



North Central News

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



September/October 2015

2015 Annual Associational Meetings

Etowah Baptist Association

October 27

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Service: 7:00 PM

North Central Area Missions
4206 North Arnold Mill Road
Woodstock 30188

Hightower Baptist Association

September 30: Liberty Baptist Church
520 Liberty Church Road, Dawsonville

October 1: Mayfield Baptist Church
8920 Old Keith Bridge Road, Gainesville

Both sessions will begin at 10:00 AM



Annual Truck Loading Georgia Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries

List of Items Requested

Etowah and Roswell* Baptist Associations

Sliced/Chunked Pineapple

Mandarin Oranges

Mayo

Cake Icing

Sports Drinks

Gift Cards are always appreciated

Collection point for Etowah and Roswell

Baptist Association Churches is

North Central Area Missions

4206 North Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock 30188

Tuesday, October 27

5:00 until 6:00 PM

(If you wish to drop off items before October

27, please call us at North Central at

770-384-8548 or email

janice@northcentralga.org to set up a drop off
time)

**Even though the Roswell Association no
longer conducts an Annual Meeting, there is
still a collection for the Children's Home.*

Hightower Baptist Association

Salmon

Peanut Butter

Cooking Oil

Ramen Noodles

Toilet Cleaner

Gift Card are always appreciated

Collection point for Hightower Baptist

Association Churches is

Liberty Baptist Church

520 Liberty Church Road, Dawsonville

Wednesday, September 30

Loading will begin at 8:00 AM



The Georgia Baptist Convention is once again partnering with Appalachian Regional Ministries to provide Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia. We will be providing backpacks for children in Kentucky, Tennessee and New York as well as identified partnership

areas with the Georgia Baptist associations and churches.

The goal for 2015 is 25,000.

If you would like to adopt a specific location and deliver the backpacks in person, you will need to contact the Georgia Baptist Convention at 770-936-5219 (Emily Hill) or 770-936-5254 (Patti Ficarra). For more detailed information, please visit www.missiongeorgia.org.

As in the past, North Central Area Missions is available to assist your church in the backpack collection program.

You may contact us at janice@northcentralga.org or 770-384-8548.

If you would like to collect backpacks to be delivered to a location selected by Appalachian Regional Ministries, you may bring those backpacks to North Central Area Missions no later than October 29, 2015.

Church Staff Changes

William Botts began serving as **Student Pastor** at **First Holly Springs** effective June 1, 2015.

The Etowah Association and North Central Area Missions welcomes William as he begins this ministry.

Goshen Baptist Church (Etowah Association) called **Rev. Christopher Bagley** as **Senior Pastor** effective August 24, 2015. North Central Area Missions and the Etowah Baptist Association welcomes Christopher as he ministers alongside the Goshen congregation.

Rev. Rubin Smith resigned as **Senior Pastor** of **Goshen Baptist Church** (Etowah Association) effective August 23, 2015.

North Central Area Missions thanks Rubin for his many years of ministry in Etowah, Hightower, Lanier and Roswell Baptist Association churches.

North Central Area Missions welcomes the following churches:

Etowah Association
Cornerstone Community Church
Pastor David L. Kight
Effective August 25, 2015

Lanier Association
El Buen Samaritano
Pastor Diomedes Franco
Effective August 20, 2015

Igreja Batista Brasileira North Lanier
Pastor James Farias
Effective March 26, 2015

The Early Church Culture Series

Scriptural Ingredient #5 – Oneness

You have just found yourself in the middle of a research on the Early Church's culture and how it "*turned the world upside down.*" This study is motivated by the subtle, yet unmistakable internal driving force of a remarkable group of people that had little to no training and (with few exceptions) limited education and experience. The Early Church had a type of culture that set it apart allowing it to enjoy unmeasurable success. You can read our earlier Newsletters (February, March, April, May, June-July) to familiarize yourself with the Early Church's cultural formation (in those articles is included the Holy Spirit, prayer, power, and suffering). The crux of the matter is that every church has a culture, be it good or bad, an unwritten and unspoken atmosphere that impacts and regulates the behavior and attitudes of the congregation. We have seen the value and necessity of the Holy Spirit's invasion, fervent and consistent prayer, unexplainable power, and the surprising impact of suffering and persecution. These characteristics cannot be overlooked as we march forward and in this article add to the list.

