

North Central News

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

September 2017



Hightower Baptist Association Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2017 - 9:00 AM

Bethany Baptist Church, 2475 Bethany Church Road, Alpharetta 30004



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

The Georgia Baptist Children's Home truck loading for churches in the Hightower Baptist Association will take place at the Annual Meeting at Bethany Baptist Church on September 27 beginning a 9:00 AM.

Items requested are:

cereal (sweetened), canned fruit, canned chicken, canned potatoes,
mixed vegetables (Veg-All), paper products (cups, bowls, plates)

Gift Cards are always appreciated

Etowah Baptist Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Worship Celebration at 7:00 PM



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

The Georgia Baptist Children's Home truck loading for churches in the Etowah Baptist Association and the Roswell Baptist Association will take place on Tuesday, October 24, at the North Central Area Missions office at 4206 North Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock.

Items requested are:

rice, grits, oatmeal, canned beans (green or butter),
canned peas (garden or blackeye), paper products (cups, bowls, plates)

Gift Cards are always appreciated

In the event your church needs to bring collected items before October 24, we will begin receiving them at the North Central office on Monday, October 16.

*For additional information or if you have questions, please call us at 770-384-8548
or email janice@northcentralga.org.*

Community Revival

“That I May Know Him”

Philippians 3:10

September 17-20, 2017

Nightly Services @ 7:00pm

**Powerful messages from local Pastors and
awesome singing from a Community Choir**

**Pastors: Scott Gilbert, Gary Martin,
Rubin Smith, Ronnie McCormick**

Rehearsal times for the choir are as follows:

Sunday, September 10th 2:30-4:00pm (Concord)

Sunday, September 17th 4:00-5:30pm (Concord)

(A light dinner for the choir at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall on September 17th)

Wednesday night, September 20th there will be a pizza party for the youth after the service.

Timeless Truths from the Oldest Voices

The Lesson from Samuel - "Watch your Mouth!"

1 Samuel 1:19-28; 2:18-21,26; 3:1-4:1; 7:2-17; 8:1-22; 9:14-10:1; 12:1-25

This is a continuation of a multi-yearlong study of the impactful characters of the Old Testament that have much to say to our current generation. We are looking at the life of Samuel, a character that was the last Judge of Israel, and yet a prophet as well. This man is remarkable and had a valuable impact at a critical time. Let's take a look!

The story of Samuel actually starts with his mother, Hannah. She was a barren woman that desperately desired to have children, specifically a son. Her goal was to have a "male child" that she vowed to "give to the Lord all the days of his life (1:11). Well, God answered her prayer and she kept her vow! Samuel was both that gift and the promise kept. Incidentally, the priest, Eli, thought while she was praying that she was drunk. Isn't it interesting that he mistook a woman for being drunk who was humbly crying out to God, but did not notice his own sons were drunk and worse right under his nose. This is a warning to us leaders to not ignore or dismiss the unacceptable actions of those in our own house. It has far reaching consequences.

There is an interesting phrase that Elkanah, Hannah's husband, said to her when she refused to take Samuel to the annual offering. After she explained why she was not going to go, Elkanah said, "Do what seems best to you ... only let the Lord establish His Word (1:23)." Let the Lord establish His word? That is a very unique and specific statement that deals with the Word of the Lord being established in the child, Samuel. Remember that statement.

Fast forward to the famous "voice of the Lord" event where young Samuel kept coming to the bedchamber of Eli asking him why he summoned him. Eli instructed him the next time he hears the voice to say, "Speak, Lord, for Your

servant hears (3:9)." The Lord certainly spoke to Samuel and told him some "not so good news" for Eli and his family. He did NOT want to tell Eli what God had said to him, but after being pressed, he did reveal it. Eli concurred that Samuel had, indeed, heard God's voice.

Check out what the Bible says next about Samuel. It is found in chapter 3, verse 19, and states, "So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground." Now there is a mouthful! Think about that statement. God let none of his words fall to the ground. Nothing he said was wasted. Nothing he said was untrue. Nothing he said was inappropriate. His father said, "let the Lord establish His word," and here we see that "none of his words fell to the ground." This Judge/Prophet has a characteristic that I know we can all learn from – watch your mouth!

