

2021 FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION



159th Annual Meeting | 167 Years Since Organization
Year 2020-2021 Convention Guidebook

Held in the facilities of the
LAKES CHURCH
1010 E. Memorial Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33801

flbaptist.org



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Welcome to the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Serving as our state convention president for the past three years has been a tremendous blessing, as I have had the privilege to experience the mighty way in which God uses Florida Baptists to make an impact for the Kingdom of God.

Our theme for this year's gathering is "Blessed Be the Tie." As we continue to navigate this very challenging season in our lives and churches, which required that we cancel last year's gathering, it is my prayer that we will continue to work cooperatively to impact our state and beyond with the gospel. It is my conviction that just as God has blessed Florida Baptists during this unprecedented season, that He will continue to bless our efforts to cultivate unity and diversity within our convention family.

During this year's meeting, I pray that we will celebrate how God is moving through our churches to reach our state, as well as, have an opportunity to reconnect, renew, and revive our hearts toward seeking God in prayer and worship as a family of believers.

I am grateful that we can serve in this convention in times like these. I am praying that God will work in and through us as we prepare for the harvest of souls in the days ahead. May God bless you, keep you and use you mightily, for His glory!

Humbly Submitted,

Erik D. Cummings, Sr.
President, Florida Baptist State Convention

Bienvenido a la reunión anual de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida. Servir como presidente de nuestra Convención Estatal durante los últimos tres años ha sido una tremenda bendición, ya que he tenido el privilegio de experimentar la poderosa forma en que Dios usa a los Bautistas de Florida para tener un impacto en el Reino de Dios.

Nuestro tema para el encuentro de este año es "Bendito Sea el Vínculo". A medida que continuamos navegando por esta temporada tan desafiante en nuestras vidas e iglesias, que requirió que canceláramos la reunión del año pasado. Es mi oración que continuemos trabajando cooperativamente para impactar nuestro estado y más allá con el evangelio. Estoy convencido de que, así como Dios ha bendecido a los Bautistas de Florida durante esta temporada sin precedentes, Él continuará bendiciendo nuestros esfuerzos para cultivar la unidad y la diversidad dentro de nuestra familia convencional.

Durante la reunión de este año, oro para que celebremos cómo Dios se está moviendo a través de nuestras iglesias para alcanzar nuestro estado, así como, tener la oportunidad de reconectarnos, renovar, y revivir nuestros corazones hacia la búsqueda de Dios en oración y adoración como una familia de creyentes.

Estoy agradecido de que podamos servir en esta Convención en tiempos como estos. Estoy orando para que Dios trabaje en y a través de nosotros mientras nos preparamos para la cosecha de almas en los días venideros. ¡Que Dios los bendiga, los guarde y los use poderosamente, para Su gloria!

Humildemente presentado,
Erik D. Cummings
Presidente, Convención Bautista de Florida

Byenvini nan reyinyon anyèl Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid la. Sèvi kòm prezidan pou konvansyon eta a pandan twa dènye lane sa yo se yon gwo benediksyon, paske li ban mwen privilèj pou fè eksperyans nan fason ekstrawòdinè jan Bondye itilize Moun Batis Florid yo pou fè enpak nan Wayòm Bondye a.

Tèm nou pou rankont ane sa a se "Beni Kòd La." Pandan nou kontinye ap travèse moman difisil sa yo nan lavi nou ansanm ak nan legliz nou yo, ki te pouse pou nou ranwaye rankont ane pase a, priyè mwen se pou nou kontinye travay nan kolaborasyon ansanm pou fè enpak nan eta a epi toupatou ak levanjil la. Mwen rete kwè menm jan Bondye te beni Moun Batis yo pandan sezon san parèy sa a, ebyen Li va kontinye beni tout efò nou yo pou pote linite ansanm ak divèsite nan fanmi konvansyon nou an.

Pandan rankont ane sa a, mwen priye pou nou rive selebre kòman Bondye ap avanse nan mitan legliz nou yo pou touche eta nou an, menm jan tou, pou nou gen opotinite pou rekonekte, rafrechi, epi renouvle kè nou nan direksyon pou chache Bondye nan priyè ak adorasyon tankou yon fanmi moun ki kwè.

Mwen kontan anpil pou nou kapab sèvi konvansyon an nan moman sa yo. Mwen ap priye pou Bondye rive travay nan nou epi ak nou pandan nou ap prepare pou rekòt nanm ki ap vini nan jou sa yo. Se pou Bondye beni ou, kenbe ou epi itilize ou byen fò pou glwa Li!

Avèk Anpil Imilite,
Erik D. Cummings
Prezidan, Konvansyon Batis Florid



Welcome to the 2021 Florida Baptist State Convention! Thank you Lakes Church and Pastor Aaron Burgner for your incredible hospitality in hosting our Florida Baptist Family. I am grateful that we are able to gather this year after the cancellation of the 2020 Convention meeting. It is a joy and blessing to be in the room together and hear a word from the Lord.

I appreciate the leadership of Pastor Erik Cummings, President of the Florida Baptist Convention, for this significant gathering. He has led with integrity, dignity, and grace over the past three years. I am excited for the 2021 theme of 'Blessed Be the Tie' for our meeting. We are a family of churches in Christ and He is the tie that binds us! Pastor Cliff Lea has a dynamic Pastor's Conference prepared following the emphasis of 'Fix Your Eyes On Jesus'. We are in store for three days of powerful worship, anointed preaching, focused prayer, and taking care of business matters.

I praise God for the depth of our fellowship, the strength of our relationships, and the focus of our unity to reach Florida for Christ. I ask that you continue to pray for a mighty move of God in the midst of our gathering. May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church with a mind to obey. Thank you for being present at the 2021 Florida Baptist State Convention annual meeting.

Dr. Tommy Green
Executive Director-Treasurer
Florida Baptist Convention

¡Bienvenido a la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida 2021! Gracias Lakes Church y Pastor Aaron Burgner por su increíble hospitalidad para ser anfitriones de nuestra Familia Bautista de Florida. Agradezco que podamos congregarnos este año después de la cancelación de la reunión de la Convención de 2020. Es un gozo y una bendición estar juntos y escuchar una palabra de parte del Señor.

Aprecio el liderazgo del pastor Erik Cummings, presidente de la Convención Bautista de Florida, para este encuentro significativo. Él ha dirigido con integridad, dignidad y gracia en los últimos tres años. Estoy entusiasmado por el tema del 2021 para nuestra reunión "Bendito Sea el Vínculo". ¡Somos una familia de iglesias en Cristo y Él es el lazo que nos une! El pastor Cliff Lea tiene preparada una dinámica Conferencia de Pastores siguiendo el énfasis de "Fija Tus Ojos en Jesús". Estamos en la expectativa de lo que pueda ocurrir por tres días de adoración poderosa, predicación ungida, oración enfocada, y ocuparnos de los negocios del Reino.

Alabo a Dios por la profundidad de nuestro compañerismo, la fortaleza de nuestras relaciones, y el enfoque de nuestra unidad para alcanzar a Florida para Cristo. Les pido que continúen orando por un poderoso movimiento de Dios en medio de nuestra reunión. Que podamos escuchar lo que el Espíritu le está diciendo a la iglesia con una mente para obedecer. Gracias por estar presente en la reunión anual de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida 2021.

Dr. Tommy Green
Executive Director-Treasurer
Florida Baptist Convention

Byenvini nan Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid 2021 an! Mèsi Lakes Church ansanm ak Pastè Aaron Burgner pou bèl fason ke ou resevwa Fanmi Batis Florid nou an. Mwen kontan anpil pou nou kapab reyini ane sa a aprè nou te ranwaye reyinyon Konvansyon 2020 an. Se yon plezi ak yon benediksyon pou nou nan plas sa a ansanm pou tandè pawòl Bondye.

Mwen apresye lidèchip Pastè Erik Cummings, Prezidan Konvansyon Batis Florid la, pou gwo rankont sa a. Li te dirije avèk entegrite, diyite, epi gras pandan twa dènye lane yo. Mwen kontan anpil pou tèm 2021 an ki se 'Beni Kòd La' pou rankont lan. Nou se yon fanmi plizyè legliz nan Kris epi Li se kòd ki mare nou ansanm! Pastè Cliff Lea gen yon bèl Konferans pou Pastè li prepare ki baze sou 'Fikse Zye Ou Sou Jezi'. Nou va gen twa jounen ranpli ak bèl adorasyon, prèch plen onksyon, priyè espesifik, epi regle koze biznis yo.

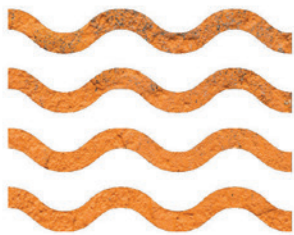
Mwen bay Bondye glwa pou pwofondè fratènite nou, fòs relasyon nou yo, epi jan nou fokis nan linite pou rive genyen Florid pou Kris. Mwen mande pou kontinye priye pou Bondye fè yon gwo bagay nan mitan rankont nou an. Se pou nou tandè sa Lespri a ap di legliz la avèk yon lespri pou nou obeyi. Mèsi pou prezans ou nan reyinyon anyèl 2021 Konvansyon Batis Eta Florid la.

Dr. Tommy Green
Executive Director-Treasurer
Florida Baptist Convention

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→ *Gathering*



flbaptist.org/challenge-2025



Florida Baptist
Convention

Right Beside You.

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Officers of the Convention

President: Erik Cummings, Carol City
First-Vice President: Michael Wiggins, Milton
Second Vice-President: Vanessa Cardona, Windermere
Recording Secretary: Randy Huckabee, Dade City

Committee on Order of Business

Dan Glenn, Deland, Chair
James Ross, Niceville, Vice-Chair
Daniel Dieg, New Smyrna Beach
Janey Frost, Pensacola
Pablito Lucas, Lakeland
Kevin Mays, Land O' Lakes
Jonathan Russell, Milton
Rick Stewart, Tallahassee
Eric Stitts, Daytona Beach

Credentials Committee

Scott Douglas, Parrish, Chair
Steve Loy, Port Orange, Vice-Chair
Stephen Ahrens, Sebring
Chris Coram, Jacksonville
Josh Gussler, Lady Lake
Steven Harness, Winter Haven
Eloy Rodriguez, Lutz

Tellers Committee

Zelvis Applin, Ruskin
Ron Smith, Palatka
Richard Williamson, Lakeland
Edgar Vasquez, Kissimmee

Convention Meeting Coordination

Convention Manager – Micah Ferguson
Registration/Credentials Coordinator – Lonnie Wright
Communications/News Team – Barbara Denman, Keila Diaz, Annie Pucciarelli,
Margaret Colson and Michael Duncan
Support Team – Jay Ballard, Patty Culbreth, Rosa Garcia, Phillip Hanes, Katrin Lindo,
Donatha Norde, Jennie Oswald, Loida Reyes, Scott Stanland and Heather Yonce

Standing Rules

Florida Baptist State Convention

Messengers are advised that the procedural rules that will govern the business sessions of the annual meeting are defined by the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention, specifically Bylaw 1, titled "Rules of Order." The highlights of those procedural rules are as follows:

A. Rules of Order: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the State Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention and these standing rules.

B. Standing Rules: The Committee on Order of Business shall act as the Committee on Standing Rules in presenting any standing rules (parliamentary and nonparliamentary procedural rules) for consideration by the State Convention during the first session of the State Convention meeting.

(1) The Committee on Order of Business, at the time it presents the program for adoption, shall call to the attention of messengers present, the existence of the following permanent rules that shall govern the conduct of business during the State Convention meeting:

(a) For admission to the assembly hall, under certain conditions and at the discretionary order of the State Convention president, to facilitate identification and seating, messengers, visitors, and others may be required to wear the badge issued by the Registration and/or the Credentials Committees.

(b) A resolution offered by an individual messenger(s) shall be in writing, signed by the maker who shall be a registered messenger to the State Convention, and shall be delivered directly to the desk of the Recording Secretary, after the resolution has been introduced. The introduction of a resolution shall be limited to only the title and/or topic of the proposed resolution being presented, with neither further explanation nor discussion. (See Guidelines for Handling a Motion of Resolution.)

(c) No messenger shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question during the same session, for no longer than three minutes each time, without the permission of State Convention messengers who may grant such a privilege by a two-thirds vote without debate.

(d) All reports and other material for the permanent record or printed proceedings shall be in typewritten form and, immediately on presentation, shall be delivered to the Recording Secretary.

(e) Nominations for each elected office to be filled by the State Convention shall be limited to one nominating speech of three minutes for each nominee. Nominees for any elected State Convention office shall be: a registered messenger; shall have agreed to be nominated; and shall be present on the platform at the time in which they are nominated.

(f) When more than one candidate is nominated for any convention office, a written ballot shall be taken from all registered messengers present and voting. The Teller's Committee, appointed by the State Convention President, shall collect the ballots, count the ballots, verify and certify the voting results. The chairman of the Teller's Committee shall provide to the State Convention President, on a timely basis as soon as is practicable after the respective vote, a written report on voting results. The report shall include the actual number of ballots cast, the number of votes received by each candidate, and the number of invalid ballots collected.

(2) All motions, resolutions and memorials, except those proposed by the State Board of Missions or by standing committees, and all recommendations made in reports of officers or committees of the State Convention, shall be referred to the Committee on Order of Business. The Committee shall determine appropriate disposition of these motions, resolutions and memorials. Motions of resolutions and recommendations proposed by the State Board of Missions or by State Convention Committees shall be presented by the Board or proposing committee directly to the State Convention, at a time designated by the Committee on Order of Business.

Guidelines

for Handling a Motion of Resolution

On November 13, 2000, the Administrative Committee of the State Board of Missions approved the following procedures for handling a motion of resolution.

1. During the first Miscellaneous Business session, a person introduces his/her motion or resolution by stating the subject. The presiding officer will seek to clarify, if necessary, the intent of the motion/resolution.

2. A written copy of the motion will be brought to the Recording Secretary's desk located at the front edge of the platform.

3. The Committee on Order of Business will set the time for discussion of the motion or resolution. If there is no other miscellaneous business scheduled, the committee could recommend consideration at the time the motion is made.

4. The time for discussion of particular motions/resolutions will be announced by the presiding officer.

5. At the appointed time set by the Committee on Order of Business, the maker of the motion will be permitted to speak to his/her motion/resolution. As a motion/resolution it will be considered by the Convention body, which may choose to debate, amend, table, refer, approve or defeat the recommendation.

6. The presiding officer, in consultation with the parliamentarian, will determine if a motion can be acted upon immediately, rule the motion out of order, or refer it to the Committee on Order of Business.

A copy of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution and Bylaws is located at the Registration Desk; or online at www.flbaptist.org/FBSCgovdocs.

Assistance – First Aid

Persons requiring first aid assistance should go to the Information Counter located in the Church Lobby.

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Web Broadcast

The proceedings of the Florida Baptist State Convention are being broadcast over the Internet. It is available at www.flbaptist.org during those periods the State Convention is in session.

Closed Caption / Translation

Audio translation is provided in Spanish and Haitian Creole. Closed captioning and text translation is provided in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, French, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, Burmese, Thai, and Chinese at www.flbaptist.org/cc



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Haitian Church Planter Has Heart To Reach Southwest Florida

LEHIGH ACRES—Originally from a small community in southeast Haiti, Daniel Garcon has seen areas that desperately need the gospel – and he believes southwest Florida is one of them.

After accepting a call to ministry in 2005 and realizing the importance and need for training, Garcon began church planting training with the Florida Baptist Convention and immediately fell in love with the southwest Florida region.

However, after serving at a church in Naples, the young man left the Sunshine State to spend a few years in Boston with his family.

“While I was in Boston, I knew exactly where God wanted me to be,” said Garcon. “I loved Boston, but I knew God was calling me to do a great work for Him in Florida.”

Describing himself as “having joy only when doing God’s will,” Garcon knew his burning desire to begin a new, fresh work in southwest Florida was not going to burn out anytime soon. He returned to Florida in 2018 and immediately began serving Haitian churches in the region.

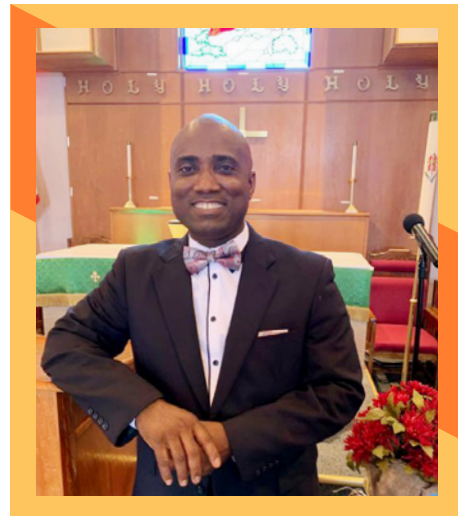
Convinced that God only needs a few faithful and willing hearts to do the work of ministry, Garcon and nine others planted Christ Center Fellowship of Lehigh Acres in June 2019 while going from house to house.

The congregation has a heart to reach the growing Haitian community in Lehigh Acres, a small town located 20 miles east of Ft. Myers. It seeks to be a “Christ-centered church” that is all about “teaching God’s Word and making disciples,” Garcon said.

To teach his members the importance of prayer as a spiritual discipline, Garcon has dedicated time to sharing the biblical mandate for prayer and how to spend more time in intentional prayer. Christ Center Fellowship gathers as a church family every Friday evening for an intimate time of corporate prayer.

“We spend much of our time praying for individuals and families in our church and have seen radical life change,” Garcon said. “Prayer is for our sanctification.”

Perhaps the most distinguishing mark of the church plant is a longing to reach the lost and unchurched in the community. Not wanting to limit its ministry, the church offers both Creole and English-speaking services in a storefront they now rent in the center of town. The church also plans on mailing gospel tracks and information to homes throughout their community and plan, what the pastor calls, an “evangelism explosion.”



