



### DAY 1

**WELCOME** Richard Williamson, president FBCAL; Worship time

#### Dr. Jamie Dew, President, NOBTS

*"I came from a broken home in 2nd grade; Failed 2nd & 3rd grade  
Labeled a troubled teen; Then an academic success in college!!  
Became an arrogant academic critic. At age 35, God redirected me..."*

#### Exploring God's Call to Servanthood

Philippians 2:1-11 \* Let This Mind Be in You. J. Dew's book.

- [] Question to new monks "Quid petis?" *What is it that you seek? Power? Position? Platform? Fame? Money? Applause and the Idol of our own Name (Title of Chap. 2)*
- [] Two problems: Critics (wound us) vs. Inflated praise (addict us)
- [] Progressive problem of craving and addiction to praise!
- [] "My first 2013 SBC Convention. I saw many Pastoral peacocks! Lot of peacocking on social media! I saw myself. I repent . . ."
- 1. Calling He's Placed on us (v. 1-4)
  - A. Be a people walking in unity; be like-minded; one accord  
Doesn't mean identical. Does mean "**having the same love.**"
  - B. The focal point is **loving Jesus** more than anything else.
  - C. Says much to our churches and the SBC. Love, don't fight!
  - D. Legacy things shared at death's door. Jesus, John 17: Unity!!
  - E. No comparison game! Don't exalt self. Think of others.
  - F. Lift up each other; Give them a leg up, not yourself!
- 2. Example He's Given to us (v. 5-11) Great Christological passage!
  - A. Being in the **form** of God... ; Aristotle; Plato explained. . .  
*Chairs may have 1, 3, 4 or no legs, but still "form" a chair*
  - B. "He made himself of no reputation..." (No name-dropper)
  - C. "Took the form of a bond-servant... death on the cross..."  
The great condescension/kenosis passage. Being selfless!!
  - D. We are called to follow Him in this way and manner, but...
  - E. We've made a big Christian eco-system of king-making!  
*If we can't be a king, then what's in it for me???" Answer...*

- 3. Encouragement He's given to us
  - A. If there is any consolation/encouragement in Christ..."
  - B. If there is any affection and mercy in Christ..."
  - C. If there is any fellowship of the Spirit..."
  - D. ALL THIS is what is for me!!! Christ Himself! Jesus is enough!

#### Why God Put Us Where We Are

I Corinthians 1:26

- [] Church at Corinth full of pride and posturing; Carnal; Divisive
- [] Two kinds of people: **Inferiority complex (Impostor syndrome)**  
**Superiority complex (I'm the man syndrome)**
- [] Actually, He picked us because of what we are not! For His glory!
- 1. God picks the nothings and the nobodies to do His work!
  - A. "Not many wise..." "Not many mighty..." or noble, etc.  
*Younger gen not sure about their value due to inexperience.  
Seniors not sure re: their value in techno/social media world.*
  - B. God chose the weak, foolish, base, lowly, despised, the "nots"
  - C. We have need for all parts of body of Christ, esp. the unseen
- 2. God does this to humble the proud and shame the wise
  - A. God resists the proud.. Gives grace to the humble
  - B. This should liberate us! We don't have to posture, pretend!
- 3. He Himself is the source of our supply
  - A. "Success" not due to our gifts, talents, ability....
  - B. What I am not, He is! What I have not, He supplies!
  - C. He came not just to save us, but let us live IN Christ! John 15  
**His** wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption is ours!
  - D. Bearing His fruit... not making fruit.
  - E. You receive power ... when Holy Spirit has come upon you.  
Not your experience, education, intelligence, giftedness...  
**It is His anointing!** If not, our ministry and work is impossible!!

#### Breakout Groups:

Mentoring Pastors. Robert Beckman  
Assoc. Leadership Issues. Craig Culbreath



### DAY 2

#### DEVOTIONAL Jeffery Haglund, vice president FBCAL

Philippians 1. Story of Roman battle at Philippi... wrong spoils!

For His sake: Share in his sufferings! Engage in the battle! Walk in a manner worthy of the gospel! Don't fear your opponents!

#### Breakout Groups

Mentoring Pastors. Robert Beckman . . . (my 10 take-aways)

#### 2 Timothy 3:16 - Mentors: Teach; Reprove; Correct; Train. HOW?

Start slowly. Ask questions. Listen well. Share pain. Don't fix.

