



# North Central News

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



August 2015



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](http://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](mailto: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.

## The Georgia Renewal Project

**Cordially invites you to participate in Rediscovering God in America  
With Special Guests Mike Huckabee, Dennis Prager, Bruce Waltke, Ken Graves, William Federer, Jason Taylor, Gail McWilliams, Rafael Cruz, and Bob McEwen**

**To be held at  
Hilton Atlanta Airport  
1031 Virginia Avenue  
Atlanta 30354  
on  
August 13 & 14, 2015**

**Meals and Lodging are complimentary**

**You must reserve your space by August 11, 2015  
by calling 800-921-1928 or go to:  
<https://the.maxcel.net/GARenewal-Issachar>**

**Additional information can also be found at the  
website shown above.**

## Mission Trip - Ukraine

This month I am taking a break from my "Early Church Culture" series to give a lengthy description of the Mission Trip to the Ukraine that my wife and I had the privilege to go on this summer. Our preparations were insufficient as we were taken on an adventure that we did not see coming. The few planning meetings we had with our Ukrainian hosts, Pastor Vasiliy Radchuk and his brother Vitali, were only a skeleton of what we were to experience. Being "globetrotters," we both were experienced in being in countries where English was not the main language and the culture was vastly different. Driving in foreign lands will usually cause the average American to lose fingernails from gripping the seat too tightly. Again, not an issue with us.

Let me start by describing the Ukrainian way of life. Time is a relative thing. Fifteen minutes is usually about an hour and a half, unless you need to go to the bathroom. Sleep is optional and usually done during marathon driving bouts between two cities that are on different sides of the country. These people are extremely hard working and dedicated individuals that have no problem sticking to their tasks until completed. The problem is they really don't seem to need any sleep at night (except the aforementioned driving habit). The plan each day was to go to some area of great need, minister in song, testimony, encouragement, and preaching and then go to the pastor's home for a meal. This meal is lavish, with never enough table space for the overabundance of food that is delivered. Every dish is delicious, making each meal my favorite. They know food in the Ukraine! I can't believe I'm sitting here thinking about Green Borsht.

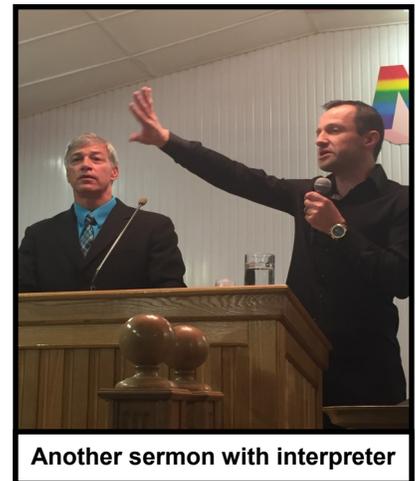
We were the only fully, home-grown Americans on the trip and we were accompanied by 17 teenagers/early

20's students that were Ukrainian-Americans, or as I called them, "Americrainians." They were all just super! The level of maturity, attitudes, and the way they interacted with each other was nothing short of exemplary. I would adopt any of them in a minute and be extremely proud. What a credit to the families from the Ukraine that have taken up residence in our country. These students bring a wealth of positives to our nation and we should all be grateful. When you live with someone for a couple of weeks you really do get to know them.

We really did hit the ground running. After landing in Kiev, we were taken to the downtown region to the site where the former president executed over 100 protestors with sniper fire. Looking at the obvious evidence of the event that is still only 17 months old awakened us to the enormous unrest that this nation is experiencing. Bullet holes in sign posts, trees, and buildings were nothing in comparison to the backdrop of candles and shrines made for the fallen that tragic day. Although things have calmed down in their government, they are currently being attacked by Russia with daily skirmishes and casualties. The reality of this fact would become all too clear later.

After driving to a conference center the next morning, I was immediately given the platform for a message to the 300+ attendees and told that I would be speaking in a nearby church that evening. On Sunday, I had the privilege to preach three times in two churches and in one rehabilitation center. The spiritual needs of this nation are not

that far removed from our own, yet there is a level of genuineness and depth of commitment that was comforting to see. I realized a short sermon will not do for these people.

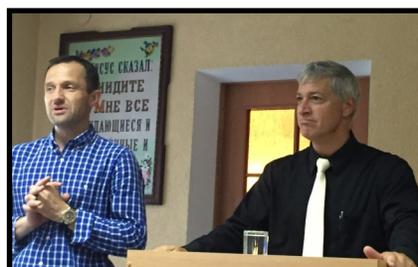


Another sermon with interpreter

They want meat and lots of it! Since the sermon was interpreted, I had to watch my words and make sure that I kept my message to about 30 minutes, with interpretation that's an hour. Also, I realized quickly just how many idioms I use in my common "sermon" style. Wow, those had to be altered, too. All in all, I got to preach about 12 times.



