

THE MESSENGER

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MARCH 2019



Ben Proffitt

Associational Mission
Strategist

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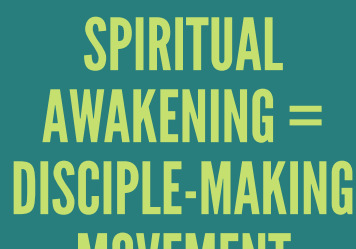
BEN BRAGS ON THE SAVIOR...

challenged is, The reason 80-90% of our churches are plateaued or declining is because so many AMERICANIZED churches have exchanged the Truth for a Lie with regard to the definition and intentionality of disciple-making as a responsibility and command given to EVERY child of God. THIS is THE greatest SIN of the American Church, and it is epidemic. Churches will always decline and/or die whenever making-disciples-who-make- disciples is neglected or forgotten.

Too often, discipleship is a term used to focus upon Bible knowledge or the growth of Christians. But by Jesus' practice, making disciples starts with lost people, works through salvation, sanctification and maturity, and ends with Biblically functioning, fruit-of-the-Spirit, multiplying churches.

God gives all authority to make disciples, and of all the activities of man, the Holy Spirit is most powerfully moving when we are pursuing disciple-making. Multiply disciple-making, and the moving of the Holy Spirit multiplies. Multiply exponentially, and expect such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that spiritual awakening will flood wide and deep across this region!

The ultimate purpose for our Network of Disciple-Making Leaders is to equip leaders to equip every Holston church to function with Disciple-Making DNA, when every leader and follower alike personally lives out of Disciple-Making DNA...so SURRENDERED OBEDIENT disciple-makers might generate a BIBLICAL, simple, organic, life-on-life, exponentially-multiplying "DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT," which by the outpouring power of God's Spirit, leads all of us into Spiritual Awakening!



SPIRITUAL AWAKENING = DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT

I have repeated that thought several times recently, and no pastor has yet challenged my theology. So could it be true? Is spiritual awakening at least as much about SURRENDERED OBEDIENCE in Making-Disciples, which prioritizes to the heartbeat of God, as it is about any other spiritual postures?

I have often made a second statement, that practically every problem INSIDE the Church grows from our wrong thinking and lack of practicing "the core purpose of God's Church...Making Disciples." Again, no pastor has yet challenged this theology either. Why do (American) churches experience so much conflict, confusion, apathy, selfishness and destruction within the Body? Could it be true that church health, church unity, vision, and transformational impact...all depend on the kind of disciples we make/or don't make?

A third statement, which pastors have not

DISCIPLE-MAKING NETWORKS

Two more launch events next week @ 6:00PM

Sullivan County: Mon, Mar 4 at Volunteer Baptist Church*

Unicoi County: Tues, Mar 5 at Shallow Ford Baptist Church*

* Both start with a meal, if you RSVP

Year-round Networking groups will be announced soon.

(If you missed your county launch, the fundamental concepts will be repeated, so you are welcome at either event.)

FREE RESOURCES for Disciple-Making: See discipleship.org

All FREE: membership, subscription, tools, podcasts, blogs, videos, courses, eBooks, book series, etc.

Download FREE eBooks (see website for entire list):

"Discipleship is the Core Mission of the Church" — Bobby Harrington

"Revival Starts Here" — David Clayton

"Becoming a Disciple Maker" — Bobby Harrington and Greg Wiens

"The Kingdom Unleashed" — Jerry Trousdale and Glenn Sunshine

"Revisiting the Master Plan of Evangelism" — Coleman & Harrington

"Invest in a Few" — Craig Etheredge



**STUDENT
CONFERENCE**
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HURRY!
Time is
Running Out!
**REGISTER
NOW!**

SEEK FIRST



Shai Linne



Michael Kelly



*Liberty Worship
Collective*

Far too often as we age we back off of good health practices. We are more comfortable in the recliner than we are on the walking trails or at the gym. Age brings needs to us that are more urgent than when we were younger. I encourage all of you over fifty years old to consider weight training at a gym.

