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Coming Alongside **June, 2026**

SOME THINGS YOU DON'T DRIVE PAST



Forty-one years ago, Southern Baptists packed a Dallas arena in record numbers — more than 45,000 strong — to settle a single question: Is the Bible true, all the way down? They answered yes. They affirmed that Scripture is inerrant, authoritative, and trustworthy in everything it says, and that conviction has fueled our convention ever since. Everything we are as Southern Baptists rests on that one settled matter.

This June, the largest gathering of Southern Baptists in five years will assemble just ninety minutes up I-4 from us. More than 13,000 messengers — part of an expected 20,000 total attendance — will fill the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando for the 2026 SBC Annual Meeting, June 7–10. It is the convention's biggest crowd since Nashville in 2021, and the first time the meeting has returned to Orlando since 2010. The theme is "Walking Worthy," drawn from Ephesians 4:1–3.

I love that theme, and I want you to share with you why. A Bible we believe to be inerrant and true is a Bible meant to be walked. Paul's charge is to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called." We do not merely defend the truth of Scripture; we live it, in how we love one another and how we carry the Gospel to people who have never heard it. And the calling could not be clearer: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

That is why this year's meeting is more than denominational business. The week before the gavel falls, Crossover — Southern Baptists' citywide evangelism effort —

will saturate Central Florida from June 1–7, 2026 with block parties, one-day outreach events, door-to-door witnessing, and a Harvest Day emphasis that Sunday. Pastor David Uth of First Baptist Orlando has reminded us there are more than one million people in the Orlando region who do not yet know Jesus Christ. A million. In our own backyard.

Why this year matters

Messengers tend to show up in large numbers when something consequential is on the line, and this year qualifies. Our convention will elect a new president, weigh resolutions on the office of the pastor, disability ministry, immigration, political violence, and artificial intelligence, and continue the hard, necessary work of abuse reform and strengthening our cooperative giving for missions. The meeting will also pause to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. These are family decisions, and our family includes 150 churches right here in Tampa Bay.

An amendment to the SBC Constitution will be proposed by Dr. Al Mohler. It will state that a "cooperating Southern Baptist church does not act to affirm, appoint, or endorse a woman serving in the office or function of a pastor/elder/overseer, such as preaching to the assembled congregation." For the past few conventions we have dabbled with this issue but this year it will be front and center. Southern Baptists understand that scripture teaches and our 2000 Baptist Faith & Message confirms that "the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by scripture". And yet we continue to discuss the specifics of how to adhere to what we confess the Bible teaches. Join me in praying for clarity, unity, and love as we attempt to follow biblical teaching on this issue.

One more thing

The men and women who filled that Dallas arena in 1985 contended for the truth of God's Word so that we could carry it forward. The best way to honor what they secured is not to argue it again — it is to walk it. To go. Orlando is a city of a million people who need the Lord, ninety minutes from your front door, and the door is wide open.

Some things we don't drive past. This year's SBC Annual Meeting might be one of them. What do you think?

I hope to see you there.

Coming alongside,
Mike

FEATURED





SBC ORLANDO Convention Schedule

The 2026 SBC Annual Meeting and Pastors' Conference is happening next week at the [Orange County Convention Center](#) in Orlando. Whether you plan to go as a messenger or just as an attendee, we hope to see you over there sometime between Sunday night, June 7, 2026 through Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

The theme for this year's meeting is "Walking Worthy" (Ephesians 4:1–3). And since it may be 10+ years before the national convention comes back to Florida, we are praying for a great turnout, especially of messengers from our churches. The week features main sessions, specialized micro-conferences, and multiple auxiliary events.

Here's a flyover of the schedule with some links that can help you get connected:

Sunday, June 7

- **2:00 PM – 9:00 PM:** Registration open
- **3:00 PM – 6:00 PM:** Women's Expo
- **4:00 PM – 7:00 PM:** Asian Collective Kickoff
- **Evening:** [SBC Pastors' Conference](#) main sessions begin

Monday, June 8

- **8:00 AM – 8:00 PM:** Registration open
- **Morning:** Pastors' Conference & Concurrent Micro-Conferences
- **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** NAAF Annual Business Meeting & NAMB SBC Chaplains Fellowship.

