



Baptist Beacon

Around the Association

Rolling Hills Community Church

Versus 2023 is a Men's Conference on Thursday, May 4 presented by Rolling Hills Community Church where men come together with thousands of other men for an evening of BBQ, incredible live music, and amazing speakers, including comedian Jeff Foxworthy, former Nashville Predators captain Mike Fisher, and several others. Find out more at rollinghills.cc/versus.

Disciple Leaders Network

April 20-21 at **Forest Hills Baptist Church**, featuring Jeff Iorg and Brian Kennedy. Join us for worship, keynote speakers, and multiple workshops that will help you enlist and develop leaders, build relationships, and move people toward a faith that is evidenced by until in Christ and His Great Commission. For more information and registration, visit discipleleaders.com.

Crescent Project

Brentwood Baptist Church

You are invited to Crescent Project's 3-day event. The Sahara Challenge is an in-person seminar and training event for serving unreached Muslim people locally and globally. This year's keynote speaker is David Garrison, Global Gates Executive Director. David Garrison has a Ph.D. in historical theology from the University of Chicago. He is a veteran of more than 30 years as a missionary pioneer. His writings include *The Nonresidential Missionary* (1990), *Church Planting Movements* (2004), and *A Wind in the House of Islam* (2014).

Gain real-world insight from ministry practitioners and Muslim-background believers Explore the history, beliefs, and culture of Islam, and equip yourself and your ministry team to engage Muslims in your neighborhood and around the world. This conference is for pastors, church staff, and lay leaders that wish to understand how to share the love of Christ and faith with their Muslim neighbors. Please find details and register at the site:

crescentproject.org/sahara-challenge

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Young Adult Conference 2023, for ages 18-40, will take place April 15 at **Thompson Station Baptist Church**. Young Adult Ministry leaders and members can enjoy large group sessions led by Scott Dawson and Shaun Pillay, with Andrew Holt of the Belonging Co. leading worship. Small group sessions will cover topics like Marriage and Parenting, Singleness and Dating, Understanding a Call to Ministry, Reaching my Peers with the Gospel, Managing my Finances, and more! Registration will begin at 8AM, and the conference will go from 9AM until 5PM, and the cost of \$5 per person.

For more information and registration, go to tnabptist.org/event/young-adult-conference.

The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board is also hosting a two-day **church administration conference** designed to help with legal and accounting areas in churches, associations, and non-profit entities on April 17-18. To find out more and register, visit <https://tn.sbcworkspace.com/Pub/Event/Register/55234932>

To see your church event, need, or accomplishment listed here, please call the NBA office or email Alicia at adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com.

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Webinars

Peer Learning Webinar

Each month, the association will offer a Peer Learning Webinar in which a church leader from our association will share valuable and practical skills and insight relevant to a particular area of ministry.

Topic: The Church's Use of Social Media

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 18 at noon

Presenter: Brett Perkins of The Journey Church

Registration: nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning

Check this page regularly for upcoming topics and presenters.

Last month's webinar, "Leading Through Transition" led by Steve Durham of Sunset Hills, is also available to view at: nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning

Churches Planting Churches Webinar

Our Church Planting Strategist leads a discussion about how our churches can plant and grow new congregations in Nashville and the surrounding areas.

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 25 at 11am

Presenter: Bryan Williams, pastor of Church of the Messiah

Topic: Situational Leadership

Registration: nashvillebaptists.com/churches-planting-churches

Openings and Opportunities

To have your resume forwarded to churches seeking a pastor, worship leader, or other ministry personnel, please submit a current resume to general@nashvillebaptists.com.

Baker's Grove Baptist Church is looking for a Senior Pastor. Please send resumes to pastor.searchbakergsgr@yahoo.com.

Job descriptions and more openings can be found on our website at nashvillebaptists.com/jobs.

Nashville Baptist Association has a policy of publishing job openings for ministerial and support positions when a church requests us to do so. In our desire to assist churches to fill vacancies, NBA will continue to offer this service at no charge. For more information call (615) 259-3034.

Ministry Networks

The Board of the Nashville Baptist Association put together a task force which created a network for helping Kids and Preschool Ministers. Connect with them at one of the events below and look for more information to come on our website.

VBS Coaches Available for Your Church

Contact Rich Smith, NBA Vacation Bible School Director, to connect your church with a trained kids' minister and/or VBS leader to assist you in preparing your VBS team with your specific plans. This free assistance qualifies your church for curriculum discounts. Text Rich at (615) 829-9834.

