



Coming Alongside **February , 2024**

Living Water Tastes Great!



In October of 2023 I had a large kidney stone that would not pass on its own. I was told that it needed to be crushed and so it was done in mid-December. It was not the best seven weeks of my life. I learned that there are various causes of these stones and one of the primary ones is not drinking enough water. Because I would like to avoid having another stone in the future, I decided to start drinking 80+ ounces of water per day. I have since discovered that drinking lots of water is enjoyable.

In a spiritual sense, it is possible for believers to not drink enough from the Living Water that Jesus offers. They might settle for a sip or two whenever they hear their pastor preach on Sunday. They might be satisfied with occasionally reading their Bibles and attending a small group. But they can still miss out on drinking deeply from the well of the living water of Jesus. Only Jesus can quench the deepest yearning of our souls and the scriptures include a number of passages that describe our walk with God in terms of water, springs, fountains, and more. Some great Bible verses are shown below and I've underlined some key words for emphasis. Applying the truths of these verses to our lives tastes great!

Psalm 36:8-9 They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights. 9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Jeremiah 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Psalms 84:5-6 How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. 7 Passing through the valley of Baca (weeping) they make it a spring; the early rain also covers it with blessings.

John 4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. 38 He that believes on Me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Let's encourage one another to drink daily and deeply from the refreshing and life-giving living water of Jesus. Then we can share what we are enjoying with others who are thirsty.

Coming alongside,
Mike

FEATURED THIS MONTH



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.

Please RSVP to Jan Jones (jjones@tbba.org) | 813-935-3839

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](#)

OTHER FEBRUARY EVENTS



Florida Baptist Convention **Challenge 2025 Gathering**

February 27, 2024

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

8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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 HERE -> fbaptist.org/event/challenge-2025-gathering/



J15 Monthly Pastors Gatherings

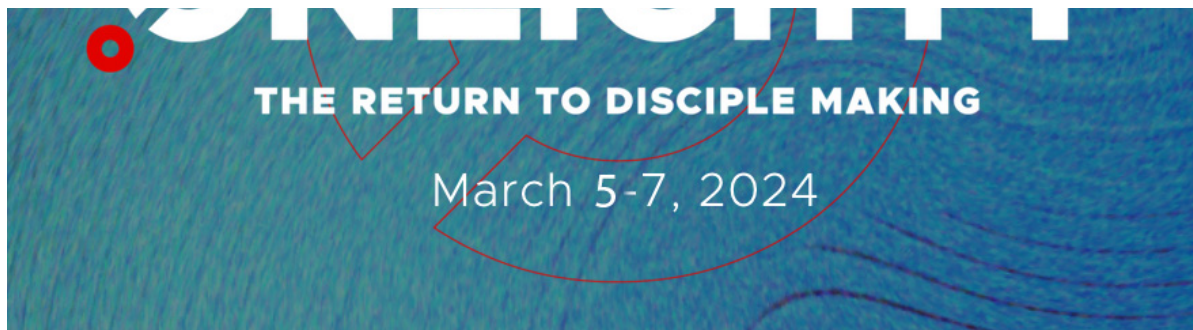
Pastors, join us once a month for a time in the word, earnest prayer, and encouragement and fellowship during a free lunch.

Every First Thursday in Tampa
Every Fourth Wednesday in Brandon

[Click here for details](#)

MARCH





2024 EXPONENTIAL CONFERENCE

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.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 - Thursday, March 7, 2024

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](#)]

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).*

APRIL



Informational Lunch and Preview Meeting

Free Relational Evangelism Training and Resources

Join us for lunch at the TBBA on April 15, 2024 to meet Pastor Artur Borges:

- We are going to to learn more about ShareWord Global
- and about the free, relational evangelism training that we are hosting on June 1, 2024 at Idlewild.

April 15, 2024

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tampa Bay Baptist Association

1060 W. Busch Blvd. Tampa 33612

TBBA is partnering with ShareWord Global to offer a free Relational Evangelism training on June 1, 2024 for all of our churches. Come to this April luncheon for Pastors and Leaders to learn about this great ministry and how your church can benefit from the June training.

Please RSVP to Jan Jones (jjones@tbba.org) | 813-935-3839



Pastor Artur Borges is Director of International Engagement for ShareWord Global. He has served the church for more than 20 years as a pastor and leader. Most recently, Artur has successfully launched ShareWord's ministry in Brazil, bringing a great mix of



leadership, international experience and passion to see God's Kingdom expanding to all nations.



Evangelism Kit

The NAMB Evangelism Kit (available in English and Spanish) provides you with training and resources to help you create and sustain a culture of evangelism within your church so that personal evangelism can become its heartbeat.

NAMB Evangelism Kit Trainings

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to deepen your evangelism focus and learn about the latest resources available to all churches.

April 22, 2024
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

First Baptist Lake Wales
338 E Central Ave
Lake Wales, FL 33853

SPEAKERS: NAMB Evangelism Team

PRICE: Training is free

INCLUDES: NAMB Evangelism Kit, Catered Lunch

Join the North American Mission Board for this free Evangelism Kit Training designed to equip Pastors, Pastoral Staff, and Mission Leaders with the tools and resources to create an evangelism-focused culture in your church.

[REGISTER NOW: Each attendee must register separately](#)

SAVE THE DATE



May 16, 2024 - Rooftop Encounter at First Baptist Tampa. Details coming soon.



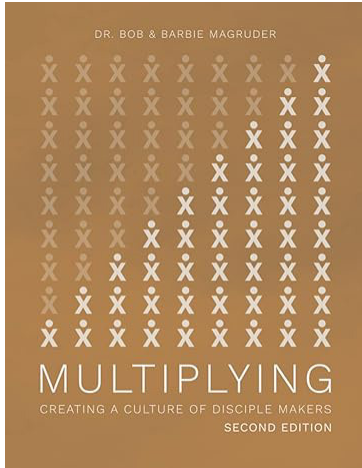
May 20, 2024 - TBBA Executive Committee

meeting.



June 1, 2024 - ShareWord Global Evangelism Training and Resources at Idlewild. Get more info at the informational lunch (see above).

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Multiplying Disciples with Dr. Bob Magruder

We were honored to host more than 30 pastors and leaders who want to know more about making disciples, and creating a culture of discipleship in their churches.

Thank you to Dr. Bob Magruder for coming and investing in our men and women.

[Learn more about Pastor Bob's workbook here.](#)

COMMUNITY & MINISTRY



West Broad Street Baptist

- Join us in congratulating West Broad Street Baptist Church and Pastor Roger Bunner as they celebrated their 60th anniversary on Sunday, February 4, 2024.

El Shaddai Baptist

- El Shaddai 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@fbcdoverfl.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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