



North Central News

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



February 2012

2012 VBS Training Conference

Provided by

North Central Area Missions



Thursday
March 22, 2012
4206 North Arnold Mill Road
Woodstock, GA 30188



Times/Schedule

5:30 - 6:30 PM: **FREE Meal** for all instructors and attendees

6:30: Rally for all led by Alan Morris, Area Missionary

VBS theme music and choreography presented by Cowboy Kids

7:00 - 8:30: Individual Class Training*

**Amazing Wonders* - age-graded training will be provided as follows:
Directors; Preschool-4's; Kindergarten; Grades 1-2; Grades 3-4; and
Preteen (Grades 5-6)

**Space Quest* - one joint training session will be provided for
directors and all age groups

Please note that North Central Area Missions will be providing a FREE meal for all instructors and attendees beginning at 5:30 PM. In order to provide adequate food for this meal, please furnish our office with an estimated number of persons from your church that will be attending and eating with us.

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.

REMEMBER!!! Place your order with us EARLY to insure that you get what you need and what you want before it is gone (some items go quickly). You may place your order with North Central Area Missions by:

- ◆ Emailing your order to janice@northcentralga.org
- ◆ Faxing your order to 770-384-8658
- ◆ Calling in 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 expense.

LOBBY DAY 2012

FEBRUARY 1, 2012

Register today! Go to www.streetgrace.org.

Registration for Lobby Day is Now Open!

It's time to register for the 2012 Stop CSEC! (Commercially, Sexually, Exploited Children) Lobby Day at the Georgia State Capitol. The purpose of Lobby Day is to educate your legislators about CSEC and to let them know you, as their constituent, are passionate about eradicating this issue.

When: Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012 - Check-In opens at 8:00am and Lobby Day ends at 1:00pm

Where: We'll meet at Central Presbyterian Church (201 Washington Street Southwest, Atlanta, GA 30303) for check-in and advocacy instructions. We will walk across the street together to the capitol.

Registration is Free and Easy. Register today at streetgrace.org.

Southern Gospel Music to Benefit Baptist Mobile Health Ministry

WHAT: A night of Southern Gospel music featuring *The Old Paths* and *Daily Bread*

WHERE: Mt. Zion Baptist Church
4096 East Cherokee Drive
Canton, GA 30115

WHEN: Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM

A love offering will be taken with all proceeds going to the Baptist Mobile Health Ministry of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

For additional information
or to register, go to
pillarsgirlconference.com

All girls, 6th grade through college,
are invited to attend the 1st annual

Pillars Girls Conference

on the 10th & 11th of February, 2012
at First Baptist Church of Canton.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR CHAPLAINCY

This is a training seminar for pastors and laypeople to enable them to serve in their community as an ambassador.

A Great Ministry and Evangelism Tool!

Session Topics

What is Chaplaincy?

Where Do You Do Chaplaincy?

When is a Chaplain Needed?

How Do Chaplains Do Ministry?

Why Do Chaplains Exist?

Thursday, March 29, 2012 - 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
North Central Area Missions Office
4206 North Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188

FREE!

Lunch will be provided

For additional information or to register:

- Please contact Janice Dinsmore at North Central Area Missions at 770-384-8548 or email janice@northcentralga.org
- Or call Lorri Cruse at the Georgia Baptist Convention at 770-936-5222 or email her at lcruse@gabaptist.org
- **A Training Application is available at northcentralga.org**

Provided jointly by the Georgia Baptist Convention and North Central Area Missions

2012 Priority Seminars

offered by the Georgia Baptist Convention

Priority of Preaching Workshops: February 20 & 21

Priority of Administration and Leadership Workshops: March 26 & 27

Priority of Worship Workshops: May 7 & 8

For more information or to register for any of these workshops, call 770-936-5277 or email jcooper@gabaptist.org

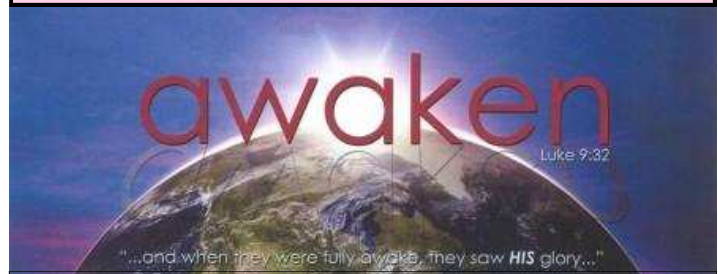


2012 Georgia Baptist Convention - Church-Minister Relations Events

Pastor/Deacon/Spouses Retreat: April 27-28
Speechless Prayer Conference: May 18-19
Ministers' Wellness Retreat: September 17-19

For additional information go to cmr.gabaptist.org or call 770-936-5364.

