

# North Central News

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

December 2018/January 2019



**“May the Blessings of Christmas be with you,**

**May the Christ Child light your way,**

**May God’s holy angels guide you,**

**And keep you safe each day.”**

**An Irish Blessing**

## Lifeway's VBS 2019 - IN THE WILD

### 2019 VBS JUMPSTART FREE EVENT!

January 24, 2019  
Kennesaw First Baptist  
2958 N. Main Street, NW  
Kennesaw, GA 30144

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**  
Call 770-936-5286 with questions



### 2019 VBS CLINIC

March 8 & 9, 2019  
Kennesaw First Baptist  
2958 N. Main Street, NW  
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Register online  
<https://gabaptist.org/kids>

Cost: \$20 per person  
if paid by February 25, 2019  
At Door Registration: \$25.00 per  
person



### Mission VBS Partnerships

If your church is planning a VBS mission trip, the Georgia Baptist Mission Board provides training for your VBS missionaries - FREE!

Contact Jenni Carter at [jcarter@gabaptist.org](mailto:jcarter@gabaptist.org) for details

Once again, North Central Area Missions is available to assist you and your church in obtaining Lifeway VBS materials. We will receive your order, forward it to Lifeway and pick it up, then we will deliver it to your church.

Your church pays the same for the literature whether you order thru North Central or directly thru Lifeway. North Central does receive a rebate from Lifeway on all VBS orders purchased directly thru our office. These funds are used to assist small or new start churches needing financial assistance in conducting VBS programs.

You may submit your VBS orders to our office  
by email to [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org)  
by fax to 770-384-8658  
or by calling our office at 770-384-8548

North Central Area Missions can also assist your church with promotion of your VBS, as follows:  
Design and print banners - Design and print/press t-shirt logos  
Design and print door hangars - Design and print cards/flyers

If we can assist with any of these promotion items, please contact us by email at [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org) or call us at 770-384-8548

## Timeless Truths from the Oldest Voices

### Return to the Lord - Hezekiah

This month we are completing our multi-year study of Old Testament characters and what they can offer us today. This has been an enjoyable exercise in delving into the more obscure part of our Bible and looking at characters both familiar and unknown. We end this study with an appropriate message to our nation and a fabulous example of reform and thorough dedication – **Hezekiah**.

You would have NEVER thought Hezekiah was going to be one of the most godly, impactful kings of Judah just from his ancestry! He was the son of Ahaz, the king that threw a couple of his sons into the fire (2 Chron. 28:3) to dedicate his house! Think about it, Hezekiah lost brothers needlessly as his daddy practiced pagan rituals thinking they would protect him and increase his riches. Maybe I shouldn't be so surprised at the overwhelming level of reform that Hezekiah orchestrated during his reign. But he was also the father to

Manasseh, who rebuilt the high places, offered sacrifices to idols, and seduced all of Judah to commit more evil than all the nations around them (33:9).

The Scripture covers the life of Hezekiah in multiple places, 2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 29-32, and Isaiah 36-39, a whopping 11 chapters, marking one of the most detailed descriptions of any king - second only to David. Hezekiah “undid” all that his father had done right from the start, beginning in the first year of his reign by re-opening the doors of the Temple and cleaning up the House of God, restoring worship, sanctifying the Levites, and turning the people's attention back toward God (2 Chron. 29:3-6). His reforms were extensive and thorough, painful and expensive, but necessary to avoid what happened to their brethren just north of them – Sennacherib invaded Israel and completely destroyed Samaria (year 722 B.C.). Sennacherib wasn't through either. He threatened Hezekiah, if an alliance wasn't granted. He basically told Hezekiah, “Your God didn't protect Israel, why would you and all of Judah trust in that God again? Better work with me instead.” Hezekiah

prayed, sought the Lord, and God protected Judah, making Sennacherib eat his own words! I love that!

