



# North Central News

Serving the Churches of the Etowah, Hightower, Lanier and Roswell Baptist Associations

April 2011



## VBS 2011

### North Central Area Missions VBS Training Conference

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Clear Springs Baptist Church

11575 Jones Bridge Road, Alpharetta 30022

6:00 PM Registration, 6:30 PM Training Sessions



*North Central Area Missions is once again assisting our Associational churches with Lifeway VBS literature orders.*

*We place your order with Lifeway, pick it up from the store and deliver it to you.*

*One order period remains: April 1 - 15*

**Remember to order EARLY to be sure you get what you need and what you want.**

**You may place your order with North Central Area Missions by:**

- **Emailing your order to [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org)**
- **Faxing your order to 770-384-8658**
- **Calling your order to 770-384-8548**

*North Central Area Missions receives a rebate from Lifeway on all VBS materials purchased through the North Central/Association office - at no additional cost to your church! All rebate funds are used to pay Training Conference expenses.*

### Training will be provided for both sets of Lifeway VBS curriculum

The following classes will be offered for *Big Apple*

Preschool - 4's

Kindergarten

Grades 1 - 2

Grades 3 - 4

Grades 5 - 6

*Special Needs\**

*\*We are proud to announce that we will offer training for those teachers who will be working with children with special needs.*

Training for *Beach Blast* will be one class for all age groups

**PASSION PLAY 2011**

April 21, 22, 23 @ 7 pm

12760 Birmingham Hwy, Milton 30004  
[crabapplefbc.org](http://crabapplefbc.org)  
[facebook.com/crabapplefbc](https://www.facebook.com/crabapplefbc)  
[twitter.com/crabapplefbc](https://twitter.com/crabapplefbc)

### Waleska First Baptist Church

Adult Choir will present their Easter Cantata "Because He Lives"

on Sunday, April 24, at 11:00 AM.

The church is located at 10657 Fincher Road (Georgia Highway 108) in Waleska.

For more information, call the church at 770-479-1024.

## THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA MISSIONS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE FOR...

### RETREATS - SEMINARS - TRAINING SESSIONS

If your church has plans to conduct a retreat/seminar/training and would like to “get away” from the church location, consider using the North Central Area Missions facility (**YOUR** associational facility).

- We can seat up to 145 in the sanctuary in chairs or 100 seated at tables
- A kitchen is available for preparing light refreshments or a catered meal
- Audio visual equipment is available for use

Give us a call at 770-384-8548 or email us at [curtis@northcentralga.org](mailto:curtis@northcentralga.org) if we can be of assistance in planning your next event. Cost for usage of the facility is minimal.

## New Churches in the North Central Area

North Central Area Missions welcomes the following churches:

**Tikvat L’Chaim (Hope for Life)** is a new start Messianic congregation that requested membership in the Etowah Baptist Association. They began conducting services on May 15, 2010 and became a member of the Etowah Baptist Association on September 1, 2010. They are a mission of Towne Lake Community (TLC) Church in Woodstock and are presently meeting at TLC. The Rabbi is Gary Maxted.

**Abundant Life Community Church (ALCC)** is an existing congregation that requested membership in the Roswell Baptist Association. In its meeting on February 15, 2011, the Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team voted unanimously to accept ALCC into the Association. The pastor is Andre Blythe.

**Lifepointe Church** is a new start church that requested membership in the Etowah Baptist Association. In its meeting on February 22, 2011, the Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team voted unanimously to accept Lifepointe Church under watchcare. The pastor is Jeremiah Chapman.

**Oakleaf Church** is a new start church that requested membership in the Etowah Baptist Association. In its meeting on February 22, 2011, the Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team voted unanimously to accept Oakleaf Church under watchcare. Oakleaf is a church plant out of Oakleaf Church in Cartersville. The pastor is Will Goodwin.

## Remember the Children!

### Georgia Baptist Children’s Home

#### Truck Loading

The Annual Truck Loading for the Georgia Baptist Children’s Home **for the churches in the Lanier Baptist Association** will be conducted as follows:

- **Friday, April 15, 2011**
- **9:30 am to 12:00 Noon**
- **First Baptist Cumming, 1597 Sawnee Drive, Cumming 30040**

Requested items are as follows:

- ◆ Cooking Oil
- ◆ Thousand Island and Ranch Dressing
- ◆ Olive Oil
- ◆ Baked Beans
- ◆ Cream Soups (chicken and mushroom)
- ◆ Gift cards for perishable items are always appreciated

For additional information, contact us at 770-384-8548 or email [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org)

## Is Your Church Planning a Mission Trip in 2011?

We would like to include your trip in the “North Central News” to let other churches know of your plans so that they may:

- ◆ Pray for your mission trip
- ◆ Assist in recruiting additional volunteers if needed
- ◆ Provide supplies, equipment, etc. in the event these are needed.

Please provide the dates, location, purpose and any needs that you might have.

Information may be emailed to [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org) or you may call the office at 770-384-8538.

