

THE TOTAL CHURCH EQUIPPING CONFERENCE



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Sunday, September 22, 2024
West Rome Baptist Church, Rome

3:30 PM - Doors Open/Registration/Check In
4:15 PM - Inspirational Rally w/ Thom Rainer
5:30 PM - Light Supper
6:15-7:15 PM - Breakout #1
7:30-8:30 PM - Breakout #2
8:30 PM - Dismiss



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Thom S. Rainer is a renowned church leader, author, and consultant, currently serving as the founder and CEO of Church Answers, an online resource platform for church leaders. He previously held the positions of President and CEO at LifeWay Christian Resources and was the founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His expertise in church health led him to establish the Rainer Group, a consulting firm that has guided numerous churches and organizations. A prolific author, Rainer has contributed more than two dozen books to the field, including influential works such as "I Am a Church Member" and "Autopsy of a Deceased Church".

Breakout Session #1 (6:15-7:15 PM)

Artificial Intelligence and Your Ministry: The New Fuel for Efficiency and Impact *led by Scott Smith.* This session introduces you to the dynamic world of AI. You will explore how AI can automate routine tasks, allowing more time for vital ministry work. Demonstrations will be given on how to maximize Bible study, including creating lessons, sermons and curriculum. We will also cover how AI can help you learn any subject five times faster. Ethical aspects of AI usage in a ministry context will be covered. You will leave with a good working knowledge of basic AI, and quickly become competent to implement AI into your personal day-to-day ministry and management.

Babysitter vs Influencer *led by Krista Staton.* Which are you? In this session you will learn simple steps to move from a babysitter to an influencer in the life of a child. We have a short time to make a difference in a child's life so come learn how to maximize the time that you have.

Beyond Meat *led by Toby Solberg.* Let's all agree there is no substitute for the real Word. Just like real meat can be hard to digest for some, how we present the Word may be hard to digest for many of our students. This interactive session will give you ideas and resources on how to take the goodness of God's Word and make it appetizing for the students in your ministry.

Church Budgeting and Financial Issues *led by Marc Amason.* Whether it be ideas to increase giving at your church or common mistakes churches make in dealing with finances, this session is for you. This session will help you increase giving, manage the finances of the church better, plus you'll learn how to avoid the mistakes churches make when dealing with finances.

Current Trends and Common Practices in Turn-Around Churches *led by Dr. Thom Rainer.* Our culture is changing rapidly and no one has a better pulse on culture and church than Dr. Thom Rainer. In this session you'll hear about the

latest research in culture and the impact on the church. This will be a rich discussion on ministry best practices and you'll have the opportunity for Q&A time with Dr. Rainer.

Deacon Ministry Foundations *led by Art Fulks and Gary Wood.* The ministry of deacons is foundational to healthy churches. In this breakout we will discuss both the spiritual/character aspects of healthy deacon ministry, but also invest in several practical tools to apply in caring and serving well.

Disaster Relief in the 21st Century *led by Dwain Carter.* There is much more to Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief than cooking food and chainsaws. Let's take a deeper look into the depths of the interworking of disciple making through DR.

Effectively Engaging 18-25 Year Olds in the Local Church *led by Kirk Richeson.* Whether they are in college or working, living at home or living on their own, young adults can seem like an elusive group for many churches to engage. Led by an experienced collegiate minister, this session will equip you with knowledge and ideas you can implement this week to more effectively engage and keep 18-25 year olds in your church.

Fears in Disciple-Making *led by Carl Johnson.* We are called to go and make disciples, yet fear can overtake us and our churches from fulfilling the Great Commission. In this breakout we will look at the real fears we have in discipleship and how to overcome these fears.

Four Keys to a Healthy Church *led by Craig Ward.* Words like mission, values, strategy, and vision are buzz words we often use in our ministry conversations; while they are easily spoken, they are difficult to implement. Join us for an informative discussion and details on how you can join other ministry leaders in a church strengthening process. In this breakout we will share information that will show you how to prepare yourself and your congregation to make disciples, develop leaders and increase missional engagement.

First Impressions and Guest Services *led by Jason Young.* Join this breakout to learn practical ideas and proven principles for building a dynamic first impression experience as part of an overall assimilation plan.

Five Essential Elements for Leading Women in the Local Church *led by Karen Pace.* In this session we will explore five essential elements that will help leaders successfully engage all women of the church in spiritual growth, healthy community, and meaningful missions and ministry. Through a simple assessment and next steps plan you will leave with practical ways to lead women toward a life complete in Christ.