Regular physical exercise at a fitness center meets several important needs. Ligaments, muscles and even bones need the gentle stress of resistance (weight) training. Putting pressure on these parts of our bodies actually help them to strengthen. With age, these usually do not fare well. My personal preference is for free weights, particularly dumbbells. You can join many fitness centers for as little as \$10 per month (Planet Fitness) and receive personal training for little or no extra charge. Often a friend can help you get started. Here are some hints of good practices:

1. Always warm up with stretching or lighter weights. An injury in older years wastes valuable time in recovery.
2. Do not worry about how much you are lifting; good form is the primary focus.
3. In nearly every exercise the key is a smooth first motion, slight pause at the apex and then a slow resistance back.
4. Allow thirty minutes for a good workout, not including your cardio.
5. Avoid the bench press and pulls to neck. These exercises risk impingement as we get older.
6. When lifting with the shoulder or neck muscles keep your head still. The neck muscles can strain easily otherwise.

TO YOUR HEALTH



*Greg Burton
Pastor, Colonial Heights*



7. Do not neglect the leg muscles. These are larger muscles and they can ache the next day...but it is a good pain!
8. Work out at least three days per week. Give emphasis to upper, middle, or lower body, but always do some of all.
9. Schedule your workouts. When something interferes, work out later that day or the next day. Do this without fail!
10. Go with a friend or ask a fitness friend to guide you initially.

Jesus spent little time in his local synagogue. He was always out in the marketplace meeting people. You may be surprised to find the number of people you can minister to at the gym or a walking trail. Use this time to listen to Christian music or podcasts. Maybe pray as you work out. But leave your phone in the car or in your jacket pocket.

Happy health!

Greg

Muslim Evangelism Training (MET)

Khurran Anthoni is a young Pakistani Christian, who has endured severe persecution and multiple attempts on his life, yet his life is fully devoted to clearly presenting the gospel to Muslims. His purpose here is to equip local believers to effectively and graciously reach local Muslims.



Mr. Anthoni will lead a 12-week training series on essential understanding, skills and methods for reaching Muslims in North America.

RAHAM Training: means "God's love for humanity."



When: March 14 - May 30, every Thursday 7:00-8:30PM (12 weeks)

Location: Heritage Baptist Church

Khurram Anthoni was born into a Christian home in Pakistan, living a nominal Christian life until in college, where his faith was challenged by Muslims. Khurram investigated his own beliefs, confirmed his faith in Jesus as the world's only Messiah and began challenging others to spread the Gospel to Muslims. He will be in

the Tri-Cities area for three months teaching and leading others to evangelize Muslims.



This is a **FREE** event for all church and associational **secretaries/assistants**. This is a opportunity for you to meet other secretaries/assistants that are in and around your area and just have time for fun, food, and fellowship.

Time: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Lunch sponsored by Tennessee Baptist Mission Board and Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Association (TBCSA)

April 2- Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel, TN

Register online at <https://tn.sbcworkspace.com/Pub/Event/Register/55230404>



Compassion Ministry Network Meeting- Harvest Field 7

We are seeking to network churches that are doing some form of compassion ministry with other churches, associations, and compassion ministry centers. We are also hoping to encourage churches to develop compassion ministries if they are not currently involved in such ministries.

Our compassion ministry network meeting has been set for Harvest Field 7 at Alpha Baptist Church, 245 St John's Road, Morristown from 10:00-2:00 on April 11. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know by April 9 by emailing Carrie Kidd at ckidd@tnbaptist.org or calling 615-371-2025 if you and/or others from your church plan to attend. Should you have comments or questions, please give Joe Sorah a call at 423-895-1481.



INSIGHTS FOR GROWTH...

