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# The PROCLAIMER

Polk-Haralson Baptist Association Newsletter

## January 2024



### ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST

*Kevin McKoy*



This is the time of the year for newness. As we begin 2024, the New Year has us making New Years resolutions with new challenges and new commitments that we seek to change in the upcoming year. So since this is the time for newness, I wanted to share some ways I believe we all need to change in the coming year.

In the ancient world there were no bottles, no recyclable cans. They would put liquids in skins -- animal skins tied together and used them like canteens.

As time went on, the skins would become hardened, brittle, and would eventually break causing the liquids to spill out.

When Jesus told the parable of the wineskin, He said you can't put new wine in old wineskins. This is really an illustration of life.

Luke 5:38 says, "*New wine must be poured into new wineskins.*"

New situations require new structures. A new job requires learning new skills. New relationships require new ways of relating.

Revelation 21:5 states, "*Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'*"

The profound truth is that everyday and in every situation God can make it new. So, what is 2024 going to hold for us? What can we expect in 2024?

As we Focus Forward in 2024, I believe we can count on three things: We will have **new problems, new pressures, and new possibilities**. I also believe the Bible teaches three character qualities we need to have to face the future.

### **1) NEW PROBLEMS WILL REQUIRE CREATIVITY.**

The bad news is you will have more problems in 2024. The good news is they're not the same old ones. We get a whole new set.

Proverbs 18:15 states, "*The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them.*"

In 2024, we can't control all the things that are going to happen. We can't control the problems, but we can choose how we respond to them. New problems will require creativity.

We are planning to have Pastor Roundtables each month with a specific discussion topic pre-planned. I want to allow shared creativity among peers to spark greater problem solving and problem prevention for ministry.

### **2) NEW PRESSURES WILL REQUIRE CONVICTION.**

Conviction is a willingness to stand up for what you believe. You do not cave in to the culture.

Romans 12:2 - "*Don't let the world squeeze you in its mold, but let God remake you so your whole attitude of mind is changed.*"

There is a difference between a conviction and an opinion. An opinion is something you'll argue about. A conviction is something you'll die for. What are the convictions that are going to hold you up when the pressure's on this year?

I am determined to continue to foster growing relationships and unity within our family of churches. Two key ingredients to that will be greater communication and time together - both helped as we make a return to Associational Executive Meetings. As the

landscape of church ministry continues to shift, we want to stand for biblical truth and not cave to cultural trends.

### 3) NEW POSSIBILITIES WILL REQUIRE COURAGE.

I honestly do not know a more exciting time to be alive. There are great possibilities!

God wants to do great things in our lives in the next year. But it will not happen automatically. We have to step out in faith.

Hosea 10:12 encourages, *"Plow new ground for yourselves, plant righteousness, and reap the blessing your devotion to me will produce! It's time for you to turn to me, your Lord, and I will come and pour out blessing on you."*

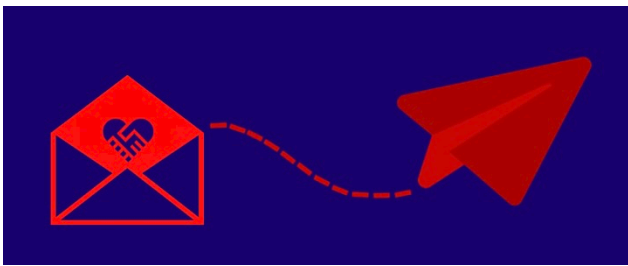
What are you planning to harvest this New Year?

Three hundred and sixty-five days from today, how will you be any different?

If we plan to have differences in our lives and ministries a year from now, we must start cultivating now! That involves courage.

I hope you will see this New Year filled with opportunities to be Better Together as an association of partner churches and pastors! Let's Focus Forward in 2024.





# The PROCLAIMER has gone Digital!

As you can see, we have taken The Proclaimer monthly newsletter of the Association to a digital platform. This will help us to share information to all of those within our partner church families without the growing expense of printing and mailing. Printed copies can still be requested by contacting the [Association Office](#).

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## **2024 Disaster Relief Introduction/Recertification Trainings**

Join the Georgia Baptist family in Bringing Help, Hope, and Healing in times of crisis! Dates, locations, and online registrations are available on the website: [gabaptist.org/disasterrelief/](http://gabaptist.org/disasterrelief/) by clicking Learn More, on the “Become a Credentialed SBDR Volunteer” area.

Register and invite your friends!

Cartersville FBC - Jan 19-20, Villa Rica FBC - March 22-23.

Online registration deadline is the Sunday before the training.