Garcon, who serves bivocationally, intends to partner alongside other local churches in making personal phone calls and using old fashioned door-to-door evangelism methods to witness and share the gospel across the community.

“We are going to keep recruiting people to come to know Christ until He comes back,” Garcon said.

Garcon is careful not to be “ministry heavy, but servant driven.” With a goal not to have ministries for the sake of having ministries, the church has focused on a streamline approach to simply encourage members to serve when and where the need arises.

“We don’t want to have various ministries for the purpose of having a lot of ministries,” he said. “We must see a great need for that ministry.”

Now with more than 20 in attendance, Garcon’s next steps are to encourage and equip his members to serve. Garcon has encouraged existing members to serve and attend the church’s weekly prayer ministry, small groups, new members class and the praise and worship team.

“We have seen such a transformation in the church and the lives of the people,” he said. “Their testimony has confirmed to me that we can make an impact in our community.”

John Voltaire, Florida Baptists’ Haitian church catalyst, commended Garcon for his desire to reach his community. “Pastor Garcon loves the Lord and has a heart for ministry,” he said.

Garcon has a passion for Florida Baptist churches to cooperate and point a lost and dying world to the life they can find through placing their hope and trust in Jesus. He serves on the Church Relations Team for the Royal Palm Association.

“I believe local churches need to be united,” he said. “Local churches need to reach as many people as we can, while we can. Let’s get busy for the Lord, let’s get to work!”

By Jessica Pigg, Florida Baptist Convention, Jan 25, 2021

Program Personnel

Manuel Barahona, pastor, Westside Baptist Church, Boynton Beach

Tyrone Blue, senior pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church, Gainesville

Vanessa Cardona, second vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and member, Templo Biblico Bautista, Windermere

Erik Cummings, president, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and lead pastor, New Life Baptist Church, Carol City

James H. Deas, appointed parliamentarian, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and member, The Orchard Community Church, Live Oak

Dan Glenn, chair, committee on order of business; and pastor, Stetson Baptist, Deland

Kevin Goza, appointed parliamentarian, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Apopka

Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville

Phillip Herrington, chair, committee on nominations; and senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Live Oak

Randy D. Huckabee, recording secretary, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and pastor, First Baptist Church, Dade City

Theo Johnson, pastor, Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, Miami

Samuel Louis-Jean, pastor, Calvary Haitian, Orange Park

David Perez, senior pastor, Iglesia Casa de Bendicion, St. Cloud

James Ross, lead pastor, The Church on Bayshore, Niceville

Brian Stowe, president, state board of missions; and pastor, First Baptist Church, Plant City

David Tarkington, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orange Park

Adrian Taylor, senior pastor, Springhill Missionary Baptist Church, Gainesville

Ted Traylor, pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola

David Uth, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando

Felix Walters, pastor, Amazing Ministries at El Shaddai Baptist Church, Seffner

Micah Whitley, United in Worship praise team leader; and worship leader, Kingdom Covenant, Miami

Mike Wiggins, first vice-president, Florida Baptist State Convention;
and senior pastor, Pine Terrace Baptist Church, Milton

Florida Baptist Convention Board Elected Staff

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-TREASURER

J. Thomas Green, III, Executive Director-Treasurer

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Micah Ferguson, Director

Consulting Communications Editor | Barbara Denman

SUPPORT SERVICES GROUP

Stephens L. Baumgardner, Director

Accounting | Charles Staton, Director
Information Support Services | Lonnie D. Wright, Director

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East Florida | Craig E. Culbreth
North Florida | Gary Townsend
Central Florida | Jeffery L. Singletary
Southwest Florida | R. Wayne Briant
Southeast Florida | Al Fernandez

Hispanic Church Catalyst | Emanuel Roque
Haitian Church Catalyst | John Voltaire
Black/Multicultural Catalyst | Patrick Coats
Music/Worship Consultant | Terry Williams

MISSIONS and MINISTRIES GROUP

Myles Dowdy, Lead Catalyst

Community Ministries | Marcus O. Johnston, Catalyst
Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries | David Coggins, Catalyst
Migrant Ministries | Misael Castillo, Catalyst
Women's Missions & Ministries/Missions Education | Cynthia Bradley, Catalyst

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES GROUP

Nathan Schneider, Lead Catalyst

Collegiate Ministries

Lance Beauchamp, Baptist Campus Minister, Baptist College of Florida
Ben Braly, Baptist Campus Minister, Jacksonville Area
Brad Crawford, Baptist Campus Minister, Orlando Area
Quinton Englebright, Baptist Campus Minister, Pensacola Area
Eddie L. Gilley, Baptist Campus Minister, Gainesville Area
Jay Sanders, Baptist Campus Minister, Tampa Area
Barry Sproles, Baptist Campus Minister, Tallahassee Area

BLESSED BE THE TIME

A FAMILY GATHERING

Monday Afternoon - Session 1

11.08.2021

- 3:00 p.m. **Worship**
- 3:10 p.m. **Convention Convenes** | President's Theme Interpretation | Introductions
Erik Cummings
- 3:17 p.m. **Prayer** | Samuel Louis-Jean
- 3:22 p.m. **Right Beside You** | Challenge 2025 | Church Planting
- 3:34 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Manuel Barahona, pastor, Westside Baptist Church, Boynton Beach
- 4:11 p.m. **Worship**
- 4:21 p.m. **Pastors Memorial and Time of Prayer**
- 4:31 p.m. **Worship**
- 4:36 p.m. **Right Beside You** | Challenge 2025 | Church Revitalization
- 4:48 p.m. **Transition Instructions**
- 4:50 p.m. **Prayer** | David Perez
- 4:55 p.m. **Adjourn**

Monday Evening - Session 2

11.08.2021

- 6:45 p.m. **Prelude – Worship** | United in Worship
- 7:00 p.m. **Convention Convenes** | Welcome | Prayer
Theo Johnson
- 7:05 p.m. **Right Beside You** | Challenge 2025 | Baptism
- 7:11 p.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 7:21 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Tommy Green
executive director – treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention
- 7:58 p.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 8:08 p.m. **President's Message** | Erik Cummings
president, Florida Baptist State Convention
lead pastor, New Life Baptist Church, Carol City
- 8:45 p.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 8:50 p.m. **Prayer** | Mike Wiggins
- 8:55 p.m. **Adjourn**

Tuesday Morning - Session 3

11.09.2021

- 8:45 a.m. **Musical Worship** | United in Worship
- 9:00 a.m. **Convention Convenes**
- 9:05 a.m. **Prayer** | David Tarkington
- 9:10 a.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 9:20 a.m. **State Board of Missions Report** | Brian Stowe
- 9:40 a.m. **Miscellaneous Business**
- 9:45 a.m. **Cooperating Ministry Video** | The Baptist College of Florida
- 9:48 a.m. **Election of Officer** | President
- 9:53 a.m. **Cooperating Ministry Video** | Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
- 9:56 a.m. **Committee on Nominations Report** | Phillip Herrington
- 10:06 a.m. **Cooperating Ministry Report** | Florida Baptist Children's Homes
- 10:09 a.m. **Election of Officer** | 1st Vice-President
- 10:14 a.m. **Cooperating Ministry Video** | Florida Baptist Financial Services
- 10:17 a.m. **Election of Officers** | 2nd Vice-President | Secretary
- 10:22 a.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 10:37 a.m. **Convention Sermon** | James Ross, lead pastor, The Church on Bayshore, Niceville
- 11:14 a.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 11:19 a.m. **Biblical Message** | Ted Traylor, pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola
- 11:56 a.m. **Prayer** | Felix Walters
- 12:01 p.m. **Adjourn**

Tuesday Afternoon - Session 4

11.09.2021

- 1:45 p.m. **Prayer** | Tyrone Blue
- 1:50 p.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 2:05 p.m. **Right Beside You** | Challenge 2025 | Missions Engagements
- 2:17 p.m. **Veteran Recognition**
- 2:22 p.m. **Biblical Message** | Adrian Taylor, senior pastor, Springhill Missionary Baptist Church, Gainesville
- 2:59 p.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 3:10 p.m. **Right Beside You** | Challenge 2025 | Cooperative Program
- 3:25 p.m. **Biblical Message** | David Uth, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando
- 4:02 p.m. **Worship** | United in Worship
- 4:10 p.m. **Recognition of Officers**
- 4:20 p.m. **Prayer** | incoming president, Florida Baptist State Convention
- 4:25 p.m. **Dismiss**



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Burmese Pastor Faithfully Serves God At Jacksonville Emmanuel Baptist Church

They were a small group of Burmese believers, not yet an organized church, meeting weekly in an apartment in Jacksonville to worship and pray in their Falam dialect. And they were hoping that God would provide a man that could preach, teach and shepherd them in their language.

In July, 2014 a man in the group who knew Daniel Thang, heard that Daniel and his family had just arrived in America and were living in Illinois. He connected with Daniel through Facebook and asked him to come to Jacksonville to pastor the fledgling group of Burmese believers.

“The group took up a collection for my family to move here. It’s a wonderful and miraculous work by God to show His mercy and one of my greatest blessings to come here and establish a church where people actually need it,” said Daniel.

Daniel relocated to Florida with his wife and 3 children in September, 2014 and Jacksonville Emmanuel Baptist Church officially began in October.

They continued meeting in an apartment until Jong Oh Lee, pastor of the Korean First Baptist Church of Jacksonville invited them to use rooms in his church for worship; in 2015 they began meeting at the Atlantic Boulevard building and still meet there today.

According to Thang, there are about 1,000 Burmese people in the Jacksonville area.

“The Burmese people have many dialects, some states in Burma speak different dialects. Many cannot speak English nor can they speak Burmese, the common language of Burma,” says the pastor.

Because of the various dialects, there is a lack of communication. “Burmese people cannot communicate [with each other] and it’s hard to relate,” said Thang.

That is why, according to Thang, there are 10 Burmese churches in Jacksonville each with their own dialect.

Born in Burma (Myanmar), Thang was born again in 1984, yielding his life to Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior when he heard the gospel preached at an evangelistic crusade.

A year later he was called to the ministry and attended a Bible college in Falam, his home town.

After serving churches in Burma, then in India for 15 years, he and his family were ready to return to their home country in 2014. But due to civil unrest there, they could not go back.



Filing for refugee status with the United Nations, “by God’s will we came to Illinois,” Thang shared. From there they moved to Jacksonville.

There are now 47 members of Jacksonville Emmanuel Baptist who worship together on Sundays at 12:30, along with 24 children.

“We have a plan to have our own church building,” shared the pastor, and to date they have collected \$11,000 toward purchasing their own facility.

Thang has seen God at work at Emanuel as many can now pray publicly in front of others and have also learned to share their testimony, able to tell others what God has done in their lives.

The church has a strong women’s fellowship that meets twice a month, led by Thang’s wife, Lai Eng Mawi. And the congregation sends monthly support to a missionary family who serve in a Buddhist area in Mandalay, the second largest city in Burma.

Faithfulness is a hallmark of Thang’s life as he has followed God from Burma to India to Florida.

“I am so thankful for men of God like Pastor Daniel who continue to serve faithfully,” says Craig Culbreth, east catalyst, Florida Baptist Convention. “Even during the pandemic the church managed to continue to hold worship services. He is a model of faithfulness.”

Daniel acknowledges that God has led him and his family through difficult times. “I will always trust God despite circumstances,” he says.

Romans 10:11 is the verse that gives him confidence that if God is with him, “no one can put me or my family to shame, our needs will always be met by God,” declares the pastor.

By Barbara Hoffmann, Florida Baptist Convention, Sep 23, 2021

Prepare to live your calling at Southwestern Seminary

"With confidence and conviction, you can be assured that your Cooperative Program dollars are going to invest in a theological education that echoes the heartbeat of our Southern Baptist Convention of churches."

Adam W. Greenway, SWBTS President,
SBC Annual Meeting Report, 2021

SWBTS.EDU

Church Remains Hopeful Despite Hurricane Setbacks

PANACEA—While not noticeable to all, the communion table in front of the pulpit at First Baptist Church in Ochlockonee Bay shows the signs of the two hurricanes that flooded the church in the past 16 years.

There's the high watermark from Hurricane Dennis in 2005. And there, up a little higher, is the mark from Hurricane Michael in 2018. But these watermarks are not just reminders of the flooding and destruction caused by the hurricanes, they are also a testament to God's faithfulness and provision.

Despite the damages caused by the hurricanes, this small concrete block church – located about 50 minutes south of Tallahassee – continues its mission to the community it serves.

That's why Pastor James Chunn and church members were excited to bring back Vacation Bible School this year after missing it due to the pandemic in 2020. Chunn loves to brag about their VBS and how the Family Night celebration filled the church on its final night.

The bivocational pastor also loves bragging about the smooth and beautiful flooring at the church, the same flooring that children played and performed on all week during VBS. After carpeting was destroyed by Dennis, then replaced and destroyed by Michael, the church just kept its concrete flooring.

Thanks to a grant from the Florida Baptist Convention, the church was able to have its floors redone in recent months with a unique multi-layered coating process for the concrete floor. Not only does it add to the appearance of the church interior but it's also easy to maintain and won't be destroyed should another hurricane flood the area.

"Through the Florida Baptist Convention and all the different agencies and churches, it's truly said that when two or three are gathered in His name, He is there," Chunn said. "No matter how small the church is, He can do great things."

The grant is just one of the ways God has taken care of the church over the years, Chunn said. He can tell story after story of how churches and people from all over Florida came to assist them after both hurricanes:

- The Florida Baptist Disaster Relief team from Chattahoochee who cleaned and sanitized walls and pews after Dennis
- The church who rebuilt the pulpit stage after Dennis
- The church who put on a new metal roof after Michael
- The woman who donated her \$10,000 Baldwin organ to replace the one she saw sitting by the road with other storm debris.



Hurricane Dennis brought a storm surge of 6 to 9 feet in 2005, leaving three feet of water in the church and washing away a landmark waterfront restaurant just down the street from the church. The congregation was able to salvage the church's wooden pews after Dennis, but the organ was destroyed, as was the new, recently installed carpeting.

"We were hurt so bad from Dennis," said Chunn, who has the photos to share. "But we didn't miss a single service. An RV park nearby allowed us to use their recreation area for our services. And we held Bible study at a local restaurant."

Hurricane Michael was a Category 5 hurricane when it made landfall in October 2018 at Mexico Beach, about 82 miles west of Ochlockonee Bay. The standing water inside the church was even higher this time, and all the pews were destroyed, as was the donated organ.

That's when one church volunteered to replace the roof. Another church from South Florida sent 100 chairs, 60 of which are currently being used in the sanctuary. The church used part of the grant funds to pay for covers for these chairs, making them look like new.

"This can't be nobody but the Lord," Chunn said of how God has provided for specific needs. "God says trust in me and I'm going to take care of the things you need. For some reason, our Savior wants that little church right there."

The church is currently down to 38 members, but Chunn remains hopeful. For now, he continues to preach on Sunday morning during in-person worship while sharing it live via its Facebook page, like many churches have learned to do during the pandemic. The associate pastor does Bible study on Facebook on Wednesday nights.

"It's great to see that people are watching our little ol' service," he said. "I love Jesus and try to preach the best I can. If I can reach one person out of all those people, then it's worth being online."

As the church has made its way through hurricanes and worked through a pandemic, Chunn said they've learned to trust in God.

"Is it easy? Heck no, but He always come through, sometimes it's right at deadline," he said. "You just have to have patience and be faithful and trust in Jesus."

By David Moore, Florida Baptist Convention, Jul 27, 2021



STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS FLORIDA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

J. THOMAS GREEN, III
Executive Director-Treasurer

One Hundred and Fortieth Annual Report to the Florida Baptist State Convention Lakeland November 8-9, 2021

The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention respectfully submits this 140th annual report of the Board to the State Convention. There are 2,821 churches and missions affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention, with a total membership of 839,561.

The State Board of Missions is pleased to present this report to the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in Lakeland, Florida, November 8-9, 2021. This report covers the period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021.

1. Officers of the State Board of Missions

The 99 members of the State Board of Missions elected the following officers during the meeting of the Board on September 18, 2020, in Jacksonville, Florida:

- President: Brian Stowe, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Plant City, Florida
- Vice-President: Elijah Simmons, Pastor
Norwood Community Church
Jacksonville, Florida
- Recording Secretary: Phillip Hamm, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Palmetto, Florida

2. 2021 Meetings of the State Board of Missions

The State Board of Missions met on the following dates in 2021:

DATE	MEETING PLACE
February 25, 2021	Videoconference
April 9, 2021	Baptist Building, Jacksonville
August 27, 2021	Baptist Building, Jacksonville

3. Cancellation of 2020 Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting and Related Actions

On March 9, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency for the entire state due to COVID-19. The state of emergency was extended several times by Executive Order.

On August 27, 2020, the Florida Baptist State Convention officers and State Board of Missions standing committee chairpersons convened via video conference for discussion of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it would have on the 2020 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

After discussing the various situations Florida Baptist churches are facing with regathering, the varied levels of churches regathering in each region across our state, the risk for messengers gathering

and many other factors, the convention leadership unanimously voted to recommend the cancellation of the 2020 Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting scheduled for November 9-10, 2020, at the Lakes Church (formerly Church at the Mall) in Lakeland, Florida.

