

The Messenger

PATTERNS OF DYSFUNCTION, PT. 2

Last month I began a series of articles on worldly alternatives to a gospel focus. Remember, these approaches can be deceptively attractive as they shift the church’s focus from the supernatural work that only God provides to more practical options. Let us consider a second common alternative.

#2 – The Silver Bullet Solution

The silver bullet solution assumes one key ingredient will solve a church’s problems, especially in the areas of growth and vitality. It is typically stated something like this: “If we just had _____ things would be good.” A few years ago, small struggling churches would often cite needed “young people” as the key to their struggles. Unfortunately, many of them discovered that youth and children often lack staying power because they are not the decision makers at home and most of them do not drive themselves to church. Consequently, the most common silver bullet has now changed to “a few young families.” While every church that is seeking the Lord would welcome new young families, this answer is usually the result of flawed thinking. Here are three examples:

Implied Approval

When church members quickly point to silver bullet solutions they assume their preferred future is God’s will.

If they said, “What we really need to do is reach people with the gospel,” they would be right. Sadly, silver bullets are not usually tied to the Great Commission. They are typically people (to fill seats, relieve the glory days, or justify programs) or material things (gym, fellowship hall, larger worship space, etc.). Remember, before the modern era churches started with nothing but people. Buildings and ministries were the results of reaching people for Christ. Today, buildings, multiple staff members, programs, and more are put in place often before the first person is reached. Instead of trying to be the “model” congregation, discern who God wants you to be. Maybe He wants you to reach senior adults, single adults, or become a foster grandparent. What if God wants you to go plant other churches instead of expanding your current facilities?



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Events Calendar

Sept	September 2 Labor Day - Offices Closed		Sept 14-19 Go Therefore: Wisconsin
Oct		October 10 Mission Fair & Fall Meeting	October 27 Family Discipleship Registration Deadline

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September 15 Garrett Butcher	September 16 Roy Lowe	September 24 Mike Depew
	September 27 Mike Oaks	

Owning the Great Commission

Mission Conference & Fall Meeting

Booths, Breakouts- 4:00-6:00

Dinner - 4:30-5:45

Main Session - 6:00-8:30

10 OCTOBER 2024

This year's HBA Fall Meeting will be incorporated into a Mission Conference at Trinity Baptist Church in Jonesborough. This event is for church staff, lay leaders, and members. Exhibitor booths, breakout sessions, food and inflatables will be from 4:00-6:00 pm. The Main Session will feature a time of worship through singing and special guest speaker Dr. Gordon Fort. Register online at holstonba.org.



Dr. Gordon Fort

Pray for our Churches Without Pastors:

- Blountville First
- Boone Trail
- Cherokee,
Jonesborough
- Colonial Heights
- Erwin First
- Friendship Chapel
- Muddy Creek
- New Life
- Oak Hill
- Tennessee Avenue
- Woodlawn



Wisconsin Mission Trip

Dates: September 14-19

Purpose: Light interior construction and canvassing/gospel conversations in future ministry locations

Cost: \$125 per person plus travel meals



September is national "register to vote" month. Citizens often complain about government but neglect to improve it by not making their voices heard. Voting is your voice! To get all vital information on registering to vote, early or absentee voting and voting locations, access web-site GoVoteTN.gov. Or, contact Election Officials in your respective county:

Greene --798-1715; Sullivan--323-6444; Washington -- 753-1688; Unicoi--743-6521

Central Baptist Church in Erwin will be hosting revival services in October! Brother Phil Hoskins will be preaching and guest choirs will bring the special music each night, everyone is invited. October 20 through October 23 at 7pm each night.

A banner for Cherokee Baptist Church Homecoming. It features a portrait of Dr. Greg Burton on the left. The text reads: "CHEROKEE BAPTIST CHURCH HOMECOMING", "DR GREG BURTON COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST (RETIRED) SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER", "FEATURING MUSICAL GUEST JAMES BUCHANAN", and "243RD ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER 8 2024". The background is dark green with gold decorative flourishes.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT

with Dr. David Evans

FRI 7PM TO SUN 12PM | 15-17 NOV 2024

Register
Now!



TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY

Is this you?

- Raising our kids in a Christian environment is important to us, but we're too busy to do much.
- We have tried everything to disciple our kids, but it feels like nothing is working for us.
- We feel like the only family at church really trying to disciple our kids.
- My spouse and I want to be more intentional with prioritizing our spiritual health.

Join us in November!

Simplified Platform

All retreat information is now available at holstonba.org/retreat.

Extended Discount

We are extending our **\$50 OFF** promotion for early registrations through the month of September.

Please register as early as possible, as this helps us plan most effectively for the families who will be attending.

**“As For Me and My House” Discount Code:
Use code HOUSE for \$50
off your registration**

**T-Shirt Design
Now Available!**

**TEACH THEM
DILIGENTLY**
DEUTERONOMY 6:7

Assumed Acceptance

There may be a good reason your church does not have the silver bullet you desire. For example, if young families are your silver bullet you need to ask why they are not in your church. Do you strive to make them welcome? Did you run them off? Are you willing to deal with them? Young families take up space, make noise, draw on the wall, and eat lots of food at your fellowship meals. If they show up, will you understand that rambunctious kids and the smell of dirty diapers are signs of life? Or will you determine that you did not want them as much as you thought?