As I am penning this article, I must say, I am encouraged. Over the past few months I have been blessed with the opportunity to meet with several Holston churches who have committed to the steps of renewal - the implications of which, will be far reaching. However, there are many who may be questioning, "Is it worth our time to reach out to Bryan to see what he has to say?" Let me make it easy for those of you who may feel this way. I want to give you a quick overview of how our initial discussion would look:

I. I would begin by telling you, you are not alone. Nationally, throughout our 47,000+ SBC churches, 650 churches are closing their doors - no longer in business. Counting all churches across the United States, the number is over 3500! An alarming number for sure, but there is much hope within our scope of vision. To bring this closer to home, we have churches in our area that are closing on a frequent basis and even more that are in a stage of decline, that unless it is addressed, will likely suffer the same fate in the not so distant

future.

II. Once we accept the fact that something needs to change, we must determine exactly where we are before we can decide where we need to go. In order for a church to set proper strategy we must assess our current situation. I have included a bell curve graph taken from "To Dream Again" by Robert Dale that shows the life cycles of a church. The type of church I am talking about is one that has crested the hill and is somewhere along the descent. Your Holston Baptist Association is prepared to help you as your ministry walks through the process of revitalization. You might ask, "How would you do that?" Allow me to share the process with you.

III. Along with your church, we develop a roadmap that will take you from where you are to where you need to be. It may sound easy but I can assure you it is not! It involves a lot of work (from everyone) and requires compromise. I have learned this is the part that scares people the most. We are afraid of the word "compromise." I can assure you

continued on next page...

(and you have this in writing!) that nothing from the Word of God will be compromised. As a matter of fact, part of the journey on our road map will take you back to the Bible more than many have ever been - and this time, in a much more practical way.

IV. Would you agree that healthy things grow? Yes - even weeds! Just as our bodies need proper nutrients in order to produce the balance to keep us healthy, organizations, like your church, need a healthy diet of spiritual disciplines. Also, it needs to stop doing many of the things that cause its health to be so poor. This article cannot contain all I would like to say about this but I would love to begin a conversation with you.

Allow me to leave you with the following:

I. It will take a healthy "culture" of prayer. I don't doubt there isn't prayer already occurring at your church - I will just discuss the "How" and the "Why" of effective prayer with you and strive to commit your entire congregation to make this a corporate event.

II. We must become effective disciple makers - all of us.

III. We must accept that nothing less than an ironclad commitment to the task will do. In revitalization work, we call this "The Journey of a 1000 Days" because it will not occur overnight.

So, where does this leave us? Let's start a discussion. Please give our office a call

BRYAN SMITH CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

bryan@holstonbaptists.org



and let's schedule a time to meet. Prepare your questions and be prepared for me to share. I am convinced that God does not want your church to be ineffective. I'm haunted by something I heard a while back, "There is nothing about a dying church that brings glory to God," spoken by John Mark Clifton. Let's begin.

Bible Drill 2019

HBA Association Drill at Trinity Baptist

April 9, 2019 beginning at 5:45

Anyone may attend Drill to offer support to students!

*Church Drills must be conducted by April 3rd.

Those advancing to the Associational Drill need to be reported to HBA office by April 4th. (423-929-1186)*

Northeast Regional Drill:

April 27th at First Baptist Church Greenville
Time TBA

Youth and High School State Drill:

May 4th at Mission Mobilization Center, Mt. Juliet, TN
Time TBA

For questions you may contact:

Anna Huggins 423-743-4741 or Susan Schiwitz 423-794-8182





Hope is the confidence that we have when we place our trust in God, not only for the forgiveness of sin, but for the expectation of His presence in our lives and the future with Him.

Psalm 42:5 (KJV) says: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."

As believers, we have the security of knowing the Lord is ever present to help and guide us. He keeps his eyes on us and is ready to intercede in whatever situation befalls us. What a comfort that is! Many who have not trusted in the Lord may be struggling with difficulties that come their way or which they have become entangled. They need to hear of God's love for them.