While the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution and Bylaws do not directly specify the action steps and authority for the cancellation of the annual meeting because of an emergency situation such as a world-wide pandemic, the governing documents do however, set forth powers for the State Board of Missions to change the meeting place and/or time of the annual meeting. Additionally, the Board is clearly permitted to act on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention ad interim.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on September 18, 2020, acting on the recommendation of convention officers, under the authority established in Article 4, Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution, the Board adopted the following:

(1) Revision of Annual Meeting Schedule

That the 2020 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention be cancelled and the following revised annual meeting schedule be adopted:

- 2020 November 9-10 – CANCELLED
- 2021 November 8-9 – Lakeland
- 2022 November 14-15 – Pensacola
- 2023 November 13-14 – Tampa
- 2024 November 11-12 – Ft. Lauderdale
- 2025 November 10-11 – Jacksonville
- 2026 November 9-10 – Orlando
- 2027 November 15-16 – Panama City

(2) Extension of Terms of Service for Elected and Appointed Leaders

That the following Florida Baptist State Convention Officers' terms of service be extended for one year, through the 2021 annual meeting of the State Convention, scheduled for November 8-9, 2021, in Lakeland, FL:

- Erik Cummings, president
- Mike Wiggins, first vice-president
- Vanessa Cardona, second vice-president
- Randy Huckabee, recording secretary

That each elected member of the Committee on Order of Business of the Florida Baptist State Convention with an expiring term be extended for one year and the individuals serving as the chairperson and vice-chairperson shall remain in their respective position of service through the 2021 annual meeting of the State Convention;

That each member of the Committee on Nominations of the Florida Baptist State Convention, as appointed by the Convention president, with an expiring term, be extended for one year, through the 2021 annual meeting of the State Convention;

That each member, director or trustee serving the State Board of Missions, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), The Baptist College of Florida or Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc., with an expiring term be extended for one year, until the 2021 annual meeting of the State Convention; and

That any member, director or trustee vacancy that occurs (for any reason) throughout the remainder of the year 2020 and in the year 2021 on the State Board of Missions, Florida Baptist Children's

Homes, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), The Baptist College of Florida or Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc., shall remain vacant until the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention scheduled for November 8-9, 2021, in Lakeland, Florida.

(3) Approval to Re-elect State Board of Missions Officers

That the following individuals be re-elected as officers of the Board through the November 2021 pre-state convention meeting of the State Board of Missions:

- Brian Stowe, president
- Elijah Simmons, vice-president
- Phillip Hamm, recording secretary

(4) Cancel and Revise 2020 and 2021 Meetings of the State Board of Missions

That the following revised schedule of meetings for the State Board of Missions be approved:

- November 9, 2020 **CANCELLED**
Pre-Convention Meeting, Lakeland
- November 10, 2020 **CANCELLED**
Organizational Meeting, Lakeland
- February 25, 2021 Online Videoconference Meeting
- April 7-9, 2021 Baptist Building, Jacksonville
(Orientation for new members to be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021)
- August 26-27, 2021 Baptist Building, Jacksonville
- November 14, 2021 Pre-Convention Meeting, Lakeland
- November 15, 2021 Organizational Meeting, Lakeland

(5) 2021 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget

That the State Board of Missions adopt on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the year 2021 Cooperative Program Basic Budget of \$28,500,000 based on the following distribution:

- (a) That all Cooperative Program income receipts be distributed on the following percentage allocation:

Southern Baptist Convention causes	51.00%
Florida Baptist Convention causes	49.00%

- (b) And that the Cooperative Program Basic Budget designated for Florida Baptist Convention causes (or 49% of total Cooperative Program income) be distributed on the following basis:

Programs of Mission, Ministry and Support \$11,573,000

Cooperating Ministries

The Baptist College of Florida	\$1,320,000
Florida Baptist Children’s Homes	\$912,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	\$160,000

- (c) That all Cooperative Program receipts received by December 31, 2021, and which are in excess of the budgetary requirements specified within the 2021 Cooperative Program budget shall be designated as Cooperative Program Excess Budget funds.

Furthermore, the Board directs that 51% of such excess funds be immediately distributed to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. Further recommendations and subsequent Board action on the distribution of the remaining 49% of Excess Budget funds shall be in keeping with the State Convention’s Business

and Financial Plan [Bylaw 16, B (3)(a)(b), Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention].

4. Members of the State Board of Missions

State Board of Missions members are assigned to serve on one of four standing committees. The following is a list of Board members by committee, noting their current term of service is in parenthesis:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

- Brian Stowe (2017-20), *Chair*
- Elijah Simmons (2017-20), *Vice-Chair*
- *Ralph Alderman (2019-22)
- Eddie Beville (2019-22)
- David Chauncey (2017-20)
- Erik Cummings (2019-20), *President, FBSC*
- Alan Cotney (2018-21)
- *Stella Cottrell (2019-22)
- Steven Davies (2018-20)
- *Lourdes Fernandez (2017-20)
- Phillip Hamm (2018-21)
- Thomas Jamieson (2019-21)
- Wadler Jules (2018-21)
- Mike Landry (2019-22)
- Noel Lozano (2019-22)
- *Rod Martin (2018-21)
- Elbert Nasworthy (2018-21)
- Mike Orr (2019-22)
- Timothy Pigg (2017-20)
- *Steve Simmons (2019-22)
- Scott Stanland (2019-22)
- David Tarkington (2017-20)
- Ron Tipton (2018-21)
- Jeremy Westbrook (2019-22)

Ex Officio Non-Voting Member
Phillip Hamm (2018-21), *Recording Secretary, State Board of Missions*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- David Tarkington (2017-20), *Chair*
- Trent Gann (2018-21), *Vice-Chair*
- *Christy Adams (2019-22)
- *James Davis (2018-21)
- Lecio Dornas (2018-21)
- Terry Elixson (2017-20)
- *Karl Fennimore (2017-20)
- Carl Fondren (2017-20)
- *Grady Gambill (2019-22)
- David Gold (2019-22)
- Asa Greear (2019-22)
- *Chester Gunn (2017-20)
- Kevin Lautar (2019-20)
- *Linda Maiden (2017-20)
- *Goose McCray (2018-21)
- Alberto Ocana (2019-22)
- *James Parrish (2019-22)
- Bobby Patton (2018-21)
- *Lynne Phillips (2017-20)
- *Benjamin Rodda (2018-21)
- Steven Ruff (2018-21)
- David Schorejs (2017-20)
- *Chris Spears (2017-20)
- Angel Turbeville (2019-22)
- *Christina Vargas (2017-20)
- Doug Watkins (2019-22)

DENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE

David Chauncey (2017-20), *Chair*
Mike Kahn (2018-21), *Vice-Chair*
Tadd Anderson (2017-20)
*Susan Bassler (2019-22)
Nathan Brown (2018-21)
Brian Calhoun (2018-21)
*Timothy Francis (2018-21)
*Josh Gussler (2017-20)
*Anna Guy (2019-22)
Charlie Higgins (2019-22)
*Patrick Inglett (2019-22)
Shawn Johnson (2019-22)
Tom Keisler (2018-21)
Joel Lamour (2019-22)
Mitchell Landress (2017-20)
Robert Neiman (2017-20)
*Guy Ernst Philippi (2017-20)
Jeff Robinson (2019-22)
Glenn Rogers (2017-20)
Danny Slavich (2018-21)
*Freslaine St. Louis (2018-20)
Matt Swain (2018-21)
Jerome Symonette (2019-22)
*James Thorpe (2017-20)
Scott Wilson (2019-22)

LOANS COMMITTEE

Scott Stanland (2019-22), *Chair*
Bob Wilson (2019-22), *Vice-Chair*
*Johnny Boatwright (2018-20)
*Paula Butler (2018-21)
David Crowe (2018-21)
Josh Dryer (2019-22)
Orvin Feliciano (2018-21)
David Flatt (2018-21)
*Garfield Francis (2018-21)
Rick Giles (2017-20)
Matt Gilmore (2019-22)
*Teresa Juarbe (2018-21)
John Marsh (2019-22)
*Freddie McIntosh (2018-20)
*James Melton (2018-21)
*Maria Monroe (2019-22)
Adam Page (2018-21)
Al Paulson, Jr. (2018-21)
Charles Rosenbalm (2019-22)
John Shultz (2018-21)
Bill Tate (2019-22)
*Julie Thomas (2019-22)
*Ronnie Wade (2019-22)
David Warr (2019-22)

*indicates lay person

5. Gifts to World Missions

Gifts to world missions through the Cooperative Program from churches and missions for the period of January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, totaled 28,052,527.

Florida Baptists responded well to other mission causes. Designated giving for the period of January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, totaled \$8,720,877. Designated giving included contributions to the three main mission offerings:

MISSION OFFERING

AMOUNT

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, 2020	\$5,244,770
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, 2020	\$1,632,010
Maguire State Mission Offering, 2020	\$ 557,972

6. 2020 Maguire State Mission Offering Report

The 2020 Maguire State Mission Offering was directed by the State Board of Missions toward the singular goal of impacting the strategic mission region of South Florida with additional church planting and revitalization resources.

With the close of the Convention's accounting year on December 31, 2020, a total of \$557,972 was received for the year 2020 Maguire State Mission Offering. The 2020 total represented 79.7 percent of the offering goal of \$700,000. The total number of churches contributing to the offering continued to decline to 481 from the 538 participating the prior year.

7. 2020 Maguire State Mission Offering

On April 9, 2021, the State Board of Missions approved a 2021 Maguire State Mission Offering goal of \$760,000 and directed 100 percent of the offering be allocated to the SEND Network Florida Global Fund for Ministry.

8. The Baptist College of Florida

In the year 2020, The Baptist College of Florida received a total of \$1,343,745 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$ 1,320,000
Designated Gifts	\$ 23,745
	\$ 1,343,745

9. Florida Baptist Children's Homes

During the year 2020, the Florida Baptist Children's Homes received a total of \$2,067,788 from the Florida Baptist Convention:

Cooperative Program	\$ 1,484,894
Designated Gifts	\$ 582,894
	\$ 2,067,788

10. Florida Baptist Historical Society

The Florida Baptist Historical Society is a non-corporate fraternal organization endorsed by and related to the Florida Baptist State Convention. To carry out its purpose, the Society is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of six members, three of which are elected by the State Board of Missions, and three who serve as permanent members: the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, or his designee; the curator of Florida Baptist History at The Baptist College of Florida; and the secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Historical Society. Other directors serve on a rotating basis.

In the year 2020, the Florida Baptist Historical Society received a budget of \$20,000 from the Florida Baptist Convention.

11. 2022 Meetings of the State Board of Missions

On April 9, 2021, the State Board of Missions set the dates and locations for the 2022 board and committee meetings as follows:

January 20, 2022	Online Videoconference Meeting
April 6-8, 2022	Baptist Building, Jacksonville <i>(Orientation for new members to be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022)</i>
August 25-26, 2022	Baptist Building, Jacksonville
*November 14, 2022	Pre-Convention Meeting, Pensacola
*November 15, 2022	Organizational Meeting, Pensacola

*In a meeting of the Board on August 27, 2021, the Board received information from staff that the correct dates of the November meetings should be **November 14 and 15, 2022**. The previously approved dates of November 8 and 9 were revised to reflect the correct dates.

12. Appointment of Audit Subcommittee

The chairman of the Finance Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Audit Subcommittee for the year 2021:

Trent Gann, <i>Chair</i>	Steven Ruff
Jim Parrish	Christina Vargas
Bobby Patton	

Ex Officio: David Tarkington, Chairman, Finance Committee

13. Report on Florida Baptist Convention Audit

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 27, 2021, the Board received as information the following report on the Florida Baptist Convention audit for 2020.

The audit of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., for the year ending December 31, 2020, is presented as an unmodified opinion of the financial statements that were found to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

14. Report on Florida Baptist State Convention Cooperating Ministry Audits

On August 27, 2021, the State Board of Missions received a report that the Audit Subcommittee of the Finance Committee had examined the audit reports and management letters of the following entities of the Florida Baptist Convention:

- (1) Florida Baptist Children's Homes Report, January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020
- (2) Florida Baptist Financial Services Audit Report, January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020
- (3) The Baptist College of Florida Audit Report, July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020
- (4) Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.

The opinion expressed by the auditors on the financial statements of each of the institutions was unmodified, the highest level opinion that can be offered by an auditor, which speaks highly of the quality of accounting work being done at all Convention-related cooperating ministries.

15. Financial Assistance: Loans to Churches and Missions

From October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, the State Board of Missions approved financial assistance from funds administered by the Board to the following churches and missions:

(1) Altha First Baptist Church	\$150,000
(2) Belvedere Baptist Church, West Palm Beach	\$40,000
(3) Betesda Baptist Church, Miami	\$100,000
(4) Eglise Baptiste Grace por la Nouvelle Generation	\$20,000
(5) Eglise Baptiste Haitienne du Mont des Oliviers, Sunrise	\$132,000
(6) First Haitian Baptist Church, Avon Park	\$50,000
(7) Jerusalem Baptist Church, Orlando	\$100,000
(8) Minneola First Baptist Church	\$60,000
(9) Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Lakeland	\$150,000
(10) Northwest Baptist Church, Miami	\$100,000
(11) Oceanway Church, New Smyrna Beach	\$45,000
(12) Plantation First Baptist Church	\$141,780
(13) Shalom Fraternity Christian Church, Naples	\$12,500
(14) The Cross Church, Lake City	\$70,000
(15) United Community Church, Bartow	\$150,000
(16) Walk by Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Gainesville	\$35,000
(17) Westside Baptist Church, Bunnell	\$127,143
(18) Westview Baptist Church, Westview	\$67,000

16. Financial Assistance: Church Planting and Revitalization and Maguire State Mission Offering

Church Planting and Revitalization grants continue to be a cornerstone focus of the Florida Baptist Convention. The 2021 Cooperative Program budget includes an amount of \$1,850,000 designated for church planting and revitalization. Additionally, during the March 2020 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the Board authorized 100 percent of the 2020 Maguire State Mission Offering be allocated to the Florida SEND Network Global Fund for ministry to churches throughout the entire state of Florida.

The following list includes churches receiving church planting and revitalization grants through both the Cooperative Program as well as the Maguire State Mission Offering during the period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021:

Central Region

3 Streams, Plant City
Bushnell First
Calvary, Winter Haven
Covenant Life, Tampa
Faith Temple Progressive, Lakeland
Favor Church, Wesley Chapel
Good Servant of God Baptist Church, Lutz
Grace Alive, Orlando
Graceway, Plant City
Heartland Church, Spanish Campus, Winter Haven
Hillside, Brooksville
IB Hispana Dios te Ama, Frostproof
Iglesia Bautista Jerusalem, Orlando
Iglesia Bautista Lake Saunders, Mt. Dora
Iglesia Bautista Resurreccion, Kissimmee
Iglesia Bautista Unidos Por Fe, Lakeland
Iglesia Comunidad de Gracia, Kissimmee
Imperial Lakes First
Lake Hill Baptist Church -- Portuguese, Orlando
Lakes Church, South Lakeland Campus, Lakeland
Life Journey, Plant City
Living Faith Bible Fellowship, Tampa
Metro Brazilian Baptist Church, Orlando

Mt. Pleasant, Oldsmar (SBA)
 New Victory, Tampa
 No Greater Love, Riverview
 North Dunedin, Dunedin
 One Another Ministry, Gibsonton
 Primera Iglesia Bautista Casa de Bendicion, St Cloud
 Restoration Church, Sanford
 Sanctification Haitian, St. Petersburg
 South Conway Road, Orlando
 The Grove Church
 Zion Hope, Lakeland

East Region

Abba's House
 Beachside Church, New Smyrna Beach
 BluePrint Community Church, Daytona Beach
 Brandy Branch, Bryceville
 Calvary, Palatka
 Central, Port St Lucie
 Chets Creek, Burmese Campus, Jacksonville
 Coastal Community, Sebastian
 Cocoa Beach, First
 Congregacion Cristiana Shalom, Jacksonville
 Crescent City, First
 Daytona Beach Korean, Daytona Beach
 Daytona Biker Church, Port Orange
 District, Jacksonville
 Dream Church, Jacksonville
 East Eleventh Street, Jacksonville
 Elevation, Jacksonville
 Evangelical Church the Witnesses of Jesus Christ, Fort Pierce
 Evangelical Union of Fisherman, Port St Lucie
 Exchange Church, Yulee
 First Hispanic, Palm Coast
 Freedom, Vero Beach
 Geneva, First
 Grace for New Generation, Palm Bay
 Grace Life, Middleburg
 House to House Community Church, Port St. Lucie
 Iglesia Bautista de Mandarin, Jacksonville
 Iglesia Bautista Dios es Bueno, Daytona Beach
 Iglesia Bautista Westside, Jacksonville
 Iglesia Rendecion, Jacksonville
 Jacksonville Heights, Jacksonville
 Kernan Boulevard, Jacksonville
 Life Church, Interlachen
 Macclenny, First
 Mandarin, Jacksonville
 MissionWay, Jacksonville
 Ocean Park, Jacksonville Beach
 Oceanway, New Smyrna Beach
 One Church at Jax Beach, Atlantic Beach
 Palatka, First
 Parkview Baptist Church, Fort Pierce
 Premiere Eglise Baptiste Haitienne, Jacksonville
 Rima Ridge, Ormond Beach
 Rockledge First
 Spruce Creek, Port Orange
 The Rock Church, Titusville
 The City Church at Bartram Park, Jacksonville
 The City Church--Riverside Campus, Jacksonville
 Tru Life, Melbourne
 Unity Missionary, Jacksonville
 Wabasso, First
 Welaka, First
 Westside Baptist Church, Fort Pierce

North Region

Antioch Church, The Villages
 Antioch Missionary, Gainesville
 Calvary, Jasper
 Celebration en Español, Tallahassee
 Cross Church, Starke
 Greenville Baptist Church, Greenville
 Iglesia Bautista Peniel, Ocala
 LOGO Church, Lawtey
 Macedonia, Lee
 Middleburg, First
 Northside, Starke
 Northwest, Gainesville
 Ochlockonee Bay First Baptist Church, Panacea
 Starke, First
 TruLife Church of Ocala
 Westside, Live Oak
 Woodville, First

