

PRAYING FOR THE FUTURE

A 7-DAY PRAYER GUIDE FOR OUR
ASSOCIATION AND ITS ALIGNMENT
TO GOD'S WILL FOR OUR CHURCHES



Focusing 7 Days on the 7 Vital Signs of a Healthy Association



PRAYING FOR YOUR ASSOCIATION

Focusing 7 Days on the 7 Vital Signs of a Healthy Association

John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

WELCOME

Prayer within a local Baptist association is vital for ensuring spiritual vitality and unity. It aligns the association's mission and activities with God's will, providing divine guidance in decision making. The association fosters a strong sense of community and support by praying together.

Praying together encourages accountability and transparency. It promotes personal and spiritual growth and deepens our commitment to intentional discipleship, the core of any missional strategy. Prayer also helps the association discern and respond effectively to needs not just in our churches, but in our communities as well.

Praying together ignites a passion for evangelism and missions, reinforcing our call to the Great Commission. Through prayer, leaders gain clarity and strength to lead with integrity and vision. In times of crisis, prayer provides comfort and direction, reminding members of God's sovereignty. Ultimately, a praying association remains spiritually vibrant, missionally focused, and resilient, embodying the signs of a healthy family of churches.

Instructions: Identify 7 days in MAY to focus on each vital sign and commit to: 1) Read the Bible verse; 2) Read the description of the Vital Sign; & 3) Pray fervently over each Prayer Point!

Read Philippians 1:5 -

“because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Mission Partnerships involve collaboration between associations, churches and/or missionaries that lead to ongoing engagement with a missionary or mission point to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Key Points of Prayer Today

1. Pray that God would grant all churches in our association the provisions and desire to engage in missional work.
2. Pray that our association can clearly communicate and provide cooperative mission opportunities on a regular basis.
3. Pray for the opportunities to connect with missionaries.
4. Pray for our association’s Renewal Team as they seek God’s vision for engaging churches in ongoing mission opportunities.
5. Pray for our churches’ willingness to partner together in local, state, national and international missions.
6. Pray as our association seeks to know the missional work of all its member churches.
7. Pray for the churches in our association to establish and celebrate their mission partnerships.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

Leadership Development in our local Baptist association focuses on equipping church leaders with the spiritual, emotional, and practical skills needed to lead effectively in ministry.

Key Points of Prayer Today

1. Pray for the Renewal Team’s ability to define and communicate the mission and vision of the association clearly.
2. Pray for the Renewal team as they actively work to secure the “next man up” who will lead our association into a new season of Kingdom building.
3. Pray for our Associational Mission Strategist (David Shirley) as he finishes his service to our churches well.
4. Pray for your church as she fulfills her commitment as a member church of the association.
5. Pray for your pastor and the pastors of this Association to be united in service, cooperation and missions.
6. Pray for the Lord’s provisions in all areas of Associational work through the generosity of our partnering churches.
7. Pray for the means and desire of our associational leadership to invest in and develop new leaders for the purpose of building the Kingdom of God.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:2

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

Stewardship Health reflects our collective commitment to managing resources biblically and wisely, ensuring that all contributions are utilized effectively to sustain and grow our mission of advancing the gospel.

Key Points of Prayer Today

1. Pray for your church as she models biblical stewardship and generosity in her support of the Beaverdam Baptist Association.
2. Pray for our association to experience an abundance of financial resources as its leadership seeks wisdom and guidance for a variety of ways to receive funding.
3. Pray for our association as it demonstrates Christ-honoring stewardship over its Christian witness to the community around us.
4. Pray for our association as it stewards the ministry space of the facility the Lord has provided our churches.
5. Pray for our association as it effectively practices good stewardship in advancing the gospel through its member churches.

Read Psalm 32:8

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go: I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”

Futuring is seeking God’s guidance to discover a path toward a future that will allow our association to thrive and bring God the glory He deserves.

Key Points of Prayer Today

1. Pray for the Renewal Team as it plans, prepares and works towards proposing a path forward as they consider the past, examine the present and push our churches forward into the next chapter of our association’s history.
2. Pray for the Renewal Team to depend solely on the direction and urging of the Holy Spirit as they work on behalf of our churches over the course of 2026.
3. Pray that association events and meetings become opportunities for celebration and worship as we recognize God’s movement among us.
4. Pray for your church’s participation in coming opportunities (Vital Signs Survey and Church Member Interviews) to engage in the futuring/renewal process for our association.
5. Pray for our association as it leads churches in unity.

Read Ephesians 4:11-12

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”

Pastor engagement fosters unity, collaboration, and shared vision among the pastors in our association.

Key Points of Prayer Today

1. Pray that our association emphasizes and practices discipleship through the relationships of the Association Missions Strategist and the pastors of our associated churches.
2. Pray for our association’s leadership to maximize and perpetuate leadership and educational development opportunities for the pastors, deacons and lay leaders in our churches.
3. Pray for your church pastor as he engages in opportunities to “pastor together” and not in isolation.
4. Pray for new pastors coming into our association that they will feel welcomed, be engaged, and desire to increase associational cooperation through missions.
5. Pray that our association works diligently with its churches identify and raise up those God is calling into the ministry that our association can adequately supply our churches and others with Godly leadership.
6. Pray for your pastor as he regularly engages with other pastors and experiences spiritual, emotional, and ministry-related growth opportunities.

DAY 6

CHURCH NETWORKING

Read Romans 12:4-5

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Church networking enables churches to collaborate, share resources, and support each other in ministry efforts. The reality is simple: the health of our association is directly dependent on the health of our churches.

Key Points of Prayer Today

1. Pray for our association’s churches that we collectively pursue the unity of the body of Christ, for Paul writes *“though many, [we] are one body in Christ.”*
2. Pray for your church as she builds relationships through fellowship and, perhaps missional partnerships, with sister churches.
3. Pray for our association to qualify and quantify a regular emphasis on the significance of churches networking together.
4. Pray specifically wisdom and faithful courage for our association leadership as they assist churches in conflict and other detrimental phases of church life.
5. Pray for you own involvement (or lack thereof) in the missional work of your church, and ask the Lord for courage and strength to serve where He leads you to serve.

DAY 7

CHURCH STRENGTHENING

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”

Church Strengthening focuses on enhancing each congregation's spiritual vitality, leadership, and organizational health.

Key Points of Prayer Today

1. Pray for the Renewal Team as it receives and identifies a plan for meeting the needs of the churches as it pursues “the next man up.”
2. Pray for our association as it helps churches become aware of, connected to, and engage effectively in Kingdom-building missions.
3. Pray for our association as it responds to the requests of the churches and seeks to meet those ministry needs.
4. Pray for our association as it is prepared to serve churches of all sizes in our geographical area.
5. Pray for our Associational Mission Strategist (current and future) as he shepherds the shepherds.
6. Consider the role you serve (or do not) within your own church setting, and ask the Lord to increase your desire to serve Him more!

*This guide is adapted from Johnny Rumbough's, **The Renewal Process**, and is used and altered with permission*