



North Central News

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

March 2011



The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®] is much more than an offering envelope and an annual missions-giving emphasis. When people give to the offering, 100 percent of their gift will be transformed into missionary salaries and ministry supplies. Those missionaries and supplies will help others hear the message of Christ and respond in faith to His offer of salvation. Time and again our missionaries relate how the offering is their lifeblood. They know that behind each penny given, there is a Southern Baptist who believes in what they do and are affirming the need to equip them to share the gospel with those who need a Savior.

2011 North American Missions Emphasis Week: March 6-13

2011 National Offering Goal: \$70,000,000

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 will once again assist 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.

Two order periods remain:

March 1 - 15

April 1 - 15

You do not have to place your entire order at one time; you may order during each period if you wish.

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**
- **Faxing your order to 770-384-8658**

Training will be provided for both sets of Lifeway VBS curriculum

The following classes will be offered for



Babies - 2's

3'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

will be one class for all age groups

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.

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



Roswell First Baptist Church Counseling Center

717 Mimosa Blvd, Roswell 30075

Orientation for new families:
March 6, 2011

For information contact:

Dr. Doyle Hamilton
770-915-2537
doyle@rfbc.org

www.rfbc.org and click on Counseling Center on the right hand side

Group Meetings at 6:00 PM on the following dates:
March 13 & 27
April 10 & 17
May 1 & 15

Evangelism Ministry Trailer (EMT)

Reservations for the Evangelism Ministry Trailer are GOING FAST!

We have changed our policies for usage of the EMT. Those changes are:

1. The EMT may now be reserved up to 12 months in advance of the church's event date.
2. The inflatables may now be set up outside on grass, asphalt or concrete with one exception - the giant slide can only be set up on grass.
3. The inflatables may be set up inside where space permits with one exception - the giant slide cannot be set up inside.

Call or email us to reserve the EMT for your church.
Phone: 770-384-8548 Email: 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.

Bread of Life Counseling Center

The Bread of Life Counseling Center was begun in 2009 as a ministry of Foothills Community Church, the Etowah Baptist Association and the Georgia Baptist Foundation. Its purpose is to provide biblically-based counseling. Rev. Garry Barber is the Director/Chief Counselor and has been with Bread of Life since its beginning.



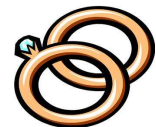
In their Executive Ministry Team Meeting in February 2011, the Roswell Baptist Association voted to come alongside the Etowah Baptist Association in providing financial support for Bread of Life.

Counseling is now available through Bread of Life for residents of the following counties: Cherokee, Dawson, Forsyth, North Fulton and Pickens.

For additional information, you may go to Bread of Life's website - www.breadoflifecounseling.org or email Garry Barber at gbarberbreadoflifeccc@gmail.com.

Weddings at North Central Area Missions

When North Central Area Missions purchased the facility at our present location, we envisioned making the sanctuary available as a wedding chapel to our churches and community. We now have a wedding policy in place and are able to begin taking reservations for weddings.



Some specifics of the policy are:

- ◆ The facility can accommodate up to approximately 145 in attendance.
- ◆ The facility can be reserved for the wedding and a rehearsal. No facilities are available for receptions or dinners.
- ◆ The wedding couple must attend pre-marital counseling.

To view the policy, you may go to www.northcentralga.org.

For additional information, you may call 770-384-8548 or email janice@northcentralga.org.

Boy, do we need a Haggai today!

Our world is literally falling apart all around us. The conflicts in the Middle East have people rioting in the streets while their governments are shooting and killing them. In the northern section of our own country, people with positions of authority (politicians, educators, and physicians) are collaborating in corruption and trying to pass it off as excusable and even “good” for our country. Lying is still lying! Gas prices, inflation, unemployment, and housing are all continuing to head in the wrong direction while our political leaders seem too embroiled in rhetoric and posturing to do anything even remotely constructive to make any difference. Immorality is embarrassingly plastered on every corner and hailed as popular and completely acceptable. These conditions are not unique to our current calendar. Israel experienced a time of great unrest alongside low morals and a messenger from God brought “four oracles” that gave reflection and awakening. **Boy, do we need Haggai today!**

Let’s look at these four messages sent to God’s people from this obscure, old prophet from the 6th Century BC. He spoke of remembering Solomon’s Temple, so he was older than dirt! He was also not a very long-winded preacher, giving to us the second shortest book of the Old Testament. Though brief, his messages are spot-on for the times and season we now find ourselves. His most common term is “*Consider!*” meaning, “refocus your heart upon this.” We need to consider where we are going, what we are doing, and why we are doing it. Let’s apply these appropriate zingers that Haggai proclaimed to a haggard and hungry audience.

A Harsh Message – “It’s time to Build!”

The initial oracle Haggai delivered was the most harsh and difficult one to receive and encompasses the entire first chapter. He started simply by asking the question, “*Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?*” (1:4) He then relates the current negative news of inflation and a depressed economy (1:6-8) to the fact that they have placed God and His house on the back burner of their lives. Haggai then reveals that the bad events of the day are directed from the Lord because of their disobedience. This was all God’s doings! Wow, what a revelation. Interestingly, the people listened to Haggai, obeyed and feared the Lord (1:12), and completed the temple construction in a record 23 days (1:14-15). **Boy, do we need a Haggai today!**

A Healing Message – “It’s time to Behold!”

