

The Messenger

Holston Baptist Association

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FROM THE DESK OF THE AMS

Becoming a Better Evangelist, pt.2 *by Dr. Troy Rust*

The following article from the desk of the AMS is the second installment in a two part series, Becoming a Better Evangelist, in which HBA Associational Mission Strategist, Dr. Troy Rust, will be exploring some of the practical issues related to evangelism, and offers practical encouragement, in hopes of spurring on readers in their daily evangelism.

Discipline

Sharing the gospel is a lot like memorizing Scripture. Many Christians say they can't do it, but if we started paying \$100 for each attempt things would quickly change! We would also see better results by scheduling opportunities. Like reading the Bible or any other spiritual discipline, you have to create margin (extra time) in your schedule and live in obedience if you want to be a consistent witness for Christ. Compare witnessing to making a living. Would you rather live on the money you stumble across in life, or the results of being disciplined enough to hold down a job? It's not a perfect analogy, but you get the picture.

Tools

If you know what to say, but don't know how to get to the

conversation, consider arming yourself with conversation starters. People have used gospel tracts for generations, and they still work. But you want to have a conversation God can use to get them to biblical content. Yes, God can "hit a straight lick with a crooked stick" (like a tract on a public toilet), but He's given us plenty of straight sticks to use for His glory. While questions like, "Do you go to church?" can be useful, some churches are heretical and don't preach the gospel. Ask worship-oriented questions: "Are you a person of faith?" "How does that faith (or its absence) shape your life?" "What do you hope to accomplish in life?" "What do you love most?" "What brings you joy?" "What do you want to be said of you when you're gone?" These questions strip away religious veneer, help reveal a person's heart, and give you the opportunity to share how Jesus gives true joy and eternal purpose regardless of temporal pleasures.

Partnership

If you're nervous about sharing the gospel, take a partner with you. Whether you take your spouse, a close friend, or a fellow small group member, a co-laborer can help

in multiple ways. This witnessing partner can pray while you're speaking, jump in if you draw a blank, play with a small child in the home, or even pet the dog! Remember, Jesus sent out His disciples two by two (Luke 10:1)!

Continued on Page 2

In this Edition

- p1 -- From the Desk of the AMS: "Becoming a Better Evangelist" by Dr. Troy Rust
- p2 -- "Requests from the JCBC" from Anna Huggins
- p3-- HBA Spring Meeting 2026 Information and RSVP
- p3 -- Announcements and Upcoming Events
- p4 -- Job Board

Becoming a Better Evangelist, pt.2

Continued

Prayer

Pray for witnessing opportunities, and God will send them. Pray for God to open doors and soften hearts. If you're scared, pray for an underhanded pitch you can

knock out of the park. God is glorified in those too! Remember, we want to share a verbal witness and a transformed life, not just soothe our consciences.

Beware of the idols of pride and convenience.

With hands to the plow,

Dr. Troy Rust

Assoc. Mission Strategist
Holston Baptist Assoc.

FROM THE JOHNSON CITY BAPTIST CENTER (JCBC) DIRECTOR

Requests from the JCBC

To have a burden for the lost in the world, should be a concern for each believer. Sometimes we are more aware of those close to us who need Jesus, than for someone from another culture. But, what do we think about the lost in our city? They may be from different circumstances and situations, but they all need salvation through Jesus Christ. Our prayers for our neighbors, and personal efforts to share Jesus with them, need to increase.

Working at the Johnson City Baptist Center, our eyes have been opened, and we see the need for Jesus every day. We ask that you come alongside us to meet the needs.

“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”
1 Corinthians 3:5-6 (KJV).

- Please, partner with us in prayer for the lost in this community. How glorious it will be to see the children and their families put their trust in the Lord.
- You can serve with us each week with our Bible studies. Extra hands to help with the children would be a blessing. Please contact us to volunteer. Building relationships makes a big difference in opening doors and changing lives.
- Ministry needs are never ending, and meeting those needs helps with outreach in sharing the Gospel. We are grateful for all donations, which include snacks, school supplies, clothing, and especially hygiene items (which we need every month as people come to the Clothes Closet).

from Anna Huggins

- Two weeks are still available this summer where you can be “on mission” at the JCBC. Either week of June 22nd or June 29th, whatever days you choose, we need churches to lead VBS. Please consider sharing in this ministry this summer.
- How is the Lord leading you to be concerned for the Baptist Center? If you do not know enough about this ministry in our community, please call me and I will be glad to share more with you and your church.