***“If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty... If Christ is not risen, then your faith is futile; you are still in your sins... If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable (miserable).”***

1 Corinthians 15: 14-19

Daniel Webster wrote, **“The Gospel is either true history, or it is a consummate fraud; it is either a reality or an imposition. Christ was what He professed to be, or He was an imposter. There is no alternative!”** Such a brilliant summation is a great precipice to leap from this month as we celebrate the sacrificial death and supernatural resurrection of Jesus Christ, the most powerful event that genuinely sets Christianity apart from all of the world’s religions. It is why Christianity is NOT a religion. Religion is man trying to reach up to God; Christianity is God reaching down to man. Resurrection changes everything!

Paul makes the case that everything hinges on the resurrection. He lists six things that dramatically alter if the resurrection did not happen. Look at the list:

(1.) Our preaching is empty, (2) our faith is also empty, (3) we are all false witnesses, (4) our sin debt is NOT paid, (5) those who have already passed on have perished, and (6) we are the most miserable of all people.

Now think about the reality of those six statements that Paul expresses in a “reverse psychology” style. First of all, our preaching is NOT empty since every day people are led to a saving knowledge of Christ through the preaching of the gospel. Secondly, our faith is the only one that genuinely sets people free and that is logically consistent. The third reality is that truth is one of the most critical components of the Christian faith; our armor starts with the *“belt of truth,”* and we call false witnesses enemies of the cross.

The fourth claim is most important since the very essence of our need for Christ is to free us from our sin debt since God’s wrath is on the wicked. The fifth claim gets personal as our loved ones that have already died are brought into the picture. For the Christian, a funeral is a graduation celebration instead of a time of despair and hopelessness. And the final reality is most glaring since Christians all over the world are the most happy and content because of our relationship with Christ, and Christians that are miserable are simply out of fellowship with God! Instead of being pitiable, we are the most envied!

There are at least 10 evidences of the resurrection that must be remembered during this most holy celebration of our faith. It is healthy for us to recall them and remind each other of their significance and powerful display. No other figure in all of history ever made such a claim the he

could forgive men of their sins, that he would die, and in three days be raised from the dead, and then do it. Look at these 10 evidences and be encouraged!

**1. The Public Display of the Death and Burial of Christ.** The choice of crucifixion for Christ’s death was one of extreme openness and a public spectacle. There was no doubt the number of witnesses to His death were practically the whole of Jerusalem, or at least it was open to their viewing. Even if no disciple of Christ ever printed anything about His death, two historians that were NOT His supporters (Josephus and Tacitus) clearly detailed the events of that day. The Jewish burial rituals, the security precautions with the large stone, extra guards on duty, and the use of the Roman seal made it very apparent that He was most assuredly dead. He was also placed in a prominent citizen’s tomb. Why is all of this important? Because of point number two.

**2. The “Empty” Tomb.** You only have two options: the body was stolen or He resurrected. There is not a third option. There is no middle ground. Everyone KNEW He was dead and that He claimed He would rise again, but here we are with NO CORPSE, and no corpse was ever found. You can’t deny the Roman Seal was broken. Of this ALL HISTORIANS agree – the tomb was empty! It was an embarrassing issue for the Romans since they publically announced the news that the disciples had stolen the body. Yet no trials, convictions, or sentences were ever handed down on these “thieving” disciples!

Historian Ron Sider says, “If the Christians and their Jewish opponents both agreed that the tomb was empty, we have little choice but to accept the empty tomb as a historical fact.” When you know that someone is dead, and you know that they have been buried, what do you do when the tomb is empty?

**3. The Large Stone Moved.** This was no simple feat. The typical stone seal required a large number of strong men to move it. That was the reason they put it there, so it would not be easy for anyone to disturb. This is not just a small side note. This is quite significant!

**4. The Grave clothes.** Why were there grave clothes left behind? If the body had been stolen, you would not have taken the extra time to disrobe it. You would steal both body and clothing, but the historical evidence points to grave clothes left behind.

**5. Eyewitness Accounts.** The impact of this many witnesses is staggering in the least. First you have the women, then the disciples, and then you have a crowd of 500 followers. Now either it was mass hallucinations, they were all convincing liars, or they really did see the resurrected Christ. You had two witnesses that were His opponents (James and Paul) that were added to the list. No trial in history could be more lopsided with this many witnesses

of both supporters and opponents. With this many people saying they had seen Him, the furious search for a corpse to shut them up must have been beyond thorough. Yet, with this much popularity, still no corpse!

**6. Boldness of Disciples.** When you consider that of the remaining 11 disciples, 10 died violent, horrific deaths of brutality and torture you realize that a fabrication, hoax, or any lie would not be able to withstand. They were all willing to die, and the way they died was unspeakable.

**7. Hostile Political Environment and the Success of the Early Church.** The persecution of the early church was due to a most hostile political climate that used them as excuses for their own criminal activities, yet the church grew and grew. If Christ had not risen, people would not have attached themselves to such a death sentence as being connected to this new faith.