At the Johnson City Baptist, we are striving to share the hope of the Lord. Just this last month, we have encountered sickness, surgeries, families torn apart, and the need for help with food and utilities. Trying to meet these physical needs is just one way we share the love of Jesus. It is overwhelming sometimes, but God's grace and mercy are in great supply. We also have you, our Holston Baptist churches, that come alongside to help.

Know that we always have a way you can serve with us:

H: help, hygiene items (we always have need of these)

O: opportunities (volunteer for Bible Studies or Clothes Closet)

P: pray, pray, pray that Jesus will be glorified

E: encourage- engage in the ministry of the Johnson City Baptist Center

Circumstances can bring us down. Hope is not in money, drugs, material possessions, people, or worldly ideals. How can we expect these folks to know and understand who they can trust, if we do not share how Christ makes a difference in our lives? Please, join us. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27 (KJV).

We desire for the children, youth, and adults we reach, to be able to say in their hearts:

"For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth." Psalm 71:5 (KJV).

"My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness",

Anna Huggins



Anna Huggins

Director of Ministries at
Johnson City Baptist Center
anna@holstonbaptists.org

2019 HOLSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION VBS CLINIC

Gas up the all-terrain vehicle and head out on a wilderness adventure like no other. Get up close and personal with elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles, and so much more! Grab your camera and zoom in on those animals in their natural habitats. Maybe you can even snag a snapshot or two.



This summer kids will focus in on some amazing, real-life encounters with Jesus. Each encounter is like a snapshot--a specific moment in time captured on the pages of Scripture. Through VBS, kids will discover that each snapshot of Jesus is an opportunity to respond to the gospel. And when put together, these isolated encounters clearly reveal the most amazing truth of all--Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing we can have life in His name. Are you ready for an up close and personal encounter with Jesus? The adventure of a lifetime awaits!!

When: Thursday, April 18, 2019

Where: First Baptist Church of Blountville

Schedule

5:45PM Open House

6:15PM Opening Rally

6:55PM Conferences

8:45PM Adjourn

Conferences Offered: Babies - K, 1st - 4th, VBX, Youth, Directors, Missions, Crafts, & Music.



STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

FOR MINISTRY & MISSION

Every month, Holston Baptist Association will be hosting Strategic Leadership, a web-based seminar led by Ed Stetzer. Ed Stetzer writes and speaks on theology, missiology, church planting, church revitalization, and church innovation.

Each session includes a 20 minute talk by Ed, followed by a discussion time. Many additional resources will be made available for each topic.

You might ask, “Who are the leaders in my church?” Pastors, support staff (education pastor/Sunday School leader, worship pastor/music leader, youth pastor/leader, children’s pastor/leader, deacons and/or elders...And let’s not forget those in whom you see leadership potential!

If you have been looking for a curriculum that will provide your church and your leaders with top notch training and resources related to leading a ministry effectively, you will not be disappointed. Why not use this as an opportunity to attend this training together with your leaders and all of you be on the same page?

We hope this resource is one way we can help you grow as a leader to bless your church or ministry. You must **RSVP** to attend by emailing Bryan Smith at bryan@holstonbaptists.org.

Before you dismiss this as something else to take up your valuable time, at least ask yourself, “Is it worth it? Should I at least give this some consideration? Come to a session before you answer this question - Make the Decision to Continue to Learn to Lead - we look forward to seeing you soon!

P.S. For those who might be interested in a FastTrack training (18 topics in 18 weeks)

Sign up on our FB page!

When: March 21, 2019 @ 6:30pm

Where: Holston Office

HOW CAN THEY HEAR?



Haley Wherry - HBA
Evangelism Training
Coordinator / First Priority

“But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?” (Romans 10:14 NLT)

Romans 10:14: “How can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?” It’s a challenge to all of us, expressing the importance of speaking the gospel to the world.