Tuesday, June 9

- **7:30 AM – 6:00 PM:** Registration open
- **8:00 AM – 6:00 PM:** SBC Annual Meeting commences (Main Session Hall)
- **8:00 AM – 2:00 PM:** Women's Expo

Wednesday, June 10

- **8:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Final SBC Annual Meeting session and business reports

To view the full, hour-by-hour breakdown of reports, worship lineups, and breakout seminars, visit the [2026 SBC Annual Meeting Schedule page here](#). If you are attending and planning to utilize special hotel or theme park offers, you can review details on

the [Universal Orlando Resort](#) discount page.

JUNE EVENTS



Maggiano's **Senior Pastors and Wives Dinner Date**

Thursday Night, June 25, 2026

Maggiano's Little Italy
Westshore Mall
203 Westshore Plaza, Tampa, FL 33609
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

We want you to take your wife on a dinner date — **on us!**
Enjoy a delicious dinner and an encouraging Word.

RSVP with Jan and put it on your calendar.

This is a free event for senior pastors and their wives.

RSVP to Jan Jones at
jjones@tbba.org | 813-935-3839

JULY EVENTS



AI and the Church Part 2

Moving Beyond the Conversation Into Practical Ministry

July 20, 2021

FBC Tampa
302 W Kennedy Blvd
Tampa, FL 33606

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for AI and the Church – Part 1. Together, we explored the fears, truths, opportunities, and wisdom surrounding Artificial Intelligence. We discussed how AI is impacting society, ministry, discipleship, leadership, and the future of the Church. Most importantly, we considered how believers can approach this rapidly changing technology with biblical discernment

rather than fear.

Now, we invite you to join us for AI and the Church – Part 2, a deeper and more practical workshop designed specifically for pastors, ministry leaders, church staff, and volunteers who want to understand not only what AI is, but how it actually works and how it can be used wisely in ministry.

In this second session, we will go beyond the headlines and explore the "engine" behind Artificial Intelligence. We will examine how modern AI systems function, what powers large language models, where their strengths and limitations lie, and why understanding the technology matters for effective ministry leadership.

This workshop will include practical demonstrations, real ministry applications, and hands-on examples that can help churches use AI responsibly for communication, administration, discipleship, research, content creation, outreach, and leadership development. We will also discuss ethical concerns, common mistakes, and best practices for maintaining biblical integrity while leveraging these new tools.

Whether you are completely new to AI or have already begun experimenting with it, this workshop will provide valuable insights and practical skills that you can immediately apply in your ministry context.

Join us as we continue this important conversation and discover how church leaders can engage Artificial Intelligence with wisdom, discernment, and confidence.

This gathering reflects TBBA's mission to equip and encourage churches across Tampa Bay. Come ready to ask questions, share experiences, and consider how these tools might serve your congregation and your community.

REGISTER HERE



LET'S GO RAYS

Pastors +1 Outing at the Trop

Senior pastors can bring along their spouse, a family member, or a friend.

July 30, 2026

Game Start is 12:10 p.m.

Pastors! Join us for a matinee game against the Texas Rangers at Tropicana Field in Downtown St. Petersburg.

This a free event for our pastors and one guest.

This year, we will attempt to ensure that all registrants attend the game. Therefore, when a pastor registers through Zeffy he will pay \$40 (\$20 for himself and \$20 for his guest). He will be reimbursed the \$40 in cash at the ball game.

Each attendee will receive a game ticket, additional cash for lunch, and a Rays ball cap.
Pastors will pay for their own parking.

You are on your own for transportation, too, or you can try to catch a ride with one of us from the TBBA office. Let us know.

RSVP through Zeffy by clicking the below button.
Space is limited. First come first serve.



SAVE THE DATE FOR AUGUST





TBBA is partnering with ShareWord Global to offer a free Relational Evangelism training for all of our churches. Bring your pastors and leaders.

IGNITE

Relational Evangelism Training

Join Us for this FREE event

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Harvest Baptist Fellowship

5902 N Himes Ave, Tampa, FL 33614

Training 8:30 a. m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Join others to initiate gospel conversations 1:00 p. m. - 2:30 p. m.

