
THE MESSENGER



Ben Brags—on the Savior

Fine Tuning a Sub-Goal: “To clearly present the Gospel through relationships to every child, teenager, and young adult in NE TN- - within the next two years.”

1. We are asking every Holston church to write a brief testimony, to describe “ONE THING” that has happened in your church in the last year that only God could have done.
2. Then we are asking each church to write a brief prayer request, “ONE THING” you are striving toward in the upcoming year that cannot be accomplished unless God intervenes.

Expect to find a running list of One-Thing testimonies and prayer requests in your Annual Gathering booklets.

How might God surprise and pour out His Spirit upon churches, who pray for “ONE THING” that only God could do in their church...discover, befriend, cultivate, etc., abundant spiritual seeds being planted in dozens and dozens of children and younger parents???

Where do children and younger parents live...very near you? Just ask about the demographics available through our office, and we’ll print their names and addresses for you...and introduce you to an additional resource to help you reach out.

WHAT IF...virtually every Holston church had a champion for children...burdened and committed to discover, build relationships, minister, and win children and parents for Christ?

WHAT IF...each champion could enlist 3-4 workers to be equipped to help in every way to accomplish all that...together, a team on a mission?

WHAT IF...we earnestly seek to align ourselves with God’s heart, surrender all, and cry out “whatever it takes?”

“REACHING CHILDREN, YOUTH, & YOUNG ADULTS/YOUNG PARENTS”

There it is...the primary focus for Annual Gathering Tues, Oct. 24 at University Parkway Baptist Church.

Our Keynote Speaker will be Dr. David Evans, aka Clark Kent or Superman in disguise. He is also known as Evangelism Specialist with TBC.

He is back by popular demand, after our folks raved about the Breakout he led for us last year about “Why They Stay,” which helped us understand why our own children drop out of church when they leave home and ways we can change that outcome.

This year, David will offer practical, do-able strategies (for any size church) to effectively reach the children and parents of Tennessee. Those in attendance will receive books and resources.

My earnest prayer is that we will launch a full-court press “to clearly present the Gospel through relationships to every child, youth and young adult in NE TN within two years.”

In early 2018, your children’s ministry leaders and workers will be invited to a specialized, intensive training event that will help them mobilize your church to reach children and their parents within your harvest fields. If your church has little or no children’s ministry, then this is even more urgent for you. Begin praying now for one champion for children’s ministry. Your Association teams will help you get started and walk with you every step till God helps your church enter a new season of effective children’s ministry.

I asked David for one quote. He said, “If 85% of all people come to Christ before age 18, why don’t church budgets reflect that? Why do the budgets of declining churches always prioritize adults, while children’s ministries get the leftover scraps? The Research is profound: **THOSE CHURCHES WHO FLIP THEIR BUDGETS AND PRIORITIZE REACHING CHILDREN AND PARENTS ARE BLOWING THE DOORS OFF OUTREACH.**”

Pastors, this year especially, please please please elect some Messengers to Holston’s Annual Gathering, who have a burden to reach children!

Holston Baptist Association's 231st Gathering

University Parkway Baptist Church

October 24, 2017

3:30 pm

Guest Speaker: David Evans

Theme: Reaching 0-18

A Gospel for ALL Generations



“His steadfast love endures forever; his faithfulness to all generations.” From the Greatest Generation to the Millennials, and everyone in between, the body of Christ is made up of believers of all generations, and God has an enduring love for them all. At the 2017 Gathering, we will be celebrating the generational diversity of the church and worshipping God for his continuing goodness. Hosted by University Parkway Baptist Church, this year’s annual meeting will feature David Evans from the TBC who will speak about reaching the new generations for Christ. Both services will include worship music by the University Parkway worship team, as well as special music highlighting the generations. A fellowship meal will be catered by Charley’s between the two services. We serve a “God to all Generations,” and we invite you to join us at The Gathering Oct. 24 as we worship, pray, and prepare to reach people of all ages with the Gospel.

Zach Smith



David Evans is a follower of Jesus and he is married to Stephanie and dad to Emma and Jackson. He currently serves as the Evangelism Team Leader for the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board and has served as pastor for sixteen years at Epiphany Baptist Church in Springfield, TN. He recently earned a Ph.D. from The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and holds Master Degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



We would like to welcome Anna Huggins to the Holston Baptist Association. Anna is the new Director of Ministries at the Johnson City Baptist Center. Anna and Mike Huggins have six daughters and will be welcoming three grandbabies soon. If you would like to contact Anna or welcome her, you may email her at anna@holstonbaptists.org.

