

## **Engaging Your Church To Pray For Your Association**

Johnny Rumbough, Chapin, South Carolina 29036

[johnnyrumbough@gmail.com](mailto:johnnyrumbough@gmail.com)

### Additional resources include:

“Vital Signs of a Healthy Association: Assessment Tool”

Book (coming soon): “Seven Vital Signs of a Healthy Assoc

Book (coming soon): “Planning Tomorrow for Your Association”

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### About the Writer

Johnny Rumbough is in his 28<sup>th</sup> year serving as the Executive Director/Associational Mission Strategist of the Lexington Baptist Association, SC (1996-present). Before coming to LBA, he served in a NAMB-appointed position at the Greenville Baptist Association, SC (1991-1996) and then earlier as a church planter in Tega Cay, SC (1985-1990). He is a 1981 Charleston Southern University (SC) graduate and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1985. He was awarded a Doctor of Religion degree from Charleston Southern University in 2003.

He is an Associational Ambassador (volunteer) for the North American Mission Board, SBC.



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Prayer Guide

# ***ENGAGING CHURCHES TO PRAY FOR YOUR ASSOCIATION***

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



## Endorsements

*Associations play a vital role in the overall ecosystem of Baptist life and mission work, and their overall health and missional effectiveness will be proportionate to the devotion with which the churches pray for each other and for their associational leadership. In “Engaging Churches to Pray for Your Association,” my friend Johnny Rumbough has provided an excellent resource for exactly that. I encourage you to mark out seven consecutive days when you can work through this resource and tune your heart to God’s as you call on him to multiply his favor upon the work of your association and the churches within it.*

**\_\_ Tony Wolfe, Executive-Director/Treasurer, South Carolina Baptist Convention**

*One of the great needs across the body of Christ is the recovery of both a theology and practice of prayer. For that to become reality, we need practical tools to move us in that direction. “Engaging in Prayer for Your Association” is one such resource. Johnny Rumbough was the Associational Mission Strategist for the 12 years I pastored in Lexington, SC and I came to know his heart the ministry of the local church and association. Johnny understands the truth that prayer must be at the heart of all we do in the name of Jesus. This resource will help us experience the spiritual dimensions of “one people with one voice about one thing” as we seek God’s heart together.*

**\_\_ Rick Fisher, Vice-President, Blackaby International Ministries**

*Johnny Rumbough does associations a great service by calling our families of churches afresh to biblical, strategic prayer. He writes from a wealth of experience as a prayerful associational leader. Prayer is the starting place and the sustaining place for life and ministry, especially in an association of churches. Our relationships with God in prayerful dependence make possible our relationships with one another as we network together as pastors, leaders, and congregations, to encourage and equip so that we can engage our mission fields with the good news of Jesus, doing the Great*

*Commission. Use this guide with hope for all God can do as we unite in prayer, for His glory and our neighbors’ good.*

**\_\_ Bob Lowman, Executive Director, Metrolina Baptist Association, Charlotte, NC**

*It has been said, ‘prayer should be our first response not our last resort.’ This prayer guide by my friend and fellow associational laborer, Johnny Rumbough, is a great tool for churches and leaders to use. My association and leadership benefits greatly from the wisdom and resourcefulness of Johnny Rumbough’s leadership!*

**\_\_ Craig Tuck, Associational Mission Strategist, Charleston Baptist Association, South Carolina**

*I’ve had the privilege of knowing Johnny Rumbough for over 2 decades, and in that time, his unwavering commitment to prayer has been truly inspiring. Johnny has dedicated countless hours to helping churches recognize the vital importance of praying for the Baptist Association, its leadership, pastors, and church congregations. His passion and dedication has brought communities together, fostering a deeper spiritual connection among congregations. Johnny’s leadership and devotion makes him an invaluable asset to any church seeking to strengthen its prayer ministry.*

**\_\_ David W. Smith, Executive Director, Austin Baptist Association, Austin, Texas**

## ENGAGING CHURCHES TO PRAY FOR YOUR ASSOCIATION

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

“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.”  
John 15:5

### 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 commitment to discipleship. Prayer also helps the association discern and respond effectively to needs.

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 to focus on one Vital Sign each day:**

1) Read the Bible verse; 2) Read the description of the Vital Sign; and 3) pray for the “10 Things to PRAY Today.”

## DAY 1

## MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

### 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, leading to an ongoing engagement with a missionary or mission point in accomplishing the goal of advancing the gospel.

### 10 Things to PRAY Today

1. Pray that all churches in your association will be engaged on mission somewhere.
2. Pray that your association will clearly communicate mission opportunities for churches to engage in.
3. Pray for the opportunities to connect with missionaries.
4. Pray for your association's strategy for engaging churches in ongoing mission partnerships.
5. Pray for churches to partner together in mission opportunities.
6. Pray for churches in your association to connect with a church planter in a Send City.
7. Pray as your association seeks to know the missional work of all its member churches.
8. Pray for your association, as it emphasizes praying for lost people.
9. Pray for the churches in your association celebrating their mission partnerships.
10. Pray for your association as it strives to stay informed and plan for national, and international mission partnerships

**Prayer Focus:** How can our church participate with the association to be more prepared and empowered to take the gospel to those locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally?