Southeast Region

Bethel Evangelical, Delray Beach
 Belvedere, West Palm Beach
 Christ Family en Espanol, Miami
 Crossbridge Brazilian Church, Boca Raton
 Cutler Ridge First
 Eglise Baptiste de la Nouvelle Vie, Lauderhill
 Family Bible Church, Lake Worth
 Fort Lauderdale, First
 Global, Miami
 Grace Connection, Miami
 Haitian Emmanuel, Miami
 Haitian Evangelical, Homestead
 Harvest Church Miami, Miami Shores
 Iglesia Bautista Oasis De Bendicion, Lake Worth
 Igreja Bautista de Kendall, Miami
 Igreja Real, Hollywood
 Living Waters Christian Fellowship, Fort Lauderdale
 Miami Baptist Church Espanol (West Kendall), Miami
 New Creation Baptist Church, Miramar
 New Life Missionary, Miami
 New Visions Community Church, Sunrise
 Northside Baptist Church, Hialeah
 Northwest, Miami
 One God In Three Persons First, Miami
 Palm Springs Baptist Church, Arabic Campus, Palm Springs
 Pembroke Road, Miramar
 Peters Road, Plantation
 Pines, Pembroke Pines
 Primera Iglesia Bautista, Coral Park
 Primitive Baptist Church of Broward, Oakland Park
 Radiant City Church, Miami
 Real Church, Hollywood
 St. Andrew Missionary, Opa Locka
 Stirling Road Spanish, Fort Lauderdale
 The Rock Fellowship, Pembroke Pines
 True Love Praise and Worship, Pembroke Pines
 Turning Point, Miami
 Word of Life Church, West Palm Beach

Southwest Region

Arcadia, First
 Bayshore, Bradenton
 Betesda Church, Naples
 Caloosa, Labelle
 Fellowship, Immokalee
 Florida Avenue, Avon Park
 Fraternity, Lehigh Acres
 Mercy Fellowship, Venice

Mill Creek, Bradenton
 Mt. Ephraim, Arcadia
 New Hope, Cape Coral
 Oak Grove, Wauchula
 Shalom Fraternity Christian Church, Naples

West Region

Anchor Church, Freeport
 Bagdad, First
 Beach Haven, Pensacola
 Billory, Navarre
 Cora, Jay
 Cove, Panama City
 Crossroads, Cottondale
 Emmanuel, Crestview
 Floridatown, Pace
 Gaskin, First
 Harbor Oaks, First
 Iglesia Vida, Panama City Beach
 Immanuel, Pace
 Jay, First
 Korean American, Pensacola
 Korean Hope, Navarre
 Lake Mystic, Bristol
 Living Truth, Pace
 Northside, Ponce de Leon
 Olivet, Milton
 Perdido Bay, Pensacola
 Pine Level, Jay
 Rays Chapel, McDavid
 The Point Church, Elberta
 Vertical Life Church, Baker
 Wallace, Pace

17. Ministers Emergency Assistance Program

The purpose of the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program is to provide emergency assistance to ministerial staff persons or their families who are experiencing crisis because of termination. The Ministers Emergency Assistance Committee considers the eligibility of applicants for assistance. The Committee is composed of three State Board of Missions members who serve on a rotating basis, with vacancies to be filled as they occur. The following persons currently serve on the Ministers Emergency Assistance Committee:

Trent Gann, Woodville
 Shawn Johnson, Live Oak
 Alberto Ocana, Miami
Trent Gann serves as chair of the committee.

On February 25, 2021, the Board received a report that during the period of January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, 2 individuals received \$2,000 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program.

It was noted in a report to the Board on April 9, 2021, that during the period of January 1, 2021, through March 30, 2021, there were no persons assisted through the MEAP.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on August 27, 2021, the Board learned that 2 individuals received \$2,000 in assistance through the Ministers Emergency Assistance Program from April 1, 2021, through July 31, 2021.

18. Report on Closed, Disbanded and Disfellowshipped Churches

During regular meetings of the State Board of Missions, the Board received as information the following list of churches that have left fellowship with the Florida Baptist State Convention between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Agape Fellowship Church, Port St. Lucie	7/1/20	Closed
Bethany Haitian, Orlando	2/2/21	Church changed affiliation
Bible Tabernacle Covenant, Royal Palm Beach	12/1/20	Closed
Boca Raton, First	2/2/21	Merged with Boca Glades
Brazilian Church of East Orlando	10/6/20	Closed
Casa de Oracion Luz del Mundo	5/1/19	Closed
Christ Centered Church, Miami	12/1/19	Merged with Brook Church, Miami
Christ Fellowship, Downtown Tampa	8/19/20	Closed
Foundation Church, Tampa	8/19/20	Closed
Grace Point, Altamonte Springs	1/27/19	Church closed when pastor left
Jacksonville City Church	3/1/19	Closed
Lake Whipoorwill, Orlando	1/28/21	Membership down to four/closed
Love Fellowship Worship, Pompano Beach	1/1/18	Closed
Naranja Park Baptist Church, Naranja	1/7/21	Closed and gifted building to Grace Connect
Oasis Church, Jacksonville	3/1/20	Merged with another SBC church
One Accord, Plant City	2/14/16	Merged with non-SBC church
Open Arms Baptist Church, Jacksonville	1/6/21	No longer affiliated with FBC or SBC
Orchard Church, Live Oak	10/29/17	Disbanded
Reach Community, Fort Pierce	5/1/18	Changed affiliation
Redeeming Love Fellowship, Fort Lauderdale	1/1/20	Closed following death of pastor
Rutland First Baptist Church	6/30/19	Closed
San Pablo Baptist Church, Jacksonville	1/25/21	Merged with Rivertown Church
Solomon Baptist Church, Jacksonville	3/1/19	Closed
Sunrise Baptist Church, Green Cove Springs	2/23/20	Closed
Temple Crest, Tampa	8/19/20	Closed
The Living Word of Christ, Macclenny	11/1/19	Closed
Tropical Acres, Riverview	8/19/20	Closed
Wabasso First	6/7/21	Merged with another church
Wesconnett Baptist Church, Jacksonville	11/1/18	Closed
Westside Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale	6/29/21	Closed following death of pastor

19. Appointment of Investment Subcommittee

The Finance Committee of the State Board of Missions has fiduciary responsibilities related to endowment funds, special funds and undesignated investment funds held by the Florida Baptist Convention. The Committee's responsibilities are defined in the Bylaws of the State Board of Missions. To facilitate this requirement, each year the chairman of the Finance Committee appoints an Investment Subcommittee selected from the membership of the Finance Committee. The chairman of the Finance Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the Investment Subcommittee for the year 2021:

Karl Fennimore, *Chair*
Carl Fondren
James Davis

Ex Officio Member: David Tarkington, Chair, Finance Committee

The Investment Subcommittee met quarterly during the year and provided reports to the State Board of Missions at their April and August meetings. In addition, the fourth quarter report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020, was given to Board members during their April meeting in an effort to help the Board understand the investment picture of the Convention.

20. Setting Spending Rate for Cooperative Program Endowment Fund

On April 7, 2021, the State Board of Missions approved setting a spending rate for 2020 of five percent of the December 31, 2020, balance of the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund.

21. Allocation of 2020 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget Net Cash Surplus

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on April 7, 2021, the Board authorized the transfer of \$775,000 in funds related to 2020 Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Budget Net Surplus Funds from the Operating Reserves designated for the following:

- Challenge 2025 Gathering (2022)	\$100,000
- Disaster Relief Assistance	\$300,000
- Church COVID Loans Forgiveness up to \$2,000	\$200,000
- Grants to Cooperating Ministries	
• Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	\$25,000
• Florida Baptist Children's Home	\$75,000
• The Baptist College of Florida	\$75,000

22. Florida Baptist Convention Board-Elected Staff Changes

Effective February 25, 2021, **Delton Beall** retired as the Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries Catalyst, a position he held since December 3, 2012.

On February 25, 2021, **David Coggins** was elected by the State Board of Missions as the Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries Catalyst, Missions and Ministries Team, effective March 1, 2021. Dr. Coggins formerly served as professor of leadership at The Baptist College of Florida in Graceville, Florida.

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on February 25, 2021, the Board elected **Quinton Englebright**, as Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry – Pensacola Area. He previously served as a campus minister at the Leavell College BCM, New Orleans, Louisiana.

After serving Florida Baptists for 34 years as Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry – Pensacola Area, **Anthony (Tony) Olesky** retired on August 18, 2020.

In a special called meeting of the Board in October 2020, the State Board of Missions elected **Jay Sanders**, college pastor at Idlewild Baptist Church, Lutz, to serve as the Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry – Tampa Area.

On September 18, 2020, the State Board of Missions elected **Nathan Schneider**, to serve as the Lead Catalyst, Next Generation Ministry Team. Prior to accepting the position, he served as the Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministry – Tampa Area.

In August 2020, **Billy Young** resigned as Lead Catalyst, Next Generation Ministry Team, to accept the position of Senior Pastor, Hopeful Baptist Church, Lake City.

23. Resolution of Appreciation: Delton M. Beall

On September 21, 2012, Delton M. Beall was elected by the State Board of Missions as Team Strategist (now Catalyst), Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries, and retired effective February 26, 2021. As an expression of love and appreciation, the State Board of Missions approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DELTON M. BEALL

WHEREAS, Delton M. Beall has served the Florida Baptist Convention since December 3, 2012, and will retire on February 26, 2021, as Catalyst, Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Delton Beall accepted Christ as his personal Savior in March 1973 and was baptized in the Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi; and was ordained as a minister of the gospel in May 1976, by the Van Winkle Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson, Mississippi, native graduated from Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi, in 1972; earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 1977; and completed his theological education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, with a Master of Divinity Degree in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Delton Beall served as State Director of Missions for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, Scott Depot, West Virginia, 2008-2012; served as State Missionary for the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, Glen Allen, Virginia, 2002-2005; and served as Pastor of several local churches: Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, Kentucky, 2005-2008; Forreton Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, 1977-1980; and Piave Baptist Church, Ricton, Mississippi, 1975-1977; and

WHEREAS, in his 8 years of service with the Florida Baptist Convention, Delton Beall has faithfully led Disaster Relief and Recovery Ministries' volunteer team with a heart of compassion and has provided the leadership and organizational skills needed on the forefront of disaster, this included Florida based responses to Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, Michael and Sally and

WHEREAS, he has developed relationships with both state and national organizations who have recognized the value of Florida Baptist Disaster Relief as valuable partners providing not only physical but spiritual support during and following major catastrophic events; and

WHEREAS, Delton Beall's commitment and dedication has been motivated by the words of 1 Peter 4:10-11, "Each of you shall use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever," now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the State Board of Missions meeting on February 25, 2021, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Delton M. Beall, given to our Lord and Florida Baptists; and that we assure Delton and his wife, Jeannie, of the prayers, love, and best wishes on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Delton M. Beall as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.

24. Resolution of Appreciation: Anthony C. Olesky

In 1986, Anthony C. Olesky (Tony) was elected by the State Board of Missions as Baptist Campus Ministry Director—Pensacola Area. After serving Florida Baptists for 34 years, Tony Olesky retired on August 18, 2020. As an expression of love and appreciation, the State Board of Missions approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
FOR
ANTHONY C. OLESKY

WHEREAS, Anthony C. Olesky (Tony) served the Florida Baptist Convention since 1986, and after completing over 34 years, retired on August 18, 2020, as Baptist Campus Ministry Director—Pensacola Area; and

WHEREAS, Tony Olesky accepted Christ as his personal Savior at age 15 and was baptized in Greater Miami Baptist Church, Miami, Florida; and felt called to a full-time Christian vocation at age 20 while attending Miami Dade Community College, Miami, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Miami, Florida, native graduated from the Miami Dade Community College in Miami, Florida, in 1976; earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, in 1978; and completed his theological education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, earning a Masters of Religious Education Degree in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Tony Olesky served as Director of Baptist Campus Ministry for the Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City Beach, Florida, 1983-1986; and served as Minister of Youth/Music in several local churches: First Baptist Church, Panama City, Florida, 1982-1986; Central Baptist Church, Italy, Texas, 1980-1982; First Baptist Church, Blum, Texas, 1979-1980; and First Baptist Church, Olden Texas, 1976-1977; and

WHEREAS, in his 34-year tenure with the Florida Baptist Convention, Tony Olesky has faithfully led the Baptist Campus Ministry in Pensacola by passionately serving generations of college students as a spiritual leader, friend, mentor and encourager;

WHEREAS, he has reached hundreds of college students with a culture of evangelism and missions; many who are now serving in full-time ministry, on the mission field or as lay leaders in the local church; and

WHEREAS, Tony Olesky's commitment and dedication has been motivated by the words of Ephesians 5:1-2, "Paul encourages us to live a life of love. Love God, His Word and others. Don't just say it! Show it! Live a life so others can see your genuine faith," now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the State Board of Missions meeting on September 18, 2020, in Jacksonville, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Anthony C. Olesky (Tony), given to our Lord and Florida Baptists; and that we assure Tony and his wife, Randa, of the prayers, love, and best wishes on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Anthony C. Olesky as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.

25. Florida Baptist Historical Society: Appointment of Board of Directors

The Florida Baptist Historical Society is a non-corporate fraternal organization endorsed by and related to the Florida Baptist State Convention. To carry out its purpose, the Society is managed by a Board of Directors. During the August 2018 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the Board approved amendments to the policy governing the Florida Baptist Historical Society. The new policy called for the Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors to consist of six members, three of which are to be elected by the State Board of Missions, and three who serve as permanent members: the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, or his designee; Curator of The Baptist Archives, The Baptist College of Florida; and the secretary-treasurer, Florida Baptist Historical Society. Other directors serve on a rotating basis. It is the responsibility of the State Board of Missions to elect the directors. Historical Society Director

David Elder rotated off in November 2020 and was not eligible for re-election. On February 26, 2021, the State Board of Missions elected Donald Minshew, Plantation, to serve on the Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors for the term ending December 31, 2023.

On December 31, 2021, FBHS Board member Arlene Vause, Sopchoppy, will complete an unexpired term and is eligible re-election. During its meeting on August 27, 2021, the State Board of Missions elected Mrs. Vause to the Historical Society Board for the term ending December 31, 2024.

The following persons also serve on the Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors:

Joel Briedenbaugh, Orlando	Term 2019-2022
J. Thomas Green, Jacksonville	Permanent Member
<i>Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention</i>	
Donald S. Hepburn, Jacksonville	Permanent Member
<i>Secretary-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Historical Society</i>	
Roger Richards, Graceville	Permanent Member
<i>Curator of The Baptist Archives, The Baptist College of Florida</i>	

26. Florida Baptist Historical Society: Revisions to Governing Document

The State Board of Missions on August 27, 2021, approved two revisions to the Governing Document of the Florida Baptist Historical Society. The first revision redefines the official designation of the leadership position of the Society to Managing Director from

Secretary-Treasurer. The designation “managing director” for the Society leadership position reflects the distinctly and uniquely different administrative responsibility for planning and carrying out the mission and ministry of the Society, as approved by the board of directors.

The second revision simply brings the current Administrative Committee nomenclature up to date.

27. Update on Study, Development and Testing of an Immigration Ministry Plan

During the State Board of Missions meeting in September 2020, the Board approved a recommendation for the study, development and pilot testing of a program of ministry support focused on helping Florida Baptist churches engaged in ministry to immigrants. On April 9, 2021, the Board received an update on the previous Board action.

The latest data informs us that Florida has over 500,000 individuals classified as immigrants, over 150,000 individuals classified as migrants, and over 14.5 million international travelers each year. Our goal as Florida Baptist churches is to be a Gospel witness as we share the salvation of Jesus Christ with as many of these individuals as possible.

Led by Mission and Ministries Lead Catalyst Myles Dowdy, a Florida Baptist Convention team from multiple areas of discipline joined together to research what churches were already doing to minister to immigrants in our state. This team included Steve Baumgardner, Cindy Bradley, Misael Castillo, Patrick Coats, Al Fernandez, Marc Johnston, Emanuel Roque, Nathan Schneider and John Voltaire. The group met on multiple occasions and engaged with church and ministry experts that are actively involved in ministry to internationals and immigrants living in our state. Some of the ministry focuses that already exist include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| English as Second Language Classes | Legal Resources |
| Citizenship Classes | Skill Development |
| Tutoring | Financial Classes |
| Food, Health and Clothing Resources | Refugee Asylum |

The exciting and overwhelming opportunity for ministry motivated the team to create a new resource on the Florida Baptist website entitled Internationals/Immigrants (<https://flbaptist.org/immigrants-internationals/>). Within this resource is current information about ministries to our international and immigrant communities located in Florida. In addition, the site provides numerous “how to” resources for churches. These resources are designed to help churches minister to internationals in the areas of immigrants, migrants, international travelers and human trafficking. As God continues to bring to our state new international neighbors the information and resources on this site will change and be updated.

Beyond the resources made available through the website, convention staff will be working to develop and expand other training, conferencing and networking opportunities to further encourage and equip ministry leaders in the development of Immigrant/Internationals ministry.

28. Authorization for Florida Baptist Financial Services to Sell Florida Baptist Retirement Center

During the State Board of Missions meeting on April 9, 2021, the Board learned that Florida Baptist Financial Services under the leadership of Rick Wheeler, president and CEO, had recently undergone a process of evaluation as it pertains to the Florida

Baptist Retirement Center. This process culminated in a decision to sell the property and in which they received a bona fide offer for purchase with anticipated closing within 120 days.

Pursuant to the Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions shall review and approve requests to sell or transfer ownership of any real property proposed by a cooperating ministry of the convention and then recommend approval to the messengers of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Additionally, given the timeline of the proposed sale, it was necessary for the State Board of Missions to act upon this request on behalf of the messengers of the Florida Baptist State Convention ad interim of the annual meetings. Article 4 of the Florida Baptist State Constitution delineates these responsibilities.