A six year old’s sweet, sincere prayer, and youth studying the Bible for answers to life’s questions, are just two pictures of God’s activity at the Johnson City Baptist Center. As our association continues to work with God in this community, I am thankful to serve with you. Teaching the children at the JCBC about Jesus, will not only make an impact on their lives, but also affect their families and community. The physical and spiritual needs around us can be overwhelming, but God has given us an opportunity to make a difference. In this ministry, we have an open door to share the light and love of Jesus.

Matthew 22:37-39 says, “Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Would you be willing to walk alongside us as we strive to reach these neighbors for Christ? Here are some ways you can help:

Pray – for the children, families, and volunteers.

Volunteer – we need helpers with the Kid’s Bible Club

Purchase Study Bibles - HCSB Illustrated Study Bible for Kids, Hardcover ISBN # 978-1433603228

Provide snacks for weekly Bible clubs

Thank you, Anna Huggins

Association News

- The Hospital Banquet was held at the Holston Baptist Association on Tuesday, September 19. Thank you ladies for serving the ICU. Thank you Lois Bridges for your dedication in leading the Hospital Ministry. 
- Seminary Extension Isaiah class will start October 30—December 11 on Monday evenings from 6:30-9:00. Dr. Craig Ponder will be the instructor and the cost is \$70. 
- Your Annual Church Profile (ACP) is due October 9.
- HBA will be hosting the Prayer Gathering on November 6 at 11:30 am at Holston. Click here for more details <https://www.tcprayergatherings.org/about>

Church News

- ♦ Bowmantown Baptist sponsored a Deer Hunting Expo on Thursday, September 21. Brian Hollaway was the speaker. Twenty-six people were saved and fifty-two rededicated their lives to Christ! 
- ♦ Clark Street Baptist Church voted unanimously September 10, 2017 to call Randy Hommel as the pastor of Clark Street. Randy is a Kingsport native and he & his wife Brenda have recently relocated to the Johnson City area after serving as pastor at Bel-Aire Baptist Church in Gulfport, MS. 
- ♦ Mount Zion was the host church in August for the Prison Ministry. There were seven people that went to serve. Trisha Weems shared her testimony to the guys and one man that talked with Trisha and Pat Hyder after the party said he prayed to be saved. Praise the Lord! We have two months that do not have sponsors now, February and March. If you would like to take one of these months, please call the Holston Baptist Association at 929-1196.
- ♦ Trinity Baptist Church has BLANK CASSETTES to give away. Please call Tony Bowman at 753-4394 or email tbowman@trinity3e.org
- ♦ Mission-focused Christians are needed to come join us at Christ-Reconciled Church to reach and minister to people in the Carver Park/Mountain Home area of Johnson City. We are a small congregation that planted a church in 2012 in the middle of a low-income, high need area. We are a mixture of ETSU staff and students, business people, moms, dads, and other believers who feel called to reach often unreached people. God has blessed us by sending many unchurched children, people who are currently homeless, and people who struggle with addictions and have criminal backgrounds. We need some strong believers to come join with us to minister to these people. For information, contact Dale Clements at 423-502-0466 or clementw@etsu.edu.



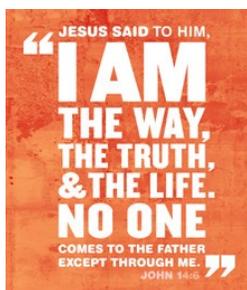
Renovate in Orlando—November 7-9

National Church Revitalization Conference.

- 50 Church Revitalization Workshops
- 25 National Church Revitalization Speakers
- 4 Breakout Session Opportunities
- 5 Pre-Conference Intensive Subjects
- 4 Main Sessions With 8 Keynote Speakers
- 1,000+ Fellow Church Revitalizers

To register or for more information, go to

<http://renovateconference.org/>



As relevant as ever... The Power to Save



Rescue NOW!

Nov. 12-15, 2017
First Baptist Church
Hendersonville, TN

For more information, visit
www.tbcs Summit.org



November 12-15, 2017

First Baptist Church Hendersonville, TN

Ten Ways To Bring Joy To Your Pastor

By Thom Rainer

In some ways, I don't like the official designation of October to be pastor appreciation month.

