



North Central News

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



December 2010/January 2011



Merry Christmas
From the North Central Missions Center Staff

Alan Morris, Area Missionary

Curtis Meador, Associate Area Missionary

Janice Dinsmore, Administrative Assistant

Ramona Lively, Financial Secretary



VBS 2011

North Central Missions Center VBS Training Conference

Thursday, April 14, 2011

6:00 PM Registration - 6:30 PM Training Sessions begin

Training will be provided for both sets of curriculum

Location to be announced later

North Central Missions will once again assist our churches with Lifeway VBS literature orders. We place your order with Lifeway, pick it up from the Lifeway store and deliver it to you.

Reports from 2010 Annual Meetings

Hightower Baptist Association 175th Annual Meeting

September 29, 2010 - Pinecrest Baptist Church

Rev. Craig Richard preached the Introductory Sermon quoting "man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble" reciting several scriptures throughout the Bible relating to trouble but said God saw the heart and not the outward man.

Rev. Lee Gaddis preached the Doctrinal Sermon asking two questions: what as an Association are we teaching and what as an individual are we teaching? His scripture was from Matthew 28. He stated everything we do needs to be backed by God's word and that God's word has all the answers we will ever need. We need to be a healthy Church and not let Satan in.

September 30, 2010 - Haw Creek Baptist Church

Rev. Tim Biddy preached the Missionary Sermon and read scripture from St. John 14. He said God has blessed the Hightower Baptist Association and allowed it to become a great association. He stated the Association is not a sleeping giant. We need to continue to go out of our individual churches and work for the Lord. Let people know we are saved. Each church needs to be in prayer and go out into our communities and reach the lost. We need to tell the world about Jesus.

Etowah Baptist Association 50th Annual Celebration Meeting

The 50th Annual Celebration Meeting of the Etowah Baptist Association was held on October 26, 2010 at the North Central Missions Center office. Dinner was served to all attendees.

Praise in Song was presented by Audra Lynn.

A brief business session was conducted.

Rev. Scott Kindig, Consultant, Youth Ministries, Georgia Baptist Convention, shared a 20/20 Presentation.

Roswell Baptist Association 124th Annual Celebration Meeting

The 124th Annual Celebration Meeting for the Roswell Baptist Association was held on October 12, 2010 at the North Central Missions Center office. Dinner was served to all attendees.

Praise in Song was presented by the Concord Baptist Church Praise Team, Clermont, Georgia.

A brief business session was conducted.

Rev. Scott Kindig, Consultant, Youth Ministries, Georgia Baptist Convention, shared a 20/20 Presentation.

Essential Elements of a Living Church – Part 5

By Alan J. Morris

“The Rough Riders,” “The Dream Team,” and “The Rat Pack” are three descriptive titles that immediately create a picture in your mind of the groups and time periods that these terms identify. With just a minor familiarity with history, sports, and theater the significance and contribution represented by each group says far more than any other three-word statement, and the title goes a long way to cement the characteristic of that group. Theodore Roosevelt selected men all over the nation - cowboys, Indians, Ivy League athletes, young farmers - to create the first American Cavalry. The only characteristic that united this mishmash of humanity was that they were all physically fit and could ride horses with expert skill. Their title, “The Rough Riders,” just says it all. You don’t have to be versed in Olympic underdogs or hockey to know the significance of “The Dream Team.” Again, their title says it all.

An early title of the newborn church, this mystery of the New Testament, was that they “*were those that turned the world upside down*” (Acts 17:6). Although it is a longer sentence in English, it is only 3 words in Greek, like our cultural examples above. What is astounding is that they did not give themselves this title. It was their adversaries that called them this in derision. Extra-biblical literature is littered with this phrase that accurately explained the results of this convoluted group that came together from all over Judea but in 17 years covered practically every port along the Mediterranean Sea. In less than 200 years this new “religion” had already penetrated most of Europe and North Asia. They indeed DID turn the world upside down and handed off the baton to the next several generations that followed successfully.

What made this group so overwhelmingly virulent? Everywhere they went the response was either exuberant acceptance or aggressive attack, but there was always a measureable impact. Interestingly, those early characteristics that spurred their success, attributes that appear so blatantly obvious, have become quickly overlooked and replaced in modern Christendom. Currently we are certainly NOT turning our world upside down. To be perfectly honest, the world is turning the church upside down. It doesn’t say much about our newest styles, formats, or programs. It’s probably not that

these things are bad, the fact is they shouldn’t replace the elements that are most essential.

