



North Central News

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



September 2011

Annual Associational Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Hightower Baptist Association

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Harmony Grove Baptist Church
5470 Keith Bridge Road, Cumming 30041

Thursday, September 29, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Juno Baptist Church
3832 Sweetwater-Juno Road, Dawsonville 30534

Roswell Baptist Association

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
6:00 PM: Dinner - 7:00 PM: Service
Atlanta Street Baptist Church,
340 S. Atlanta Street, Roswell 30075

Etowah Baptist Association

Tuesday, October 25, 2011
6:00 PM: Dinner - 7:00 PM: Service
First Baptist Holly Springs
2632 Holly Springs Parkway, Holly Springs 30142

Truck Loadings at Annual Associational Meetings for Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries

Hightower Baptist Association

Wednesday, September 28, 7:00 to 10:00 AM
Harmony Grove Baptist Church, 5470 Keith Bridge Road, Cumming 30041
*Items Requested: Paper products (any kind), solo cups,
laundry detergent (powder only), #10 size canned vegetables (any kind),
drink mixes (Kool-aid, etc), gift certificates for perishable items*

Roswell Baptist Association

Tuesday, October 11, 5:00 to 6:00 PM
Atlanta Street Baptist Church, 340 S. Atlanta Street, Roswell 30075
*Items Requested: 100% juices (apple, orange & pineapple),
#10 size canned fruit, storage and trash bags (all sizes), oatmeal,
gift certificates for perishable items*

Etowah Baptist Association

Tuesday, October 25, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
First Baptist Holly Springs, 2632 Holly Springs Parkway, Holly Springs 30142
*Items Requested: breakfast bars, 100% grain cereal, oatmeal, grits,
100% juice (apple, orange & pineapple), gift certificates for perishable items*



REMEMBER 9-11

Remembering 9-11 honors the innocent and inspires each of us to live courageous lives

HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Come honor Forsyth County First Responders for serving us in times of crisis.

FIND HOPE

Come hear inspiring stories of hope out of hopelessness despite the atrocities of 9-11

CELEBRATE AMERICA

Our enemies sought to destroy us. But our flag still waves. Join us as we honor the men and women who have served us in the past and those on active duty today.

WHEN

September 11, 2011

WHERE

The Cumming Fairground is the place for an All-American Day of activities for the entire family at the best price possible - **FREE!!!**.

Visit: WWW.FORSYTHFAMILYFEST.COM for more information.



**TESTAMENTS TO HOPE & HEALING
THROUGH COUNSELING SERVICES
OFFERED BY BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES**

“Rick” was an alcoholic and marijuana addict who seemed to have it all with a good job, nice house, lovely wife and beautiful child. Some years ago Rick drove his car while under the influence and the ensuing accident left him with a constant reminder of all the poor decisions of his past. The pain that shoots from his feet to his hip to his back is like a constant taunt with every step reminding him of a message he has heard in his heart for years, “Rick, you are worthless.” Through desperation and a good twelve-step program Rick got sober and clean physically. Spiritually and emotionally, however, Rick was just as broken as he had ever been. His life was filled with marital struggles, depression, anxiety and the inability to be productive for the good of his family. Through a friend he met in his twelve-step group Rick learned about Bread of Life Ministries. Though he had never been a particularly spiritual person, Rick had turned to Christ in his hour of need and had gotten a taste of the peace that walking with Christ can bring. Through many tears, long counseling sessions and seasons of prayer Rick began to walk more closely with Christ. As he learned to trust Christ he found the courage to finally deal with his fear, pain, and sin on a deeper level than he ever had before. In a recent email update, Rick expressed gratitude for the help he has received through Bread of Life Ministries. Rick now has hope for a future and peace in his heart for which he had longed for many years.

“Joe” and “Tammy” were a Christian couple on the brink of divorce. When their pastor referred them to Bread of Life for counseling neither had much of hope of reconciliation. Thankfully God had other plans for this couple which included a hope and a future. Today Joe and Tammy are experiencing a marital relationship that honors God and through which both are finding fulfillment. Recently Tammy called just to say “thank you for allowing God to use you in our lives. I never dreamed things could change so much.”

I could share many other stories of hope and healing concerning families, couples, children and adults of all ages. Though not every story ends in victory, most do. It is a privilege to be a resource of referral for pastors who care about the needs of their people. Through the faithful support of North Central Area Missions churches many others will find hope and healing in the days ahead.

*Garry Barber
Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor (NCCA)
Director, Bread of Life Ministries*

Speechless 2011
Prayer Conference
Seeking to Hear the Voice of God
Georgia Baptist Conference Center
Toccoa, Georgia
September 26-27, 2011
For more information call 770-936-5364

**Because 7.1 million are Lost
without Christ in Georgia,
WE MUST**
RESCUE
the
PERISHING
2 Peter 3:9
Georgia Baptist State Missions
Season of Prayer and Offering
**The 2011 emphasis is
September 14-18**

2011 GEORGIA BAPTIST HISTORY CONFERENCE
Legacy of Missions
October 7-8, 2011
Second Baptist Church
Warner Robins, Georgia
An Annual Event Devoted to Highlighting the
Legacy of Georgia Baptists
Keynote Speakers:
Dr. Robert White
Executive Director of Baptist Convention
Dr. Tommie Collins
President, North Central Area Missions
Special Guest Speaker
Barbara Burnett
Executive Director of Baptist History

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” John 13:34-35

Christianity is anything but a “lone-ranger” activity. Although we will stand before the throne and give account of our own stewardship of His gifts, we are not to live the Christian life like an island. One of the most common phrases used in the New Testament is the two words (in English), **“one another.”** It is the Greek word, *“allelon,”* and is used exactly 100 times. All but 6 of these uses are in the positive. Most are in the present-tense, meaning it is something we must continuously be doing. To say it another way, just because we did something encouraging to one another in the past does not mean we have finished the task!