I really wish we showed appreciation to pastors all the time. But like many other points of recognition, it does serve as a reminder that we are blessed by our pastors and their ministries.

So how can you bring joy to your pastor? My list of ten is based on the interactions I have with thousands of pastors every year. Some of the affirmations are letters. Many of them have no monetary cost. All of them will be greatly appreciated.

1. **A handwritten letter committing to pray for your pastor.** I just spoke with a pastor who received such a gift. He was choked up just talking about it.
2. **A handwritten letter of support.** Pastors receive criticism regularly. It's an unfortunate way of life for them. Though many of you support your pastors, they really appreciate your telling them so.
3. **An anonymous letter with cash.** Let your pastors know the gift is for them. Most pastors have no extra funds to buy books or resources or even go out to eat.
4. **A gift card.** Find out what your pastors really like. Do they have a favorite restaurant or store? Get them a gift card.
5. **A childcare certificate.** Commit to a certain number of days to watch the pastor's children, assuming the kids are still at an age that need childcare. That will be an incredible gift for pastors and spouses.
6. **A handwritten letter expressing how much difference the pastor has made your life.** Be specific. Let your pastors know how much their ministries mean to you personally. Don't write in generalities, but in ways that demonstrate your life is better because of your pastor.
7. **A handwritten letter of gratitude to the pastor's spouse.** Pastors' spouses rarely get affirmed. Your letter of gratitude will mean so much-both to the spouse and to the pastor.
8. **Books.** Most pastors love books. Most pastors have a wish list of books they would like. If you can't find the specific wish list, a gift card for them is great as well.
9. **Video of gratitude.** Produce a video to be shown in the worship service. Have testimonies of gratitude. Show specific ways the pastor has made a difference. Express gratitude to the pastor's family as well.
10. **Remember their anniversary.** Let pastor appreciation month be a reminder for you to note your pastor's anniversary at the church. Celebrate it when that date arrives. Too many pastors get passed by every year despite their ministry and labors for the church and Kingdom.

Most pastors do not expect recognition or rewards. They did not enter vocational ministry for that reason.

But they really do appreciate it when one or more of the church members remember them in a positive manner.

I hope you will be one of those church members.



Disaster Relief

Holston Baptist Association's Disaster Relief Team went with the Sullivan Baptist Association to Texas to help serve. Our shower trailer was taken and did 56 loads of laundry and 270 showers for the people and workers there.



Holston will pay \$100 of your registration!
Call 929-1196 to get your name on the list

Be Refreshed
ACTS 3:19-20

**2018 Bivocational
Ministers & Wives Retreat**

“Be Refreshed!”
Acts 3:19-20

January 25-27, 2018

Cost: \$225 per couple (includes hotel, meals, and breaks)

Registration Deadline: December 8, 2017

Music Road Hotel & Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN

For more information contact:

John Parrott at jparrott@tnbaptist.org or (423) 921-2488

**The first 10 pastors will receive \$100 off their
registration!**

**Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30-4:30
Staff Meetings
Wednesdays @ 9:00**

Mark Your Calendar

October

- 9 ACP's Due
- 19 Youth Minister's Fellowship, 11:30
- 24 The Gathering, University Parkway
- 26 Tri-Cities Celebration Will Graham, Meadowview, 7:00

November

- 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 6 Minister's Fellowship, HBA, 10:00
Tri-Cities Prayer Gathering, HBA, 11:30
- 16 Youth Minister's Fellowship, 11:30
- 23 Thanksgiving
- 23-24 HBA CLOSED

Holston Baptist Association churches recognized for giving to the Golden Offering 2016-2017

Baileyton, First	Erwin, First	Snow Memorial
Beulah	Fordtown	Southwestern
Blountville, First	Grace	Sulphur Springs
Bluff City, First	Greenwood	Sunset Village
Boones Creek	Harmony	Tusculum
Calvary, Bristol	Hulen	Unaka Avenue
Calvary, Erwin	Jonesborough, First	Virginia Avenue
Central, Johnson City	King Springs	West Hills
Cherokee	Mountain View, Johnson City	Woodlawn
Cherry Grove	New Lebanon	
Chinquapin Grove	New Salem	
Clear Branch	Ninth Street	
Clifton View	River Bend	
Colonial Heights	Skyline Heights	

**We received a check from Golden Offering for
\$4,421.85 as the result of your giving!**