In the last 4 months we have studied the essential elements that were a part of the early church in Acts 2:40-47. We will now examine the final ingredient of this “living church recipe,” which is **Effective Evangelism**. Notice that the last part of verse 47 states, “*And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*” Notice it says, “*The Lord added...*” Never think that a program, book, seminar, or convention can reach a lost generation. Only the Lord can! That is the most important aspect of this essential element. I want to state, though, that the early church had created an environment, an atmosphere that was favorable for reproduction. Yes, it is ultimately up to the workings of the Holy Spirit convicting of sin and bringing them to a point of repentance, but surely there is some aspect of responsibility given to the church, otherwise there would NOT be a Great Commission or an Acts 1:8 imperative!

What part in this effective evangelism is squarely in the lap of the church? The early church was not a “maintenance” church, but a growing, expanding, and thriving body reaching others in exponential numbers. It was the Biblical process of disciple-making, where you are first won, and then you find one, and then you teach that one. This process is duplicated over and over by all those in the body and it doesn’t take long to start making a significant impact in a community. Notice the word, “*daily*” in the verse. That is significant in that the early church had **at least** 365 converts a year! But this is not surprising when all of them were about the business of sharing their faith in Christ with whomever, wherever, and whenever. This is effective evangelism, but there is something key here that must not be overlooked.

I put before you today an observation that can make a difference in all of our churches - that can turn our numbers from the plateaued or declining to an eclipsing, record-breaking wave of new believers and re-strengthened members. This synopsis is based solely on the wisdom and paradigm of the Acts 2:40-47 model. There is no secret, untapped program or study tool that has been hidden

until now. If you want some new high energy, quick and easy method of church revitalization you might as well stop reading this article. I believe the results of the early church’s effective evangelism was simply the outcome of their following the earlier four characteristics so genuinely. In other words, it’s like the exhaust produced from a well-tuned engine. It is what must happen when the ignition is sparked. It was natural, not strained or manufactured. The ignition was the church’s actions in those 4 earlier characteristics and the exhaust was the Lord adding daily to the body.

You’re probably thinking, “Hey, now what were those 4 other characteristics?” I’m glad you asked. If you’re really interested you should review the last 4 months (in order) and refresh your memory, though a brief summary might suffice. Take your Bible and follow along in the text to see these characteristics for yourself. I, like any other writer, am a fallible, fallen creature. God’s Word, however, is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). It is pure, tried in a furnace seven times (Psa. 12:6). Why not trust this Holy Book?

Those 4 earlier essential elements are:

- 1) Doctrine suitable for Discipleship,
- 2) Fellowship that Connects,
- 3) Corporate Worship that Unites, and
- 4) Unforced Ministry that is Practical.

The order is important only in terms of value and balance. A church that has great fellowship (the second ingredient listed) but poor doctrine (the first one) is in serious trouble because their fellowship cannot sustain them. A church with great doctrine that lacks connected fellowship has a better chance because they continue to place themselves under the wisdom of Scripture (doctrine) thereby possessing the appropriate tools to alter their weaknesses (disconnected fellowship).

If every church did an evaluation based on Acts 2:40-47, earnestly seeking the Lord’s direction and favor with a willingness to make the necessary corrections... well, next year’s ACP numbers would look much better!

The new address for Ben and Ginger Hatfield is:

Chateau Vestavia
Apt# 226
2435 Columbiana Road
Birmingham, AL 35216

Part-time student minister position available

Concord Baptist Church in the Hightower Association has a part-time student minister position opening.

Please send all resumes/inquiries to the attention of Tracey Harbin at:

Concord Baptist Church
6905 Concord Road
Cumming, GA 30040
concordchurch@bellsouth.net
Phone: 770-887-9482

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 2010

- 2 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 6 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 11 Hightower Baptist Association Food Bank (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 14 Roswell Pastor's Luncheon, Golden Corral in Alpharetta, 11:45 AM
- 16 Lanier Pastor's Meeting, First Baptist Cumming, 10:00 AM
Lanier Pastor's Luncheon following Pastor's Meeting, Place TBD
- 23-31 Christmas Holidays - GBC & NCMC closed

January 2011

- 1-3 New Year's Holidays - GBC & NCMC closed (office reopens 1/4/11)
- 3 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 6 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 8 Hightower Baptist Association Food Bank (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 11 Roswell Pastor's Luncheon, Golden Corral in Alpharetta, 11:45 AM
- 20 Lanier Pastor's Meeting, First Baptist Cumming, 10:00 AM
Lanier Pastor's Luncheon following Pastor's Meeting, Place TBD
- 25 Etowah Pastor's Luncheon, Place TBD, 11:30 AM

Happy New Year!

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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.