Registration links and more details to follow

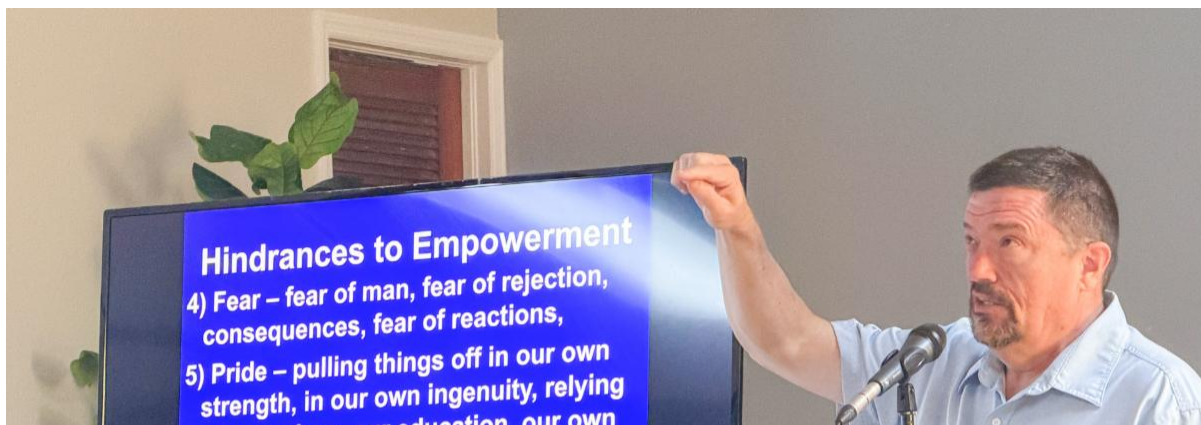
Four Core Evangelism Skills

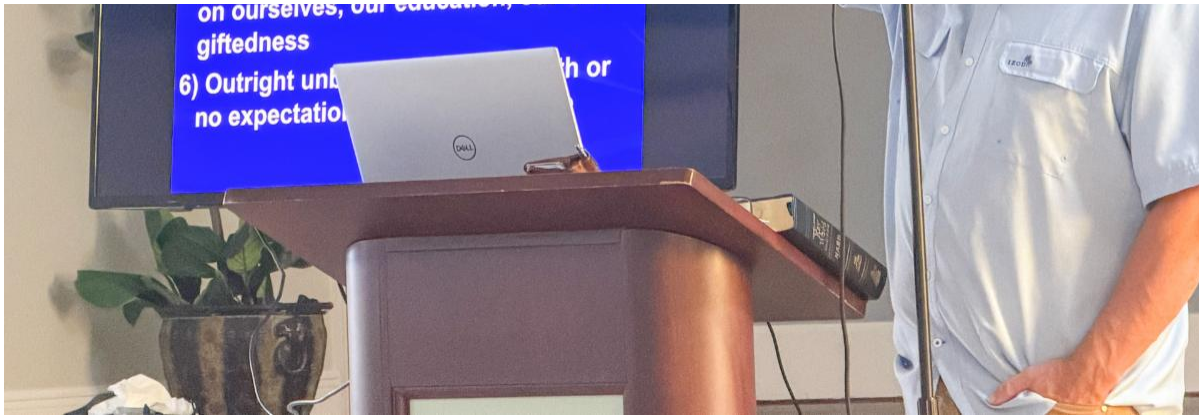
Come and learn this simple "Grid-Evangelism" training aimed at bringing church-wide evangelism participation within reach.

You can take these tools and strategies and train your entire church in one Saturday.

[DOWNLOAD THE BROCHURE -> CLICK HERE](#)

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS





TBBA Preaching Conference 2026

Thank you to Pastor Darryl Williamson and the amazing staff and volunteers of Living Faith Bible Fellowship for hosting our TBBA Preaching Conference on May 18, 2026.

We had a Spirit-led time with Dr. Greg Heisler, who in addition to being a pastor and former preaching professor, is the author of a great book called, [*Spirit-Led Preaching: The Holy Spirit's Role in Sermon Preparation and Delivery*](#).

Pastor / Dr. Greg inspired us to preach the Inspired Word of God with the meaning that the Spirit intends, and he did so in a way that encouraged us spiritually and practically. We pray it was a blessing for those who were able to join us on a Monday morning and afternoon. We hope you will look forward to joining us for this super, annual event next year.



COMMUNITY & MINISTRY

Christ Fellowship South Tampa (formerly Manhattan Baptist)

- **WORSHIP LEADER** — Part-time, paid position. Multi-ethnic, multi-generational congregation. Christ Fellowship South Tampa is planting a

new church in the old Manhattan Baptist (4300 S Manhattan Ave | Tampa FL 33611). They are praying for a called man to come lead in the style of Maverick City, Elevation Worship, and Gospel. Contact Pastor Zachary Carroll zachary@christfellowshiptampa.com.

Concord Baptist Church

- Concord Baptist (2224 Corrine St, Tampa, FL 33605) is seeking a volunteer worship leader for Sunday morning worship services. Call Pastor Jimmy Evans (813) 248-8702.

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

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