2012 Evangelism Conference



March 5 & 6, 2012 - FBC Newnan, GA

For additional information, go to evan.gabaptist.org or call 770-936-5289



Join Mission Volunteers for one of the 2012 Georgia Baptist Convention Partnership Vision Trips

February 20-24: San Francisco-Sacramento

April 16-20: Vancouver, BC-Canada

May 15-22: Moscow, Russia

May 15-22: St. Petersburg, Russia

For additional information and registration forms, go to mv.gabaptist.org or call 770-936-5346.



An inspirational women's event featuring Anne Graham Lotz



April 27-28, 2012

Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain

View event details and register online at www.gabaptistwomenspringevent.com or call 770-936-5320.

“*Even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live,*” says the Lord God, “*they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.*”” Ezekiel 14:20

Spiritual Renewal – Stone Number 1

At the end of last year, I informed this audience of the current focus and emphasis of our Georgia Baptist Convention. After a two-year research by the Study Task Force a unanimous conclusion and solution for our current downward trend (i.e., the severe lostness in our state) was presented to the collective gathering of our annual convention and the presentation was given full acceptance. If this is all that happens, this study and the past two years were a complete waste of time and money, two things we can ill afford to discard. Both are in short supply! This is worth our energy because the benefits of following through are what we desperately need – an increase in seeing the lost won to Christ and a change in the decline and plateau of our churches.

The study has genuine merit, once again revealing a denomination that has at its roots an evangelistic fervor and a Biblically solid foundation. The next 5 months, I would like to go over the inspiration of the “5 Smooth Stones” research, adding a bit of personal insights, and offer some specific applications to our particular geographic area and demographics. It is my goal to assist our churches to march straight into the darkness of this present age with the illuminating light of God’s truth.

Warning: Some of the focus points will be familiar and even obvious – do not allow the familiar to hinder you from appropriate actions. I say this because the familiar is more quickly dismissed in most all of our disciplines. Guard yourself from this tendency.

The text that I would like to draw from this month is found in **Ezekiel 14:12-23**. This is a prophecy from Ezekiel to the children of Judah regarding a pending judgment from God. I strongly recommend you stop right here and read the text to provide accurate context and clarity.

Go ahead, I’ll wait.

Now that you’ve read the text (if you’re a cheater, go back and read it, just 12 verses, it won’t take 4 minutes!) you will notice that God warns of 4 different judgments that He is going to send – “*famine, wild beasts, sword, and pestilence.*”

I would say that the particulars or the types of judgments are not the key issue (I say that because in God’s summary wrap-up (v. 21), he gets them out of order), but what is necessary is the element of survival, namely “*righteousness*” (mentioned in v. 14 and v. 20). Many different sermons and points could be drawn from this text; for instance, the fact that all three men listed suffered, one globally, the other politically, and the other personally. But the two points I would like to make are (1) the impending judgment on the metro-Atlanta area and (2) the necessity of personal holiness, or righteousness, or what the Task Force called Spiritual Renewal.

When you look at this text the situation jumps out at you in bold, black letters – “*when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness...*” This is the only time this phrase is used in all the Scriptures. It is a picture of repeated infidelity, the type of rampant disrespect and disobedience that comes with a hardened, unrepentant heart. Notice it is talking about “*the land,*” a geographic location. Now let me drive home my first point – yesterday in the metro-Atlanta area approximately 2,000 men came to this geographic location to repeatedly rape under-age sex-slaves that have been exploited by criminally vile, despicable, bottom-dwelling captors with virtually no notice, outcry, or opposition. Tomorrow, these innocent children will go through this horror again and again. So what do you think- is this a “*land sinning against God with persistent unfaithfulness?*” Then the obvious conclusion is that God will “*stretch out His hand against it,*” thus, impending judgment on the metro-Atlanta area. Any questions?

Three men are mentioned in this text by name. Why these three? What was so unique about these three that caused God to single them out? He had over 75 different characters He could have chosen, but He chose Noah, Daniel, and Job. It could have been their antagonists – everyone laughed at Noah, Daniel’s fellow governors and satraps accused him of violating the law, and Job’s friends condemned him. Each man suffered tragic loss and survived their contemporaries. I’m sure there are several other unique characteristics that connect these three, but the one that God emphasized was their “*righteousness,*” and that is what I would like to emphasize now.

The significance of this word “*righteousness*” in this passage should not be overlooked. God elevated the value of this characteristic with the phrase “*they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,*” (the phrase is repeated!) because it is personal holiness, personal righteousness, in other words, you can’t ride in on daddy’s spiritual coattails! The task of taking personal responsibility for our own actions in times of judgment, not blaming someone else and not ignoring the obvious heart condition is the idea here.

I have heard until I am blue in the face the modern excuse for living an unholy lifestyle that we are only accepted through “*His righteousness,*” and though I understand the Titus 3:5 passage, it does not negate the necessity of personal righteousness in our lives! In 1 John 3:10, the beloved apostle declares, “*Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God,*” making this “*license to sin*” because it’s not our righteousness but “*His righteousness*” less valid in reality. His righteousness is necessary for our salvation, granted, and “*our righteousness is like filthy rags,*” (Isaiah 64:6) yes, but His righteousness also makes us righteous! When we fail to live in righteousness, walk in righteousness, and

“*practice righteousness*” there is a problem! Is the problem His righteousness? Heresy! We have an issue with a lack of personal righteousness. And one of the consequences of a lack of personal righteousness is the unchecked increase of wickedness in the land (Deuteronomy 28). I’ve already demonstrated that we have persistent unfaithfulness in the land. WE NEED TO STEP UP AND DO THE RIGHT THING!