The second message consists of the first 9 verses of chapter 2 and is a sermon sent to heal the broken hearts of those that remembered the Temple’s former glory. It’s hard for us to imagine the incredible beauty of the original Temple of Solomon. Haggai’s message was sent to reassure that God was still going to “*shake heaven and earth,*” (2:6) and that the “*latter glory of the temple would be greater than the former,*” a message that the older Jews would have a hard time believing with their own eyes. He said something very profound, a phrase that stated that all the nations “*shall come to the Desire of All Nations,*” a reference to the Messiah that would come to be the Savior of the world. Here in is our Hope!

That Messiah is still the Desire of all nations! He is the ONLY way, the ONLY truth, and the ONLY life. **Boy, do we need a Haggai today!**

A Holy Message – “It’s time to Behave!”

The third message from Haggai uses an analogy about “*holy meat*” and how its holiness cannot be transferred to other foods (2:12-14). The Imagery is powerful and reminds us that our past “holy” activities are no “pass” for unholy behaviors in the future. Preaching about holiness has never been popular, but the more lifestyles seem to blur between the people of God and unbelievers the more necessary such sermons must be commonplace from our pulpits. God’s message from Haggai reminded the people how God had to use bad circumstances to awaken them of their unholy lives (2:15-19). What’s happening today? **Boy, do we need a Haggai now!**

A Hopeful Message – “It’s time to Believe!”

The last message from Haggai tells Judah that in the end God will conquer their enemies, they will be victorious, and He will make them a prized possession because He has chosen them (2:21-23). It reminds me of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians that proclaims all that we have in Christ- how He chose us before the foundations of the world, adopted us into the beloved, and has redeemed, forgiven, and glorified us through Christ. We are living in a most depressed and negative era. News is rarely encouraging and tends to emotionally handicap even the most upbeat people. The need today is for messages of victory, promise, and genuine hope to a people that have all but lost their hope. All I can say this month is, “**Boy, do we need a Haggai today!**”

Our congregations need a harsh message to wake them up, a healing message to give comfort, a holy message to remind them to examine their motives and lifestyles, and a hopeful message to get them through this most extremely depressing era. Never forget that what is needed is rarely popular. The body of Christ is hungry for direction and convictions that will prepare them for whatever comes down the track, even though they may not like how that looks. Leadership is the key. We have a solid message to proclaim and we need the boldness of Haggai to spell it out clearly. **God bless you as you serve obediently!**

Pastoral/Ministerial Changes

Dr. John Reale resigned as **Pastor of Foothills Community Church** effective February 1, 2011. John has accepted the position of Senior Pastor at Staunton Baptist Church in Huddleston, VA. We pray God's blessings on John and Eleanor as they continue serving Him in this new ministry.

Rev. Alan Morris is serving as **Interim Pastor at Foothills.**

Dr. Monty Guice resigned as **Pastor of New Victoria Baptist Church** effective February 20, 2011. Monty has accepted the Senior Pastor position at Inglewood Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas. We pray God's blessings on Monty, Stephanie, Maggie, Gracie, Betsie and Grant as they begin this new ministry.

Rev. Kevin Griggs resigned as **Pastor of Hickory Road Baptist Church** effective March 6, 2011. Kevin has accepted the Senior Pastor position at Olive Grove Baptist Church in the Raleigh/Durham, NC area. He will also be attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC completing his Masters of Divinity degree. We pray God's blessing on Kevin, Kim, Jade and Ransom as they serve a new church and as Kevin continues his education.

Scott Bosier resigned as **Minister of Music at Waleska First Baptist Church** effective December 1, 2010. Our prayers go with Scott and his family as God leads him to another ministry.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 2011

- 3 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 7 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 8 Roswell Pastor's Luncheon, 11:45 AM, Golden Corral in Alpharetta
- 12 Hightower Baptist Association Food Bank (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 Lanier Pastor's Meeting/Luncheon, 11:00 AM, First Baptist Cumming
- 22 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- 29 Etowah Pastor's Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Ryan's in Canton

April 2011

- 4 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 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, Ryan's in Canton
- 26 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Cumming Baptist Church

Revival - March 20-23

Evangelist Braxton Hunter

Sunday morning service - 10:50 AM

Sunday - Wednesday evening services

will be at 7:00 PM

Nursery Provided

Leftover Literature

We now have a source whereby churches can donate their leftover literature, i.e., Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Bibles, books, magazines, commentaries, hymnals, etc. All literature is packaged and shipped to locations worldwide. Since this is a non-profit organization, financial donations to assist with shipping costs are also appreciated.

For further information, please give us a call at 770-384-8548 or email us at janice@northcentralga.org.

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770-384-8548 Fax 770-384-8658
www.northcentralga.org

Nonprofit
Organization
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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.