The other reforms of Hezekiah make up a lengthy list. He cleansed and prepared all the altars for sacrifice and Temple worship. He returned the people to the Levitical offerings (sin, trespass, peace, whole burnt, and thank offerings), all back in the Temple, instructing the priests and the Levites to perform everything exactly as the Lord had commanded them. He returned music, singing, the bowing of heads in worship in the Temple, and he brought back the practice of the Passover. There was rejoicing, the entire congregation was giving of tithes and gifts, and there was an abundance. No one lacked anything. It was like the days of Solomon! (31:10) (NOTE: When the people gave unselfishly, the Lord blessed everyone! What remained after everyone had plenty was this great abundance! Hmmmmmm.)

He also removed a once very prominent article that had historic value – the Nehushtan, (2 Kings 18:4) translated,

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The final count for backpacks collected by churches in the North Central Area was 1,136.

Alan Morris with Chris Harrington, Pastor of GracePoint, a new church start in the Etowah Baptist Association. GracePoint collected 11 backpacks.



Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Inc.

The Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries thanks all individuals and churches that gave to the 2018 truck loading projects.

### New Bible study/discipleship kit available through North Central Area Missions

*To Live is Christ* by Nancy McQuirk is an 8-week, verse-by-verse study on the book of Philippians. The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians has been the **foundation** for a life of contentment and joy to all who have embraced its message over the generations. Paul's secret of contentment is found in his well-known words "to live is Christ". In this way he reveals how to rise above the circumstances of life, experience joy amidst adversity and live with Christ at the center of your lives. This personal or group bible study can be used independently from the video collection or in conjunction with the DVD.



# Selah 2019

## TRAINING RETREAT FOR GEORGIA BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADERS

February 28 - March 2, 2019  
Pinnacle Retreat Center, Clayton

Featuring

**JAN MORTON**

**Women's Ministry Director**

**Second Baptist Church, Warner Robins**



**Jan has served as women's ministry director at Second Baptist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia for over 20 years. She is co-author of "Tasting Grace," a book about a woman's mentoring-ministry in the kitchen. She recently retired after 30 years with the Houston County School System. She is an avid reader, gardener, quilter, and biscuit-maker.**

For additional information or to register, please visit <https://gabaptist.org/event/selah-2019/>

2019

MARVEL

## MINISTERS WIVES RETREAT

January 24-26, 2019  
Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa

Includes:

3 days/2nights stay

6 meals

conference materials

workshops

haircuts

connect class

medical doctor and nurse

*medical counseling and basic health screenings*

licensed counselor

For additional information or to register, please go to  
<https://gabaptist.org/ministerswives>

You may also contact

Mary Cox at [mcox@gabaptist.org](mailto:mcox@gabaptist.org)

or Laura Simms at [lsimms@gabaptist.org](mailto:lsimms@gabaptist.org)

MINISTERS WIVES RETREAT



**JOIN US!**

**WITH GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**ROBERT JEFFRESS**  
Pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

*at the*  
**GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL**

**PASTORS DAY  
AT THE CAPITOL**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2019**  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
(Lunch provided)



Georgia Baptist  
Mission Board

## Pastor's Discipleship Roundtable - Atlanta

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Crossroads Church of Dunwoody  
Address: 4805 Tilly Mill Rd, Atlanta, GA 30360

Cost: FREE

The goal of the Pastor's Discipleship Roundtable is to introduce the process for creating a disciple making culture developed by Bill Hull. He is a recognized national and worldwide leader in field of discipleship. Bill's passion is to help the church return to its disciple making roots and he considers himself a discipleship evangelist.

A meal will be served, and several testimonies will be shared that highlight the benefits of The Bonhoeffer Project. Bill will cover the details and there will be time for Q&A. At the end of the roundtable the pastors will be invited to join a year-long cohort that will assist them in developing a customized disciple-making process for their church.

If you have questions about this event, please contact Sharon Nowak at [snowak@gabaptist.org](mailto:snowak@gabaptist.org) or 770.936.5286.

