

REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATIONS
PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING DEPARTMENT
EVANGELISM DIVISION/RICK SHEPHERD, DIRECTOR
FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION
2010-2011

The Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Department **exists to equip and encourage comprehensive prayer in making disciples of all nations and in seeking the Lord for Spiritual Awakening.** This includes focusing on personal, corporate, and kingdom prayer through conferences, revivals, and seminars as well as through equipping resources in prayer, evangelism, and spiritual awakening.

Prayer conferences, seminars, and multiple prayer events were held in **31** associations from August 2010 through July 2011. Several associations or churches hosted **Building Praying Churches: Foundations for Effective Ministries** which focuses on multiple entry points into prayer and prayer ministries to equip in and enhance evangelism and disciple making in the local church. **Building a Praying Life** also proved helpful. Resources posted on the Web at www.flbaptist.org/Prayer and www.flbaptist.org/SpiritualAwakening are helping churches in personal and church-wide prayer. Other resources are being added. These enable churches to better equip their people in prayer for the lost and prayer for Spiritual Awakening. Printed resources include the popular booklet ***“How to Spend a Day in Prayer”*** for use by individuals as well as ***“The How-to of Meeting with God”*** and ***“How to Pray for Your Pastor.”*** Prayer Resources (printed and web-based) have been developed for the **Love Your Neighbor—Share Christ** church evangelism strategy. The booklet **Baptism Matters!: The Meaning and Importance of Baptism** continues to be widely used (reprints and downloads at www.flbaptist.org/evangelism/prayer.htm). This booklet is now available in Spanish and in Haitian/Creole. Several churches continue to use these booklets in their outreach/discipleship ministries.

The Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Department touched leaders and laypeople from over **483** churches through equipping conferences, prayer seminars, or worship services. Several Associations and churches requested the **“Prayer in Motion: Taking Prayer EveryWhere” Seminar.** We continue encouraging churches to join in **“PrayerEveryWhere,”** seeking to PrayerWalk **every street in Florida**, as many times as possible through 2012. This **Prayer Saturation Strategy** includes prayer walking neighborhoods, schools, businesses, etc. to more effectively touch the lives of people throughout each community.

Every School Prayer—a strategy to Prayer Walk the schools in a community—continued with an emphasis in August of 2010 and another in January of 2011. Many testimonies tell of new doors for ministry in the schools and in the communities—children and families are being touched. This matches the heartbeat of Jeremiah 29:7 to *“pray”* for and *“seek the well-being of the city.”*

Again, this year we encouraged churches to participate in the **SBC Day of Prayer and Fasting**, January 30, 2011 and many did so (the next one is January 29, 2012). Testimonies from several churches show that God honors the seeking heart and the seeking church. Churches are seeing the value of **multiple entry points into prayer and evangelism**, including Prayer Walks, Special Days of Prayer, Fasting and Prayer, etc. This includes calling churches to focused prayer statewide. Again this year, we called for a **Day of Prayer Concerning Hurricane Season**, June 5, 2011. Many participated with several using the booklet ***Praying about the Weather***. A fruitful ministry has begun in the **Lay Renewal Prayer Weekend**, as well as other **Lay Renewal Weekends** which are impacting churches. Several have been revived and are reaching out in many ways in their communities. Terry Land is coordinating this ministry. A 5-year emphasis (**“I-365”**—2008-2012) continues seeking to intensify prayer everywhere in every way.

Our **Associational Prayer Coordinators** continue to encourage the churches of their respective associations through prayer conferences, PrayerWalk training, and other avenues of equipping for Building Praying Churches.

The Department of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening is available to help equip and encourage churches through conferences, seminars, revivals, and worship services as well as through various equipping materials. God is faithful. He is answering prayer on many fronts. May we continue to join Him where He is working, even in navigating the waters of judgment in our land, pointing people to Jesus as Lord and Savior, the One ready to pour out His grace, mercy, forgiveness, and restoration to the humble, seeking heart.