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Church Strengthening  
**Roundtable**  
at Victory Baptist Church



Wednesday, January 17, 2024 - 2-3:30PM  
2024 Church Strengthening Roundtables

### **GBMB Regional Church Strengthening Roundtable**

The PHBA is honored to be a host for one the Regional Church Strengthening Roundtables by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. During this event, Pastors and church leaders will be introduced to the “Four Gateways of a Healthy Church” which include:

- 1) Mission, Vision, Values
- 2) Disciple’s Pathway
- 3) Leadership Pipeline, and
- 4) Missional Engagement

Pastor Barry Snapp and Victory Baptist Church will be hosting the roundtable for our region on Wednesday afternoon, January 17th from 2-3:30PM.

Be sure to register for this free equipping opportunity:

<https://gabaptist.org/event/2024-church-strengthening-roundtables/>

**JANUARY**  
**2024**



- 15 MLK Day (Office Closed)
- 17 GBMB Roundtable, Victory Baptist
- 19-20 Disaster Relief Training, FBC Cartersville

**FEBRUARY**  
**2024**



- 5 PHBA Executive Meeting, Baptist Tabernacle @ 6:30PM
- 6 Pastors Day at the Capitol

22 Sanctity of Life Sunday

23 Finance Team Meeting @ 7PM

25 Leadership Team Meeting @ 6:30PM

12PHBA Pastor Roundtable, TBA

25-26 Evangelism Conference - FBC Conyers

29VBS Jumpstart Clinic, FBC Buchanan @ 6:30PM



Camp Antioch is excited about 2024!

Here are some events on our calendar for January:

**Saturday, Jan 6th, 9am-noon:**

Christmas Tree Recycling along our front driveway. This annual “Bring One In for the Chipper Day” is held with our community partner Keep Polk Beautiful/Keep Georgia Beautiful. Bring in your live (or dead by this point) Christmas tree or just stop by and receive a free native Georgia tree seedling

(usually dogwoods or oaks) and packets of flower seeds.

**Thursday, Jan 11th 1-4pm:**

Camp Library is open for check-out, Homeschool 4-H Club (grades K-12) meets from 2-4pm.

**Saturday, Jan 20th 10am-noon:**

Day Camp: Theme “Let it Snow”. Learn about winter weather, make crafts, have snacks, but best of all, hear a Bible lesson and sing praises!

**Later this month:** afterschool “Homework Helpers”!

Follow us on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/campantioch](http://www.facebook.com/campantioch) for dates, times, and registration info.

**Mailing Contributions for Camp Antioch?**

Make checks to “Camp Antioch”

Mail to:

Camp Antioch

3900 Antioch Rd

Cedartown, GA 30125

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**SAVE THE DATE...**

We are already getting excited for VBS 2024!

Join us for a VBS Jump Start Clinic on Thursday, February 29th at FBC Buchanan from 6:30-7:30PM.

This jump start clinic is for Pastors, Children Ministry



POLK-HARALSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Leaders and VBS Directors. Our team is already working hard to have different vendors/materials available for you. We hope this gets you excited for how the Lord will use your VBS this year!

2024  
- PASTORS DAY AT THE CAPITOL -  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024  
7:30 AM TO 2:00 PM  
FLOYD ROOM, SLOPPY FLOYD BUILDING, ATLANTA  
FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, GO TO:  
[GABAPTIST.ORG/PUBLICAFFAIRS](http://GABAPTIST.ORG/PUBLICAFFAIRS)

SPEAKERS:

			
KELVIN COCHRAN	JIM GARLOW	MATT SHARP	CHLOE COLE

SAVE THE DATE

REGISTRATION INFO



**NAMB**

**WOMEN'S EVANGELISM  
CONFERENCE**

If you are a woman who leads in ministry, whether on staff or in a volunteer capacity, this event is for you!

Join us for the first Women's Evangelism Conference at the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Georgia, April 8 & 9, 2024! As followers of Jesus, God has called us to share the hope of the gospel and to make disciples in our specific contexts. This two-day conference will encourage and equip you to create a culture of evangelism in your ministry and reignite your passion to invite people to know Jesus and train others to do the same.

CONFERENCE INFO





## CHURCH FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

Have You Gotten Your Tickets?