*The*  
**Sufficiency**  
OF THE  
**GOSPEL**

**The Georgia  
Baptist  
Statewide  
Evangelism  
Conference**

**January 28 & 29, 2019**

**Central Baptist Church  
1120 Lake Joy Road  
Warner Robins, GA 31088**

**For more information please visit: <https://gbcevangeliismconferences.com/>**

# GEORGIA BAPTIST MISSION BOARD **KIDS MINISTRY SUMMIT**

**February 7-8, 2019 ~ Jekyll Island Club Hotel**

## CONFERENCE LEADERS



**JANA  
MAGRUDER**

Author of *Nothing Less. Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith. Lifeway*



**DAVID  
ANDERSON**

Louisiana Baptists Children's Ministry Strategist

The Kids Ministry Summit is an annual event sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board for Kid Ministers across our state. The purposes of our Summit is to provide an opportunity to network and build relationships with other Kid Ministers across our state and to provide training. Our event includes large group sessions, roundtable discussion and fellowship.

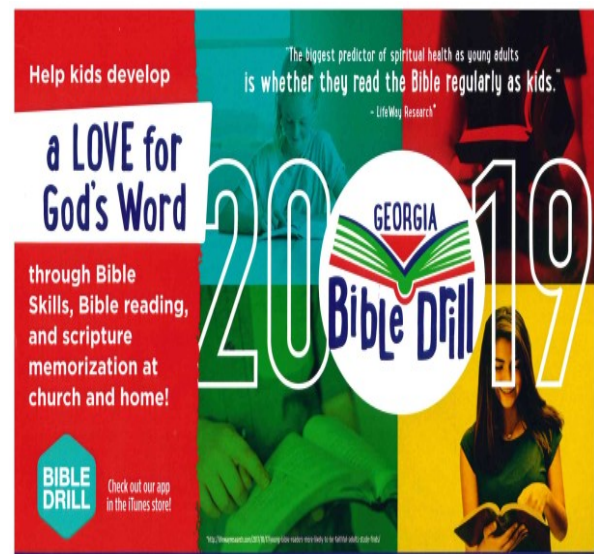
Register at

<https://gabaptist.org/event/kids-ministry-summit/>

**North Central Area Missions is in the planning stages of beginning an Associational level Bible Drill. We have had interest expressed by three different churches.**

**If your church conducts Bible Drill or would like to begin a Bible Drill program, and would be interested in participating at the Associational level through North Central Area Missions, please let us know by emailing [janice@northcentralga.org](mailto:janice@northcentralga.org) or calling our office at 770-384-8548.**

**We would like to include as many churches/children and youth as possible.**



*Fun, Life-long foundations...* For fun and creative ideas for teaching Bible skills: [pinterest.com/gabibledrill/](https://pinterest.com/gabibledrill/)

**Bible Drill Locations convenient to churches in the North Central Area**

**April 16, 2019 - FBC, Lawrenceville**

**April 28, 2019 - Tabernacle Baptist, Cartersville**

For additional information, please visit  
<https://gabaptist.org/bibledrill/>



The 55+ Swap Shop Tour is designed with the Sr. Adult church leader in mind.  
 We will discuss the importance of good methods for a successful ministry to adults over 55.  
 We will also share ideas with each other and learn what is working in this vital ministry of the church.

The date, time and location for the 55+ Swap Shop Tour near churches in the North Central Area are:

February 21, 2019 - 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

First Baptist Church, 241 Douthitt Ferry Road, Cartersville 30120

For additional information or to register, please visit <https://gabaptist.org/groups-events>

For questions, please call 770-936-5286

# SAVE *the* DATE



DISCIPLESHIP

## 2019 GBACE

JANUARY 24, 2019

### SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

1724 HIGHWAY 155 N.  
MCDONOUGH, GA 30252-5541



KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER  
DR. CHUCK LAWLESS

For additional information or to register, please visit <http://www.gbace.org/>



**MOVE Conference is the largest winter evangelism conference for teenagers in Georgia, and the absolute best place to bring you're your group for their retreat this winter!**