Oddly enough, after chapter 4:1, a great deal of history proceeds and without a single reference to Samuel. It's as if he just vanishes for a brief period, not a trace or even a word. Israel has battles with the Philistines and loses troops totaling 4,000 (4:2), 30,000 (4:10), and even loses the Ark of the Covenant (4:11). Eli's two sons die and the shock causes Eli to fall off his chair and he breaks his neck. So here is Israel getting taken to the cleaners by their enemies, their spiritual leader is dead, and they can't even keep up with one of the most important artifacts they have ever had. It's a mess! To make matters worse, the ark is returned (funny story there, no time to retell it), and in the city of Beth Shemesh, 50,070 people die from looking into the ark, a clear violation from God's law about how to handle this item. You just don't mess with God's holiness or His commands! These are not "suggestions," people!

During this time, God allowed Israel to get down – like for 20 years, they lamented the losses that had befallen them. That was when Samuel reappeared. He spoke to the entire house of Israel and gives them the clearest outline of revival you can find in the Bible. Just stop and take a look at the passage.

"Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." (7.3)

The man whose words would never fall to the ground gave us the greatest outline for what America needs today, right now, in this passage above; it's the formula for true, heaven-sent revival. Let's break it down.

1) Return. Returning is not so easy. In order for us to return we have to admit that we left! It's a conscious admission of guilt, of sin, of distancing ourselves from God. It also says, "with all your hearts." Business as usual will not work. There must be a new, obvious energy level increase; a commitment that costs you ... YOU! It's returning with all your heart. That actually means a noticeable change of emphasis and value system. It will be most obvious to those closest to you. They will even comment about it.

2) Repent. This word is far, too overlooked in the need for revival. Once you've returned you clean up and clean out. In this case, all the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths. What were their foreign gods? It was gold idols that resembled some kind of animal. You know, maybe like a Bulldog, or a Falcon, or a Red Elephant. Go figure. The Ashtoreths were fertility or sensual items they kept. Your browser history can tell if you are harboring some Ashtoreths. Repentance is not all that different today than it was when Samuel wrote this verse for the first time. The "carvings" of our foreign gods or Ashtoreths may look different, but the heart condition is the same. He is not our dearest, most important Master. Throw it all down!

(continued on back page)



We invite you to join us!

We have been praying for God to provide direction and guidance for BNEW 2017. He has provided once again! **BNEW 2017** will be held at **Lanierland Park on Saturday, October 21st** this year.

Last year, we experienced God's Spirit thru singing, preaching and a sweet time of fellowship as 26 churches participated. Several folks estimated there were around 1,500 people in attendance.

Our prayer is God will increase the number in attendance to include our unchurched friends and families so the lost may hear the gospel and be saved.

The glory of God is the beauty of His spirit!

Timothy Biddy, Pastor
Harmony Grove Baptist Church
404-372-6241
tbiddy@bnewministries.org

Garry English, Pastor
Crossroads Baptist Church
770-654-2670
genglish@bnewministries.org

Mission Statement: BNEW seeks to reach the youth and young adults of Northeast Georgia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by prayerfully offering exciting Holy Spirit filled evangelistic events that serve as opportunities for Christian Youth and Young Adults to bring their friends and experience fun, fellowship and faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Changes

Rev. Brett Cottrell, resigned effective February 12, 2017 as **Associate Pastor Youth, Crabapple First Baptist Church**. Brett accepted a Senior Pastor position at a church in Russellville, Arkansas.

Rev. Scott Slaughter, resigned effective July 30, 2017 as **Minister of Children and Families, Crabapple First Baptist Church**. Scott accepted a Senior Pastor position at a church in Lexington, NC.

North Central Area Missions and the Roswell Baptist Association pray that God blesses Brett and Scott and their families as they minister in these Senior Pastor positions.

Dr. Bart McMillan began serving as **Interim Pastor at Foothills Community Church** on July 23, 2017. North Central Area Missions and the Etowah Baptist Association welcome Bart as he provides leadership during this time.