This key passage in Romans sums up the need for evangelism. However, the important part of the message is often lost in today’s church because of our misunderstanding of the word “tell.” In the New Living Translation, the verse ends with “unless someone tells them,” but in most translations the word “preaches” is used instead of “tells them.” When we read it as “preach” instead of “tell,” we create several issues that limit evangelistic efforts.

First, the term “preach” carries a negative connotation in today’s society. No one likes to be “preached to” or “preached at.” The term has become synonymous with being judgmental and arrogant. It perpetuates the stereotype that Christians are “Bible thumpers,” close-minded, uncaring, and only worried about increasing numbers.

Second, preaching is something professionals do. When it comes to preaching, we normally are referring to preachers. The folks “called” to ministry, paid for speaking, and usually seminary trained. Preaching is something that lay people simply don’t do.

Third, preaching is only done when speaking to large groups. Preachers preach in churches to their congregations. They preach in large stadiums, under circus tents, or on street corners to people who are walking by. Preaching is not something done one-on-one or in small group settings.

Finally, preaching is a one-way form of communication. Except for the occasional “amen” from the crowd, preaching is one person speaking to others who are listening. There is no dialogue, no give-and-take, and no questions. Preaching is not a conversation; it is a



lecture.

But when we read the verse as “tells” instead of “preaches,” the way we see the passage of scripture changes dramatically. First, the term “tell” has a more positive connotation. I can tell you about my favorite food, the movie I saw last night, or how I met my wife. There is an annual story-telling festival that takes place where I live. People pay money to hear others tell them stories. I would much rather tell you my personal faith-story than preach it to you. We don’t have to preach; we just tell others about our friend Jesus.

Second, I can tell you a story without a seminary degree, ministerial position, or financial compensation. In fact, I enjoy telling you things about myself. I don’t need a “calling” from God or a job description that

says I have to. We can tell a story...especially a story about how God is working in our life.

Third, while a story can be told to a group of people, most stories are told one-on-one. I have told more stories sitting at a dinner table with family or having coffee with a friend than I have ever shared with a crowd. You can tell a story over email or through texting. If you can break it into sections of 140 characters, you can even Tweet it. Evangelism is part of discipleship and meant to be one-on-one.

Finally—and most importantly, “telling” can be a two-way conversation. Questions can be asked, clarifications can be made, and other people can tell their stories. Stories don’t have to be told all at once...they can be broken into parts, chapters, episodes, or trilogies. When