Consequently, on April 9, 2021, the State Board of Missions, acting in its capacity for the messengers ad interim of the annual meeting, authorized the directors of Florida Baptist Financial Services to proceed with the sale of the Florida Baptist Retirement Center; with the intent that proceeds generated from the sale be dedicated to establishing a fund which would directly benefit retiring Florida Baptist pastors in need and to honor them for their years of service to Florida Baptist churches, and to fund additional ministries that will bless Florida Baptist retirees.

29. Authorization for FBCH Land Holdings to Sell 16.2 +/- Integral Acres of Jacksonville Campus

During the May 2020 meeting of the State Board of Missions, the Board approved a recommendation by FBCH Land Holdings (FBCH LH) to sell 6.5 +/- integral acres of its Jacksonville Campus to the First Baptist Academy of Jacksonville (FBA). The sale price, for a total of 21.5 +/- acres, is \$1,500,000. FBCH LH is currently leasing the land to FBA, as the sale of the integral acreage was contingent on approval by the Florida Baptist State Convention. Subsequently, FBCH LH has agreed to sell an additional 9.7 +/- integral acres of the Jacksonville Campus to FBA. The sale price, for a total of 9.7 +/- acres, is \$3.5 million. FBCH LH is currently leasing the land to FBA under a second 99-year lease.

On April 9, 2021, the State Board of Missions, acting in its capacity for the messengers ad interim of the annual meeting, authorize the directors of FBCH Land Holdings to proceed with the sale of 16.2 +/- integral acres of its Jacksonville Campus to the First Baptist Academy of Jacksonville with the expectation that proceeds generated from such sale will be dedicated to Phase 2 of the FBCH Jacksonville Campus Master Plan.

30. State Board of Missions Policy Governing the Convention’s Release in Reversionary Interest in Real Property

During a meeting of the State Board of Missions on April 9, 2021, the Board adopted a “Policy Governing the Convention’s Release of Reversionary Interest in Real Property.” The purpose of this policy is to establish how the Florida Baptist Convention responds to requests for the release of reversionary interest the Convention has in various real property around the state. Historically, the majority of the Convention’s reversionary interests in various church properties came about as a result of loans and grants issued by the Convention.



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**STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS
Recommendations to the
Florida Baptist State Convention**

**Recommendation 1:
2022 Florida Baptist Convention Budget**

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the year 2022 Cooperative Program Basic Budget of \$29,150,000 based upon the following distribution and the general detail as noted in the attached budget document:

- (a) That all Cooperative Program income receipts be distributed on the following percentage allocation:

Southern Baptist Convention causes 51.00%
Florida Baptist Convention causes 49.00%

- (b) And that the Cooperative Program Basic Budget designated for Florida Baptist Convention causes (or 49% of total Cooperative Program income) be distributed on the following basis:

**Programs of Mission, Ministry and Support
\$12,474,500**

Cooperating Ministries
The Baptist College of Florida \$1,320,000
Florida Baptist Children's Homes \$912,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center \$160,000

- (c) That all Cooperative Program receipts received by December 31, 2022, and which are in excess of the budgetary requirements specified within the 2022 Cooperative Program budget shall be designated as Cooperative Program Excess Budget funds. Furthermore, we direct 51% of such excess funds be immediately distributed to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. Further recommendations and subsequent Board action on the distribution of the remaining 49% of Excess Budget funds shall be in keeping with the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan [Bylaw 16, B (3)(a)(b), Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention].

Florida Baptist Convention

	<i>Total</i>
Southern Baptist Convention	
Executive Committee - Southern Baptist Convention	14,866,500
Cooperating Ministries	
Florida Baptist Children's Homes	912,000
The Baptist College of Florida	1,320,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	160,000
Florida Baptist Convention Programs	
Accounting Office	100,000
Baptist Campus Ministries	130,900
Communications	238,000
Community Ministries	214,225
Disaster Relief	112,750
Executive Director-Treasurer Ministries	236,000
Migrant Ministries	54,355
Missions and Ministries	316,400
Next Generation Ministries (*a)	499,500
Pastor Protection Insurance (*b)	100,000
Personnel (*c)	5,183,620
Regional/Multicultural Catalysts	2,885,000
Southeast Regional Center	65,500
Strategic Initiatives (*d)	314,000
Support Services	1,138,600
Technology Services Office	203,000
WMM/Missions Education	99,650
Total	29,150,000
Percentage of Total	100.00%
Percentage of Florida (\$14,283,500)	

2022 Cooperative Program Budget

Southern Baptist Conventio	Cooperating Ministries	Personnel	Operations	Ministry Investment	Church Planting	Revitalization	Regional Ministries	Next Gen Ministries	Missions	SBM/Annual Meeting	Promotion/Communication
14,866,500											
	912,000										
	1,320,000										
	160,000										
			100,000								
			130,900								
			3,000								235,000
			20,500						193,725		
			22,000						90,750		
			80,000	140,000			16,000				
			16,500						37,855		
			25,000						291,400		
			30,500					469,000			
				100,000							
		5,183,620									
			195,000		1,000,000	1,000,000	690,000				
			65,500								
			44,000	35,000			15,000			220,000	
			1,138,600								
			203,000								
			20,500						79,150		
14,866,500	2,392,000	5,183,620	2,095,000	275,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	721,000	469,000	692,880	220,000	235,000
51.00%	8.21%	17.78%	7.19%	0.94%	3.43%	3.43%	2.47%	1.61%	2.38%	0.75%	0.81%
	16.75%	36.28%	14.67%	1.93%	7.00%	7.00%	5.05%	3.28%	4.85%	1.54%	1.65%

Note: the above budget includes only Cooperative Program. Although there are other sources of income, such as conference center fees, those are not included in this budget.

(*a) Next Generation Ministries includes Student and Children's Ministry Funding which provides training, equipping and conferencing for student pastors and children ministry leaders as well as quality camp experiences.

(*b) Pastor Protection Insurance allocates funds to participate in a Guidestone ministry that provides limited life and disability insurance to eligible lead/senior pastors.

(*c) Personnel includes salaries and benefits for 28 Board Elected Staff, 19 Administrative Approved Staff.

(*d) Strategic Initiatives includes supervision of the Ministry Support Team, State Board of Missions meetings, Florida Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting.

Recomendaciones de la Junta de Misiones del Estado a la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida

Recomendación 1: 2022 - Presupuesto de la Convención Bautista de Florida

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida adopte para el año 2022 el Presupuesto Básico del Programa Cooperativo de \$30,000,000 basado en la siguiente distribución y el detalle general como anotado en el documentado de presupuesto adjunto:

- (a) Que todos los recibos de ingreso del Programa Cooperativo sean distribuidos en el porcentaje de asignación siguiente:

Causas de la Convención Bautista del Sur 51.00%
Causas de la Convención Bautista de Florida 49.00%

- (b) And that the Cooperative Program Basic Budget designated for Florida Baptist Convention causes (or 49% of total Cooperative Program income) be distributed on the following basis:

Programas de Misión, Ministerio y Apoyo \$12,474,500 Ministerios en Cooperación

The Baptist College of Florida (Colegio Bautista)	\$1,320,000
Florida Baptist Children's Homes (Hogares de Niños)	\$912,000
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center	\$160,000

- (c) Que todos los ingresos del Programa Cooperativo recibidos antes del 31 de diciembre de 2022, y que excedan los requisitos presupuestarios especificados en el presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo 2022 sean designados como fondos Excedentes del Presupuesto del Programa Cooperativo. Además, instruimos que 51% de dichos fondos excedentes se distribuyan inmediatamente al Programa Cooperativo de la Convención Bautista del Sur. Las recomendaciones adicionales y la acción posterior de la Junta sobre la distribución del 49% restante de los fondos del Presupuesto Excedente deberán estar de acuerdo con el Plan Comercial y Financiero de la Convención Estatal [Estatuto 16, B (3) (a) (b), Estatutos de la Convención Estatal Bautista de Florida].

Recommandations du Bureau d'Etat des Missions à la Convention Baptiste d'Etat de la Floride

Recommandation 1: Budget 2022 de la Convention Baptiste d'Etat de la Floride

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adopte le Budget de Base du Programme Coopératif 2022 d'un montant de \$30,000,000 basé sur la distribution et les détails généraux comme indiqués dans le document du budget ci-joint:

- (a) Que tous les revenus du Programme Coopératif soient distribués sur la base d'allocation de pourcentage suivant:

Les causes de la Convention Baptiste du Sud 51.00%
Les causes de la Convention Baptiste de la Floride 49.00%

- (b) Et que le Budget de Base du Programme Coopératif alloué aux causes de la Convention Baptiste de la Floride (ou 49% du total des revenus du Programme Coopératif) soit distribué sur les bases suivantes:

Programmes de Mission, Ministère et Support \$12,474,500 Ministères de Coopération

Le Collège Baptiste de la Floride	\$1,320,000
La Maison des Enfants Baptistes de la Floride	\$912,000
Le Centre Baptiste de Conférence à Lake Yale	\$160,000

- (c) Que tous les acquis du Programme Coopératif reçus jusqu'au 31 Décembre 2022, et qui dépassent les exigences budgétaires précisées dans le budget du Programme Coopératif de 2022 seront désignés comme fonds du Budget Excédentaire du Programme Coopératif. De plus, nous demandons que 51 % de ces fonds excédentaires soient immédiatement distribués au Programme Coopératif de la Convention Baptiste du Sud. D'autres recommandations et les mesures ultérieures du Conseil sur la répartition des 49 % restants des fonds du Budget Excédentaire seront conformes au Plan d'Affaires et Financier de la Convention d'État [Règlement 16, B (3) (a) (b), Règlements de la Convention d'État Baptiste de la Floride].

Recommendation 2: Report on New Church Starts

The State Board of Missions recommends that the Florida Baptist State Convention receive as information the following congregations, began as "new church starts," between September 1, 2020, and October 15, 2021, as cooperating churches which have been endorsed and are affiliated with cooperating local Baptist associations as listed, **with the understanding that additional new church starts may be subsequently added;** and

Recomendación 2: Reporte de Nuevas Iglesias

La Junta de Misiones Estatal recomienda que la Convención Bautista de Florida reciba información de las siguientes congregaciones, comenzadas como "nuevas iglesias", entre Septiembre 1, 2020 y Octubre 15, 2021, como iglesias cooperativas que han sido aprobadas y están afiliadas con asociaciones Bautistas locales, **con el entendimiento que nuevas iglesias adicionales pueden ser adicionalmente añadidas**

Recommandation 2: Rapport sur le Démarrage des Nouvelles Eglises

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride reçoit l'information concernant les congrégations ayant débuté comme "démarrage de nouvelles églises", entre le 1er septembre 2020 et le 15 Octobre 2021, en tant qu'églises coopérées lesquelles ont été endossées et affiliées à des associations et coopérations baptistes locales comme indiquées, **avec la possibilité d'addition de nouvelles églises; et**

That all congregations, having been endorsed by a cooperating local association as of October 15, 2021, are considered as cooperating local churches with this State Convention, and are entitled to the benefits and privileges as defined by Bylaw 2(B)1, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention, until such time as the congregation fails to fulfill the commitment during any calendar year as set forth in Bylaw 2(B)(2); and

That the Florida Baptist State Convention hereby reaffirm the scripturally-based and historic Baptist principle of autonomy of each local Baptist church, whose affiliation with this State Convention's action affirming an endorsement of cooperation, neither creates nor assumes a hierarchical fiduciary, partnership or agency relationship between the Florida Baptist State Convention and its corporate entity, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and any one of the following churches.

2020-21 Report on New Church Starts
(September 1, 2020 – October 15, 2021)

Brevard Baptist Association

First Brazilian Baptist Church of Melbourne
The Rock Church

Emerald Coast Baptist Association

Anchor Church
Forest Lake Bible Church

Greater Orlando Baptist Association

Metro Brazilian Baptist
The Greater Trinity Baptist Fellowship Church

Gulf Stream Baptist Association

Primitive Baptist Church of Broward
Living Waters Christian Fellowship

Halifax Baptist Association

Iglesia Bauatista Dios es Bueno
BluePrint Community Church

Jacksonville Baptist Association

Morning Glory Christian Fellowship
Refuge
Congrecaion Cristiana Shalom
Branch Community Church
Tabernacle Baptist Institutional Church
Salvation Church
One Church at Atlantic Beach

Lake County Baptist Association

Midway Baptist Church of Leesburg
Aviva Iglesia Cristiana

Manatee Baptist Association

Encounter

Marion Baptist Association

TruLife Church of Ocala
AIM Church

Miami Baptist Association

Grace Connection Church
Christ In Us Church
Greater Harvest Miami

Nature Coast Baptist Association

Hills Church
Church at the Cross

Northeast Florida Baptist Association

Exchange Church

Northwest Coast Baptist Association

Grace Covemant Church

Palm Beach Baptist Network

Grace Gathering Church of Boca Raton

Ridge Baptist Association

Baptist Church of the Newborn

Royal Palm Baptist Association

Christ Center Fellowship
Naples Family Church
Shalom Fraternity Christian Church

South Florida Baptist Association

Iglesia Bautista de Lakeland

Suncoast Florida Baptist Association

New Philadelphia Christian Center
New Path Community Church

Tampa Bay Baptist Association

Journey Church
Favor Church
Good Servant of God Iglesia Bautista
One Another Ministry
Mission Hill Church, Lake Carroll Campus Spanish
Iglesia Camino de Restauraicon

Treasure Coast Baptist Association

Remade Church
House to House Community Church
Evangelical Church the Witnesses of Jesus-Christ
Abba's House

Additionally, we would like to recognize the following congregations that have been added to our Florida Baptist family and are a satellite campus of an existing Florida Baptist church:

Congregacion Cristiana Bautista	Zephyrhills
Iglesia Familiar Sherbrooke	Lake Worth
Grace Connection Church, Naranja	Naranja
The City Church at Bartrum Park	Jacksonville
Chets Creek Church, Burmese Campus	Jacksonville
Iglesia Redencion	Jacksonville
The City Church at Riverside	Jacksonville
Life Church	Interlachen
Celebration en Espanol	Tallahassee
Igreja Batista de Kendall	Miami
Igreja Real	Hollywood
Real Church	Hollywood
Christ Family en Espanol	Miami
Northside Baptist Church, English Campus	Hialeah
CrossBridge Brazilian Church	Boca Raton
Iglesia Bautista De Kendall, English Campus	Miami
Lake Hill Baptist Church, Portuguese Campus	Orlando
Palm Springs Baptist Church, Arabic Campus	Palm Springs
Iglesia Bautista Westside	Jacksonville
Miami Baptist Church Espanol	Miami
Lakes Church, South Lakeland Campus	Lakeland
Heartland Church, Spanish Campus	Winter Haven
Mission Hill Church, Lake Carroll Campus Spanish	Tampa

Recommendation 3: Adoption of One Hundred and Fortieth Annual Report of the State Board of Missions

The State Board of Missions recommends that the messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention adopt the one hundred and fortieth annual report of the State Board of Missions to the Florida Baptist State Convention, covering the period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021.

Recomendación 3: Adopción del Informe Anual número 140° de la Junta de Misiones del Estado

La Junta de Misiones del Estado recomienda que los mensajeros de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida adopte el informe anual número 140° de la Junta de Misiones del Estado de la Convención Bautista del Estado de Florida, cubriendo el periodo del 1ro de octubre del año 2020 hasta el 30 de septiembre del año 2021.

Recommandation 3: Adoption du Transis 140eme Rapport Annuel du Bureau d'Etat des Missions

Le Bureau d'Etat des Missions recommande que les messagers de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride adoptent le transis 140eme Rapport Annuel du Bureau d'Etat des Missions de la Convention d'Etat Baptiste de la Floride couvrant la période du 1er octobre 2020 au 30 septembre 2021.

Eight-Year-Old Proves Any Age Can Impact Missions

TAMPA— Eight-year-old Adison Bugbee raised more than \$200 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, proving you should never underestimate the next generation of world changers.

In early December, Adison's grandmother, Carol Bugbee, shared the story of Lottie Moon with the children of the Bell Shoals Baptist Church's Palm River campus.

Carol Bugbee had once led the Woman's Missionary Union—an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention Lottie Moon was influential in founding—at the campus where she disciplined women and led mission projects. As she spoke about Moon's heart for the women and girls of China, young Adison was moved to go all in.

After collecting more than \$100 from her neighbors, friends and family, Adison arrived at church the next week with her collection container literally about to fall apart. The next week, someone gave another \$100 for her cause.

Coming from generations of women in missions, Adison lives out 1 Tim. 4:12 by loving her neighbors. "I just really wanted to help people in need and help Lottie reach more people for Jesus," Adison said about what drove her to talk with friends, family and neighbors about missions.

Her grandmother described the young girl as, "a very loving and caring child. She is tender-hearted and empathetic. When Adison hears of someone in need, she is without hesitation ready to help."

Former International Mission Board missionaries Kenny and Teresa Bass now lead the Palm River campus with a heartbeat for reaching their local community through gospel-driven mission work. From monthly clothing drives to weekly meal deliveries for families in need, this church sets the tone of mission-mindedness for its youth.

Church member Kim Almand was touched by Adison's spirit and decided to give. "I saw how Adison was so interested in Lottie Moon. Knowing how instrumental her grandmother, Carol, was in building up the women of our church in missions, I really wanted to support her. We wanted to encourage Adison to work toward missions and have personal insight to the impact her contribution would make. "



Pictured above: Adison Bugbee, Carol Bugbee and Teresa Bass

As the children's director at the campus church, Teresa Bass wanted to raise awareness of Lottie Moon and what missions is because every child is capable of being used by God.