Whether you are our next Paul or Apollos, you matter in God's plan to bring the lost to himself. Pray about it, and take action.

“For we are laborers together with God.” 1 Corinthians 3:9a (KJV),

Thank you,

Anna Huggins

Director of Ministries
Johnson City Baptist Center



Ministry in the Normative-Sized Church

HOLSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH
1014 Antioch Church Rd, Johnson City, TN

4:00-6:00PM WORSHIP & BUSINESS

- Message from Christ Reinolds
- Report from Guy Fredrick
- Major Bylaws Revisions
- Property Aquisition

6:00-7:00PM DINNER

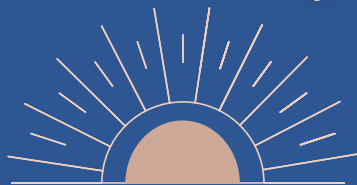
Provided by
Antioch Baptist Church

7:00-8:30PM WORKSHOP

With Christ Reinolds
“Raising the Level of
Urgency without Blowing
Things Up”

RSVP to the HBA Office at: 423-929-1196 or hba@holstonba.org

Monday
MANNA



APRIL 30TH
10:30 - 12:30

April
birthdays

6 -- Greg Burton

11 -- John David Shanks

17 -- Robbie Carty

18 -- Steve Pate

24 -- David Rouse

25 -- Charles Morgan

27 -- Luka Temaj



Are we missing your pastor's birthday? Contact the HBA Office and let us know!

HBA Job Board

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church

Preaching Pastor

Bristol, TN | Full Time

Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a Spirit-led Preaching Pastor to join our pastoral team. If God is leading you to apply, please send your resume and sermon video links to mrspeggy@tabaptist.org

Cherry Grove Baptist Church

Children's Director

Jonesborough | Full-Time or Part-Time

Cherry Grove Baptist Church is seeking a Children's Director to lead and oversee all children's ministry through sixth grade, including Sundays, midweek programs, and special events. Candidates should have experience in children's ministry, strong organizational and leadership skills, and pass a background check. Send resume and references to cherrygrovesec@hotmail.com. Visit cherrygrovetn.org for more information.

First Baptist Church Blountville

Children's Pastor/Director

Blountville, TN | Full-Time

First Baptist Church Blountville is seeking a full-time Children's Pastor/Director to lead and disciple children with strong biblical teaching. Candidates should have experience in children's ministry, as this role provides vision, oversight, and spiritual guidance. If interested, please submit resume, cover letter, and references to Children@fbcbtn.com.

First Baptist Church Greeneville

Director of Children & Family Ministries

Greeneville, TN | Full-Time

First Baptist Church Greeneville is seeking a full-time Director of Children & Family Ministries to lead and oversee ministry to children (PreK-5th grade) and their families. This role provides leadership in discipleship, outreach, volunteer coordination, and program planning. Candidates should have experience in children's ministry leadership, strong organizational skills. Must pass a background check. Visit holstonba.org/jobs for more details.

First Baptist Church Greeneville

Assistant Director of Children & Family Ministries

Greeneville, TN | Part-Time

Seeking a part-time Assistant Director to support preschool ministry (birth-Kindergarten), including volunteer coordination and program assistance. Experience with young children required. Visit holstonba.org/jobs for more details.

Cherokee Baptist Church

Senior Pastor

Jonesborough, TN | Bi-Vocational

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.

Visit holstonba.org/jobs to view more information or apply for the listed openings.

Pray for Churches Without Pastors

- Central Baptist Church, JC
- Cherokee, Jonesborough
- Muddy Creek, Piney Flats
- Sulphur Springs, Jonesborough
- Shallow Ford, Erwin
- Tennessee Avenue, Bristol
- University Parkway, JC