Global Network of Theological Training

Did you realize that over 96% of ministers in the United States have some form of recognized biblical training but that the rest of the world has less than 5%? This disparity was the impetus for the creation of an international Bible school called, Global Network of Theological Training. GNTT is a seminary for pastors and church leaders without access to such applicable, biblical training. This school is made up of pastors and church leaders in our area program that have a humble spirit and willingness to share an area of academic expertise with other called out leaders in foreign lands that otherwise could not gain formal training or development.

This venture started in El Salvador but has quickly moved into several other countries including Honduras, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Peru. In November, we will graduate our first students that have completed the required courses. The idea is to make this school reproducible. Therefore, we teach a subject twice and then hand our notes over to the national leaders to continue the training with someone that feels an affinity with that subject. The subjects include Theology, Missions, Church Planting, Old and New Testament Survey, Pastor Care and Counseling, Hermeneutics, Church History, Evangelism, and Preaching. Each pastor is given a booklet in his language with the information available and then a Professor from our North Central Area, travels to their city and teaches through an interpreter. The response has been nothing short of overwhelming. From both ends, the pastors here that teach and the international pastors, this is a timely, relevant ministry that is making a Kingdom impact globally.

**Pictures from November 2016 trip
Alan & Becky Morris**



**Pictures from August 2017 trip
Ricky Byrd and Scott Gilbert**



Academy at Double H. Ranch

Imagine an 18th Century style, one-room schoolhouse, that consists of about 25 low-income, at risk students, all ranging in age from 5 to 17, being taught from a Christian worldview in Pickens County. Well, that describes the Academy at Double H Ranch! It is a school like none other. After a strenuous vetting, these 25 students are allowed a classical, Christian education, tuition-free, in an effort to turn the tide in our nation's poorest communities. Breaking the cycle of poverty, abuse, addiction, and neglect has traditionally had little success. This is the primary goal of this institution. The Academy operates under the umbrella of the Etowah Baptist Association and is sponsored solely through churches and concerned individuals that see the vision and support this cause.

Now in its 4th year, there have been highs and lows at the Academy, but the greatest thing we've witnessed is an awareness of a Biblically-centered worldview challenging the entire student body. This semester our high school students have displayed character, unity, kindness, and discipline that is a marked improvement and worthy of notice. After testing all of our students with the Iowa Basic Skills Test, we have seen them advance 2,3, and even 4 grade levels each year in various disciplines of study. The Academy is the fulfillment of a dream from Rebecca Hampton, director of the Cowboy Church of Jerusalem, in Fairmount, where the school is located. The Academy is under the supervision of Mrs. Rebecca Morris and is assisted by Miss Abbey Sellers and Mrs. Molly Sturgeon. Pray for the Lord to bless and have His hand on this school.

Website: academyhhranch.org

Facebook: The Academy at Double H Ranch





2017 GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION

196th Annual Meeting • North Metro First Baptist Church, Lawrenceville • November 12-14

"The harvest truly is plentiful..." Matthew 9:37

SUN
NOV 12

PRE-CONVENTION INSPIRATIONAL RALLY 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Missions Inspiration Message –
J. Robert White,
Executive Director,
Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Inspirational Message –
David Platt, President,
International Mission Board, SBC

TUES
NOV 14

ANNUAL MEETING SESSION 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Executive Committee Report –
Mike Stone, Chairman,
Emmanuel Baptist Church,
Blackshear and J. Robert White
Doctrinal Sermon – Anthony George,
First Baptist Church, Atlanta

MON
NOV 13

ANNUAL MEETING SESSION 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Presidents Message –
Thomas Hammond,
First Baptist Church, Alpharetta
Missionary Sermon – Robby Foster,
Northside Baptist Church, Valdosta
Special Music – International Choir

TUES
NOV 14

ANNUAL MEETING SESSION 2:00 - 5:30 PM

Election of Officers
25th Anniversary Celebration for
J. Robert White, Executive Director
Special Music – Sons of Jubal