"It is easy for adults to discount children and the things they are able to learn, understand and do because of their age," she said.

Jesus took the faith, bread and fish of a young boy and used it to feed more than 5,000 women and children. "It is never too early to invest in children. You never know where God will call them in the future. Despite their age, God can still use them to make an impact in ministry. All it takes is a spark to start a fire and the same is true for our children," Bass said.

"This little girl comes from a long line of women who were former GA's and one who has even served on the mission field, but I cannot help but wonder what God has in store for my little Adi," Bass continued. "Future missionary? Maybe! Only God knows what comes from small seeds planted in the hearts of our children."

By Kelsie Barnes, Florida Baptist Convention, Feb 24, 2021

Russian-Speaking Church Plants Satellite Congregation In Neighboring City

FORT LAUDERDALE — Boca Raton’s Russian-speaking Bible Church is just over a year old. But its newness has not stopped the church from sending a group to neighboring Ft. Lauderdale to reach the underserved Russian-speaking community there with the claims of Christ.

“There are many people in the Boca Raton and Ft. Lauderdale area who speak Russian, but it doesn’t mean that they are necessarily Russian,” explained Daniel Naberezhny, Bible Church pastor.

“People from countries that were once part of the Soviet Union also speak Russian and we want to reach them and give them a place where they can read and study the Bible in their own language,” he said.

More than 200,000 Russian-speaking people live in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, according to the latest data from the U.S. Census. Russian Town Magazine noted that “Florida is the second largest Russian community in the U.S. with rich culture and net worth.”

Bible Church meets for worship on the campus of Boca Raton Community Church. The church plant is thriving and growing and has attracted Russian speakers from surrounding areas, including Ft. Lauderdale.

Yuriy Karolyuk, a member of Bible Church, urged the congregation to begin a similar satellite ministry in Ft. Lauderdale to reach the Russian-speaking community there. He was sent to lead that group.

He began working with Al Fernandez, Florida Baptist Convention’s southeast regional catalyst, who facilitated a connection between the Russian group and Immanuel Baptist Church. Immanuel opened its arms to the fledgling congregation.

“Our church is very diverse with families representing South America, Europe, the Caribbean, and many more countries,” said Carol Vidal, Spanish pastor at Immanuel. “We are a very mission minded church; a very united church that loves to serve.”

Immanuel’s lead pastor, Larry Brister, was once a mobile church pastor and knows the challenges new congregations face in finding a place to meet for worship.



“I have a heart for pastors who are planting and don’t have a place to meet,” said Brister. “I reached out to Al and told him that we could help pastors out who didn’t have a place to meet.”

The Bible Church satellite is currently meeting in the Immanuel facility rent-free, and the pastors have already talked through accommodations as the group continues to grow. Beyond providing space, the Boca Raton church and Immanuel plan to host events together to bless the communities surrounding each church.

“The area around Immanuel has become diverse with lots of Haitians, African Americans, Ukrainians, Polish, and Russians moving in,” said Vidal. “Now, there is more traffic... and the church is more visible, and more people are coming. The food pantry and clinic also contribute to the visibility in the community.”

Vidal said Bible Church is also welcomed to make use of the clinic and food pantry in their ministry to the Russian-speaking community.

On Wednesday May 12, the Ft. Lauderdale group of Bible Church met for their first Bible study with an attendance of 16 adults and five children. Of the adults, 10 are non-believers.

“For now, this group is the extension of our church over there,” said Naberezhny. “We are excited to see another place for God’s people to come together and study the Bible in their native language.”

“The main goal for us is for people to be born again,” he continued, “and it doesn’t matter if they stay with the Russian-speaking church or choose to go to an English-speaking church.”

By Keila Diaz, Florida Baptist Convention, Jun 14, 2021



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Pastors, please stop by our booth for your **FREE** Estate Planning and Will resource.

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Proverbs 11:28



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Welcome!

New Pastor Orientation

January 12, 2022 | 9:00am-2:00pm
6850 Belfort Oaks Place | Jacksonville FL 32216
Accommodations available for January 11th.



Learn **Prepare** **Serve**

Florida Baptist Convention | *Right Beside You.*

Information and registration online at:
flbaptist.org/event/new-pastor-orientation



FLORIDA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Remembering the Legacy of Florida Baptists is Our Ministry and Mission

A legacy is the story of a person's or organization's life, the things they did, goals they accomplished, and even their shortcomings in their efforts to bring the gospel to the Florida mission field. Preserving legacies ensures that the memories and history of the past are not forgotten by the present or future generations of Florida Baptists.

The dual ministry and mission of the Florida Baptist Historical Society are to research, preserve and promote the legacy of Florida Baptists. The Society seeks to preserve the legacies of: Florida Baptist pastoral leaders and laity; collect the histories of past and present functioning Baptist churches; and secure the records of cooperating ministries and events, all of which are historically significant to Florida Baptists.

If the Society can assist your church in preserving its legacy contact us at:

FLORIDA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 95, Graceville, FL 32440 | Phone: 1-850-360-4179

Email Don Hepburn: Society1@FloridaBaptistHistory.org | Email Penny Baumgardner: Society2@FloridaBaptistHistory.org

www.floridabaptisthistory.org

Prison Ministry From The Inside Out: How One Pastor's Personal Prison Experience Gives Him A Heart For The Incarcerated

EASTPOINT—Kory Gordon was introduced to drugs at an early age by his stepfather. By the age of 12 he tried his first pain medication and quickly became addicted.

“That opened up the doors for a long, hard life,” said Gordon.

When he was 22, the Hayhurst, Ga., native moved to St. Petersburg and found a six-figure job at a power plant. But everything changed when he started dealing drugs to coworkers and landed in jail with 11 felonies. He eventually was sentenced to 13 years behind bars.

Seven years into his sentence, he was moved temporarily to Pinellas County Jail. When he arrived, he found a Bible under his bed.

As he was reading, “My eyes were opened. I realized all my problems, crime, drama and drug abuse came from God not having a place in my life,” Gordon said.

Pushing the Bible aside, he was not quite ready to surrender his life to God. He found another book he thought was secular in content, but it was the testimony of how a woman was delivered by God from witchcraft.

As he was reading, the Gordon recalled, he jumped up from his bed and said, “God, you can have all of me—but I need you to free me from the slave master and the addiction.”

From that moment Gordon's life looked different. He came back to his old cellmates with a Bible in his hand and immediately began ministering to others. He started a Bible study and became involved in the prison's chapel services.

One Sunday he was able to share his testimony during chapel. That service opened doors for Gordon, while still serving time, to preach a weekly service. He discovered because he had lived through the struggles many of the men were facing, he could relate in ways others could not.

When word got out about his testimony, a Tallahassee church asked the young man to speak the day after his prison release. He traveled the Panhandle region sharing his testimony and preaching at churches. Not long after



Pictured above: The worship band that played at this year's Thanksgiving Service for the prisoners.

that, First Baptist Church in Eastpoint invited him to be their pastor, where he has served for two years.

Now 38, Gordon and his wife Kasey, who he met and married while he was still incarcerated, are expecting their first child.

“Pastor Kory Gordon and his wife are living the transformed life as they minister together to the community of Eastpoint,” said Lewis Miller, Florida Baptist catalyst for the West region.

“They are loved by all who know them and are keenly aware of the needs of their Eastpoint mission field. We are grateful for their leadership and partnership in reaching those who are hurting.”

Because of his experience, Gordon has a special place in his heart to minister to the incarcerated. While serving full-time at the coastal community church located on Apalachicola Bay, he also takes time to minister to the people God has laid heavy on his heart.

For the past two years, Gordon has been invited by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to speak at its annual Thanksgiving Service that includes a special meal and worship.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, he traveled every other week to the Franklin County Jail to preach and made weekly trips to Promised Land Ministries Lighthouse recovery center in Crawfordville to minister to those in rehab there.

As he shares the gospel with prisoners, Gordon has seen lives radically changed. He recalled one married couple who was experiencing devastation in their lives and marriage from a meth addiction. God forever impacted their lives through Gordon's ministry behind bars.

“Fast forward eight months and they are sober, in church, with jobs,” Gordon said. The husband was even being considered for a job at NASA. “It's a great story of transformation.”

Although some are fearful walking into a jail to minister to people, the opposite is true, he said.

“People may be intimidated going in, but people in prison are way more receptive to the gospel. There's nothing like ministering to people who are broken. It's hard to tell successful people they need Christ but for broken people, their heart is already torn open.”

By Ashley Russell, Florida Baptist Convention, Dec 8, 2020



COOPERATING MINISTRIES
The Baptist College
of Florida

THOMAS A. KINCEN, Ph.D.
President

The Baptist College of Florida is an institution of Christian higher education whose trademark is “**Changing the World through the Unchanging Word®**.” Our campus is made up of property in Graceville, Florida with our Lakeland campus located at Medulla Baptist Church in Lakeland. Distance learning opportunities for degree completion, full degree programs, and dual enrollment are available via Internet. As a Cooperating Ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the college is a vital partner in the mission enterprises of Florida Baptists. Students participate in local, North American and international missions, Disaster Relief and evangelistic activities in addition to rigorous academics and uplifting worship.

ACCREDITATION:

The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to offer associate, baccalaureate and masters degrees. It holds membership in the National Association of Schools of Music (11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21, Reston, VA 20190: Telephone number 703-437-0700) and the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The Baptist College of Florida practices a comprehensive approach in admission policy. This approach takes into consideration academic, personal, and spiritual aspects of the individual's life. Specific admission requirements are listed in the College Catalog.

FACULTY:

Faculty members are committed Christians having accredited academic credentials, impeccable character, church leadership experience and significant field experience. The overwhelming majority of these highly qualified faculty members hold doctoral degrees.

FINANCES:

The College offers top-quality postsecondary education at a very affordable cost. Financial aid is available to qualifying students through Federal, State, Denominational and local sources. Every effort is made to ensure that financial burdens on students are kept at the lowest possible level.

ACADEMICS:

The College confers degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, and Masters levels. These degrees are offered in the general areas of Pastoral Ministries, Christian education, Business, Music and Worship ministries and Teacher Education. Academic offerings include sixteen undergraduate and four graduate level programs. These programs are described in detail in the College Catalog.

The curriculum, which is immersed in a strong Christian Worldview, features an excellent mixture of liberal arts courses common to most colleges and universities as well as ministry preparation courses designated to lead to direct ministerial service or graduate study. A high percentage of our graduates go into graduate school programs or into their chosen field of service.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020-2021:

- Held special “outside” commencement ceremony in response to all of the COVID-19 pandemic challenges – December 2020
- BCF conducts virtual graduation in the R.G. Lee Chapel – May 2020
- BCF held Biblical Interpretation Conference – Professor of New testament Interpretation at SBTS, Dr. William F. Cook, III – guest lecturer
- BCF Announces sale of the Blue Springs Conference Center located in Marianna, Florida
- Announces Housing Scholarship Program (in response to the devastation of COVID-19)
- BCF Trustees met virtually for the first time in the life of the seventy-seven-year-old college – May 7, 2020
- BCF reopened campus/classes in August after having to go “virtual” in March
- BCF Trustees approve partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention (bi-vocational and small church pastors across the state) and Tuition Assistance Program for Ministry Students in the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists
- BCF holds Lakeland Campus Preview Day
- BCF Lakeland Campus begins classes with new Site Administrator – Stephen Thomas

Recognitions Received by the College

- State University.com – Ranked The Baptist College of Florida #3 Safest College in Florida in 2020
- Best Online Bachelor’s Programs, U.S. News & World Report, January 2021 – Showmark
- University HQ – Ranked #21 for the Best Affordable Counseling Degree 2021
- Intelligent.com – BCF Ranked #15 as one of the Best Colleges in Florida 2021; Ranked #3 for Online History Program; Ranked #28 Best Online Bible College
- CollegeConsensus.com – BCF recognized as the Best Online Bachelor’s in History for 2021
- Best Value Schools.org – Best Online Ministry Degree 2021
- Best Value Schools.org – Featured in their Best Music College in Florida Page – 2021
- Plexus.com: 2021 Global Rankings - #5 Best in Florida offering theology and Religious Studies
- Graphic Design USA – the new BCF Website won an American Web Design Award in the website category 2021

For further information concerning the programs of study offered at The Baptist College of Florida, contact Sandra Richards; Director of Student Life and Marketing; 5400 College Drive; Graceville, FL 32440; 1-800-328-2660 ext. 415.



COOPERATING MINISTRIES
**Florida Baptist
Financial Services, Inc.**

Rick Wheeler
President/CEO

At Stewardship Simplified, our passion is to help individuals and churches thrive in the area of stewardship and finances. When God's people do God's work God's way, the church thrives and the Great commission advances. Here are a few client highlights, celebrations, and a **gift** we have for every Florida Baptist pastor.

- We recently conducted a planned giving workshop at a church in Northeast Florida. Over 70% of the participants followed up with next steps in estate planning with incredible generosity plans expressed toward their church!
- We have distributed \$15.5 Million on behalf of Florida Baptists in the past five years and over \$41MM since 2003, with over half of these distributions going to churches, associations, and other various SBC ministry partners.
- Since January of 2020, our total assets under management have grown at an unprecedented rate from \$223Million to over \$291MM, representing growth of \$68Million or 30% in the past eighteen months.
- We are continuing to pursue the sale of the Florida Baptist Retirement Center and are in the due diligence period with the potential buyer. The proceeds from this sale will be designated towards blessing retired FBC pastors and their widows through Guidestone's Mission Dignity. Please continue to join us in prayer for this process.
- We are currently positioning our reserve accounts to be able to make regular contributions to Florida Baptist Mission causes in church planting, theological education, disaster relief and fostering & adoption support. This will be done through the creation of the **Florida One Fund**. We anticipate that these distributions can begin in 2022.
- Lastly, for every pastor here at the Florida Baptist Convention, we have a gift just for you! Just click on the QR code below and provide your contact information and you will receive a link to a free will for you and your spouse. This menu driven process takes under an hour to complete and will help give you the peace of mind knowing that your wishes and intentions are appropriately documented. This is our way of saying THANK YOU for all you do to serve your church! You can also stop by our booth here at the convention and we will be happy to help you register to receive this gift.

Unto the Praise of His Glory!
Rick Wheeler, President & CEO
Stewardship.Simplified | Florida Baptist Financial Services





COOPERATING MINISTRIES
Lake Yale Baptist
Conference Center

Jeff A. Yant
Executive Director

Thank you. It seems so simple to say, yet it is our heart-cry to God and to the faithful members, churches, boards, and leaders of our Florida Baptist Convention for how you have supported and upheld the ministry of Lake Yale. God is truly moving in the hearts of Florida Baptists and in the ministry of Lake Yale and we are so grateful to be a part of this convention and share in its work here in our great state.

For years, Lake Yale has been seen and utilized as a conference center in the heart of central Florida, but we are so much more. God has used this ministry to reach hundreds of thousands of lives with the gospel of Christ, direct thousands to calls of ministry service, and spark inspiration for hundreds of artists and songwriters. It is so much more than a place for conferences; this is truly a place where ministry happens.

This year alone, we have been honored to see over 350 people respond to the Holy Spirit for salvation, 15 of them at our own annual Women's Conference! Over 9000 people have passed through our gates this year to be a part of ministries that are happening here. From Florida Baptist Convention events to local church retreats and everywhere in between, ministry is happening at Lake Yale.

We began a program this summer of hiring local high school and college students to help with the ministry. Our goal was to build into these students a foundation of discipleship, responsibility, and work ethic to prepare them to be solid Christian young men and women in whatever workforce God was calling them to. The hope and goal for this program was that we would attract at least fifteen students. We hired twenty-two! The response was amazing. These students came from various backgrounds and at various stages in their walk with Christ and we took this opportunity to disciple them and to be an example to them of how to uphold their faith in the workplace. One of our summer staffers, Haley, had this to say:

It was an amazing program that allowed me to develop my relationship with Christ, fellow teens, and lots of other fun employees.

As we move forward into the future, we are continuing to update and adapt to be better equipped to help enhance your ministry and complete your experience. Join with us in prayer as God continues to do wonderful things in and through this ministry, and prayerfully consider a visit to our campus to volunteer, to visit, or to simply spend time praying for our staff and ministry. You are always welcome and we look forward to seeing you soon!

For His Glory,
Jeff A. Yant
Executive Director



COOPERATING MINISTRIES
Florida Baptist
Children's Homes
& ONE MORE CHILD

JERRY T. HAAG, Ph.D., C.F.P.
President/CEO

Florida Baptist churches,

Thank you for your incredible partnership that allows us to meet the needs of foster children, trafficked children, hungry children, single moms and struggling families in Florida. Because of you, we are able to continue meeting dire tangible needs. Most importantly, with every tangible need met, doors open for us to share about the One who truly heals and saves – Jesus Christ!

Brendan's story with us began when he was 61 days old and in the ICU. The day we entered into his life, he was not expected to make it through the night. His body was badly hurt, and he was covered with wires and splints. The medical team working on Brendan was doing everything it could but felt time was not on its side.

During this critical moment for Brendan, we shared on one of our private foster family Facebook groups the urgent prayer need for his life. Danae, one of our long-time foster parents physically stepped up to be by Brendan's side as he was separated from his biological family because of abuse. Danae was "his person," there each day as he made a remarkable recovery. In it all, Danae covered Brendan in prayer.

Danae's compassion for Brendan paved the way for him to eventually join his two brothers in a One More Child foster home. Today, Brendan is on his way to full health, and he has been adopted.

Every day, churches, foster parents and volunteers are making it possible for children just like Brendan to know stability and safety, as well as the unconditional love of Jesus! Thank you, churches, for taking care of Florida's most vulnerable.

On this page, you will read how, through God's grace, Florida Baptist Children's Homes and One More Child is impacting more than 324,000 children and individuals annually. Thank you for standing with us!