Offer comfort. Step lightly. Swap stories. Pray deeply. Touch hearts.

Associational Leadership Issues. Craig Culbreath (his notes) . . .

#### It's Your Time

1. **Don't give up.** Galatians 6:9 (Running Shoes object lesson)
2. **Don't cover up.** 1 John 1:9. (Camouflage shirt object lesson)
3. **Don't just speak up.** Jn. 3:30 (Ear buds; LISTEN! What Color Eyes?)
4. **Don't just show up.** 2 Tim. 4:2 (Sunglasses; You aren't a celebrity!)

#### Your Time, Deep & Wide

**Deep:** Enjoy, Ache & Pray together! **Wide:** Every Church & Pastor

#### How You Spend Your Time

1. The **places** you go! Luke 13:22 (All churches & communities.)  
*Become the expert/Wikipedia of where you go! Stores. Cafes.*
2. The **people** you see! Acts 16:16-19 (All stories differ!! See hearts.)
3. The **problems** you face! (Can't fix people. Encourage them!)  
*When the grief is new, my words are few. Pray with them.*
4. The **process** you use. 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Future shock!! Changes!!)  
*Think: How fast? How fair? How far? ... In our life, association.*
5. The **possibilities** you can see. Matt. 19:26. (Binoculars! Future?)

#### The Gift of a Pencil to remind us about ourselves and others...

The inside is most important part. Mistakes are planned for (eraser).  
Should stay sharp. Understand our limited role (not a highlighter!).  
We're only beneficial when in someone's hand (God's).

#### Dr. Tommy Green, Florida Baptist Convention

We saw many record highs in 2023 by God's grace!

Church Plants; Revitalization; Mission trips; Coop. Program; Disaster Relief;  
Immigration hubs; Educ./Mission scholarships; Emergency grants; Next Gen.  
Community Ministries; Mission Dignity; Pastors' Wives; Ohio Partnership;

- [] I had cataracts, eyeball wrinkles! Ministry gets cloudy/blurry, too!
- [] Leadership is making decisions based on what you see ahead.
- [] **You are part of the mediocrity if you are not leading as called!**

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 is about Leadership

1. **Ministry is grounded in generosity** (Cast your bread... water)
  - [] Jesus said go extra mile... give shirts and cloaks...
  - [] State and Assoc. are a luxury to the church, not necessity!
  - [] Our mission is support, encouragement, assistance...
  - [] We are accountable to God for that. Be there generously!
2. **Ministry is also an urgency** (Waiting for perfect weather?)
  - [] Building trust through time with them
  - [] You'll never hit the shot you don't take.  
*Missed 9000 shots & 26 last shots. Lost 300 games (M. Jordan)*
3. **Ministry is actually a mystery.** (We don't know about tomorrow)
  - [] We don't know the future of the SBC, State Conv., Assoc.

So... Leadership involves risk, criticism, and potential for failure.  
Leadership requires faith, belief, and freshness of vision.  
Leadership is rising up to do what God sent you to do:

**Absolute** will of God sensed. **Accountable** to God for that.  
**Authority** of God's anointing. **Acceptance** of others comes.  
**Actualization** is moving forward, courageously!

*People tired of the same ol' same ol'. They want a move of God!  
And God is already moving in hearts before you get there!*  
**If you're content with status quo, you're not the man for the future.**

Leadership demands obedience, before understanding.  
Leadership learns how and when to go to the well.  
Leadership reflects servanthood more than influence.  
Leadership like this will yield respect and trust.



### DAY 2

**Dr. Ray Gentry, Exec. Director, SBCAL**

Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders

#### Session 1: Practices of Healthy Associations.

SBCAL reflects a rise in appreciation and the effectiveness of SBC associational life and ministry.

*"You lead the entity with highest level of autonomy in the SBC."*

*"You can create the kind organization that people want to join."*

*"The real strength and backbone of the SBC is the association, despite the fact associations receive no Coop. Program funds."*

*"You lead the organization with the highest potential of Kingdom impact in your town/city."*

- Mark Clifton:
- [] Churches in decline have never been higher.
  - [] Churches are mostly half empty– a new normal.
  - [] Churches have never had an older demographic.
  - [] Churches now have a median size of 65.

#### Healthy AMS Leaders look like this

1. Live & Lead via Great Cmd., Golden Rule & Great Commission!
2. Grow to lead well using spiritual gifts & productive strengths.
3. Being themselves, not someone else. Working heartily in Him.

