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*Coming Alongside, **September 2026***

FIRST THINGS FIRST



Pastor Jack Graham wrote, “The first hour of your day sets the trajectory and tempo for the rest. Pray. Read. Worship. Think. Everyday matters.” I agree with Dr. Graham that there is nothing more important than intentionally starting one's day by spending uninterrupted, quality time with our Lord.

We are all creatures of habit. Some of our habits are great and some of our habits are not so great. It is a good thing for us to routinely examine our habits, especially the essential ones, because they affect everything else. The writer of Hebrews states, “But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice, have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Hebrews 5:14)

It is through Spirit-led, Bible inspired practice and repetition that we become mature and learn to do what is “good” and not “evil”. A musician learns to play his instrument through endless hours of practice. An athlete can only achieve greatness through repetition. If we humble ourselves and ask the Lord to change us, then through the repetition of seeking His face in worship, prayer, repentance, and the intake of His holy Word, He will powerfully transform us to become more like Jesus.

Let us examine how we are doing in our personal habit of seeking the Lord

because we know that we must keep “first things first”. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.”

Coming alongside,
Mike

OCTOBER EVENTS



Executive Committee Meeting MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

Join us for fellowship, inspiration, prayer, and lunch.

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

TBBA Office | 1060 W Busch Blvd. | Tampa FL 33612

- Participate in prayer with and for each other
- Hear, discuss, and vote on Committee reports
- Enjoy free lunch after the meeting

RSVP to Jan Jones (813) 935-3839 or email janjones@tbba.org



We're Changing the Celebration!

***We will conduct business before the celebration
and shorten the celebration.***

Come and enjoy inspirational worship, a few stories of God's work in our churches and plants, and hear a powerful message from Pastor Cliff Lea, who has been the lead pastor at FBC Leesburg since 2007.

***4:00 p.m. Snack dinner &
4:15 p. m. - Brief Business Meeting***
(Fellowship Hall / Dining Room on the First Floor)

5:00 p.m. Celebration
(Worship Center)

Sunday, October 18, 2026

First Baptist Church of Tampa
302 W Kennedy Blvd
Tampa, FL 33606

**Keynote Speaker — Pastor Cliff Lea
FBC Leesburg**

No RSVP required

Contact Jan Jones (813) 935-3839 or email jjones@tbba.org for more info.



Why would you want to come and hear from Pastor Cliff Lea?

Many of us lead churches with long histories in neighborhoods that have changed around us. Pastor Cliff Lea has been in that same place.

Since 2007, he has led First Baptist Leesburg, a church founded in 1881.

Instead of settling into its past, the church has kept reaching outward. It now meets on three campuses and has been named to Outreach magazine's list of America's fastest-growing churches three times (2022, 2023 and 2025).

That growth rests on a simple conviction: *meet needs and share Christ*. And today, through its Christian Care Center, the church serves about 10,000 people a year. Its ministries include residential recovery programs for men and women, the Samaritan Inn for mothers and children, a pregnancy center, a free medical clinic and the largest food pantry in Lake County.

The 2022 film "No Vacancy" told the story of how the Samaritan Inn began. People who serve with Pastor Lea say he is on that campus several times a week, mentoring men who came in with nowhere else to go. He is also a past president of the Florida Baptist Pastors' Conference, a husband of more than 30 years and a father of five sons.

If you've wondered what it looks like when an established church loves its city in ways the whole city can see, come hear from a pastor who is doing it. And bring your leaders with you.

We look forward to seeing you there.





*Help the Married & Engaged Couples
in Your Church*

**Prepare/Enrich
Certification Training
with Darin Saley**

October 24 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Prepare/Enrich is the most trusted and proven premarital and marriage assessment in the world. **Darin Saley** will train you to become a *certified* Prepare/Enrich Facilitator.

You will learn how to:

- Prepare couples to take the Prepare/Enrich relationship assessment
- Interpret assessment insights and provide personalized feedback
- Initiate meaningful discussions and facilitate relationship skill-building exercises
- Help couples build resilient relationships and significantly reduce the chances of divorce
- Give couples tools/resources needed for a lasting marriage.

Cost is \$99 per couple (same price for couples or individuals)

TO REGISTER AND PAY CLICK ON THE BUTTON BELOW

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

For more info call or email Jan Jones (813) 935-3839 | [email](#)

SAVE THE DATE



Many pastors today feel like they are running on empty and some are privately struggling to survive the pressures of the pastorate and of life in general. Every pastor I know is in need of a fresh filling of God's Spirit, power, and grace. A Pastors' Prayer Summit is designed to be an incredible time of spiritual renewal that enables pastors to leave the summit thriving, rather than just surviving.

These Summits can enable pastors to experience a renewed love for the Lord, others, and His mission by creating prayer environments of worship, singing, stillness, quietness, reflection, repentance, intercession, petition, and more. Pastor Paul Purvis, some of his staff, and Mike Kahn will facilitate a wonderful time of renewal in God's manifest presence through Spirit-led, Scripture-fed, worship-based prayer.

Begins: 10:30am on Wednesday, November 4
Concludes after lunch on Thursday, November 5

Wednesday

10:30am House of Prayer

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Praying God's Word

2:00pm Prayer & Repentance

3:00pm Building a Church Culture of Prayer

4:30pm Dismiss to Churches

Thursday

9:00am Prayer Summit

Worship, Reflection, Repentance, Intercession

12:00pm Lunch

Mission Hill Church

10002 N. 56th St.

Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Lunch is included on Wednesday & Thursday

Cost - \$20/person

RSVP through Zeffy by clicking on the green button below

or you can mail a \$20 check to the TBBA office

1060 W Busch Blvd. Tampa FL 33612

REGISTER HERE FOR THE PRAYER SUMMIT

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

ShareWord Global Evangelism Event

We had an amazing time on August 29, 2026 at Harvest Baptist Fellowship as numerous people, from many churches came together to focus on sharing the Gospel through relational evangelism. Special speaker, Mark Mittelberg was phenomenal and the four Breakout Sessions were great. After the training, many of the attendees went out to share the gospel in the downtown and church areas.

A special thanks goes out to the Harvest Baptist Fellowship members who hosted the event and to Yerusha Bunag of ShareWord Global for coordinating much of the training.

As a follow up to this event, please contact Jan Jones at (813) 935-3839 if you want to offer the ShareWord Global training for free at your church in the near future.

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.

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

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