**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.

**10 Things to PRAY Today**

1. Pray for your association’s leadership to communicate its mission/vision clearly and plentifully.
2. Pray for your association’s leadership to stay focused on its purpose and mission.
3. Pray for your association’s leadership as they actively support the association’s vision.
4. Pray for your Associational Mission Strategist as he leads in fulfilling the association’s vision
5. Pray for your church as she fulfills her commitment as a member church of the association.
6. Pray for your association as it responsibly makes decision-making clear, easy, and timely.
7. Pray for the leaders in your association to be empowered to lead their associational ministry areas.
8. Pray for the ministries of your association to have the financial and material resources to fulfill their goals
9. Pray for the volunteers of your association to feel appreciated.
10. Pray for your association’s leaders to develop leaders.

**Prayer Focus :** How can our church participate with the association to develop more leaders who think missionally and have a burden for the lost?

**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.

**10 Things to PRAY Today**

1. Pray for your church as she models biblical stewardship and generosity in her support of your association.
2. Pray for your church as she communicates her giving to your association is giving to support missions.
3. Pray for your association as it regularly communicates the financial support received from all the churches.
4. Pray for your association as it communicates its financial needs and blessings.
5. Pray for your association and its practices as it demonstrates healthy stewardship principles.
6. Pray for your association to experience an abundance of financial resources.
7. Pray for your association as it seeks wisdom and guidance for a variety of ways to receive funding.
8. Pray for your association as it demonstrates a positive Christian witness to the community who sees it.
9. Pray for your association as it stewards ministry space.
10. Pray for your association as it effectively practices good stewardship in advancing the gospel.

**Prayer Focus:** How can our church participate with the association to be better stewards of our facilities, finances, talent, and time?

**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 your association to thrive and bring God great glory.

**10 Things to PRAY Today**

1. Pray for your association as it plans the opportunity for a gathering of churches in corporate worship.
2. Pray for your association’s leaders as they allow the Holy Spirit to use them to help churches experience God’s presence and power.
3. Pray for your association’s leaders to encounter God and to lead churches to do the same.
4. Pray for your association as events and meetings become opportunities for a worship experience.
5. Pray for your association as it offers opportunities for churches to engage in a futuring/revitalization process.
6. Pray for your association as it gives churches an opportunity to partner with churches in need.
7. Pray for your association as it recognizes and celebrates church revitalization and replanting.
8. Pray for your association as it tells the church stories of hope, health, and thriving.
9. Pray for your association as it leads churches in unity.
10. Pray for your association as it helps churches see a future that is thriving and bringing God great glory.

**Prayer Focus :** How can our church participate with the association to prepare ourselves to see our people focused and invested in future generations to see Kingdom work continue until Jesus returns?

**Read Ephesians 4:11-12**

*“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds<sup>[a]</sup> and teachers,<sup>[b]</sup> 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 your association.

**10 Things to PRAY Today**

1. Pray for your association as discipleship is emphasized.
2. Pray for your association’s leadership as they seek increasing opportunities for leaders to be equipped.
3. Pray for your church pastor as he engages in opportunities to “pastor together” and not pastor alone.
4. Pray for new pastors coming into your association that they will feel welcomed and seek to be engaged.
5. Pray for your association’s leadership as they identify books and resources most helpful for pastors.
6. Pray for your association as it communicates a clear plan for helping pastors connect with one another.
7. Pray for your association as it works diligently to help pastors regularly participate in a small group or cohort.
8. Pray for your pastor as he regularly engages with other pastors.
9. Pray for your pastor as he experiences spiritual, emotional, and ministry-related growth opportunities.
10. Pray for your association as it provides opportunities for the pastor, the pastor’s wife, and his family.

**Prayer Focus:** How can our church participate with the association to be more unified and support our pastor as he leads our church to have biblically healthy heart for discipleship and missions?

**Read Romans 12:4-5**

*“For as in one body we have many members,<sup>[a]</sup> and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> 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.

**10 Things to PRAY Today**

1. Pray for your association as it encourages churches to partner together for mission or ministry opportunities.
2. Pray for your association for *“though many, are one body in Christ.”*
3. Pray for your church as she builds relationships through fellowship with other churches.
4. Pray for your association as special ministry opportunities demonstrate we are better together.
5. Pray for your association as it provides networking opportunities through praying and serving together.
6. Pray for your pastor as he has opportunities to network with other pastors through the association.
7. Pray for your association as it provides regular emphasis on the significance of churches networking together.
8. Pray for your pastor as he is introduced to church networking opportunities through your association.
9. Pray as your association promotes a healthy calendar.
10. Pray as your association helps churches in difficulty.

**Prayer Focus:** How can our church participate with the association to better network with other Christ-centered, gospel driven churches in our association to foster Kingdom growth?

**Read Hebrews 10:24-25**

*<sup>24</sup> “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> 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.

**10 Things to PRAY Today**

1. Pray for your association as it identifies a plan for meeting the needs of the churches.
2. Pray for your association's effectiveness.
3. Pray for your association as it helps churches become aware, connect, and engage in missions.
4. Pray for your association as it responds to the requests of the churches.
5. Pray for your association as it demonstrates an openness to help churches in need.
6. Pray for your church and her role in church planting.
7. Pray for your association as it is prepared to serve all-size of churches in your geographical area.
8. Pray for your Associational Mission Strategist as he shepherds the shepherds.
9. Pray for your association as it is spirit-filled.
10. Pray for your association as it is creative and wise.

**Prayer Focus:** How can our church participate with the association to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, to “stir up one another to love and good works.”? (Hebrews 10:24)