**8. Historic Church Ordinance.** Immediately two church ordinances were established and practiced by the early church – baptism and communion. Both ordinances point to His death and resurrection. Why would such activities be center stage if there was no evidence of His resurrection?

**9. Sabbath Switch to Sunday.** When you consider the historic reverence of the Sabbath tradition and the unprecedented change in the day of the week that these Jewish believers worshipped, something monumental had to have taken place! It is because the day of the week the resurrection happened on became so closely connected to it.

**10. A New Theology that Impacted the Social Structures.** This last evidence is seen in the abrupt change in the millennia of historical philosophies. Consider the fact that these Jews no longer offered animal sacrifices. They moved from a theology of monotheism to Trinitarianism, a belief in one God in three distinct entities. This was a significant transformation of thought and they no longer were looking for a military or political deliverer as they had been for so many generations, but now accepted the finished work of a suffering Messiah.

Each one of these points is enough to make you stop and realize that something spectacular happened in Jerusalem that day, but when you put them all together it gives you confidence that as we celebrate the Resurrection Day this month we should do so with boldness. History records the greetings in the early church was, “He is risen!” to which the reply would be, “He is risen, indeed!” Let’s go early church retro! He truly is risen!

Alan Morris  
Area Missionary

## Church Staff Changes

**Rev. Russ Woody** has resigned as **Pastor of Mt. Hope Community Church** in Jasper effective May 15, 2011. Russ has been accepted and will soon be commissioned into the Army chaplaincy program. Russ has served as Moderator of the Etowah Baptist Association and is currently serving as the Etowah Baptist Association representative to the Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Committee. We pray God's blessing on Russ, Brandi and their children as they begin this new ministry.

### EVANGELISM MINISTRY TRAILER (EMT)

**REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE EMT SOON IN ORDER TO GET THE DATE YOU WANT!**

Call or email us to reserve the EMT for your church.

Phone: 770-384-8548

Email: [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org)

*The EMT is available to all churches in the North Central Area that meet the Financial Eligibility Requirements outlined in the Usage Policy for Resources.*



### Update From Operation Christmas Child 2010

"Please join Operation Christmas Child as we rejoice over the 5.5 million Gospel opportunities (shoeboxes) sent from the US to needy children all over the world. OCC is a wonderful way to fulfill the "Great Commission" and over 3 million declarations of salvation have been documented through the ministry."

To find out about volunteer opportunities, please contact Gina Brown at [ginatoo@yahoo.com](mailto:ginatoo@yahoo.com) or 770-684-8054.

Etowah Baptist Association  
4206 North Arnold Mill Road  
Woodstock, GA 30188  
Email: [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org)  
770-384-8548 Fax 770-384-8658  
[www.northcentralga.org](http://www.northcentralga.org)

## Return Service Requested

### North Central Area Missions Team

Alan Morris - Area Missionary  
Curtis Meador - Associate Area Missionary  
Janice Dinsmore - Administrative Assistant  
Ramona Lively - Financial Secretary

For articles to be placed in the *North Central News*, they must be received no later than the 15th day prior to that month's publication.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## April 2011

- 4 **Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting**, Longstreet Baptist Church, 7:30 PM
- 7 **Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer** (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 9 **Hightower Baptist Association Food Bank** (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 12 **Roswell Pastor's Luncheon**, 11:45 AM, Golden Corral in Alpharetta
- 14 **VBS Training Conference** (see page 1)
- 17 **Palm Sunday**
- 21 **Lanier Pastor's Meeting/Luncheon**, 11:00 AM, First Baptist Cumming
- 22 **Good Friday** (GBC & NCAM closed)
- 24 **Easter Sunday**
- 26 **Etowah Pastor's Luncheon**, 11:30 AM, O'Charley's in Canton
- 26 **New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

## May 2011

- 2 **Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting**, 7:30 PM
- 5 **Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer** (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 8 **Mother's Day**
- 10 **Roswell Executive Ministry Team Meeting and Pastor's Lunch**  
Atlanta Street Baptist Church, 10:00 AM (EMT Meeting)  
Pastor's Luncheon hosted by Atlanta Street Baptist Church - 11:30 AM
- 14 **Hightower Baptist Association Food Bank** (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 19 **Lanier Executive Ministry Team Meeting and Pastor's Lunch**  
First Baptist Cumming, 10:00 AM (EMT Meeting)  
Pastor's Luncheon - Place TBD - 11:30 AM
- 24 **New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- 30 **Memorial Day** (GBC & NCAM closed)
- 31 **Etowah Executive Ministry Team Meeting and Pastor's Lunch**  
First Baptist Holly Springs, 10:00 AM (EMT Meeting)  
Pastor's Luncheon - O'Charley's in Canton - 11:30 AM



Congratulations to Justin and Lisa Holcomb on the birth of their son, Brady, on March 17, 2011, weighing 9 lbs, 2 oz. Brady has two older sisters, Riley & Addison. Justin is the Student Pastor at First Baptist Alpharetta.

Nonprofit  
Organization  
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Canton, GA  
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