Saturday, March 8, 9:00m – 11:00 am, HBA Office – Conference Room**

We will welcome our West Regional Catalyst, Brian Nall as he shares "Nine Orderly Steps to Church Health", covering such areas as; Church Renewal, using Mission Insight demographics to help identify potential ministry opportunities and discussing how a healthy church functions.

**-Continuing Together Tour. Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 6:00 – 8:30 pm - Church on Bayshore, Niceville.**

Our regional opportunity to meet Stephen Rummage and hear his vision for the Florida Baptist Convention and to learn about the convention's blueprint to help fuel the church in its mission. This will be a perfect opportunity to learn how we can be part of what God is doing in Florida. If you desire to go, please register or learn more at: [flbaptist.org/continuing/](http://flbaptist.org/continuing/). We can carpool if there are any that need a ride.

**-3:16 on 3/16. Sunday, March 16 – Local Church Emphasis**

The churches of our state and national convention have been encouraged to put an emphasis on John 3:16 on March 16 (3/16). Plans are being finalized to enter into this particular weekend with an evangelistic emphasis through door-to-door evangelism, outreach activities and presenting a clear message of the Gospel message from the pulpits of our churches. Watch our Facebook page and your email for finalized plans and activities.

**-Vision & Victory Dinner / Semi Annual Gathering**

Plans are being made for our Semi-Annual Gathering. This will take place in April, and will include our annual Vision and Victory celebration dinner. Plans include testimonies of victory from a few of our churches and a casting of vision and overview of our Strategic Plan of Ministry for our association. Full details are not finalized and will be announced as they are.

**-Annual Summer Mission Trip. July 12-19 – Saluda Baptist Association, Anderson, SC**

We will be returning to Anderson, SC for our annual mission trip in July. Our mission trip leadership team will be meeting with Brother John Watkins of the Saluda Baptist Association to discuss ministry needs and areas of service. Please begin praying about joining us for this experience of life-changing ministry

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

**-Steak or Chicken Dinner. Saturday, March 15, 2025, West Pittman Baptist Church. 6:00pm**  
West Pittman will host a Steak/Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. All proceeds from this dinner will go toward the Mexico Mission Trip. Contact Candice 850-276-3603 or Sharla 334-248-2047 to preorder your dinner. \$25/plate. 5-12 years old \$15. Meal will include Ribeye steak, baked potato, salad, dessert, tea or water. Grilled chicken is available by request at time of purchase if steak is not your taste. Payment is due at time of purchase.

**-Wild Game Supper. Saturday, March 8, 2025, West Pittman Baptist Church. 2:00pm—6:00pm**  
West Pittman will host their Annual Wild Game Supper. Activities will begin at 2:00 pm. Supper will be served at 4:00 pm and the Guest Speaker “The BearMan” will share at 6:00 pm. There will be door prizes, vendors, and children’s activities. These along with the meal will be FREE! For more information, please call 850-956-4100.

If your church has any upcoming events, please let us know so that we can share your events with the communities!

## ASSOCIATION PRAYER CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- ◆ February 2 – Special Prayer: “True Love Waits” Emphasis Month
- ◆ February 9 - Beulah Anna Baptist Church, Westville (Pastor: Danny Gill)
- ◆ February 16- Bridge Creek Baptist Church, Ponce de Leon (Pastor: Terry Smith)
- ◆ February 23 - Spanish ministry—Primera Bautista De Bonifay (Pastor: Oswaldo Saavedra)

### MARCH

- ◆ March 2 – Week of Prayer: North American Mission Offering - Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (March 3rd–10th)
- ◆ March 9 – Caryville Baptist Church, Caryville (Pastor: Matt Pate)
- ◆ March 16 - Evergreen Baptist Church, Westville (Pastor: Mitch Holsonback)
- ◆ March 23 – Week of Prayer: Florida Baptist Children's Home
- ◆ March 30 - First Baptist Church, Bonifay (Pastor: Shelly Chandler)





# RANDYm THOUGHTS...

Randy Torrance, Mission Strategist - Holmes Baptist Association

## Strategic What ??

## February, 2025

Associational Mission Strategists from all over the state convened for an annual time of insight and encouragement at the Florida Baptist Convention office in Jacksonville last month. The key note speaker was author and research analysis Thom Rainer. He spoke of current statistics within our churches and placing value on these statistics for the purpose of ministry.

We heard for our Convention's newly elected Executive Director-Treasurer, Dr Steven Rummage and the vision that he has for our convention, and we welcomed our new West Region Catalyst, Brian Nall as we divided into regional groups for discussion of area needs and opportunities.

We discussed how to use the Annual Church Profile (Church Letter) to bring value to the local church and its pastoral leadership. (I shared an article about this in a recent email and as a Facebook post.) I plan to utilize this report to partner with our churches to help them better reach their community for Christ.

All of these discussions led to the ultimate goal of leading us Mission Strategists to be strategic in planning and carrying out the ministry that God has called us to within the local association. Strategic in Ministry. Strategic in Planning. Strategic in Leadership.

Having been in the position as your Mission Strategist for the past year has been a joy in ministry. One of the highlights of this position is the opportunity to visit each our churches for worship and events. In doing so, this has helped me get a better feel for the needs of our churches and to think 'strategically' in ways that we, as an association can partner together to reach our community.

In doing so, I have looked at the calendar of events and areas of ministry and have led our administrative team to review our budget to align our budgeted items and expenses with our vision of Partnering Together to Expand the Kingdom by Encouraging Leaders, Equipping Churches and Engaging Communities.

You will find several upcoming events listed in this edition of The Encourager, and updates will be shared via email as well through our Facebook page. Please make yourself aware of these events and participate as you can. Careful effort is made to include events and opportunities for all of our churches and areas of ministry.



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