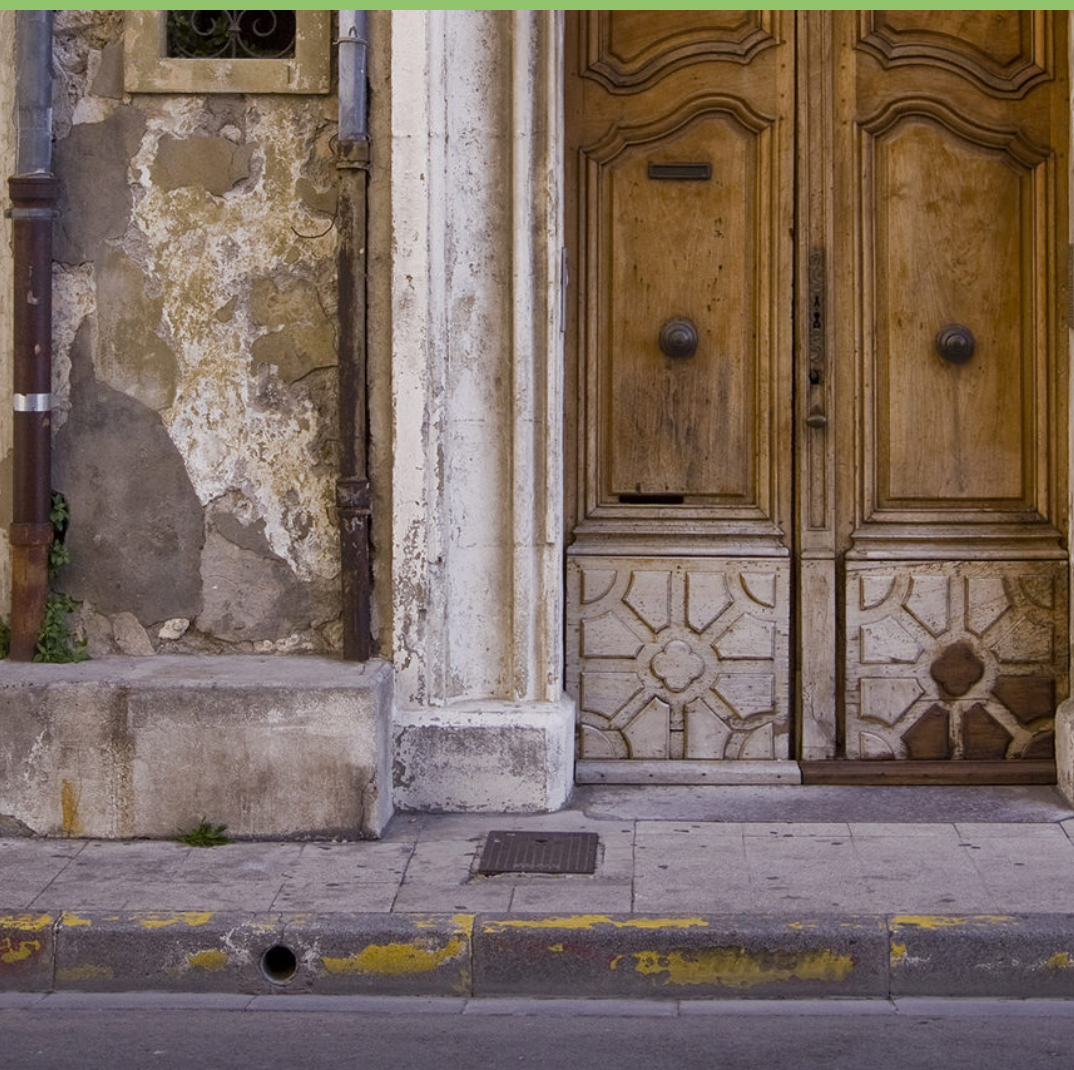
we tell friends our stories, we get to listen to their stories in return. Preaching doesn’t develop relationships...telling stories together does.

Do you look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus? Do you step up on a podium, pull out your Bible, and preach to them? Or do you simply share the story of how God is working in your life and in the world?

The Gospel is the greatest story ever told that needs to be shared more often. Tell someone the story every chance you get. Who knows? They might actually hear what you’re saying, believe it’s true, and call on the One the story is about.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Haley

IN CHURCH NEWS:



Mountain View Baptist

Church held a deacon ordination service on February 3rd where they ordained **Matt Adams & Michael Rosenbaum** into the Ministry. Pictured from left to right are Andy Hare-Chairman of the Deacons, Matt Adams, Michael Rosenbaum and Rich Murray-Pastor.



*Dr. Bobby L Bernard started at
Solomon's Temple
December 30, 2018.*

**Rev. Josh Grizzle will
begin at Bowmantown
on March 24, 2019**

Appalachian Trail Ministry Meeting

Monday, March 18 at 6:00 PM

Calvary BC in Erwin

**For anyone who would like to do trail
ministries of any kind.**

Pianist Wanted:

Sullivan Baptist Church of Kingsport TN is seeking a pianist to be part of their paid staff. The position will play for a 350-400 average congregation. 2-3 years experience as a church pianist is preferred. For more information and a job description please contact the church office at (423) 349-6288.



Mountain View Baptist Church is Hiring!

We need a secretary in our church office. We are looking for someone with technical skills and the ability to work with various social media sites. Must have experience using Publisher, Word and Power Point. If you are able to work 3-4 days a week we would love to hear from you. Please call Sandy at 282-3262 or e-mail her at sandy@mtnviewbaptist.com.

