

# North Central News

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



June/July 2016



## 2016 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

June 14-15, 2016

St. Louis, MO

For additional information, please visit

[www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)

## Iron to Iron

The Difference Men Make  
in the Lives of Other Men

### State Men's Conference

August 13, 2016 | Wrens Baptist Church  
500 N. Main Street  
Wrens GA 30833



Speaker:  
Pastor Jeff Crook

As iron sharpens iron, so  
one man sharpens another.  
Proverbs 27:17



\$20 early bird rate by Aug. 3; \$25 after Aug. 3

Visit [gabaptist.org/mensministry](http://gabaptist.org/mensministry) for more information about these and other Men's Ministry events.

Gifts of Georgia Baptists through Mission Georgia  
and the Cooperative Program enable us to partner  
together in fulfilling the Great Commission.

## Guiding Our Steps

PROVERBS 22:6



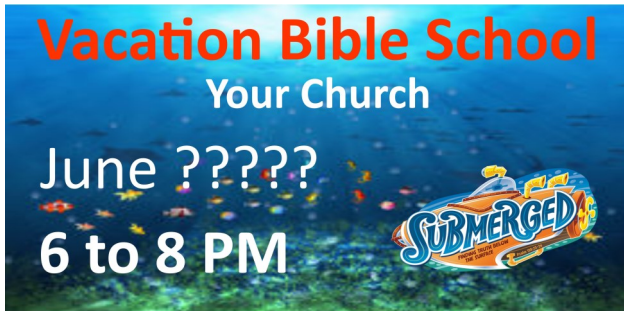
HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY

GRACEWAY MEDIA  
FOR NEW ONLY

## VBS Banners and T-shirt transfers

North Central Area Missions can print a 2016 VBS banner for your church!

Some examples are:



Your Church information  
can be entered onto this  
background along with  
artwork

We can also print and press transfers onto t-shirts!

Some examples are:



Both the banner and t-shirt designs are just examples.

If you have other artwork, etc. that you would like to use, just provide it to us and we will do everything we can to accommodate you and your church.

Cost for banners is \$2.50 per square foot.

Cost for t-shirts transfers is as follows:

Most transfers can be printed on material designed for dark colored t-shirts at \$2.00 per square foot.

Some transfers (especially those for really light colored t-shirts) may need to be printed on material designed for light colored t-shirts at \$2.50 per square foot.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding banners or t-shirt transfers, please email [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org) or call 770-384-8548.



## Leadership Matters

*"For the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Judah, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the Lord."*

2 Chronicles 28:19

I've said it a thousand times. **"It doesn't matter who's in the White House, it matters what we do in God's house that makes the difference!"** Well, it does matter what we do in our churches, but it also matters who's in the White House. Look carefully at the above passage. Why did the Lord bring Judah down? Who was the culprit in this "low" time? It was the king, King Ahaz! It doesn't say that the Lord brought Judah low because of the moral decline of the people, although that was happening too. The king only encouraged what was already in the people's hearts. However, he was the one that the writer of Chronicles points to as the reason for the down turn. It DOES matter who is in the big seat! (I've stopped saying that sentence in bold, by the way). Our nation's leader matters!

I will pause here to remind you that our nation has many similarities with the nation of Israel/Judah. We both started as a nation without borders. We were simply a group of clans, settlements, and colonies that had local battles which raised up local heroes. Next we both had these local heroes and successive victories in battles that thrust both nations into national entities -- Israel became a nation during Moses' exodus, Joshua's leadership into the Promised Land, and finally Saul's kingship, while America became a nation after the Revolutionary War. Both nations dedicated themselves totally to the Lord (Israel in Solomon's Temple dedication, and America through the writings of her forefathers, Patrick Henry, John Quincy Adams, John Witherspoon, John Jay, George Washington, and on and on who made it clear that this was a Christian nation, dedicated to the glory of God). If you have trouble believing this, just do your homework or go to any national monument and look at what is inscribed in marble.