***"Your life is too valuable, your calling too great, and your God too awesome to waste your life on what doesn't matter."***

#### 5 Practices of Healthy, Effective Associations

1. **AMS is a passionate leader and committed learner.**  
*Be a leader of leaders; Use your gifts; Equip teams*  
*Everything rises and falls with leadership, except grace of God.*  
*Leaders are readers. 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week works!*  
*Leaders listen well and learn. Time is scarce, manage well.*
2. **Association viewed significant/"owned" by member churches.**  
*People give to vision, not to need. Have a signature event. . .*  
*Key Leader Training. Pastor Cohorts. Appreciate and leverage participation by larger churches.*

#### 3. **Association is adding value to churches by resourcing them.**

*Training. Gathering. Networking. Caring.*

#### 4. **AMS, pastors, and lay leaders have a family relationship.**

*Common statement of faith. Stay close to them w/ many means.*  
*Build and maintain connection: text, call, eat, online media...*  
*Work with the willing, don't brood re: the unwilling, love them all.*

#### 5. **AMS is a servant leader in his various roles.**

*We are shepherds to shepherds. Influence, not authority.*  
*We are here for the churches, not vice versa.*  
*Be humble, teachable, approachable. Curate content for them.*

*View other networks as partners, not competitors.*  
*Don't let any other network "out-family" you.*

#### Session 2: Ten Trends in Associational Missions.

1. More striving for excellence; Fewer settling for mediocrity.
2. Becoming more important and appreciated in the SBC.  
*Key is: Relationships, relationship, relationships!*
3. Ongoing decline in % gifts from churches is slowing or stopping.
4. More associations have a Bi-vocational or Co-vocational AMS.
5. More associations merging to keep a full-time AMS.
6. More selling offices with AMS officing at home or a church.
7. More people spotting AMSs capable of state level offices, etc.
8. More allowing non-SBC churches as assoc./non-voting members.
9. More exploring variety of revenue streams beyond church giving  
*Foundation grants. Individual donors. Estate gifts. Etc.*
10. More resources being developed with AMSs in mind.



### DAY 2

**Dr. Rick Wheeler, Exec. Dir., Florida Baptist Financial Services**

#### ***“Stewardship Simplified”***

*We are pursuing a movement of individuals and churches who are maximizing resources for Kingdom purposes by following His plan.*

- [] 2350 verses in Scripture about finances. It's about our hearts.
- [] Biblical Wisdom on Stewarding Finances:
  1. Save and invest intentionally!
  2. Spend wisely! Most people spend 106% of their income.
  3. Give generously! Luke 10 ... Good Samaritan. 2 days wages +
- [] Stories of Impact: Video.
- [] Foundation & Church Growth Investment Fund
  - 940 investing clients; \$165 million dollars circulating now! 5% int.
  - 155 churches have loans with us. Tell churches about us!
- [] Retired Shepherd's Fund. \$207,000. Helped 240 pastors/widows
- [] Endowments and Long term investment funds.
- [] Our investments are helping human need, not corporations.
- [] Stewardship Development Cohorts are available

**Dr. Jerry Haig, One More Child**

#### ***“We Can Certainly Do It”***

- [] We serve: foster children, trafficked children, hungry children, single moms, struggling families.
- [] U.S. Marshals: “We will find you.” Anti-trafficking effort
- [] 240,000 children directly served & 20 million meals in 2023
- [] Video presentation; Misty trafficked from age 8 to 31. Trapped!
- [] Three things . . .
  1. **How do we SEE people?**  
What sin did this person commit? What can we fix? No.  
*“This happened so that God's power could be seen.”*
  2. **Do we REMEMBER what God has done for us?**  
*Red seas crossed. Rock altar markers. My stone on a desk.*
  3. **Are we BEING JESUS to those around us?**  
*“Whatever you did to the least of these... that's Me.”*  
*“We didn't do this because we're rescuers, but because we've been rescued.” — David Platt*

*I heard of a band called: “Wasted Grace.”*

***Don't waste grace!***

**We CAN see People. We CAN remember. We CAN be Jesus.**

**HOW? Extravagant Grace!!!**

- Meal packing event. Diaper or food drive.*
- Single mom community program. Mission trip.*
- Human trafficking one-on-one course.*