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A one-time announcement of special events is a free service provided by the Witness to Florida Baptist churches. Please send materials at least three weeks before the date of the event to Florida Baptist Witness, 1206 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207, Tel: 904-346-0696 or e-mail: nichols@flbaptist.org. Information may be submitted via the Web site: www.FloridaBaptistWitness.com.

BREVARD

Brevard Baptist Association, with offices in Rockledge, has called Gary Gates as director of missions. He most recently served as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Melbourne, and previously served with North Dunedin Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Largo. He is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Ann, have three children. Gates replaces Harold Brantley, who served as DOM 14 years. Brantley's wife, Jackie, served as his administrative assistant, a position Gates' wife also will fill. The Brantleys will settle in Rockledge after traveling to Australia and Malaysia.

FLORIDA

Antioch Baptist Church in

Tallahassee will host a community-wide Fun Day July 29, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will include carnival games, inflatable games, horseback rides, music and food. For more information, call 850-576-7315.

JACKSONVILLE

San Jose Baptist Church has called Mike Reed as pastor. He previously served as the congregation's interim teaching pastor. He also served as senior pastor and staff pastor in several



REED

central and south Florida churches before founding Toccoa Wilderness Ministries in Blue Ridge, Ga., in 1980 with his wife, Carolyn. While serving with TWM, the Tennessee native served as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Turtletown, Tenn. Cedar Creek Baptist Church will host tenor Larry Ford in concert Aug. 13., 10:15 a.m. He is a featured performer on the Gaither Homecoming tour. For more information, call 904-781-9151.

LAKE COUNTY

Randall Lynn Rouse, coordinator of volunteers for Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, died July 16 at Lake Wales Baptist Conference Center in Austis. He was 69. A retired letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, Rouse also volunteered with Campers on Mission and Carpenters for Christ. He is survived by his wife of 50 years,

Jean; daughter, Debra Roderick; sons, Daniel, Dennis and David; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

MARION

First Baptist Church in Summerfield will host a gospel music concert Oct. 5 featuring River Jordan and Soul Purpose. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 352-245-2369. Trinity Baptist Church in Ocala will host Gold City in concert Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. For more information, call 352-694-2163.

NEW RIVER

Evergreen Baptist Church in Lawley has scheduled its second annual "Hot Summer Nights" Thursdays in August. Speakers include Aug. 3, Jim Snell, pastor of Lake Hill Baptist Church in Keystone Heights; Aug. 10, David Beauchamp, pastor of Crescent Beach Baptist Church, St. Augustine; Aug. 17, Herb Reavis, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church; Aug. 24, John Sullivan, director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention; Aug. 31, evangelist Randy Lamb. Services will begin at 7:15 p.m. For more information, call 904-782-3717.

RIDGE

First Baptist Church in Lake Alfred will honor Pastor Rocky Branch July 30 on his 10th anniversary with the church. A special evening worship

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service will begin at 6:30 p.m. Branch and his wife, Janice, have two children.

SEMINOLE

Central Baptist Church in Sanford will host a Women's Mini-Conference Aug. 11-12. Speaker and guest musician for the event are Margaret Kay Tucker and Christie Helton, both of Jacksonville. For registration information, call 407-322-2914 or go to www.cbcsanford.org.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Griffin Baptist Church in Lakeland has called Wade Lipham as minister of music. He has served in a similar position with several churches in South Florida Baptist Association. He and his wife, Mary, are natives of Lakeland.

SUWANNEE

The Pregnancy Crisis Center in Live Oak will host a Bible study beginning Aug. 1 for women who have had an abortion. The study will focus on *Forgiven and Set Free*, a book by Linda Cockran. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 386-330-2229. All calls are confidential.

Stone: Evangelist dies in Tenn. at 72

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ministry partner, collegian Sean Reece, were driving to speak at the evening service at College Heights Baptist Church in Gallatin, Tenn., just north of Nashville, July 16 when Stone became unconscious and later was pronounced dead.

Stone's previous three walks across America included a 3,650-mile trek in 1996 from the Capitol steps in Washington southward to Jacksonville, and westward to Los Angeles; a 3,550-mile trek in 1998 from the mayor's office in San Francisco eastward to Virginia Beach, Va.; and a 1,700-mile, south to north trek in 2000 that began in Nueva Laredo, Mexico, and ended in Detroit at the Ambassador Bridge leading into Canada.

Stone is survived by his wife, Anne Fuller Stone, three daughters, Ellen Sichina of Shelby, N.C.; Carole Doll and Lisa Hilliard, both of Apex, N.C.; and five grandchildren.

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Jacksonville Pastor takes on new Associational role Florida Baptist Witness online

- Jacksonville Pastor takes on new Associational role

Written By: Nicole Kalil January 25, 2018

Tags: [Jacksonville Baptist Association](#), [Mike Reed](#), [Rick Wheeler](#), [San Jose Baptist Church](#)

[San Jose Baptist Church](#) Pastor [Mike Reed](#) is leaving the church he has pastored for the past 11½ years to tackle a newly created role at the [Jacksonville Baptist Association](#) at a time in his life when many start to downshift their ministry activities.

“He’s re-firing, not retiring,” said JBA’s Lead Missional Strategist Rick Wheeler.

Reed will serve as JBA’s Missional Engagement Strategist, a new position to oversee a new strategy to connect pastors within the same geographical area in [Jacksonville](#) for maximum Gospel impact.

Mike Reed addresses Jacksonville Baptist Association pastors and leadership .

“I’m going to be connecting with pastors and hopefully build hubs of cooperating and collaborating churches in specific zones in Jacksonville,” Reed said of his new mission.

At 74 years old, Reed is nowhere near ready to step out of ministry and into retirement. And while he said he knows the new position won’t be easy, he feels like the job was tailor-made for him.

“In some ways I don’t think like a 74 year old although I have the aches and pains of one,” Reed quipped. “This role really connects with my heart.”

Wheeler has been impressed with Reed’s desire to not only take on a new challenge but also be excited for the opportunity.

To other Baby Boomer pastors getting close to retirement age, Wheeler says: “Don’t get out of the game!

Wheeler said the example of people like Reed and others he’s known who enter the next phase of ministry rather than retire is an encouragement to himself and others to continue to press on.

Reed said while he is excited about his new position, he is also excited to see what God has in store for San Jose Baptist Church.

But his excitement is tempered with some sadness at leaving a church family he has come to love.

“It will be very emotional because we love these people,” Reed said of the congregation. “It would be much easier if there was anger but there’s not.”

By Nicole Kalil, Florida Baptist Convention, January 25, 2018

Mike Reed

Pastor

Mike has served as the Missional Strategist for Community Engagement with First Coast Churches since February, 2018. Mike Reed has over 58 years of ministry experience in a variety of roles. He has served as a church staff member or pastor of churches in Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina. In 1980, he and Carolyn, his late wife, founded Toccoa Wilderness Ministries, a Christian outdoor adventure program. He served as director of TWM from 1980 until 2006. In his spare time, he enjoys walking, mountain biking, and watching SEC football.

[Our Team - Jones Road Baptist Church | Jacksonville, FL](https://jonesroadbc.org/our-team/)

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