Both nations lived for many years under a covenant with God, Israel made that covenant in 2 Chronicles 7, America made it obvious in a series of court cases, for instance, the one in 1844, *Vidal vs. Girard's Executors*, which concluded, *"Why may not the New Testament be read and taught in the schools as a divine revelation, it's general precepts expounded, it's glorious principles of morality inculcated. Where can the clearest morality be learned so perfectly than from the Bible?"* This was our country for many years. However, both Israel and America broke covenant with God, Israel did during Zedekiah's reign, America did with the 1962 decision of *Engel vs. Vitale*, taking prayer out of schools. Breaking covenant led

to a major downfall of both countries. Once Israel was feared by her enemies. However, once they broke covenant they were no longer feared but became a quest for destruction. America was once the nation of first place in every category of excellence -- math, science, technology, military, living conditions, peacefulness, and prosperity. Today we are but a shadow of our former self, becoming the tail and not the head, and the direct link is our breaking of covenant as a nation with the Lord.

Politics is nasty. It's unpredictably frustrating. I've learned in ministry not to endorse candidates for elected office. That always comes back to haunt you (case in point, our state's governor). You put your name on someone then their actions (or inactions) reveals an evil heart that is then connected to you for more years than the guy serves! That does NOT mean we can't talk about the issues, the platforms, the need for character and integrity from our elected officials. We CAN still talk about politics from our pulpits, contrary to fallacious letters and emails from uninformed individuals and overtly biased organizations that would want to silence the Christian population. Keeping a tab on the voting records of candidates on various moral, family, and social issues is very much a part of our task in making sure the church is informed and involved. These decisions impact us and our progeny. We just need to be very careful regarding the "who" of endorsement since we are endorsing fallible men and women. Again, you can't read the heart of a person (only God can do that), nor can you predict how he/she will respond at any given situation. That is why I've chosen not to endorse candidates.

We are currently in a situation that is very difficult for conservative, evangelical, Bible-believing Christians (it's a shame I have to add so many adjectives!) to be in. We have two candidates running for the highest office in the land that both have a defined history of non-Christian, even anti-Christian activity. Though their platforms are completely different (and I would say here that one platform has for decades been diametrically opposed to anything Christian) they both are not the picture of piety and morality that we believe should grace the oval office. It's no secret that these two candidates lack the support from the majority of their parties, much less the support of mainstream Christianity in our country. What can we do when there is such a gigantic gap between our Biblically-based, moral views and the past actions and attitudes of the available candidates? Seek the Word of God for answers!

Israel and Judah were often led by very intolerable kings. (Can I get an "AMEN?!") Take Manasseh, the king that *"seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel"*

(2 Kings 21:10-12). Here's a guy that caused Israel to do more evil, more wickedness than the pagan nations that He had to destroy in order for them to take possession of their promised land! These were embarrassing days. The Lord spoke through the prophets that because of Manasseh, such calamity would come upon Israel *"that whoever hears of it, both ears will tingle!"* Notice that God blamed the leader. Thus it is important that we are very careful about who our next leader will be. One thing that is different than other nations is that we as Americans can choose our leaders. I say the church needs to take seriously this opportunity, be men and women of prayer, get involved in the issues, and seek God's direction in your choice, because leadership matters.

I would also like to make another biblical observation. There was once a godless king, that *"did not know our God,"* that was chosen, hand-picked if you will, by Almighty God to come and bless the nation of Israel. He was not Jewish. He was pagan, trained in the schools of his vile culture. This passage is simply amazing because God calls the name of this king 140 years before he was born. This name, Cyrus, was not a common name, not used when first prophesied. Through the prophet Isaiah (44:28-45:7), God said that Cyrus would bless the nation of Israel and restore their worship. This blessing would be through a king that doesn't know Him (v. 45:4)! How is that possible? How can God use a godless king to do His bidding, to protect and provide for His people? Well, Isaiah predicted it would happen, and 140 years later, during the exile and Temple restoration, it became a fact. I put before you that God has and can again use a "king," leader, president, whoever He wants, to do His bidding. The people of God must NOT give up the battle nor be distracted by the hype, negativity, etc. that comes with the political process.

There are two candidates that are less than attractive to any genuine believer in Christ and the principles of God's Word. They stand as opposites on most all the issues of military, economy, and governance. They both, however, are obviously not evangelical Christian, regardless of what they may claim. This is not petty judging, it's simply connecting the blatant dots. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and hope that we will have a better shot in four years. We must pray. We must pray hard and deliberately. We must be involved. We cannot sit this one out. We must vote. It is the right thing to do. Pray. Seek God's face. Humble yourself. Be accountable as a citizen of this nation that has the privilege of selecting their leader. I write this because LEADERSHIP DOES MATTER!