Dismissal of Duty

Silver bullet solutions may also be the result of an “I can’t fix it” mentality. Personal obedience in disciple making is often neglected in exchange for dreams that may never be realized. Church members must regularly ask, “What am I doing to fulfill my role as a part of this body of believers?” When each member owns his or her part in the body, fruit will come as God desires. If you are dreaming of silver bullets, you probably need to take a fresh look at the “bullets” God has already placed in your church and how He desires to use them.

The silver bullet was a fictional idea for killing vampires, werewolves and other creatures. We are called to do ministry in this real, fallen world where only God’s supernatural weapons bring victory (2 Cor 10:4). Let us take up His weapons and never trade them for the spiritually impotent weapons of this world!

With hands to the plow,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Rust". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

“Spreading Joy”

The month of August has closed the book on one of our outreach ministries for this year, the Appalachian Fair. In the preparation for this, it can become easy to lose sight of our purpose. There was some personal anxiety about how all the pieces would come together for the water booth, “Jacob’s Well”. But, God was faithful as always, and provided all that was needed. A gentle reminder to “Rejoice in the Lord always... Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:4a,6). We are told again in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” For whatever we face, we are to “Consider it pure joy”, (James 1:2). God is faithful, and, “Indeed, you are our glory and joy.” (1 Thessalonians 2:20).

The God of joy fuels our purpose and efforts to tell of Jesus and his love. The joy of the Lord was evident in our volunteers as they shared bottles of water with all the folks that passed by our booth. Kind words and testimonies of Jesus, the Living Water, were also shared throughout the week. Volunteers were faithful to “tell of his works with songs of joy”, (Psalm 107:22b).

Around 1,760 bottles of water were distributed from the HBA fair booth. Prayer requests were left by many, and prayers lifted up on their behalf. Thank you to all our volunteers who willingly served at the fair. These churches had folks who served in our booth: Beulah, Cherry Grove, Boones Creek, Trinity, Clark Street, Hulen, New Salem, Calvary Erwin, and Mountain View. May your joy continue to overflow wherever you go. Thank you.

In a couple of weeks, the Johnson City Baptist Center will resume weekly Bible studies and activities. Please pray for the children and the families within our neighborhood of ministry, that they will come to faith in Jesus Christ. Please pray for our workers and teachers, that we will show love, compassion and wisdom in all we do. Also, pray for upcoming events, our annual Thanksgiving meal, and the Christmas Angel Tree, and how God may want to use you in these opportunities to minister.

A big thank you to all who have blessed the Baptist Center during “Christmas in August”. Your gifts of school supplies and hygiene items provide for needs throughout the year.

Wherever God leads you in the days ahead, remember to “go out in joy” (Isaiah 55:12).

Spread His joy,

Anna Huggins

Director of Ministries Johnson City Baptist Center

Classifieds: Our Job Board

See full Postings online at holstonba.org/jobs



Pastor/Senior Pastor

Cherokee Baptist Church Bi-Vocational Pastor Jonesborough, TN

Please send resume, references and cover letter (experience and vision) to
Cherokee Baptist Church
143 Mayberry Rd.
Jonesborough, TN 37659.
ATTN: Pastor Search Committee

or via email:
cherokeepastorsearch@gmail.com.

Oak Hill Baptist Church Pastor – Piano – Organist Jonesborough, TN

For more information, to obtain job descriptions, or to submit resumes, please email janettefellers@aol.com. Resumes may also be mailed to 2501 Highway 81N, Jonesborough 37659.

Woodlawn Baptist Church PASTOR Bristol, TN

Full-Time

- Southern Baptist Background
- SBC Seminary Degree
- 4-5 years' experience
- Licensed and ordained

Please send resume to:
Pastor Search Committee
Woodlawn Baptist Church,
1400 Southside Avenue,
Bristol, TN 37620
Email:
woodlawnpastorsearch@gmail.com

Other Pastoral Positions

Doe River Baptist Church Music Director Elizabethton, TN

Part-Time
Please send a resume, references, and a letter of introduction describing your experiences and your vision for this position to: Doe River Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, 113 Avon Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643, or doeriverbapt@hotmail.com.

Calvary Baptist Church of Erwin Youth Pastor Erwin, TN

Full-Time
Candidate needs to develop a program to grow and lead young people to be disciples and witnesses for Jesus. He must work alongside a senior pastor and staff. For more information, visit calvaryerwin.org.

Clark Street Baptist Church STUDENT MINISTER Johnson City, TN

PART-TIME
Oversees children and youth
Resumes may be sent to clarkstreetbc@gmail.com

Ministry Staff

East Watauga Avenue Baptist Church Piano Player Johnson City, TN

Part-Time
Approximately 2 hours/week
Sunday mornings & Choir Practice
For more information or to submit resume/application contact: Pastor Michael Chatman at (423) 268-4800 or j.michael.chatman@gmail.com

Sulphur Springs Baptist Church Parish Nurse Johnson City, TN

Part-Time
Sulphur Springs Baptist is looking for a faith community nurse to help in taking care of the health of the congregation. Anyone interested should have a relationship with Jesus, be an RN and have a love for people.

If you are interested contact Pastor Jon Reed at (423)863-4135 or Lula Gray at (423)794-8999.

See full Postings online at holstonba.org/jobs