Prison Ministry Training will be at Grace Fellowship Church on **March 21st 2019 starting at 6:15PM.**

Grace Fellowship is located at 2314 S. Greenwood Dr in Johnson City Tn.

Go around the back, under the over hang , through the double doors and the rooms immediately on your left.

REMEMBER; Anyone planning on attending the closing must go through the training.

If you have any questions feel free to get a hold of me ,and feel free to pass this info on to anyone who needs the training

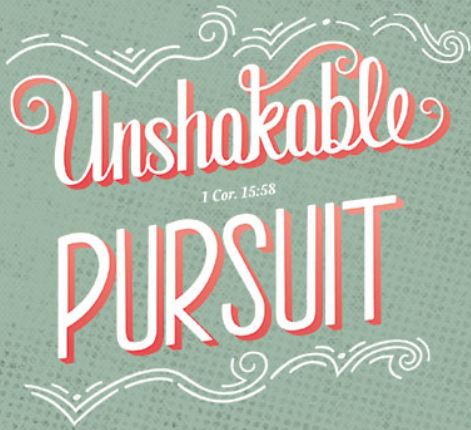
God Bless You all and see you there!

Tom Roberts hiivolt@aol.com 423-483-7413

For Sale:

Beautiful mid-sized Grand Piano.....12 yrs old, looks brand new! New.....\$18k, selling for \$6000 OBO. In JC. Call 423-794-0995 for more info.





GET-TOGETHER
& CONNECTION

APRIL 5-7, 2019
GATLINBURG, TN

Connection is a unique event for **girl's in 7th -12th grades**. Girls will have opportunity to choose from various **breakout conferences** and attend **large group worship** and **Bible study**. The goal of our event is to **encourage girls to know Christ more and make him known**. We hope girls will leave the weekend with a **deeper desire to walk daily with Christ** and **help others to do the same**.

Annie Armstrong

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING Prayer Week kicks off the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for 2019 on March 3 – 10. The Week of Prayer is annually observed by SBC churches to specifically pray for missionaries on the field, the needs of their ministries and the needs of their families.

Where does the Annie Armstrong \$70M go? Forty-nine percent of the Annie Armstrong offering goes to the North American Mission Board budget. From that budget: fifty-two percent goes to missionary mobilization, thirty-seven percent church plants, and eleven percent evangelism.

Mark Your Calendars

MARCH

3-10 Annie Armstron Easter Offering

4 Disciple-Making Leaders Network Launch @ Volunteer
- 6PM, dinner provided

5 Disciple-Making Leaders Network Launch @ Shallow Ford
- 6PM, dinner provided

10 Daylight savings

21 Youth Ministers Fellowship - 11:30AM

21 Strategic Leadership Training @ HBA - 6:30PM

APRIL

5-7 Student Conference @ Ridgecrest

9 Bible Drill @ Trinity @ Jonesborough - 5:45PM

14 Palm Sunday

18 Youth Ministers Fellowship - 11:30AM

18 VBS CLinic @ First Blountville - 5:45PM - 8:45PM

19 Good Friday - HBA office Closed

21 Easter Sunday

25 Drop-in Reception @HBA for Kim Kitzmiller's farewell
10AM-2PM

27 Northeast Regional Drill @ FB Greeneville - Time TBA



Text to join!

Text: JOINHBA to 84576

** no password is required*

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.



make sure to follow us on FB!

WANT TO INCLUDE SOMETHING IN THE MESSENGER?

To submit your information for April 2019, please email claudia@holstonbaptists.org by the deadline: **Monday, March 25th.**

Please be aware we will not be accepting submissions *after* this date. This will help us get The Messenger into your hands as soon as possible.

Thank you!



Office Hours
Monday thru Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm*
423.929.1196

***On Wednesday mornings we will not be available to answer phones
due to our weekly staff meetings**

email us at: hba@holstonbaptists.org
www.holstonbaptists.org