Undoubtedly, the current "revivals" that are taking place in various parts of the world are direct results of the natural impact from these before mentioned characteristics that were also present in the Early Church (namely, the Holy Spirit, prayer, power, and suffering/persecution). Notice also the presence of unity and **oneness** in both the Early Church (... *and they were all in one accord...*) and in the revivals that are springing up in various places like China, India and even Cuba. This phenomena is also seen in local, sporadic mini-revivals happening throughout our own nation. Believers are reaching across all denominational lines to grab hands, pray, minister, encourage, and share resources for the cause of seeing Jesus Christ manifested in their region. It's more than just a coincidence that oneness is a common experience in both cases.

After being immersed fulltime in Christian/denominational ministries for the better part of 25 years, I can tell you without any reservation, but with great embarrass-

ment, that it is very, very rare to see a supernatural level of oneness, cooperation, and unity in most of our endeavors "ministerially" speaking. I say this with hesitation because of the gut-punch that it brings to me and the many organizations that I truly love and admire. I in no way mean this as an indictment against SBC entities or its subsidiaries. Through our weaknesses and despite our imperfections, the Lord has amazingly used the Southern Baptist Convention in the work of evangelizing the entire world and taking the Gospel to the "uttermost." The reality is that oneness or unity is simply rare. Oftentimes emphasis on personalities, different values on various ministry focuses, or just plain stubbornness create a climate of friction and disharmony. To say that it is not there is just dishonest. Remember, "*The truth will set you free.*" (John 8:32) I can't say that I have been totally innocent in creating some of the friction that was experienced in various past ministry mishaps.

The few times that I have witnessed a supernatural oneness in spirit and focus there has also been an overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit at work. The draw to be active in unusual times of prayer was also present and it was contagious. I would love to take credit for such a spiritual climate and involvement, but the truth is I was caught up in it and did not create it. If this could be manufactured I would start a company! Seeing unity on that level is unmistakable and infectious. In this rare event there is not even a smidgen of jealousy present. It is not surprising that this was regularly documented about the early church.

The Greek word for "*one accord,*" found famously in Acts 2:46, is 'homothymadon,' and that word is only used 12 times in the New Testament. Interestingly, eleven of those times it is found in the book of Acts! This little fact, along with the multiple stories of oneness and harmony throughout this historic collection, adds an undeniable conclusion that oneness was a part of the Early Church culture. Although there were times when they differed and had setbacks (the dispute that caused the Jerusalem Council and the friction between Paul and John Mark in chapter 15, for example), this does not hinder the visible effect and presence of a supernatural oneness that permeated the explosive

beginnings of the church. I believe their oneness and unity was part of the reason people were "*being added to the church daily*" (Acts 2:47). You can't help but be drawn to a people that appear so focused that they put down their own agendas and personal rights for something greater than themselves. Unfortunately, cults actually fake or force this "appearance of unity" to add converts, a strategy that is very effective.

Although I believe this type of oneness is a result of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a community of believers, it cannot be emphasized enough that we should do our best to create an atmosphere of harmony and togetherness. Paul teaches in Romans 12:3-8, the importance of us realizing that we are each part of the body of Christ, providing strength, resources, perspective, and support for the rest of the body. He also reminds us that we need each other. As part of the body we need the other parts in order to function at our best, allowing us to give our "A-game!" Interestingly, when one cell in the body turns against another cell, it is called cancer. This is in direct opposition to the culture of oneness so evident in the Early Church. Conflict did happen, but they worked to harmonize and quell the rift before it became a larger issue (the Jerusalem council came to an agreement accepted by all the apostles and leaders, and Paul and John Mark eventually reunited in love and admiration).