SPEAKERS



J. Robert White

David Platt

Thomas Hammond

Robby Foster

Anthony George

Frank Cox

HOST PASTOR

MUSIC GUESTS



Al Denson
Worship Leader
Grapevine, Texas

Keron Jackson
Special Music
Dallas, Texas

Rodrigo Rodriguez
Special Music
Simpsonville,
South Carolina

See back of postcard for: **WIN GEORGIA PASTORS' PRAYER LUNCHEONS**

gabaptist.org/annualmeeting
#WinGeorgia2017



GEORGIA BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTORS SUMMIT

OCTOBER 27 & 28, 2017 • HEATHERWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, NEWNAN, GA

For more information or to register, visit gabaptist.org/groups

Georgia
Baptist
Conference
Center
Toccoa



September 28 & 29

Discover Georgia Baptists is for newly ordained ministers and ministers new to Georgia (pastors, music, education, children, youth and any additional ministerial staff positions who are part of your church). New ministers will have the opportunity to meet with Dr.

Robert White, Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board; Dr. Thomas Hammond, President of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board; meet State Missionaries; and participate in several conferences that are designed to be helpful to a new pastor or staff member. Meals and lodging will be provided.

If you or a staff person in your church would like to attend Discover Georgia Baptists, please contact North Central Area Missions at 770-384-8548 or email janice@northcentralga.org

North Central Area Missions recently purchased the Bible studies for men shown below:

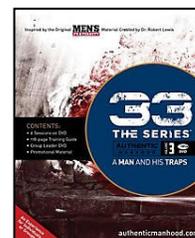


33 The Series: A Man and His Story, Volume 2

In the pursuit of authentic manhood, every man must understand and come to grips with the defining moments and key relationships that have shaped his unique "story." In this second volume of 33 The Series, men explore their stories through a biblical perspective. With help from experts and regular guys, they will be equipped to learn from their past, come alive in their present, and enjoy God's best in the future.

33 The Series: A Man and His Traps, Volume 3

Provides practical teaching, powerful testimonies, interviews and creative elements combining to help men avoid or escape the destruction that falling into the common manhood traps can bring.



33 The Series: A Man and His Work, Volume 4

God created man to work, and His Word instructs men on how to engage and enjoy work. This study provides insight into some of the ways men can find both their best fit and fulfillment in work. The study acknowledges the tensions and obstacles that men face in their work-lives and helps them move beyond the frustrations and dead ends.

33 The Series: A Man and His Marriage, Volume 5

This study covers important but often misunderstood details about marriage, including biblical foundation, servant leadership, friendship, threats, and sex. It concludes with specific, practical ideas that can help you bring new life to your marriage.



33 The Series: A Man and His Fatherhood, Volume 6

Fatherhood is more than just protecting and providing for your kids. Being a dad is one of the most important and influential roles a man could ever play in his life

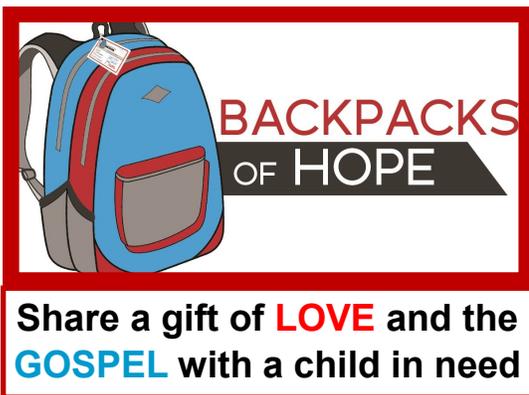
This study provides insights and biblical truth that can carry you through the confusion and dark moments of fatherhood and also energize you for its high points and powerful moments.

Challenges men to understand the long but worthwhile goal of building and cultivating a family. Leads men to recognize the important and influential role of fatherhood and grace-based parenting.

Guides dads to point their kids toward true greatness and set them up for extraordinary lives. Equips dads with important distinctions in raising sons and daughters and how to launch those kids into the world.

Now, we have the entire 33 Series in our library.

For information on all discipleship kits available through the North Central library, please visit www.northcentralga.org. Click on Resources, Discipleship Kits, then Discipleship Kits List. Or you may call us at 770-384-8548 or email janice@northcentralga.org.