<https://moveconference.com/>



**January 24-26, 2019  
CHATTANOOGA CONVENTION CENTER**



**YOUTH MINISTRY CONCLAVE IS AN ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EVENT IN COOPERATION WITH SEVEN STATE CONVENTIONS. EACH YEAR WE PROVIDE A TRAINING EVENT FOR YOUTH PASTORS, LEADERS, AND VOLUNTEERS. CORPORATE WORSHIP, BREAKOUT SESSIONS, AND NETWORKING ARE DESIGNED TO EQUIP AND REJUVENATE YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM.**

<https://ymconclave.org/>

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## Timeless Truths from the Oldest Voices

### Return to the Lord - Hezekiah

“that bronze thing.” This was the very bronze pole with the serpent fashioned around it that Moses commanded all the “snake-bit Jews” to gaze upon, so they might be healed (Num. 21:5-9), a symbol still used today by the medical profession. Centuries after this event, the Jews were using it for some kind of superstitious activity, burning incense to it and such. It was an icon, a memory stick that pointed to Moses and Hezekiah took it from them and broke it into pieces because they profaned it! What a gutsy call! Now that’s the kind of leadership we could use today!

Of course, not everyone was “on board,” as it states in 2 Chronicles 30:10. Some of the people laughed and mocked them as the mantra from Hezekiah was announced, **“Return to the Lord!”** But the Bible states that, *“The hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to*

*obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the Lord”* (v. 12). Notice the people obeyed their leadership and their leadership followed the word of the Lord. This is such a success story of an earth-shaking magnitude! To go from “about to be destroyed by an outside enemy,” to “more prosperous than your houses can contain” is a scenario that our families, churches, communities, and nation would love to experience! The key to this success story is the “idea” - RETURN TO THE LORD!

This was the theme of all of Hezekiah’s reforms. He had experienced the other side, the unfulfilled promises of an anti-biblical worldview. He had seen it kill two of his brothers, corrupt his country, and place the entire nation in perilous jeopardy. He had heard of the life and devotion of David, a name linked to him in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles when they both described how he led. He observed the antithesis of ‘Davidic obedience’ in his own family and made the obvious conclusion – we must RETURN TO THE LORD! And return, he did!

No other king did as much as Hezekiah did in total reform. Many pastors look at the

reforms of Josiah, but Josiah only imitated Hezekiah. Hezekiah had no example from which to follow. No one had ever bucked the system like this, to not just go against the status quo, but break down every vestige of cultural artifacts connected to idolatry. Hezekiah was the original “drain the swamp” leader, to steal a modern term, and he took down every abomination, every high place, and every wooden stick that once pointed to the dead god of Baal. He stood up to the very king that destroyed Israel, the Northern Kingdom, with grit and confidence. He was also the one that motivated God to move the sundial back 10 degrees to prove that he would heal Hezekiah of his illness and let him live.

He wasn’t perfect. None of us are, but he displayed a perception of understanding regarding the main principle – a **return to the worship and obedience of Almighty God**. This flesh and blood example is exactly what we are needing in our churches today.

We must return!  
Our clock is also ticking. . .

Alan J. Morris

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## December 2018

- 2-9 Lottie Moon Week of Prayer and Christmas Offering
- 3 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 6 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 8 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 20 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 21 - Jan 1 Christmas/New Year's Holidays - North Central Area Missions closed


## January 2019

- 2 North Central Area Missions - back to work!!!
- 3 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 7 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 12 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 17 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 21 MLK Day - North Central Area Missions Closed
- 22 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM

## February 2019

- 4 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 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)
- 13 Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Clear Springs Baptist Church, 10:30 AM
- Roswell Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, Place TBD
- 19 Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, North Central Office, 10:30 AM
- Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, Place TBD
- 21 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Living Stones Church, 10:30 AM
- Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, Place TBD
- 26 Pastor's Day at Georgia State Capitol, 10 AM - 2 PM (Lunch provided) - see page 6





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 Licensed Pastoral Counselor

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## North Central Area Missions Team

Alan Morris - Area Missionary  
 Janice Dinsmore - Administrative Assistant  
 Ramona Lively - Financial Secretary

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