"I THANK MY GOD EVERY TIME I REMEMBER YOU."
PHILIPPIANS 1:3

Jerry T. Haag, Ph.D., CFP®
 President/CEO

OUR MINISTRIES:

Through our domestic and international childcare impact, we are changing the lives of orphaned and disadvantaged children in Florida and around the world.

ANNUAL MINISTRY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Impacted **324,409 children and individuals** while also providing more than **19.1 million meals** in the name of Christ!

- Served **1,251 foster children** through **612 One More Child foster homes**. Expanded our foster care services to license Christian foster families in more than 50 Florida counties.
- Celebrated **70 children** as they were permanently **adopted** by One More Child foster families.
- Collected **717,744 diapers for children in care** during our 2020 annual diaper drive, with the help of faithful churches, businesses and other partnerships.
- Impacted more than **5,217 individuals** through advocacy, training and awareness through our **Sanctity of Human Life** program.
- Provided life-changing comprehensive services to **347 clients served through our Anti-Trafficking mobile services and safe home care**. Impacted **20,671 individuals through our Anti-Trafficking education, advocacy and awareness** efforts.
- Met the needs of single moms and their children by providing **171 single mothers and their children** places to live, spiritual nourishment, mentors and other life-changing resources.
- Impacted **133,641 individuals through our Family Support prevention** program in which the goal is to keep children and families safe and together; preventing children from experiencing abuse, abandonment, neglect and/or being placed in foster care.
- Provided **COVID-19 emergency relief to more than 500 families** by way of rent and mortgage assistance, food, diapers and emergency necessities. More than \$1,000,000 of assistance was provided to families in total.
- Served **58 teens through our Hope Street inner-city GED and diversion programs** in partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- Launched and/or fully implemented comprehensive **capital expansion and improvement plans** for our Sarasota, Bradenton, Jacksonville, Tampa and Lakeland campuses.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH EVERY CHILD IN EVERY CITY!

We want to partner with you through our Every Child, Every City initiatives to reach more vulnerable children. Through the QR code or link below, please learn how your church can feed hungry children, protect vulnerable children, support foster families and mentor single moms where you live.



onemorechild.org/everychild

ANNUAL OFFERING:

We would also like to invite every Florida Baptist church to be part of our annual offering in May 2022! We are thankful for every dollar given, and we are steadfast in our resolve to help children in need because of it. Every church that participates will be equipped with tools needed to help make it a success, including: videos, offering envelopes, information about our areas of need and more! To learn more about how your church can make an impact for children through this special offering, contact Averitt Ennis at Averitt. Ennis@onemorechild.org.

We are thankful for the steadfast ways God continues to use our ministry for His glory, and we diligently look to the future as we work to give eternal hope to ONE MORE CHILD.

Church Planter Offers Restoration And Hope In Downtown Historic Sanford

SANFORD—When Arthur Gonçalves first met Adam, he was pushing a cart in downtown Sanford. When offered a meal and prayer, he accepted both and by the end of the night, he also accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Now 10 months later, Adam is sober, has a job and goes out regularly to evangelize on the streets where he once pushed his cart.

Adam's transformation was just one of the lives changed through Gonçalves' ministry in the Central Florida community.

With a heart for marginalized people and a desire to plant a church in downtown Sanford, Gonçalves believes God has called him to help restore people from all walks of life to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

"It is messy coming alongside people—but that is our ministry—spiritual, mental, emotional and physical restoration of others," said Gonçalves who started the ministry in downtown Sanford in 2019.

The ministry began as he led a group from the Church at Heathrow in Sanford to serve at a downtown homeless center. Soon afterwards, the center's leaders asked him to return and lead Bible study every Monday evening for a year.

Through that experience, God began working on his heart and that of his wife's. "We saw that there was a great need for mercy ministry but also for preaching and gospel ministry," said Gonçalves.

Feeling led to pursue starting a church and downtown ministry, the young man's first step became praying for Sanford.

A local downtown restaurant, The Colonial Room, offered the use of its banquet hall for weekly prayer gatherings which began in January 2020 with six to seven people.

In May he joined a local Rotary Club where members began sharing needs of the local police and elderly in the community. "We helped the police department give away gifts to children in need during Christmas. We also help our elderly with groceries and with home and lawn maintenance on some occasions," said Gonçalves.



After meeting the needs one at a time, it turned into "full blown outreach ministry."

The ministry team grew to 20-30 people as they began providing weekly meals, clothing and hygiene kits to those in need in downtown Sanford.

Local businesses heard about their efforts and four restaurants offered to cover the cost of preparing 50 meals each week.

Since June, meals have been prepared every Thursday and served in the banquet room to those in the neighborhood who come to join them. As many as 35 people have attended and stayed for worship.

Each week, a sister church, Orlando Baptist Church, loans the team a 15-passenger van to use to deliver meals to local homeless sites and in the Goldsboro neighborhood. They now anticipate the van's arrival.

Even before the church has launched, they have seen God at work. This past year six people have come to faith in Christ, and two have been baptized, including Adam.

After he was invited to attend the service at the restaurant, "Adam came, repented and confessed Jesus," said Gonçalves. "He also stood up and confessed his alcohol addiction, asking for help."

That night among the men in attendance was the director from The Recovery House of Central Florida, a faith-based community providing transitional housing and support services for the homeless and those with addictions.

Adam was admitted into the program at The Recovery House the next day and is now 10 months sober and has a job. He goes out in the community with Gonçalves' team to help evangelize and is part of the church planting team.

"We've had multiple accounts of similar testimonies, reaching people who are marginalized," said the young minister.

Gonçalves plans to launch Restoration Church in January 2022 at Hamilton Elementary School in the heart of the impoverished downtown area.

“There are 633 students at the school and 92 percent of them receive a free or reduced cost lunch,” shared Gonçalves. “There are lots of needs to be met at the school itself where the average income for a family of four is \$30,000.”

Through the North American Mission Board, SBC, the father of four is now a church planter, part of the Send Network Florida. Central Baptist Church in Sanford, is the sending church.

Alan Brumback, pastor of Central Church, commended the ministry. “We are so excited to have Arthur and his family serve in our city to reach our community for Christ. Arthur has a contagious passion for sharing the gospel and making disciples of all people and we are excited to be a part of the journey,” he shared.



By Barbara Hoffmann, Florida Baptist Convention, April 9, 2021

Send Network Florida Church Planter Retreat

May 10-11, 2022



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Remembering Faithful Servants

Florida Baptist pastors have a tremendous legacy to follow. You serve in fields where many seeds were sown long before you arrived. God has used many mighty men throughout the Sunshine State for His glory and countless lives have been altered for eternity through the ministry of pastors. We pause now to reflect on our Christian heritage and the men that have gone before us. The following is a listing of pastors who were called home over the last year to their eternal reward.

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

CLAYTON BARKER, retired pastor, Brevard Baptist Association
JAMES BARRENTINE, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gaskin
TOM BARY, pastor, Neptune Baptist Church, Neptune Beach
DALE BLACK, minister, Surfside Community Fellowship
R. T. BLACKSTOCK, retired director of missions, Jacksonville Baptist Association
DOYLE BRAKE, pastor, Shoal River Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs
BRUCE BRANCHE, pastor, Midway Baptist Church, Mayo
HAROLD BRANTLEY, retired director of missions, Brevard Baptist Association
HOMER BREWER, JR., pastor, Felda Baptist Church
AL CARLISLE, pastor, Grace of God Baptist Church, New Port Richey
UVONNE CARROLL, pastor, Glendale Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs
CHARLES CHAPMAN, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lucerne Park
FRED COOK, retired, Bascom Baptist Church, Bascom
CARLOS CORRALES, retired pastor, Miami
ROBERTO CRUZ, retired pastor, Iglesia Cruz de Vida, Oviedo
BILL DERRYBERRY, pastor, Crossroads, West Palm Beach
MOISES ABELLA DIAZ, lead pastor, Iglesia Bautista Rescate, Hialeah
GREG DOUGLAS, pastor, Pine Grove Baptist Church, Trenton
ELIFRANCE DUCLOS, pastor, Mount Olive Haitian Church, Jacksonville
KEITH DUNCAN, pastor, Church at the Springs Southwest, Ocala
CLAUDE ENGLISH, pastor, Pasadena Baptist Church, Dade City
DAN FIFE, small group pastor, Fuel Church, Lakeland
RUSS FORTNEY, pastor, Beach Haven, Pensacola
JOHN GARNER, pastor, Oakview Baptist Church, Okeechobee
JAMES GOODSON, retired, Florida Baptist Convention
TERRY GREGORY, pastor, Woodrun Baptist Church, Tallahassee
WILBERT JEAN, retired pastor, Miami
FRANK ED JENKINS, pastor, Caney Creek Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs

Remembering Faithful Servants

JOSIAS JOCELYN, pastor, Sanctification Haitian Baptist Church, St. Petersburg
ANTHONY JOHNSON, pastor, Union Springs Missionary Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs
PETER LORD, retired pastor, Park Avenue Baptist Church, Titusville
MATTHEW MEADOWS, pastor, New Berlin Baptist Church, Jacksonville
RAFAEL MELIAN, retired, Florida Baptist Convention
MARCEL METAYER, pastor, Renaissance Evangelical Baptist Tabernacle
RONNIE MCKENZIE, retired pastor, Kernan Boulevard Baptist Church, Jacksonville
JERRY MOORE, retired pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Panama City
TOM MYERS, pastor, First Baptist Church, Mims
ISRAEL OLIVEIRA, Brazilian pastor, Palm Springs Baptist Church, West Palm Beach
HUGH PATTERSON, worship pastor, Jacksonville Heights Baptist Church, Jacksonville
HENRY PEEPLES, pastor, Bible Baptist Church, Miami
ERNESTO PERRAZA, retired pastor, Homestead
GUY PIERRE, assistant pastor, Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Philadelphie, Miami
JUAN PINEDO, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Pasos de Fe, Homestead
DAVID POLO, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Boca Glades
BUDDY POPE, former pastor, First Baptist Church, Ellenton
CHARLES PRIESTER, pastor, First Baptist Church, Titusville
WAYNE ROBERTS, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Winter Haven
TONY SALMERON, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Central, Ocala
PAUL SAMSON, pastor, Brooker Baptist Church
RICHARD SNODGRASS, associate pastor, Oceanside Community Fellowship
CARLOS SUAREZ, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida, Melbourne
AUGUSTO VALVERDE, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Un Nuevo Amanecer, Miami
LARRY WADE, retired pastor, Panama City
JEROME WATTS, minister of worship, Unity Baptist Church, Jacksonville
RICHARD WHITWORTH, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Malabar
JAMES WILLIS, pastor, Pine Forest, Pensacola

...He would give you—a land with large and beautiful cities that you did not build, houses full of every good thing that you did not fill them with, wells dug that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant...

Deuteronomy 6:10-11

This list of names reflects individuals that the Florida Baptist Convention has been made aware of.

The Committee on Nominations of the Florida Baptist State Convention presents the following report for consideration and action by the Florida Baptist State Convention, November 8-9, 2021.

Persons listed in the sections “Nominees for Election” are **being recommended by the Committee on Nominations for election by the state convention.**

Names listed in the shaded areas are for **information only.** These members are currently serving and are not subject to action by the convention in the year 2021.

STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS (97 members)

The State Board of Missions is composed of members elected by the Florida Baptist State Convention from within the bounds of each of the six ministry regions. The regional distribution of Board members is to be made on the following basis of church membership as recorded in the annual statistical report for the prior year: (1) One Board member for 1-8,500 church members which shall increase by one for each additional 8,500 church members or portion thereof; (2) Total membership on the Board shall be no more than 99 members and no less than 90; (3) No ministry region may be permitted more than 22 elected Board members; (4) Each cooperating association shall be represented by a minimum of one member from one of its cooperating churches; (5) No association may be permitted more than five Board members; (6) At least one elected Board member shall come from a church affiliated with the FBSC as a Church-at-Large; (7) In no instance will more than six elected Board members come from churches affiliated with the FBSC as a Church-at-Large, with no more than two Church-at-Large representatives coming from any one of the six ministry regions.

CENTRAL REGION (22 members)

Central Nominees for Election (18)	Association	Term	Previous Term(s)
David Crowe (ord)	Greater Orlando	2021-23	18-21
Lecio Dornas (ord)	Greater Orlando	2021-23	18-21
David Schjores (ord)	Greater Orlando	2021-23	17-20
David Uth (ord)	Greater Orlando	2021-24	None
Josh Gussler (ch stf)	Lake County	2021-23	17-20
Thomas Jamieson (ord)	Lake County	2021-24	18-19; 19-21
Mike Sellers (ord)	Nature Coast	2021-23	None
Stephen Gerhart (ord)	Pasco	2021-23	None
Linda Maiden (lay)	Ridge	2021-23	17-20
Brian Stowe (ord)	Shiloh	2021-23	17-20
Aaron Burgner (ord)	South Florida	2021-24	None
Matthew McCraw (ord)	South Florida	2021-23	None
Jay Huddleston (ord)	Suncoast	2021-24	None
Jon Matthews (ord)	Suncoast	2021-22	None
David Rice (ord)	Suncoast	2021-24	None
Stephanie Williams (lay)	Suncoast	2021-24	None
Johnny Boatwright (lay)	Tampa Bay	2021-23	18-20
Ericka Ludwig (lay)	Tampa Bay	2021-24	16-17

Central Board Members Continuing Service (4)

Maria Monroe (lay) (19-22) Greater Orlando	Doug Watkins (ord) (19-22) (Sumter)
Matt Gilmore (ord) (19-22) South Florida	Ralph Alderman (lay) (19-22) (Tampa Bay)

EAST REGION (21 members)

East Nominees for Election (11)	Association	Term	Previous Term(s)
Stephen Loy (ord)	Halifax	2021-23	None
Chet Thomas (ord)	Halifax	2021-23	None
Myra Campbell (ch stf)	Jacksonville	2021-23	None
Angel Santiago (ord)	Jacksonville	2021-22	None
John Shultz (ord)	Jacksonville	2021-24	18-21
Heather Carlton (lay)	St. Johns River	2021-24	None
Garry Taylor (ord)	St. Johns River	2021-24	None
Nikki Glenn (lay)	Seminole	2021-23	None
Nicholas Manzie (ord)	Treasure Coast	2021-24	None
Robert Neiman (ord)	Treasure Coast	2021-24	17-20
Matthew Piscitelli (lay)	Treasure Coast	2021-24	None

East Board Members Continuing Service (10)

Bob Wilson (ord) (19-22) Brevard	Jim Parrish (lay) (19-22) Jacksonville
Scott Wilson (ord) (19-22) Brevard	Steve Simmons (lay) (19-22) Northeast Florida
Kevin Lautar (ord) (19-22) Halifax	Asa Greear (ord) (19-22) St. Johns River
John Marsh (ord) (19-22) Halifax	Charlie Higgins (ord) (19-22) Seminole
Anna Guy (lay) (19-22) Jacksonville	Bill Tate (ord) (19-22) Seminole

NORTH REGION (14 members)

North Nominees for Election (10)	Association	Term	Previous Term(s)
Samuel Louis Jean (ord)	Black Creek	2021-24	None
Crystal Carter (lay)	Florida	2021-24	None
Gary Shultz (ord)	Florida	2021-22	None
Michael Fox (ord)	Harmony	2021-24	None
Al Paulson, Jr. (ord)	Lafayette	2021-24	18-21
Darren Gaddis (ord)	Marion	2021-24	None
Michael Hornback (ord)	Middle Florida	2021-22	None
Terry Elixson (ord)	North Florida	2021-23	17-20
Phillip Herrington (ord)	Suwannee	2021-24	None
Steven Ruff (ord)	Taylor	2021-23	18-20

North Board Members Continuing Service (4)

David Warr (ord) (19-22) Gadsden County	Patrick Inglett (lay) (19-22) North Central Florida
Scott Stanland (ord) (19-22) New River	Shawn Johnson (ord) (19-22) Suwannee

SOUTHEAST REGION (17 members)

Southeast Nominees for Election (7)	Association	Term	Previous Term(s)
Jean Boval (ch stf)	Gulf Stream	2021-24	None
Garfield Francis (lay)	Gulf Stream	2021-23	18-21
Lourdes Fernandez (lay)	Miami	2021-24	17-20
Wadler Jules (ord)	Miami	2021-23	17-18; 18-21
Sarah Laucirica (lay)	Miami	2021-24	None
Freslaine St. Louis (lay)	Palm Beach	2021-23	18-20
Judson Leverette (lay)	Palm Beach	2021-24	None

Southeast Board Members Continuing Service (10)

Josh Dryer (ord) (19-22) Florida Keys	Noel Lozano (ord) (19-22) Miami
Charles Rosenbalm (ord) (19-22) Florida Keys	Alberto Ocana (ord) (19-22) Miami
Eddie Bevill (ord) (19-22) Gulf Stream	Jeff Robinson (ord) (19-22) Palm Beach
Joel Lamour (ord) (19-22) Gulf Stream	Julie Thomas (lay) (19-22) Palm Beach
Jerome Symonette (ord) (19-22) Gulf Stream	Angel Turbeville (ch stf) (19-22) Palm Beach

SOUTHWEST REGION (9 members)

Southwest Nominees for Election (6)	Association	Term	Previous Term(s)
Heather Stevenson (lay)	Big Lake	2021-23	None
Phillip Hamm (ord)	Manatee Southern	2021-24	18-21
Mitchell Landress (ord)	Orange Blossom	2021-23	17-20
Lisa Letson (lay)	Peace River	2021-24	None
Paula Butler (lay)	Royal Palm	2021-24	18-21
Timothy Pigg (ord)	Royal Palm	2021-24	17-20

Southwest Board Members Continuing Service (3)

