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Coming Alongside December , 2023



Watch Yourself

About ten years ago I went on a mission trip to Cuba. God did some great things through our team while we were there. In contrast, I did one really stupid thing while I was there.

Cuba is pretty hot all year long and the home we stayed in did not have air conditioning. There was a ceiling fan that circulated hot air.

Being the brilliant man that I am, I changed my position in my twin bed so that my head was at the foot of the bed closer to the ceiling fan. All was well until I got up to use the restroom in the middle of the darkest night. I could not see a thing but I touched the bed with my hand to guide me in the right direction. I had forgotten that I had changed my position and so while I thought I was carefully heading to the restroom, instead I was heading in the opposite direction, and I walked into a concrete block wall. I was stunned and confused. And boy, did it leave a mark. All of this occurred because I wasn't as careful as I should have been while walking in the dark.

The Apostle John wrote in 2 John 8, "Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward."

All believers should be careful as they go about their lives each day. We must not grow lax in our devotion to Christ, our families, our churches, and His mission. We may end up heading in the wrong direction with painful and regrettable results.

This verse commands believers to "watch yourselves". It is a passionate warning. It is not a suggestion and it is especially needful in the days in which we live. The Apostle's warning is made so that we don't lose what we have worked for. This includes such significant things as the favor of God, the love and respect of our loved ones, close friendships with our brothers and sisters, and much more. Let's heed this simple verse so that we don't walk into walls but instead walk in the Light of Jesus. Then we will "receive a full reward".

Coming alongside,
Mike

JANUARY



Multiplying Disciples Workshop
with Pastor & Discipleship Strategist
Bob Magruder



from Fishhawk Fellowship Church

January 22, 2024

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(lunch provided)

We know that we are commanded to make disciples but many churches struggle to obey this command. Hear from a practitioner who has been discipling believers for many decades and he will share how your church can begin or continue to make disciples who make disciples.

TBBA Office | 1060 W Busch Blvd. | Tampa FL 33612
Contact Jan at (813) 935-3839 or jjones@tbba.org to register.

FEBRUARY

THE SMALL CHURCH SUMMIT
A One-Day Training with Karl Vaters
 Available dates from February 12th-19th | \$10 to register
[More Info](#)

SMALL CHURCH SUMMIT

(For all churches under 200)

A One-day Training with Karl Vaters

Topics include:

Small is not Broken

Thinking like a Great Small Church

Bringing New Life to an Existing Small Church

Becoming a Great Small Church

The TBBA is happy to partner with four Central Florida Baptist Associations to bring the Small Church Summit to Tampa.

Monday, February 19th
University Baptist Church
2121 E 131st Ave, Tampa, FL 33612
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Just \$10 to register.

REGISTER NOW

Being small is not a problem to fix, but a strategy God wants to use.

Meet Karl Vaters

Karl's heart is to help pastors of small churches (up to 90 percent of us) find the resources to lead well, and to capitalize on the unique advantages that come with pastoring a small church –

something virtually every pastor will spend at least some of his ministry years doing. He also believes that big and small churches can and should work together more often – to the benefit and blessing of everyone.



Karl also hosts a bi-weekly podcast, *The Church Lobby: Conversations on Faith & Ministry*. Episodes feature in-depth interviews with leaders about the topics that concern pastors, especially those who minister in a small church context.

Karl has written for many publications, including *ChristianityToday.com*, *Outreach Magazine*, and more. Karl has been in pastoral ministry for over 40 years. He is the teaching pastor of Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, a healthy small church in Orange County, California, where he has ministered for over 30 years with his wife, Shelley. They have three children and two grandkids.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER DATES AND LOCATIONS](#)





**Florida Baptist Convention
Challenge 2025 Gathering**
February 27, 2024
8:45am - 3:00pm
First Baptist Orlando

Incredible Breakout Sessions include:

Lead/Senior Pastor Track with Dr. Tommy Green

Church Worship, 250 below with Lewis Miller & Wayne Briant

Church Worship, 250 – 750 with Patrick Coats & Phillip Herrington

Church Worship, 750 above with Jeff Singletary & Al Fernandez

Hispanic Pastors with Emanuel Roque

Haitian Pastors with John Voltaire

Asian-American Pastors with Lito Lucas

Brazilian Pastors with Lecio Dornas

Second Chair Leader Track | Cyber Fraud Prevention with Micah Ferguson

Missions – Global with Myles Dowdy

Women's Ministry with Cindy Bradley

Next Gen Leaders (All Next Gen Leaders) with Nathan Schneider

Church Planting with James Peoples

Worship Leaders with Terry Williams

Christian Schools with Clayton Cloer

Second Chair Leader Track | Generosity/Stewardship with Rick Wheeler

Missions – Local with Myles Dowdy

Pastors Wives with Karen Green

Individual Registration – \$30

Church Leadership Registration (all pastors, key leaders from church) – \$120

Register before December 31st and receive 50% off.