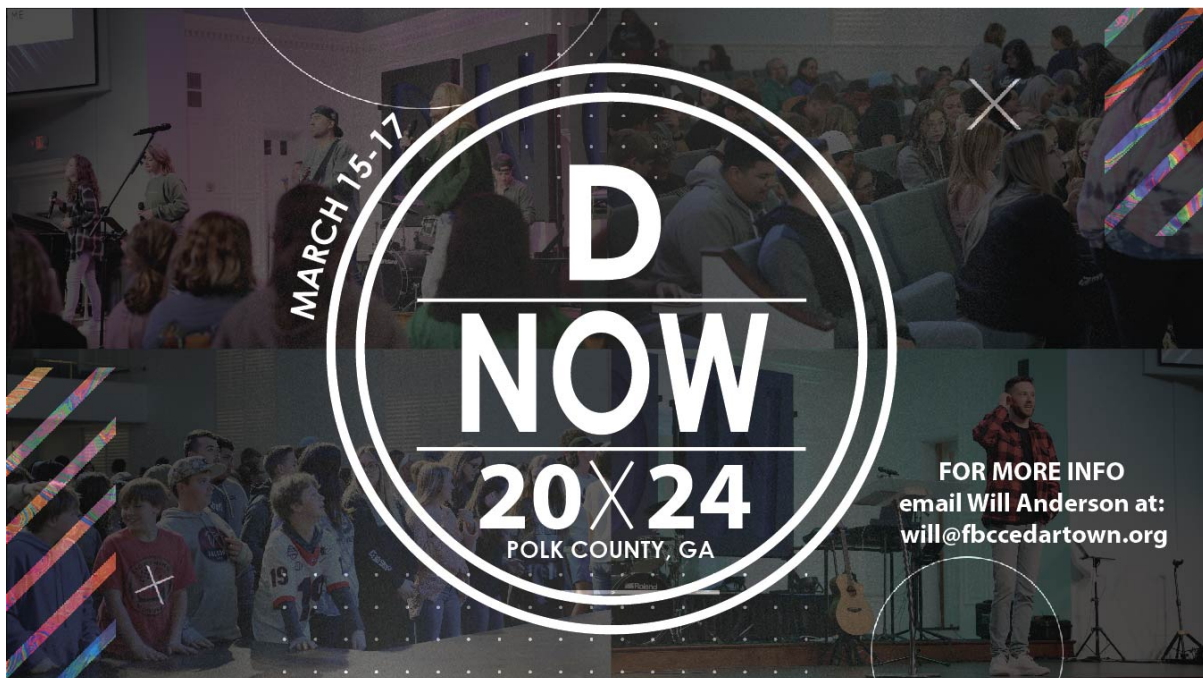
Get Your Early Bird Tickets Before Prices Increase on January 6th!

Cartersville FBC, March 21, 2024

The Church Financial Conferences are back with new and improved breakout sessions that are personalized to your team's needs. Join us at the [CFC24](#) nearest to your church to learn about relevant topics ranging from how church members can tithe using their IRA, to tips for growing your church's reserve funds. Joining Georgia Baptist Foundation seminar speakers again this year are church finance expert, [Tony Neal](#), and the [GuideStone Financial Resources](#) team.

New this year, during dinner you will have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A with church leaders who will answer some of the most common questions about church finance. Register before January 6th to receive the early bird rate of \$20. Ticket prices include admission, a conference packet, dinner, and more.

MORE DETAILS



EMAIL WILL



### GBMB EVANGELISM CONFERENCES 2024

FBC Conyers February 25 & 26, 2024, then at Northside Baptist Tifton on March 10 & 11, 2024. If you want to get on the list to stay connected with information on the Georgia Baptist Evangelism Conferences as soon as it comes available, enter your email below.

MORE INFO



## PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

The intense conflict in the Middle East is a reason for Christians to pray. Thousands of people have been killed since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7.

As part of its ongoing ministry assignment of assisting churches through elevating the ministry of prayer, the SBC Executive Committee has created the [prayer guide](#) linked at the bottom of this article. The guide is also available in [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#) and [Korean](#). Would you pray with us as we ask God to comfort those who are grieving, bring peace in the Middle East and guide political leaders to act with Godly wisdom?

Please join in praying through:

- Romans 13 where we learn that God has given governing authorities to protect the innocent and bring justice to evil doers.
- Romans 9:15-16 as we ask God to show compassion on those suffering because of the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza.
- Micah 6:8 as we learn how the Lord desires for humanity to live.
- Psalm 34:14 where God's people are called to pursue peace.
- John 14:6 as we ask the Lord to draw Israelis and Palestinians to Jesus Christ.

May God bring peace to the Middle East.

[DOWNLOAD GUIDE](#)

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*[Bro. Kevin McKoy, Associational Mission Strategist - kevin@polkharalson.net](mailto:kevin@polkharalson.net)*

*[Cindy Freyberg, Ministry Assistant/Finance - cindy@polkharalson.net](mailto:cindy@polkharalson.net)*

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