Right now consider your own church body. Examine honestly the level of oneness and harmony that is experienced among the individual members and the leadership. Think of a number between 1 and 10 that best describes your current 'oneness meter.' Begin to ask God how you can be a peacemaker, an intermediary to help reveal common goals or a common purpose to the passionate (albeit sometimes inflexible) followers in the body. Do what you can to create an atmosphere that embraces the differences without losing the integrity and biblical accuracy.

The longest prayer in the Bible is Jesus' prayer in John 17. In that chapter, He prays for us. What does He pray? What is His main request for you and me today from that prayer? Look it up!

Alan J. Morris

New Discipleship Kits



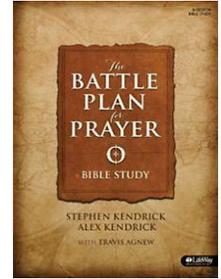
From the award-winning creators of Fireproof and Courageous comes **WAR ROOM**, a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives.

Session topics include:
lukewarmness, accountability, gospel and grace, spiritual warfare, and prayer.

5 sessions: 4 minutes or less per session

The Battle Plan for Prayer Bible Study

equips believers to develop their own prayer strategy and be specific and strategic in prayer. This study features teaching by Alex and Stephen Kendrick on the topics of: what prayer is and is not, why God wants us to pray, specific areas of prayer, specific strategies for prayer, and more.



8 sessions: 18 to 28 minutes each

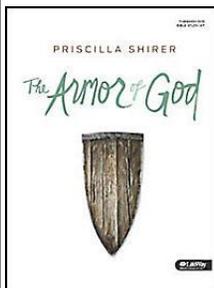


The Truth Project is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

There are 13 one-hour lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett.

Those 13 lessons are:

What Is Truth? Who is Man? What is True? The Divine Imprint. Whose Law? Created to Create. Says Who? Who is God? Whose Story? Am I Alone? Stepping Stones. God Cares, Do I?



The Armor of God

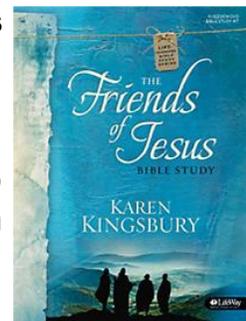
All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life.

This study will bring to light the war around you and challenge you to suit up, stand firm, and secure victory in your life.

7 sessions: 18 to 43 minutes each

The Friends of Jesus

Karen Kingsbury explores six people in the life of Jesus and the depth of friendship that is found with each one. Those six people are Simon the Leper, Martha, Jairus, Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and John.



6 sessions: 25-30 minutes per session

New Discipleship Kits



Breath,

By Beth Moore examines the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Its title is drawn from the words of John 20:22, which

records that Jesus "breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" It also includes writings from Moore's daughter Melissa that takes readers deeper into the teaching.

6 sessions: 65 to 90 minutes each

Breathe

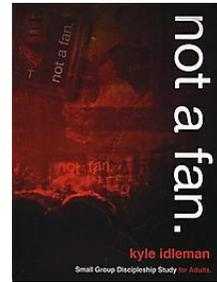
By Priscilla Shirer
One of the greatest challenges among women in our culture is taking time to stop and cease from all the activities and busyness and just breathe. We constantly strive to complete the limitless to-do lists that hinder us from experiencing all that God has for us. It is time for us to breathe and build margin into our lives for God.



5 sessions: 15 to 36 minutes each

Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Christ.

Jesus issued a compelling and challenging call to follow Him 20 times in the New Testament. Not an invitation to become a fan of His but a call to follow — a call to be a completely committed follower.