Mike Landry (ord) (19-22) Church-at-Large	David Gold (ord) (19-22) Royal Palm
Susan Bassler (lay) (19-22) Manatee Southern	

WEST REGION (14 members)

West Nominees for Election (11)	Association	Term	Previous Term(s)
James Thorpe (lay)	Apalachee	2021-23	17-20
Danny Mann (ord)	Chipola	2021-24	None
Steven Davies (ord)	Emerald Coast	2021-23	18-20
Freddie McIntosh (lay)	Holmes	2021-23	18-20
David Flatt (ord)	Northwest Coast	2021-24	18-21
Carl Fondren (ord)	Northwest Coast	2021-23	17-20
Tadd Anderson (ord)	Okaloosa	2021-23	17-20
Nathan Brown (ord)	Pensacola Bay	2021-24	18-21
Brian Calhoun (ord)	Pensacola Bay	2021-24	18-21
Christina Vargas (lay)	Pensacola Bay	2021-24	16-17; 17-20
Timothy Francis (lay)	Walton County	2021-24	17-18; 18-21

West Board Members Continuing Service (3)

Grady Gambill (lay) (19-22) Chipola	Michael Orr (ord) (19-22) West Florida
Ronnie Wade (lay) (19-22) Santa Rosa	

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (9 members)

Nominees for Election (6)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Janey Frost, Pensacola (ch stf)	2021-2023	19-21
Scott Douglas, Palmetto (ord)	2021-2023	None
Carlos Finale, Miami (ord)	2021-2023	None
Jennifer Gaddis, Ocala (lay)	2021-2024	None
Steven Kyle, Panama City (ord)	2021-2024	None
Samuel Thigpen, St. Augustine (ord)	2021-2024	None

Chairman: Eric Stitts, Daytona Beach (ord)
Vice-Chairman: Janey Frost, Pensacola (ch stf)

Committee Members Continuing Service (3)

Pablito Lucas, Lakeland (ord) (19-22) Eric Stitts, Daytona Beach (ord) (19-22)
 Jonathan Russell, Milton (ord) (19-22)

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES (24 members)

Nominees for Election (18)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Scott Cadwell, Windermere (lay)	2021-2022	None
Ricky Wallace, Jacksonville (lay)	2021-2022	None
Kevin Ahrens, Lake Josephine (ord)	2021-2023	18-20
Patricia Davis, Lake City (lay)	2021-2023	17-20
Stephen "Spike" Hogan, Jacksonville (ord)	2021-2023	17-20
Sheri Jamieson, Mt. Dora (lay)	2021-2023	16-17; 17-20
Lucrecia Lozano, Miami (lay)	2021-2023	None
Britton Williams, Bradenton (lay)	2021-2023	None
Justin Wyatt, Niceville (ord)	2021-2023	None
Lennox Zamore, Tampa (ord)	2021-2023	None
Sandra Buchanan, Sarasota (lay)	2021-2024	None
Susan Krause, Wauchula (lay)	2021-2024	17-18; 18-20
Sherri Martin, Niceville (lay)	2021-2024	18-21
Robert McNorton, Pensacola (lay)	2021-2024	17-18; 18-21
Sam Rainer, Bradenton (ord)	2021-2024	18-21
Diane Strack, Orlando (lay)	2021-2024	16-18; 18-21
Ken Whitten, Lutz (ord)	2021-2024	18-21
Kim Wilbanks, Lakeland (lay)	2021-2024	16-18; 18-21

Trustees Continuing Service (6)

Jose Abella, Miami (ord) (19-22) Melody Scott, Live Oak (lay) (19-22)
 Monique Cummings, Miami (lay) (19-22) Anna Shanks, Largo (lay) (19-22)
 Lanelle Pickett, Bartow (ord) (19-22) Daniel Walker, Plant City (lay) (19-22)

FLORIDA BAPTIST FINANCIAL SERVICES (17 members)

Nominees for Election (12)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Linda Anderson, Jacksonville (lay)	2021-2023	18-21
Niel Hampton, Callahan (lay)	2021-2023	17-18; 18-21
John Clifford Huxford, Miami (lay)	2021-2023	17-20
Gary Linton, Tallahassee (ord)	2021-2023	17-20
Nayra Montenez, Oviedo (lay)	2021-2023	18-21
Lester Wilkinson, Daytona Beach (ord)	2021-2023	17-20
James Davis, Deland (lay)	2021-2024	None
Charles Jones, Miami (lay)	2021-2024	None
Steve Sweitzer, Live Oak (ord)	2021-2024	19-20
Nita Waugh, Jacksonville (lay)	2021-2024	19-20
Pearl Winslow, Jacksonville (ord)	2021-2024	None
Richard Young, Jasper (lay)	2021-2024	18-21

Directors Continuing Service (5)

William Bartlett, Okeechobee (lay) (19-22)	Robert Gramley, DeFuniak Springs (lay) (16-22)
Robert Bray, Port Charlotte (lay) (19-22)	Archie Jackson, Green Cove Springs (ord) (19-22)
Albert Byrd, Jacksonville (ord) (19-22)	

THE BAPTIST COLLEGE OF FLORIDA (25 members)

Nominees for Election (17)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Glenn Rogers, Deland (ord)	2021-2022	None
Calvin Carr, Gainesville (ord)	2021-2023	17-20
Craig Conner, Panama City (ord)	2021-2023	19-20
Melodee Davis, Avon Park (lay)	2021-2023	None
Mark Mercer, Panama City (lay)	2021-2023	17-20
R. C. Mills, Jacksonville (lay)	2021-2023	17-20
Kathy Pickett, Bartow (lay)	2021-2023	17-20
Mike Tatem, Lake City (ord)	2021-2023	17-20
Joe Butler, Wauchula (ord)	2021-2024	18-21
Shelly Chandler, Bonifay (ord)	2021-2024	18-21
Otto Fernandez, Miami (ord)	2021-2024	17-18; 18-21
Ronald Gainey, Baldwin (lay)	2021-2024	18-21
Daniel Hewett, Marianna (lay)	2021-2024	18-21
Michael Kennedy, Parrish (ord)	2021-2024	18-21
Don McLaughlin, Tallahassee (ord)	2021-2024	None
Jeffery Stading, Perry (ord)	2021-2024	18-21
Heath Woolman, Kissimmee (ord)	2021-2024	18-21

Trustees Continuing Service (8)

Chris Coram, Jacksonville (ord) (19-22)	Douglas Nellums, Pensacola (lay) (19-22)
Al Guettler, Chipley (lay) (19-22)	Marvin Pittman, Bartow (lay) (19-22)
Dianne Lovett, Tangerine (lay) (19-22)	Timothy Williams, Winter Haven (ord) (19-22)
Tim Maynard, Jacksonville (ord) (19-22)	Richard Williamson, Lakeland (ord) (19-22)

LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER (9 members)

Nominees for Election (6)	Term	Previous Term(s)
Eric Blamick, Mt. Dora (lay)	2021-2023	17-18; 18-21
Kent Merrill, Umatilla (lay)	2021-2023	18-21
Alberto Ocana, Jr., Hialeah (lay)	2021-2023	18-20
Jose Cardona, Windermere (ord)	2021-2024	None
Theodore Lightbourne, Hawthorne (ord)	2021-2024	None
Donald Miller, Tavares (ord)	2021-2024	18-21

Trustees Continuing Service (3)

Mike Ballard, Apopka (ord) (19-22)	Donna Perman, Eustis (lay) (19-22)
Marlene Dordoye, Homestead (lay) (19-22)	

The report of the Committee on Nominations was developed by the following:

2021 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS MEMBERS

Note: Those whose terms expired in 2020 were authorized to serve through November 2021.

TERM	CENTRAL	EAST	NORTH	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WEST
2018 2019 2020	Wesley Baldwin Winter Park	Angel Santiago Jacksonville	*Donna Jordan First, Waldo	*Julie Thomas Delray Beach	*Gail Adams Parrish	Doug Kimsal Pensacola
2019 2020 2021	Jon Matthews St. Petersburg	Chris Coram <i>Vice-Chair</i> Jacksonville	Phillip Herrington <i>Chair</i> Live Oak	Sherard Burns Miami	Joe Butler Wauchula	Janey Frost Pensacola
2020 2021 2022	Matt McCraw Bartow	Walter West St. Augustine	*Jen Gaddis Ocala	*Oneida Ocaña Hialeah	Tom Bryant Sarasota Resigned 7/16/20	Shelly Chandler Bonifay
Ex Officio Members of Committee on Nominations Florida Baptist State Convention Officers				Erik Cummings President Carol City	Mike Wiggins 1 st Vice-President Milton	*Vanessa Cardona 2 nd Vice-President Windermere
Florida Baptist Convention Staff Resource to Committee on Nominations				Tommy Green Executive Director- Treasurer	Micah Ferguson Director of Strategic Initiatives	Patty Culbreth Executive Assistant

*Indicates layperson



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13 Salvations During Holmes County Association's "Evangelism Reboot"

BONIFAY—After noticing a decline in baptisms during the past five years, Holmes Baptist Association hosted an "Evangelism Reboot" weekend to help church members refocus on the importance of sharing the Gospel. At the conclusion of the weekend, 13 new believers were added to the Kingdom.

Kent Lampp, associational mission strategist, referenced the Florida Baptist Convention's 2025 Challenge, with evangelistic goals set by executive director-treasurer Tommy Green, as further motivation for the event. "We decided if we were to do our part in reaching the lost and discipling followers to attain the goal set... we needed to get busy in preparing and doing what the Lord said He came to do. Seek the lost."

Because the association's 15 churches straddle two sides of the Choctawhatchee River, Evangelism Reboot events were held on both sides of the river at three locations—First Baptist Church in Esto, First Baptist Church in Ponce De Leon and First Baptist Church in Bonifay.

Throughout the weekend nearly 90 adults and 40 students attended three sessions to learn how to share their faith more effectively. Florida evangelist David Burton led the adult trainings and one for the students as well.

"We determined we needed to train some and refresh others on what they already knew and then challenge them to be obedient to the Lord's command," said Lampp.

The event kicked off on Thursday for churches located on the east side of the river; and Friday for those on the west, with a light meal and then the first session of evangelism training.

"At the conclusion of the two hours of training there was an invitation," said Burton, "And one lady gave her heart to Jesus stating she could not remember a particular place or time when she had repented and ask Jesus into her life," he said.

"Now think about this—a church member coming to training in how to share her faith and yet she had never met Jesus. She has now!"

On Saturday, the evangelism rally began with breakfast at First Bonifay, where those who were unable to attend the first training were prepared. Those who attended the previous training devoted their morning to prayer and repentance, asking for God's help in being obedient in sharing.



Middle and high school students gathered from multiple churches on Friday and Saturday while the adults were meeting. Throughout the weekend, various leaders led sessions for the teens.

Halston Brooks, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Laurel Hill, spoke about creation and imago dei— Latin for "Image of God." Nate Castaneda, youth pastor at West Pittman Baptist Church in Westville, led a session about sin and why salvation was needed. Noah Wagner, youth pastor at First Bonifay, taught the Three Circles Gospel presentation, as a practical and easy method for students to share their faith.

Burton also led training for the students. He equipped them with practical ways to share their faith with family and friends and armed them with knowledge about sharing the Gospel. He asserted their legal rights to evangelize on school campuses.

As a result of the emphasis on evangelism, 12 teens came to realize their deep need for Christ and responded in faith, giving their lives to the Lord.

Since the Reboot, Noah Wagner said he has "witnessed a Gospel boldness" among the students in their schools—"living out their faith, having spiritual conversations, inviting others to come to church."

The weekend concluded with a church commitment time, where churches identified salvation and baptism goals and then shared a fellowship meal.

"It was a fascinating four days," Burton said. "One of the best associational strategies I've participated in," referencing his 25 years on staff at the Florida Baptist Convention and ministry.

By Ashley Russell, Florida Baptist Convention, Jun 3, 2021

A Gang Leader Redeemed, A Family Radically Transformed

HOMESTEAD — The first time Ari Espinoza read a Bible he sat in a dark and lonely prison cell.

For the young Espinoza, being in prison was not unusual. Since the age of five, he had been exposed to gang life through his father's illegal rooster fighting business. The wrong crowd, an impressionable young mind and a lack of a proper role model led the teen down the wrong path.

Today, Espinoza's story is one of redemption. Now the dedicated Christian is a member at the Summit Church in Homestead—the city he calls home— along with his wife and six children. He serves the church in various capacities and has led five of his children and his son-in-law to faith in Christ and more recently, to be baptized.

His life is a story of how God can radically change the life of anyone who puts their trust in Him.

"God can save anybody," said Summit pastor Alex Pecina. "And not just save them but keep them...this man has been radically transformed by the Holy Spirit."

Running with gangs involves stealing, selling illegal substances, money laundering and turf wars among other vices. Loyalty is expected and leaving that life brings fear of reprisal.

The first time Espinoza heard about Christ was when he was assigned to assist the prison chaplain during one of his prison stints. It was not a job assignment he wanted, but it was preferable to solitary confinement.

"I had never been in a chapel before prison because I hadn't ever been to church," recalled Espinoza. "There were six services in the chapel, and I had to clean up after all of them. But I was only required to attend the service led by the chaplain in case he needed me to assist him with anything during the service."

The young man was raised in the Santeria cult, which is grounded in African beliefs and widely practiced in Cuba. "I'm sitting in these services listening to the word of God and I'm going 'wow this is completely different from what I know,'" he said. "We have to go through the saints, feed the saints, worship the saints and sacrifice to the saints."

Yet when he "called my grandmother to tell her about getting saved, she told me she had been praying that I would come to know the truth."



Still, at this point he had not yet held a Bible in his own hands or read it on his own, he said. Nor did he fully understand what being a disciple of Jesus meant.

Shortly after hearing of Christ during chapel, Espinoza was released from prison. It was short-lived as he violated his parole and was sent back behind bars.

"To survive in prison, you have to be the worst of the worst," he said. He spent most of his time in solitary confinement due to bad behavior. His only companions were his nightmares and a Bible.

"The only thing I had to read was the Bible and even though I didn't understand anything, I read it and God later revealed to me what it meant." And by later, he meant very much later.

Espinoza was eventually released but continued to engage in illegal activities. It was all he knew, but no longer found pleasure in it. He felt a tugging at his heart to change his ways.

"Twenty years after I heard about Jesus in prison for the first time [at age 19], I was sitting at one of my businesses and I said, 'I'm through.' I went home and talked to my wife, and everything changed in our lives."

"I called everybody that I had offended in my life and told them I had come to faith in Christ," he said.

"But when I said 'no' to the world and 'yes' to Christ, no one believed me. They thought I was running a game, that I didn't want to do business with them anymore. They thought I was using God as an excuse to keep them out of something bigger."

Upon exiting the gang life he had known since the age of five, Espinoza and his family lost everything. Dollar stores and jewelry stores used to cover illegal activities were bankrupted. His life was in danger from corrupt business associates. For six years, the family struggled financially.

Uber became a full-time job for both Espinoza and his wife, Barbara. It allowed them to pay bills and feed their children but not much else. On one of her routes, Espinoza's wife picked up a passenger who invited her to Summit Church.

"We start going and the first day, Pastor Alex welcomes us, and I introduce my family. It's amazing what God has done."

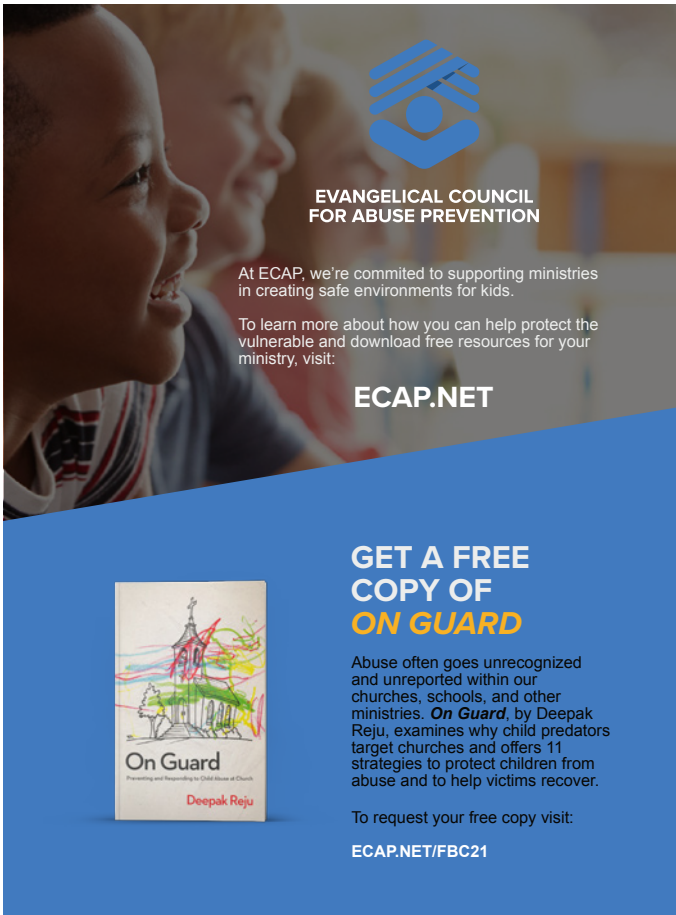
"We once lived in fear of what could happen to me if I continued living that kind of life," he said. "I prayed that God would not let my sons be like me. They once looked to me as their protector but now they look to God as their protection and to Jesus as their savior."


"Seeing their faith grow has made my faith grow stronger."

In the past two years, life has settled down for the Espinoza family. His wife teaches school, and he owns a car parts business.

Today, Espinoza visits the buildings where he was once held prisoner by his crimes and by his sin. He shares with the young people who are now trapped there how God can radically change their lives and find the hope he has found in Christ.

By Keila Diaz, Florida Baptist Convention, Jul 12, 2021




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