In 2017, Georgia Baptists are once again partnering with Appalachian Regional Ministries to provide **BACKPACKS OF HOPE.**

The new name, Backpacks of Hope, reflects an emphasis in southwest Georgia as well as Appalachia.

The goal for 2017 is 35,000 backpacks.

In 2016, 35,234 backpacks were delivered to children in Appalachia.

Georgia Baptists are being asked to provide backpacks for children in North Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Southwest Georgia.

You may bring your filled backpacks to the North Central Area Missions office beginning Monday, October 16, 2017. The last date we will receive backpacks is Thursday, November 2, 2017. Your filled backpacks do need to be placed in 18x18x16 size storage boxes (available at Wal-mart, Lowes, Home Depot, etc). We will have a trailer on site at North Central Area Missions beginning October 16 for loading backpacks.

If you/your church would like for North Central Area Missions to print and laminate the labels (which are to be fastened to the outside of each backpack), print the Christmas Story flyer or the ARM Mailbox Club card (which are to be placed inside each backpack), we will be glad to do so.

DIRECTIONS

Start with a NEW, zippered backpack.

Fill with NEW gifts (at least one item from each gift suggestion shown below)

Include The Christmas Story and the ARM Mailbox Club postcard (North Central can provide)

Securely fasten tag to outside of the backpack using a zip-tie

Pray specifically for the child receiving the backpack

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

TOYS: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, small music instruments, yo-yos, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, toys that light up or make noise (include extra batteries), Slinky, Frisbee, card games such as Old Maid, Go Fish, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils (with sharpener), crayons, markers, stamps and ink pads, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (boxed in a plastic bag), hairbrush, comb, washcloth, ponytail holders, hair clips, etc.

OTHER: Bibles for children or teens, age-appropriate Christian books, socks, t-shirts, hats, sunglasses, toy Jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), pop-top cans of food, hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, etc. *Double bag all candy. NO CHOCOLATE.*

IDEAS FOR OLDER KIDS (10-14 years):

Girls: lip gloss, costume jewelry, fashion scarves, friendship bracelets, craft kits, journals, fun socks and slippers, doodle books, etc.

Boys: legos, card games, hand-held electronic games, basketball, soccer ball, Nerf football

For additional information, please email janice@northcentralga.org or call 770-384-8548. Churches working through North Central Area Missions do NOT register separately online through the Mission Georgia website.

NOTE: Churches in the Hightower Association should contact Bridget Williams at 770-861-1194 or by email at hbawmu@yahoo.com for details.

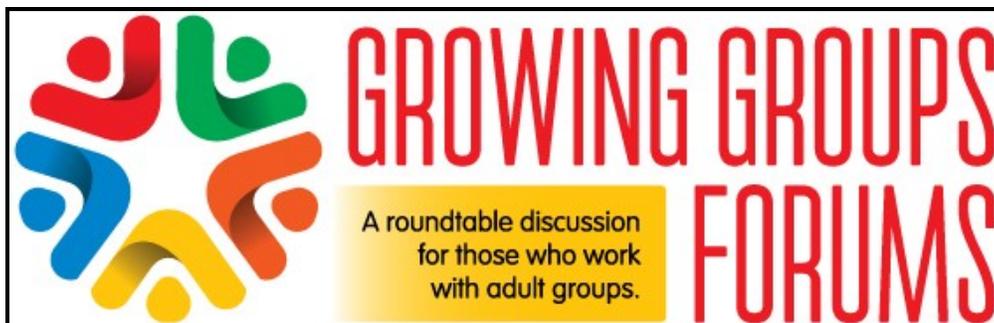


2-Day Women's Event Exploring Sufficiency and Generosity of Christ

November 3-4, 2017 - Greenville, SC

Offered by Lifeway Women

www.Lifeway.com/Abundance 800-254-2022



October 17, 2017

**Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church
702 Pleasant Valley Road, SE, Silver Creek (Rome)**

**First Baptist Church - Smyrna
1275 Church Street, SE, Smyrna 30080**

For additional information or to register, please visit <https://gabaptist.org/groups/>
or you may contact Pat Collins at pcollins@gabaptist.org or 770-936-5285.