6 sessions: 30 minutes each

All discipleship kits are free on loan to financially contributing churches that are members of the Etowah, Hightower, Lanier and Roswell Baptist Associations.

awaken
2015

Believers were added to the Lord
in increasing numbers - crowds
of both men and women.
Acts 5:14

194th Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting
November 9-10, 2015 - Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta

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

Soul of the Servant Retreat

October 16-17, Norman Park
October 23-24, Toccoa

Featuring: Randy Millwood
Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware
Team Strategist for Church Strengthening

Bible Drill Retreat
Event for children, Youth, and Leaders

November 6-7
Georgia Baptist Conference Center Norman Park

Worship Leaders



Jeff Slaughter



Jason Teal

Cost: \$85 (2-4 persons per room)
Register by Oct 1

Contact 770-936-5270 or
1-800-746-4422, ext. 270
or dsr.gabaptist.org for more information.



9 am-5 pm
(lunch included)
\$15 per person



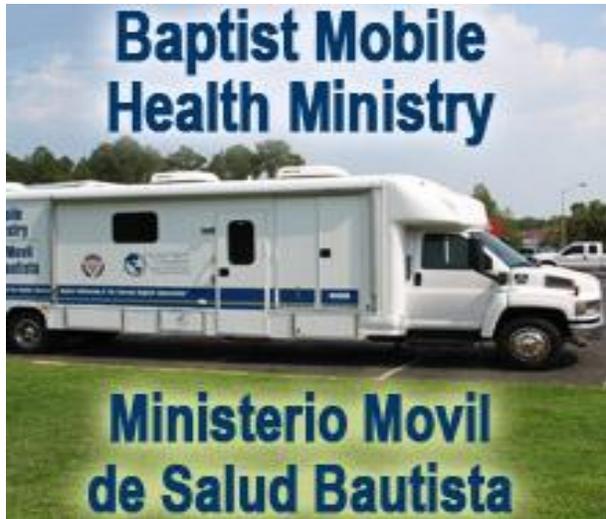


**ELEVATING AWARENESS.
EQUIPPING LEADERS.**

OCTOBER 22, 2015
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ATLANTA

#AbuseSummit

www.sexualabusesummit.com



Baptist Mobile Health Ministry (BMHM) is again the recipient of grant funding from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation to offer dental assistance at no charge to ministerial staff and their spouses and widows of pastors 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.

The dates and sites are as follows:

October 1-3, 2015

Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries Ministers

To be held in the Metro Atlanta Area. Site to be determined.

Open to ministerial staff and spouses of GBC Ethnic churches who do not have dental insurance or the financial means to obtain such care.

October 8-10, 2015

Ministers Wellness Retreat

Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Norman Park, Georgia

Sponsored by GBC Church Minister Relations Ministry.

Registration is open to any GBC minister and spouse who do not have preventive health insurance. Dental service is also offered to participants who do not have dental insurance. Must be registered as a participant in this event.

For information regarding the event for ethnic ministerial staff, please contact Carlene Cooper at 770-936-5217 or by email at ccooper@gabaptist.org.

For information regarding either of the Ministers Wellness Retreats, please contact Ruth Smith by calling 770-936-5364 or by email at rsmith@gabaptist.org.

For additional information or for any other questions, please contact Mrs. Diana Brown by calling 770-936-5217 or by email at dbrown@gabaptist.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2015

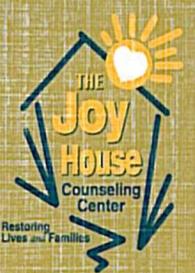
- 28 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM
- 29 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00PM)
- 30 Hightower Baptist Association Annual Meeting - see details on Page 1

October 2015

- 1 Hightower Baptist Association Annual Meeting - see details on Page 1
- 1 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 5 Hightower Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 10 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 15 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon - Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 27 Etowah Baptist Association Annual Meeting - see details on Page 1
- 27 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00PM)

November 2015

- 2 Hightower Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 5 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 9&10 Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting - see details on page 5
- 14 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 17 Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting - North Central Area Missions Office - 10:30 AM
Lunch will be served following Executive Meeting.
- 18 Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting - Clear Springs Baptist Church - 10:30 AM
Lunch will follow Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 19 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting - Living Stones Church - 10:30 AM
Lunch will follow Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 24 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00PM)
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holidays! North Central Area Missions closed



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www.RelevantLifeCounseling.org 4206 N. Arnold Mill Rd.
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