The three men listed are examples of personal righteousness. Let’s define righteousness by the lives of these three men, since these are the ones God chose. First, it is said of Noah that, “*he was moved with godly fear, and became the heir of the righteousness which is by faith*” (Hebrews 11:7). His righteousness was a product of his faith coupled with godly fear. He feared the Lord (the beginning of wisdom) which dictated his lifestyle through living faith (James 2:26). Secondly, Daniel “*purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself*” (Daniel 1:8), which was a commitment of his will to obey the Lord. Third, it is recorded of Job that he “*did not sin with his lips*” (Job 2:10), a picture of self-control with the tongue. Put these three testimonies together and you have a descriptive definition of righteousness being **the genuine expression of our living faith born out of a conviction of our will that impacts the way we live and the things we say.**

Now how does this connect with “*Stone #1*” from the Task Force of the Georgia Baptist Convention? It is the essence of Spiritual Renewal to realize you are NOT where you should be. Does the bold sentence in the above paragraph describe you? I must admit, it does not look much like me.

Therefore, I need spiritual renewal. The other 4 stones are just form over substance if there is no genuine spiritual renewal. My appeal is that we start this year with a concerted effort to walk in righteousness. Without an awareness of our need, and a heart-cry for God’s transformational power we will be no better off this year than last. Thus, my appeal to bring the body together for prayer and personal reflection is a confirmation of the Task Force’s conclusion, the Biblical example of these three men, and my own personal experience. We need Spiritual Renewal.

This month, schedule a day of prayer, services that focus on personal responsibility over sin, and opportunities for people to develop a more intimate relationship with our precious Lord. When God stretches out His hand against this city, we must be prepared to respond like Noah, Daniel, and Job with personal righteousness. The end of the text tells of how those in the city will “*be comforted concerning the disaster that I (God) have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it*” (v. 22). The metro-Atlanta area will be greatly impacted when God’s people turn their hearts back towards God.

Alan Morris

New Pastor

Rev. Bryan Edenfield began serving as Senior Pastor at Hickory Road Baptist Church effective December 18, 2011. We welcome Bryan and his wife, Kelly.

RESERVE THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY TRAILER (EMT)

Remember to book your EMT event EARLY!

!!2012 dates are already being filled!!

In order to be assured you get the EMT on the date you want it, call 770-384-8548 or email janice@northcentralga.org.

The EMT contains the following equipment

- 13' x 13' inflatable bounce house
- 24' inflatable slide
- 30' inflatable obstacle course
- popcorn machine (with all supplies)
- sno-cone machine (with all supplies)
- 10' x 10' tent shelter
- 5 - 6' tables
- portable generators

ALL FOR ONLY \$150



All resources of North Central Area Missions are available to associational churches that meet the financial contributions eligibility requirements as stated in the Usage Policy for Resources, North Central Area Missions.



Crabapple First Baptist Church in Milton is seeking a **part-time organist** primarily for Sunday morning worship. Mid-week rehearsal is flexible. The Church has a Rodgers 960 organ.

This is a paid position.

Please contact Ken Hayes at 770-475-6111 for details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 2012

- 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)
- 15 Roswell Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting/Breakfast - J. Christopher's, 3070 Windward Plaza, Suite Y, Alpharetta 30005 - 8:30 AM
- Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting - Immediately following Pastor's Breakfast - 9:00 AM
- 16 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting - First Baptist Cumming, Youth House - 10:30 AM
- Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting/Luncheon - Slopes in Cumming - 11:30 AM
- 28 Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting - First Baptist Holly Springs - 10:30 AM
- Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting/Luncheon - O'Charley's in Canton - 11:30 AM
- 28 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer - (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

March 2012

- 1 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 5 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 10 Hightower Baptist Association Food Bank (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 14 Roswell Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting/Breakfast - J. Christopher's, 3070 Windward Plaza, Suite Y, Alpharetta 30005 - 8:30 AM
- 15 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting/Luncheon - Slopes in Cumming - 11:00 AM
- 22 VBS Training Conference (see page 1)
- 27 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting/Luncheon - O'Charley's in Canton - 11:30 AM
- 27 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer - (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 29 Chaplaincy Training (see page 2)



Please see ad below from Bright Beginnings Preschool

We are looking for substitute teachers for our preschool. This is a paid position. Our hours are 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Must be a Christian, an active member of your church, 18 years or older, be willing to complete a background check, be dependable and willing to work on short notice when needed.

Please contact Brigitte Cook, Preschool Director, at 770-735-2799 or email beginnings@coolspringschurch.com

North Central Area Missions Team

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