The largest winter youth gathering in Georgia!

For additional information, please visit <https://moveconference.com>



A significant change has taken place in the Disaster Relief Training Program with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

In an attempt to make the credentialing process easier to accomplish, GBMB has shortened the amount of time required for each event to a Saturday morning only.

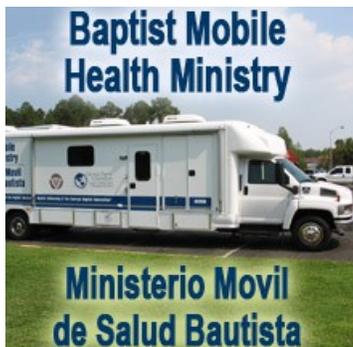
GBMB has also changed the name to more accurately reflect the training offered.

“Phase 1” is now called “Disaster Relief Orientation (DRO)”

“Phase 2” is now called “Advance Disaster Relief Training”

The first roll-out of the new program will be held on September 16, 2017, at New Providence Baptist Church in Forsyth.

Additional information and registration are available at www.gbcdisasterrelief.org



Baptist Mobile Health Ministry (BMHM)

is once again the recipient of grant funding from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation to offer 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 13-15, 2017

Ministers Wellness Retreat

Georgia Baptist Conference Center

462 Sunrise Way, Toccoa, GA 30577

Sponsored by Church Minister Relations. Registration is open to any Georgia Baptist minister and spouse who do not have preventive health insurance. Dental care is offered to participants of this event who do not have dental insurance.

October 26-28, 2017

Daniell Baptist Association Office

205 S. Railroad Street, Ailey, GA 30410

Open to any Georgia Baptist active or retired ministerial staff and spouses and widows of Georgia Baptist ministers who do not have dental insurance or the financial means to obtain such care.

For information regarding the Ministers Wellness Retreat, please contact Laura Simms by calling 770-936-5362 or by email at lsimms@gabaptist.org.

For information regarding the event to be held in Ailey, please contact Diana Brown, RN, by calling 770-936-5217 or by email at dbrown@gabaptist.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2017

- 4 Labor Day Holiday - North Central Area Missions closed
- 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)
- 21 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 26 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM
- 27 Hightower Baptist Association Annual Meeting (see front page)

October 2017

- 2 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 5 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 14 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 19 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 24 Etowah Baptist Association Annual Meeting (see front page)
- 31 Halloween

(The Lesson from Samuel - "**Watch your Mouth!**" continued)

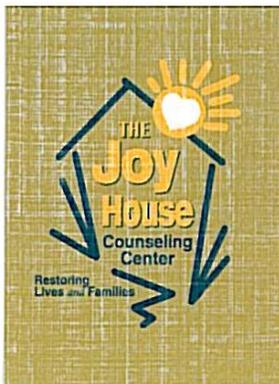
3) Ready. He then instructs them to prepare their hearts for the Lord. This is all about an attitude that says, "Whatever you want, Lord, I will do it!" It's an "all-in" proposition. You are lined up on the starting block, ready to jump at the sound of the gun. You know if that is your position or not. The evidence is that you don't stay in the starting blocks for very long.

4) Respond. He then says to serve the Lord only. At this point, this is actually the exhaust from the engine. If you have Returned, Repented, and Readied yourself, it will just naturally follow that you will serve the Lord and you will serve Him only. You can't help it.

Imagine our churches following to the letter the instructions of a godly man that never had a word fall to the ground. Could we not learn from his accuracy? Timeliness? Appropriateness? Now is the time to step out in faith and take these 4 action steps personally and corporately. These work. Read the rest of chapter 7 and you'll see how the impossible become their story.

Samuel gave the best warning to the Children of Israel when they demanded that they have a king like the other nations around them. It was Samuel that said, "*When you saw Nahash king of the Ammonites come against you, you said to me, "No, but a king shall reign over us," when the Lord your God is your King (12:12).*" Samuel told them they didn't need a king because they already had One – The Lord God, Himself! What a great leader. He was a man that watched his mouth and God used him mightily.

Alan J. Morris



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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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