

Santa Rosa Baptist Association

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*An electronic copy of the VIEW is on our website: www.srassociation.org

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VIEW

Associational Mission Strategist

Well, this is my next to last article for the Santa Rosa Baptist Association newsletter. These sixteen plus years serving as your DOM/AMS has been a joy and privilege for me. I think of all the relationships that have been indeed a blessing. Having served as a pastor for 24 years prior, it was a goal of mine to be a friend to our pastors. I estimate we've welcomed some 120 different pastors to our association in this time 2006 to 2022. Many of them I got to know on a personal level and church staff members through our Minister's Peer Learning Groups and through their service in the association. I've had many church people say to me, "We understand you are a friend of our pastor." I wish that was true in all cases. But I can say, it's not because I didn't want it to be so. One of the most meaningful ways I've been referred to by these men is "A pastor to pastors". This simply means a person who cares for pastors. This is what I've strived to be. These men have known that if they needed someone to come along side them in whatever circumstances, I'm there.

I also want to make mention of the amazing lay-people that I've served with through these years. Long ago someone shared with me that the true sign of a strong and healthy association is the number of lay-people involved in it. Today, many association's leadership are only made up of ministers. While that is important, ministers make up only a small portion of the giftedness of the body of Christ. For every other year we have had a moderator who was a lay-person. Likewise, we've had some great lay-folks who have served as Point persons (Leaders in various ministries of the Association.) I count 12 lay-people and 16 ministers on our current association leadership teams. I am so pleased that in this year's 115th Annual Meeting, we recognized past moderators who are/were pastors and lay-men. It has been my privilege to serve with the best.

Last, but not least, I am grateful to **the Churches of the Santa Rosa Baptist Association**. Gulf Breeze First Baptist Church was the place where I received the Lord as my Savior. In April of 1965, I was baptized into the membership of the church. Thank you for reaching out to share Christ with me and then to disciple me as a follower of Jesus Christ. When I surrendered to the Pastorate at age 19, you licensed me and after I finished seminary ordained me to the Gospel Ministry. Milton First Baptist Church gave me the opportunity to start my ministry as a Church planter for the Avalon Baptist Mission. I served four years as an Associate Pastor of Milton First/Church

planter of Avalon (1982 – 1986). I remember at 26 years of age being the youngest pastor in the association by at least 14 years. Thank you, First Milton for the call and believing that God could use a young man like me. I went on to see Avalon constituted and become a member of the SRBA. In all, I served 7 plus years as pastor of Avalon Baptist Church (1982 – 1989). Through my service to First Milton I learned what it was like to be a part of a larger church with office responsibilities, staff and committee meetings, hospital visitation, and working with the youth ministry. At Avalon I learned how to build a church from the ground up. We started with just 12 faithful members and four years later we constituted as a church with 120 members. Through this experience, God gave me a passion to reach the lost. Most of our membership came through their profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Because of the funding from Milton First, Florida Baptist Convention, and the members of Avalon Baptist Church, I was able to be a full-time minister for all the years as a church planter and then, full time as the pastor of Avalon Church. It was for me an honor to have Avalon host my last Association Annual Meeting as your AMS. Jay First Baptist Church (1989-2006) is where I learned to be a pastor of a new region of the county. When Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis made landfall in 2004 and 2005, I learned what it meant for a church to minister to its vast community. We developed many ministries to assist the folks in North Santa Rosa County. Food pantry, clothes closet ministry, wheelchair ramps, van ministry, partnering with Red Cross to feed people during hurricane recovery, and so many other ministries that helped us connect with our area. Last, but not least, I want to thank all of the Churches of the SRBA. What an awesome privilege you gave me to serve you as your DOM/AMS. Your prayers, encouragement, and support has meant more than you will ever know. I hope in my last article to speak to you about the New AMS who will be coming. Please be in prayer for our AMS Search team

Bro. Chip



Church	10/15/22 11/15/22	2022 Total	Church	10/15/22 11/15/22	2022 Total	Church	10/15/22 11/15/22	2022 Total
Antioch Fellowship	50.00	550.00	Hic. Hammock	0.00	100.00	New Life	266.36	2,697.11
Avalon	0.00	2,867.24	Immanuel	1,167.00	13,742.78	Olivet	0.00	4,419.08
Bagdad First	419.66	1,441.07	James Street	73.10	581.73	Pine Level	419.03	3,263.70
Berrydale	317.53	3,451.84	Jay First	416.67	4,583.37	Pine Terrace	1,338.81	15,985.57
Billory	703.00	4,925.00	Journey	0.00	0.00	Pleasant Home	320.83	4,175.30
Blackwater	155.91	1,923.24	Korean Hope	0.00	100.00	Providence	0.00	1,000.00
Calvary	0.00	600.00	Live Oak	50.00	275.00	S. R. Shores	133.87	1,675.47
Cora	248.02	4,218.29	Living Truth	1,597.00	15,552.00	Springhill	0.00	675.00
East Side	125.00	1,325.00	LT East Milton	68.00	1,053.00	Stump Springs	0.00	600.00
Ferris Hill	0.00	2,000.00	Midway	0.00	0.00	The Point, SBC	118.32	1,071.04
Floridatown	750.00	1,350.00	Milton First	1,161.53	16,448.54	Wallace	1,159.68	11,809.42
Friendship	903.74	8,890.62	Mission Casa	0.00	341.66	Woodbine	100.00	1,200.00
GB First	0.00	0.00	Navarre First	401.59	4,922.46			
Harold First	47.60	488.99	New Bethel	200.83	1,726.12			
						Total GIFTS	12,713.08	142,029.64

We appreciate all of you and your giving; as you give to your church, the church gives to the association. In this way, we all work together for the Kingdom of God, seeing people saved and lives changed!! Thank you so much!

Upcoming Events

Ministers' Peer Learning Groups, 10:30am

- ♦ **Milton Peer Learning Group** - Dec. 12, 2022
- ♦ **Navarre Peer Learning Group** - Dec. 15, 2022

SRBA Event Calendar 2022:

Dec. 5, 2022—SRBA Executive Christmas Banquet, 6:30 pm @ Friendship Baptist Church.

Our office will be closed Dec. 26—Jan. 1 for Christmas.



And a Blessed New Year!!!
From the Santa Rosa Baptist Association ...
Chip Fox, AMS & Patti Smidt, Secretary

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

WEEK OF PRAYER for international missions

December 4-11, 2022

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon offering emphasis. Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel?

How will you continue to respond through your prayers and financial support?

157,690
LOST DYING DAILY

7,327
UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

4.6 BILLION PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED UNREACHED.

Over 90% of IMB teams actively engage at least one unreached people or place.

100% of your gifts go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® to enable gospel transformation among the unreached.