Alan J. Morris



# CHURCH FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE SEMINARS

The 2016 Financial Compliance Seminars are designed for church treasurers, secretaries, ministers, budget committees, and any other financial leadership. The seminar will focus on compliance with federal and state payroll reporting requirements.

## *Discussion Topics Include:*

- W-2s
- Form 1099-MISC
- 941s
- Who is an employee?
- Does our pastor receive a W-2?
- Who is responsible for mistakes made on federal and state returns?
- How do churches report healthcare premiums paid?
- Can we pay staff healthcare premiums?
- How can the church minimize taxes for ministers to maximize take home pay in these tough times?



Listed below are Seminars that will be conducted at locations physically close to churches in the Etowah, Hightower, Lanier and Roswell Baptist Associations

**August 25, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

Beech Haven Baptist Church  
2390 W. Broad Street, Athens

**September 6, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

Grace Baptist Church  
477 Old Cass White Road, Cartersville

**September 17, 2016**

**9:00 AM**

Blackshear Place Baptist Church  
3428 Atlanta Highway, Flowery Branch

### **Seminar Leader**

Tony Neal, CPA  
Church Administration Ministry  
Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Register online: <http://gabaptist.org/churchadministration/>  
or call 770-936-5274

**Seminar Fee: \$5.00 per person**

**The Georgia Baptist Mission Board** recently completed research to determine *"The Fastest Growing Georgia Baptist Sunday School/Small Groups Churches."*

This study covered the years of 2012 - 2015. The data for this study was taken from information reported by churches on their Annual Church Report and was based on the average weekly Sunday School/Small Group attendance.

Listed below are churches in the North Central Area that were recognized:

Etowah Association: Woodstock Church at Jasper in the medium category - #2

Lanier Association: First Baptist Cumming in the mega category - #10

Roswell Association: Alpharetta First Baptist in the mega category - #20

The **Georgia Baptist Mission Board** recognizes the following churches in the North Central Area. The data for baptisms was taken from information reported by churches on their 2015 Annual Church Report. The data for Cooperative Program and Mission Georgia Offering giving is actual contributions in 2015 by the churches to these programs.

#### **Etowah Association**

Revolution Church: Leading ratio of baptisms per resident member

Revolution Church: Highest number of baptisms

First Baptist Canton: Largest contributor through the Cooperative Program

Hickory Road Baptist Church: Leading contributor per resident member through the Cooperative Program

Sutaltee Baptist Church: Largest percentage contributor through the Cooperative Program

Stonecrest Baptist Church: Leading contributor per resident member to the Mission Georgia Offering

Stonecrest Baptist Church: Largest contributor through the Mission Georgia Offering

#### **Hightower Association**

Goshen Baptist Church: Leading ratio of baptisms per resident member

Liberty Baptist Church: Highest number of baptisms

Castleberry Road Baptist Church: Leading contributor per resident member through the Cooperative Program

Castleberry Road Baptist Church: Largest percentage contributor through the Cooperative Program

Mt. Zion Baptist Church: Largest contributor through the Cooperative Program

Antioch Baptist Church: Leading contributor per resident member to the Mission Georgia Offering

Antioch Baptist Church: Largest contributor through the Mission Georgia Offering

#### **Lanier Association**

First Baptist Church of Iranians: Leading ratio of baptisms per resident member

First Redeemer Church: Highest number of baptisms

First Baptist Church of Iranians: Largest percentage contributor through the Cooperative Program

First Baptist Cumming: Largest contributor through the Cooperative Program

North Lanier Baptist Church: Leading contributor per resident member through the Cooperative Program

First Baptist Church of Iranians: Leading contributor per resident member to the Mission Georgia Offering

First Baptist Cumming: Largest contributor through the Mission Georgia Offering

#### **Roswell Association**

Center of Hope Christian Ministries: Leading ratio of baptisms per resident member

Alpharetta First Baptist: Highest number of baptisms

Alpharetta First Baptist: Largest contributor through the Cooperative Program

Dreamer Baptist Church: Largest percentage contributor through the Cooperative Program

Great Love Church: Leading contributor per resident member through the Cooperative Program

Atlanta Street Baptist Church: Leading contributor per resident member to the Mission Georgia Offering

Atlanta Street Baptist Church: Largest contributor through the Mission Georgia Offering

# GO Georgia

A TOTAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP EQUIPPING EVENT

August 5-6, 2016 \ Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Athens

- › 2-DAY EVENT
- › 100+ TOPICS
- › TOP NATIONAL SPEAKERS
- › AFFINITY TRAINING
- › SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Visit <http://www.gogeorgia.net>  
for additional information or to  
register



The Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries thanks the churches of the Lanier Baptist Association for their participation in the May truck loading ministry.