These **“one another”** commands are all related to activities within the church. How we treat each other is obviously very important to the New Testament writers, but more importantly it is quite valuable to Almighty God, our Heavenly Father. We are family, calling each other *“brothers, sisters,”* and our God is called our *“Father.”* We are not in some corporate community with a CEO where we are all employees. Our relationship is intimate, personal, and yes, messy. We connect with one another in multiple ways, accountability, use of gifts, responding to leadership, etc, and HOW we respond to each other tells the world volumes! Thus, **“one another”** instructions are clearly necessary.

Of the positive commands, there are 25 different verbs that we are commanded to perform towards each other. The most common specific verb is found in the passage above, and it is interesting to note we are commanded to *“love one another”* 15

times. That is quite a strong number! It would have been more than enough if God had commanded us to love each other once, but He has seen fit to repeat this command over and over. Maybe it’s because we tend to forget this clear command from the Scriptures, or maybe we are just **hard-headed**, but for whatever reason, God has blasted us with a repeated command that far outweighs all others.

Of the remaining 24 verbs, the next most repeated command is given 5 times. This command is to *“greet (or salute) one another.”* It often adds a phrase that depicts physical closeness and that invades personal space, revealing that *“texting”* and *“emails”* is probably not enough! God desires that we get close! Loving and greeting each other is clearly the top two **“one another”** commands that God gives the church. I personally believe that if we started doing just these two commands with more attention and intentionality, our empty seats would be more full and our baptisteries less dry.

The other 23 commands are mentioned in this fashion – one is listed 3 times, 8 listed twice, and the remaining 12 are only listed once. They include such commands as *“comfort, encourage, edify, admonish, be of the same mind, wait for, bear with, give preference, be kind, forgive, and even to wash one another’s feet.”* These other commands, though specific and important, would be more easily carried out if we just obeyed the most often two **“one another”** commands – to love and greet each other.

Love is an act of the will. We choose to love, not wait for it to magically happen. Love always accompanies sacrifice. The opposite of love is not hate, but selfishness. You can have a love/hate relationship with someone, but you can never love someone and be selfish at the same time. The evidence of love is always personal

cost. *“God so loved, He GAVE...”* Loving one another is never easy. People, especially those committed to a local church, can sometimes be very difficult to love. The level of expectation and maturity is often disappointingly too high and causes hard feelings or broken relationships in the church family. This happened even in the early church. Within the body of Christ, this reaction can create less than ideal examples and even push the hungry souls of lost men away from the only answer in this entire universe – the Love of Christ.

Greeting one another is also vitally important. Warmly receiving each other with honest excitement and expectation is a lost art in today’s culture. We tend to brush by those around us to get to our seat. Some greeting teams seem more interested in talking with each other than those unknown strangers that pass by them on a typical Sunday service. Even some of the friendliest churches have weaknesses in the area of greeting. It’s just not in vogue, but it IS in God’s Word! And it’s often repeated there!

Dear church family, I challenge you to try something unique this coming Sunday. Focus on the faces and people that you pass as you go to your “spot” in the church. Stop and give eye contact, a genuine smile, and see how deeply you can greet those that God brings into your life on this day. Ask how you can pray for them, if there is anything going on that you could help with, and do so with Christ-like compassion. They may think that you changed the communion juice for something stronger, but let them wonder all they want! You are a leader. So, lead! Engage in these most common commands in the New Testament with a whole new passion. Watch the results of such a radical adjustment.

Alan Morris

Pastoral Positions Available

North Lanier Baptist Church in Cumming is seeking individuals to fill two positions:

- Lead Pastor
- Full Time Student Pastor

For information regarding these positions, please go to their website www.northlanier.org. Both job descriptions are posted under employment opportunities.

Cumming Baptist Church In Cumming is seeking an individual to fill the position of:

- Minister to Children and Families

Resumes may be sent to northgaministry@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2011

- 1 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 5 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 5 Labor Day Holiday (NCAM and GBC closed)
- 10 Hightower Baptist Association Food Bank (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 13 Roswell Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting/Luncheon,
Golden Corral, Alpharetta, 11:30 AM
- 15 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting, First Baptist Cumming,
11:00 AM
Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following
Pastor's Meeting, Place TBD
- 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
- 28 Hightower Baptist Association Annual Meeting (see page 1)
- 29 Hightower Baptist Association Annual Meeting (see page 1)

October 2011

- 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 Baptist Association Annual Meeting (see page 1)
- 20 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Meeting, First Baptist Cumming,
11:00 AM
Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following
Pastor's Meeting, Place TBD
- 25 Etowah Baptist Association Annual Meeting (see page 1)
- 25 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Etowah Baptist Association
4206 North Arnold Mill Road
Woodstock, GA 30188
Email: janice@northcentralga.org
770-384-8548 Fax 770-384-8658
www.northcentralga.org

Nonprofit
Organization
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Canton, GA
Permit No. 170

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.