NBA Kids Ministers Network

The NBA has a new network for all those who lead kids ministries in our churches. This network includes vocational, bi-vocational, and volunteer ministers who focus on preschoolers, children, and families in NBA churches. Join us for a **Meet and Greet** on May 11 from 11:30AM to 1PM at First Baptist Church Nashville (108 7th Ave S). There is free parking at the church. Please bring your own lunch.

WMU Annual Meeting

This year's NBA WMU Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27 at Faith Baptist Church in Madison. Displays will begin at 5:00pm with dinner at 6:00pm and program to follow. The speaker will be Amy Jones, Missionary to Germany, and the cost is \$10 per person. Registration and more information:

nashvillebaptists.com/events/wmuannualmeeting2023

Free Resource

Each month, the association will provide a free resource to the readers of the newsletter. These resources are meant to be practical, helpful, and relatable, just as we are working to be as an association.

This month's free resource is a helpful encouragement to make summer a season of community outreach. The accompanying PDF is a compilation of ideas about how to intentionally reach your community during the summer.

[Download this resource here.](#)

Pastor Profile



Nathan Velasquez
Lavergne Community Church
lavergnecommunitychurch.org

My name is Nathan Velásquez. I was born in Caracas, Venezuela on August 7, 1977. I grew up in a Christian home where I was taught by example to love the Lord and obey Him. My Father has been a Baptist pastor for more than 40 years. I really admire him. He still shows me the Love for God through his example every day.

I was saved at the age of 5, as a child the Lord had placed a great desire in my heart to serve Him. I preached my first sermon by the age of 9 during a VBS service. I was Biblically baptized at the age of 12.

At the age of 16, I committed my life to serving the Lord in full-time ministry. It was during my senior year of high school (the fall of 1994) when I dedicated my life completely to God. I went to the Venezuela Baptist Theological Seminary (STBV) in the fall of 1995. I received my Seminary undergrad degree in the year 2000. I got married in 1997 to Karina Montiel and we have two beautiful daughters, Gabriela, and Nathaly. We have been serving God during the last 26 years of my life. In 2013 our family arrived from Venezuela to live in Texas and to serve in “Iglesia Bautista Central” of Fort Worth. In 2015 we were sent to minister in Franklin, Tennessee. On January 29th of 2023, we launched a new project from God’s hands, Lavergne Community Church. This beautiful church is the result of a merger of a Hispanic church and an Anglo church. Now we are a cross cultural church serving God to transform our society through developing mature Christians.

What is your favorite local Nashville restaurant?

This is an easy question. If I am trying to be fair to my heart, I would say Totuma Venezuelan Restaurant. Totuma is a great place where you can enjoy the best Venezuelan food in town. Totuma is located on Bell Road near I-24.

How would you spend a day off with no ministry responsibilities?

That is the question that my wife always asks me. I would say that is probably just to stay home and read because I love to read. But the true answer is whatever my wife and daughters want. Because when I am not doing ministry, I am just trying to please them as best I can. That is a challenge because they want something different every time. I don’t know what is going to be the next experience.

What Bible verse or passage is particularly meaningful to you right now?

About five years ago God gave me Ephesians 4:13 as a basis for everything my ministry has become. Paul challenged the Ephesians to become like Christ and to behave as Christ. He challenged them to have the knowledge and unity of Christ, to have faith in Christ, and to have the fullness of Christ as our example to follow. That is a verse that every day I ask God to help me to accomplish.

Is there a quote that has stuck with you and influenced the way you have thought or behaved?

It is not someone famous, but it is important to me because it is from my dad. My dad always told me that if I struggled to overcome an experience then it was because I am still alive. God wants me to be dead to my sins, my flesh, my emotions, and my transgressions. My dad was telling me that if I was frustrated with myself then I must surrender, to die to myself, and allow God to work in me.

What is one exciting thing God is doing in your church right now?

The merger. We have been working with a Hispanic population for more than seven years here in middle Tennessee. A couple of months ago we finally realized a dream of merging our church with a beautiful Anglo church, First Baptist Lavergne. And now we have reopened as Lavergne Community Church. One big family with two languages. Our first service on Sunday at 9:30 is in English, our second service is in Spanish at 11:30. When the people come together, we see this as a small piece of heaven on earth. Because we see all nations worshipping God. Even though there are two services we meet in the fellowship hall as friends. We serve the same God. It is something that gives me excitement and hope when I get up every morning.