Register at flbaptist.org/event/challenge-2025-gathering/



 First Baptist
BRANDON

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

 **FRIDAY**
02 February 2024

 **TIME**
7:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER
Whitney Capps

Whitney Capps is a national speaker for Proverbs 31 Ministries and a writer for the new Bible app, First 5. Whitney's first book, Sick of Me, and bible study, We Over Me, were released in March of 2019. As a bible study geek, Whitney's delight is to dig into God's Word for profound yet practical truth.



REGISTER NOW

fbcbrandon.org/women

2024 EXPONENTIAL CONFERENCE

ONEIGHTY
The Return to Disciple Making
March 5-7

Although making disciples is the clear mission of the Church, when asked, most churches say that making disciples who make disciples is still their biggest weakness.

We sense God is calling the church to return to its primary purpose, to make disciples who make disciples. In order for us to do that we must make a **one eighty** turn with five essential shifts back to disciple-making in our life and leadership. Join 5,000+ leaders and practitioners to multiply your insights and impact.

Do not miss this
THREE-DAY DISCIPLE MAKING OUTING

EXPONENTIAL CONFERENCE Orlando

First Baptist Church Orlando
3000 S John Young Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32805
[[map](#)]

Tuesday, March 5 - Thursday, March 7

SPECIAL TBBA OFFER

Only \$140 per person
includes conference registration AND two nights lodging!

Thanks to the generosity of the Tampa Bay Baptist Association and the Tampa Bay Baptist Foundation, we are able to make this three-day outing affordable for the first 20+ pastors who can attend.

Email or call Jan at jjones@tbba.org | (813) 935-3839
to take care of your official registration.

(Do not register with Exponential directly. We are paying for all of the tickets and housing, so will be asking you to reimburse us a check for \$140, paid to TBBA).

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS





TBBA Preaching Conference

Dr. Stephen Rummage of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma did an incredible job of training close to 30 pastors and church leaders who attended the Annual TBBA Preaching Conference on November 7-8 at Living Faith Bible Fellowship. He taught on:

Moving from the biblical text to the sermon
(inductive Bible study, make observations, ask questions)
Communicating the sermon's main idea
Expository Sermon Development
(explanation, illustration, application)

A special thanks goes out to Pastor Darryl Williamson and his hard-working volunteers for hosting all of us.

COMMUNITY & MINISTRY

El Shaddai Baptist

- The church is in need of a free pulpit because of termite damage to their old one. Contact Pastor Felix Walters (813) 352-8002 if you have a pulpit that you are able to give to his church.

First Baptist of Dover

- First Baptist of Dover is seeking a Director of Children's Ministries. This is a full time (30-35 hours/week) position. College degree in a relevant field; Children's ministries experience. Send resumes to: tj.francis@fbcdooverfl.com.

First Baptist of Lutz

- First Baptist of Lutz is seeking a full-time Executive Administrative Assistant. The Assistant will report directly to the Senior Pastor and will offer support to the Pastoral Staff and to the church body. The position is in the church office, with duties divided between clerical and congregational needs. Submit resume and references to FBC Lutz, Attention: Personnel Committee.

Manhattan Baptist

- Manhattan has several pianos and two organs they would like to donate. Contact Sue Turner 813-841-4585 for more information.

Sheldon Road Baptist

- Sheldon Road Baptist is looking for a part time music leader. Does not need to be a member. Please call Pastor Mark Nunes at (813) 545-6374 for more information.

West Broad Street Baptist

- West Broad Street Baptist is seeking a P/T Bookkeeper/Secretary. Hours Tue, Wed, Thur. 9am-3pm. Experience with Microsoft Office programs required. Please send resumes or inquires to wbsbctampa@gmail.com

Tampa Bay Baptist Association | 1060 W. Busch Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612, FL 33612

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