Grief Care Giving *led by Ricky Thrasher.* Grief involves coping with loss. Death, divorce, and the loss of a home are all major events that people grieve. While everyone's experience of grief is different, there are common responses that can be useful to recognize if someone is facing a loss and minister to them.

Harmonizing Hearts: The Art of Being a Great Worship and Music Leader *led by Scott Eaton.* In this session we will delve into the essence of being a great worship and music leader; exploring the multifaceted role that goes beyond musical proficiency. Discover how to foster a spiritual atmosphere, build a cohesive worship team, and effectively communicate with congregants through music. We'll explore the balance between creativity and reverence; offering practical insights and strategies for cultivating a worship experience that resonates with both authenticity and excellence. Join us as we embark on a journey to elevate your worship and music leadership skills and inspire transformative worship encounters for the local church.

Navigating Trauma in the Church *led by Paula Walker.* Every church is filled with broken people. Many of them have lives filled with present or past adversity. In this session you will deepen your understanding of trauma and its impact on people and gain practical skills needed to minister with compassion inspired by the very heart of our Creator.

Open Your Church to Deaf People *led by Nathan Hill and Laramie Burris.* You can create opportunities for deaf people to worship and study the Bible in your church. Lay a foundation for a Deaf Ministry and enable deaf and hard of hearing people to participate in your church.

Protecting Evangelism and Missions through Religious Freedom *led by Mike Griffin* This class is about the theological and philosophical approach that churches should have regarding the rights of Religious Freedom in our country. Its goal is to help church leaders come away with a practical understanding that promotes evangelism and missions.

Six Things Every Volunteer Needs to Know to Work with Teenagers *led by Chris Trent.* In the constantly changing world of youth ministry, understanding the unique challenges and opportunities that come with working with teenagers is crucial for every volunteer. This session is designed to equip volunteers with the essential knowledge and skills needed to build discipleship focused relationships with teenagers and point them to Jesus.

Steps to Recognize and Raise Up Missional Leaders in Your Church *led by Buck Burch.* Churches must take specific steps to ensure new people are constantly being put on mission. By following the “Leading Others” and “Leading Groups” aspects of the early church, churches can intentionally raise up missional leaders for the next generation.

Teaching/Leading an Adult Class or Group *led by Kim Harris.* Teaching or leading a Bible study class or group for adults can be challenging. In this session you'll learn how to better prepare a Bible study and how to present a Bible study for adults; plus, you'll learn more about the learning styles of adults.

The Power of Prayer in Evangelism *led by Steve Foster.* Prayer is an essential component for sharing the gospel with effectiveness, and it empowers the witness by providing guidance, open doors, spiritual wisdom, and favor. This breakout will help believers develop prayer as a foundation for sharing Jesus.

UNLEASH!: 5 Strategies for Shaping a Church That's Reaching, Discipling, and Deploying Young Leaders *led by Dallas White.* Join Dallas White, Senior Pastor of The Grove Church, as he unpacks the five simple strategies he and his team use to engage, equip, and empower young leaders in ministry.

Why Groups Matter: Small Group & Sunday School Training *led by Ray Sullivan.* Attend this session to learn why groups are important, why new groups are mission critical, and practical ideas for teaching & leading your group this Sunday.

Winning the Church Back to Men *led by Chris Harper.* What's being called the era of the dechurched, 40,000,000 people have left the church in the last 25 years and men are leading the exodus. This session will show how we got here and what practical steps we need to take in winning the Church back to men.

Women in Ministry *led by Julie Biesiadecki.* Join us for an enriching breakout session designed specifically for women who are vocationally called to ministry. This session aims to provide practical advice and encouragement to help navigate your unique journey in ministry. Come find mentorship, friendship, and mutual support as we uplift each other and grow stronger in our shared mission.

Breakout Session #2 (7:30-8:30 PM)

AI and Your Ministry: The New Fuel for Efficiency and Impact *led by Scott Smith* (repeated from session 1)

Beyond Meat *led by Toby Solberg* (repeated from session1).

Deacon Ministry Foundations *led by Art Fulks and Gary Wood* (repeated from session 1)

Dealing Effectively with Church Conflict *led by Chris Reynolds.* Join this breakout to learn key ideas and best practices for recognizing the signs of conflict and how to effectively implement a solution.

