



MARSHALL BAPTIST NEWS

271 BAPTIST CAMP ROAD, GUNTERSVILLE, AL 35976



Website: www.marshallba.com
Email: taylor@marshallba.com
Dr. Eric Taylor, AMS

MBA Office:
256-582-2882

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Retreat Center:
256-582-4994

THE ANSWER BEHIND MOST CHURCH CHALLENGES

“We need more volunteers.”
“Where are our future deacons and leaders?”
“Our young people don’t stay.”
“Our members don’t invite anymore.”
“People disappear when things get hard.”
“We have workers — but few spiritual mentors.”
These are real challenges. They’re not new, and they’re not isolated. But I am convinced that many of them point to the same root issue:

We have drifted from intentional, biblical disciple-making.

Jesus did not simply command us to gather crowds for church services. He Commissioned us to “Go... make Disciples.” As we go about our daily lives, we are called to help people follow Him, grow in Him, and live on mission for Him.

One of our problems is that we want quick fixes. So, we grab the latest program, workbook, or workshop and hope it will create a bunch of disciples. But here is the problem: **Disciples are not Mass-Produced — they are Hand-Crafted.**

Imagine the difference between a factory-made table and a handcrafted heirloom. One is quickly assembled and easily replaced. The other is built carefully, intentionally, and meant to last generations. We all know which one we would rather have. Yet, too often, we settle for speed over depth in discipleship.

Over the past decade, I’ve been honored to be a part of a growing movement of pastors in Alabama who are helping churches rediscover what I call **The Jesus Way of Disciple-Making.**

The Jesus Way of Disciple-Making is:

1. **Intentional** — “Come, Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people.”
2. **Relational** — Life on life connection.
3. **Biblical** — Scripture is the textbook and the workbook.

Disciple-making is a lifelong process of helping people find and follow Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, and live on mission for Jesus. When that happens, churches become training grounds for growth, health and leadership.

And this is important to understand: This ministry of intentional disciple making is not just for pastors or church leaders but for every believer.

So ask yourself:

- Who am I helping grow in their faith right now?
- Who helped me grow — and am I doing the same for someone else?
- Am I more shaped by Scripture or by tradition?
- Am I becoming a disciple-maker — or just a church attender?
- If everyone followed Jesus the way I do, what kind of church would we have?

These questions are not meant to discourage us. They are meant to refocus us.

Disciple-making is slower than we want. But when done Jesus’ way, it makes us stronger than we think.

You do not have to be a pastor, teacher, or ministry leader to make disciples.

You just must be willing.

If every church member personally disciplined one other person, our churches would be transformed within a generation.

When believers are disciplined well:

- They serve willingly.
- They give generously.
- They share their faith naturally.
- They raise up new leaders.
- They help the church get healthy and stay healthy.

Strong churches are built by strong disciples. And we want to help you make strong disciples.

If you’d like to learn more about how you can be more intentional about creating a culture of Disciple making in your church, reach out to us at eric@marshallba.com and we can begin the disciple making conversation that may begin to transform your life and your church.

For the Glory of God and the Good of His Church,

Dr. Eric Taylor, AMS
Marshall Baptist Association

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH ALABAMA NIGHT OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR BIVOCATIONAL PASTORS

Gilliam Springs Baptist Church in Arab will be the site of “North Alabama Night of Encouragement” for the area’s bivocational pastors on March 12, from 6-8 p.m.

It will be a wonderful night of worship, encouragement and calling out those called into bivocational ministry.



MARK CALENDARS FOR MINISTERS LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of EVERY MONTH for **Pastor Leadership Luncheons!** This is a time of prayer, worship, equipping and encouragement from high capacity leaders. To learn more, please email eric@marshallba.com.

DR. JEFF IORG TO SPEAK AT MT. VERNON BAPTIST

Join us for an evening with Dr. Jeff Iorg on Sunday, April 26, beginning at 5 p.m. inside Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in



Albertville. Dr. Iorg is the president of the SBC’s Executive Committee and past president of Gateway Seminary in California. This will be a wonderful time of encouragement, engagement, and leadership development.

Check out our MBA website for more information on upcoming events and opportunities!
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ENCOURAGE. EQUIP. ENGAGE.