Monday, August 8, 2016 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



NGA/Duluth Orientation for Fall 2016

Tuesday, August 9, 2016 from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
(These orientation sessions are identical. You select one date to attend)

The orientation location is: Johnson Ferry First Baptist Church,  
955 Johnson Ferry Road, Marietta, GA 30068

For additional information or to register, please email  
[ngaadmin@nobts.edu](mailto:ngaadmin@nobts.edu)



## Dental Assistance for Ministerial Staff and Their Spouses

The Baptist Mobile Health Ministry (BMHM) is again the recipient of grant funding from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Foundation to offer dental assistance at no charge to ministerial staff and their spouses and widows of ministers who do not have dental insurance or the financial means to obtain dental care. The services offered are dental hygiene, x-rays and restoration (both silver and tooth colored) and extraction of teeth.

**September 14 - 17, 2016**

Ministers Wellness Retreat\*

Georgia Baptist Mission Board Conference Center, Toccoa

**September 22 - 24, 2016**

Ministers Wellness Retreat\*

Georgia Baptist Mission Board Conference Center, Norman Park

*\*Sponsored by Georgia Baptist Mission Board Church Minister Relations Ministry.*

*Registration is open to any Georgia Baptist Mission Board minister and spouse who do not have preventive health insurance. Dental service is offered to participants of the event who do not have dental insurance.*

For information regarding either of the Ministers Wellness Retreats, please call Ruth Smith at 770-936-5364 or by email at [rsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:rsmith@gabaptist.org)



***Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.  
From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he  
watches all who live on earth - he who forms the hearts of all, who considers  
everything they do.***

***No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength.  
A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.  
But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his  
unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.***

***We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.***

***In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.***

***May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.***

**Psalm 33:12-22**



***America will never  
be destroyed from  
the outside. If we  
falter and lose our  
freedoms, it will be  
because we  
destroyed ourselves.  
Abraham Lincoln***

***Freedom is never more  
than one generation  
away from extinction.  
We didn't pass it on to  
our children in the  
bloodstream. It must be  
fought for, protected  
and handed on for them  
to do the same.  
Ronald Reagan***

***True individual freedom cannot  
exist without economic  
security and independence.  
People who are hungry and out  
of a job are the stuff of which  
dictatorships are made.  
Franklin D. Roosevelt***

***Let every nation know, whether  
it wishes us well or ill, that we  
shall pay any price, bear any  
burden, meet any hardship,  
support any friend, oppose any  
foe to assure the survival and  
the success of liberty.  
John F. Kennedy***

***If we ever forget that we are One  
Nation Under God, then we will be a  
nation gone under.  
Ronald Reagan***

***North Central Area Missions wishes each of you a great Independence Day as  
you remember that we are "One Nation Under God!" Take time to appreciate  
our freedom by also remembering those who have sacrificed so much to make  
our celebration possible.***

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## June 2016

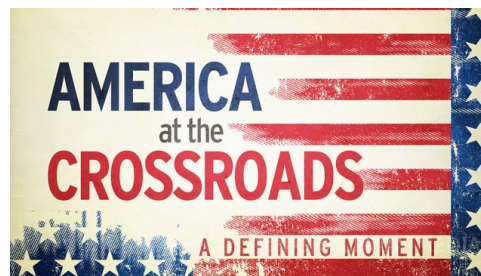
- 2 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 6 Hightower Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 11 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 14-15 Southern Baptist Convention, St Louis (see page 1)
- 19 Father's Day
- 23 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Living Stones Church, 10:30 AM  
Lanier Pastor's Luncheon immediately following the Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 28 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM
- 28 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

## July 2016

- 4 Independence Day - North Central office closed
- 7 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 9 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 21 Lanier Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 26 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM
- 26 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

## August 2016

- 4 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 10 Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Clear Springs Baptist Church, 10:30 AM  
Roswell Pastor's Luncheon immediately following the Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 13 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 18 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Living Stones Church, 10:30 AM  
Lanier Pastor's Luncheon immediately following the Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 23 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 30 Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, North Central Area Missions, 10:30 AM  
Etowah Pastor's Luncheon immediately following the Executive Meeting





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## North Central Area Missions Team

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