Disaster Relief in the 21st Century *led by Dwain Carter* (repeated from session 1)

Effectively Engaging 18-25 Year Olds *led by Kirk Richeson* (repeated from session 1)

Five Essential Elements for Leading Women in the Local Church *led by Karen Pace* (repeated from session 1)

Four Keys to a Healthy Church *led by Craig Ward* (repeated from session 1)

Getting Ready to Go *led by Keith Ivey.* Inward equipping is essential for outward engagement. Come join us to learn some practical steps on how to help your church wide missions team develop a plan of action.

Key to Multiplying Gospel Impact Through Your Senior Adult Ministry *led by Mike Taylor.* Join this breakout to learn creative ideas and proven principles for growing a Senior Adult ministry.

Leading a Child to Christ *led by Ashton Hudson.* Statistics show us that most Christians make a profession of faith before the age of 14. Are you ready to share the Gospel with children? In this session you'll learn strategies to include Gospel presentation for large and small groups of children as well as best practices for Gospel conversations with individual children. You will leave with ideas for resources and more confidence as you minister to children in your church and community.

Navigating Best Practices for Discipling Teenagers *led by Kyle Ruff.* When it comes to youth ministry, discipling teenagers presents both unique challenges and life changing opportunities for spiritual growth and development. This breakout session offers a comprehensive exploration into the effective strategies for mentoring young individuals within the context of their faith journey.

Navigating Loss: What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do led by Ricky Thrasher and Tonya Ledford. This grief series will focus on dealing with life losses; whether it be lost dreams, relationships, a pet, or what we thought our life should be. We will address the symptoms of grief and how to ride the waves as they come. We will learn that grief is a journey and not a destination. The group will learn practice ways to practice self-care and obtain support during hard times.

Navigating Trauma in the Church led by Paula Walker (repeated from session 1)

New Member Connection and Assimilation led by Jason Young. Attend this breakout to learn proven ideas on how to build a culture of biblical church membership through your new member or discovery class.

Open Your Church to Deaf People led by Nathan Hill and Laramie Burris (repeated from session 1)

Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church led by Mike Griffin. This class is about what the church can do to protect our children against sexual abuse. It is important that every church understands the risk and has in place policies and procedures that create a safe environment for their children and those who serve them.

Safety and Security at Your Church led by Jeff Sellers. Every day we hear about violence in our world; it's even happening at places of worship and schools. In this session you'll learn how to keep your church safe and how to respond when a tragedy occurs.

Sound & Vision: Elevating Worship Experiences Through Audio, Visual, and Livestream Mastery led by Mike Wilson. In an era where technology intersects with worship, the role of audiovisual and livestream capabilities has become increasingly vital. This breakout session aims to equip worship and music leaders with the essential skills and knowledge to navigate the world of sound engineering, visual enhancements, and live streaming for the local church. From optimizing audio quality to creating engaging visual presentations, we'll cover the technical aspects that enhance the worship experience. Discover practical solutions for troubleshooting common AV challenges and learn how to leverage livestreaming to extend the reach of your worship ministry. Join us for an interactive session that will empower you to elevate your church's worship through the seamless integration of audiovisual technology.

Starting a Special Needs Ministry in Your Church led by Pat Swezey. Does your church need to minister to people with exceptional needs? The answer is yes! Many families are unable to come to church because of the special needs of their family member. In this session you will hear how to start a program, learn some tips for handling challenging situations and how to give parents/caregivers the peace of mind knowing that their child will be cared for in a safe environment.

Teaching/Leading an Adult Class or Group led by Kim Harris (repeated from session 1)

The Five-Star Evangelistic Leader led by Steve Foster. The 5-star recruit in college football is the goal for every team. Getting these guys can make any team better. What if our churches were filled with 5-star evangelistic leaders? This breakout will lay out the 5 characteristics of an effective evangelistic leader and how every leader can embody these characteristics in their life and ministry. 5-star evangelistic leaders can lead their ministries to greater evangelistic fervency and focus.

The State of Manhood led by Delario Bolton. Where are men today? The 2024 State of Manhood is a quantitative look at North American men concerning their faith, family, and vocation.

UNLEASH!: 5 Strategies led by Dallas White (repeated from session 1)

Why Groups Matter led by Ray Sullivan (continued from session 1)

Women in Ministry led by Julie Biesiadecki (repeated from session 1)



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For additional information please contact Lana Melton
at lmelton@gabaptist.org or call 770.936.5228.
To register go to www.thesparkconference.com/2024
Cost: Only \$15 per person!