Ukrainian Women at worship services



Alan preaching with interpreter

The event that will last forever in my mind, however, was the trip to the Eastern part of the country where Russia had occupied much of the territory. Please understand, though, we were only a mere block or two from the fighting, the 17 teenagers and 7 adults were never afraid. Even when we heard bomb blasts and the “rat-it-tat” of machine gun fire, we continued with the task – to feed hungry people living too close to the battle lines. You see, supply trucks stopped coming to this area of the country. It was just too dangerous. We all started to notice that on the highway leading into the occupied territory. Traffic is always horrendous in the Ukraine. But as we approached the city, busses were coming out of the area but no traffic was going in, except military vehicles and us! I got a bit nervous when I observed this. Buildings were blown to bits, bullet holes all over the place,



**Building with bullet holes**

fields that are usually green and flourishing sat idle and overgrown with weeds. It was a vast contrast to the area just west of them. I was devastated to think how these people could possibly survive this chaos.

We bought over 2,000 loafs of bread and brought it in to these people along with fruits and other supplies. Handing out the bread was a combination of heartwarming and heart-wrenching at the same time. You would see all ages coming to our truck. I mean it. Great-grandmothers to small children, all living within striking distance of errant gun shots, and all so very gracious for the free supplies that we brought in the name of Jesus. All

having nothing in their cupboards and scrounging day to day to live. (Stop right here and thank God for your safety and comforts.) Their clothes



**Lining up for free bread**



**Bread being given to villagers. This little girl had brothers at home working in the fields; she asked for bread for them!**

were clean, their faces washed, their countenance bright. Not at all what I would have imagined if I were in the same circumstance. Though they did not like us taking pictures of the blown out buildings (because they had loved ones die there), they were a gracious and kind people. There are several villages like the one we visited. We only had time to visit this one.

The reason we chose this village is because it contained a military hospital. I was able to preach to the troops

that had been injured and were recovering from their wounds and my wife was able to speak encouraging words to these brave soldiers. We also were introduced to several families that had lost husbands and were now on their own without a bread-winner for their family. We gave gifts to these families and were amazed at the strength and indomitable faith they demonstrated. All I can think of at this point is the little phrase in Hebrews 11 that reads, “... of whom the world was not worthy.” We went there to encourage them. In truth, we were the ones encouraged. My faith was enlarged by being around these unknown, unsung, heroes of the faith. This was the experience that I had not expected.

If you are ever able to go on a mission trip to the Ukraine I strongly encourage you to do so. You will eat better than in most other countries, you will be welcomed graciously, but you will not get much sleep. In the Ukraine, sleep is just overrated! Maybe that is why in the summer there is only about 6 hours of darkness each day. There’s just too much to do in a regular day!

Alan J. Morris



**We were privileged to observe this baptism**



**Ukrainian boys in traditional attire**

**STATE MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
 Saturday, August 8, 2015  
 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 Eagle's Landing  
 First Baptist Church



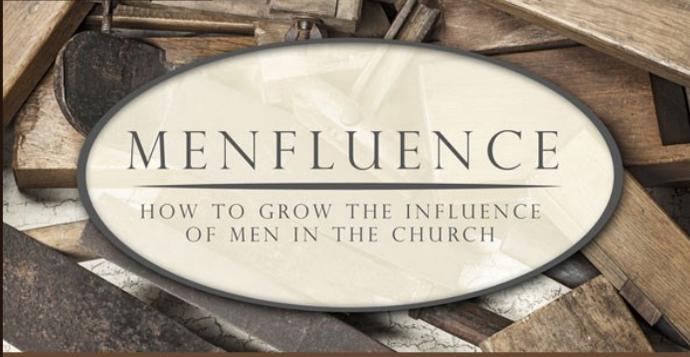
**PASTORS AND MEN  
 PARTNERS IN GROWING  
 GOD'S CHURCH**

**STATE MEN'S CONFERENCE**

  
**Dr. Frank Cox**

  
**Kelvin Cochran**

**MEN'S CONFERENCES** for Pastors and Men



**MENFLUENCE**  
 HOW TO GROW THE INFLUENCE  
 OF MEN IN THE CHURCH

August 14-15, 2015 | New Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta

**Discover Georgia Baptists**  
**September 24-25, 2015**  
**Georgia Baptist Conference Center**  
**Norman Park, GA**

**Who Is Invited To Attend?**

Ministers who began serving a Georgia Baptist Convention church since  
 September 2014 and are:

- \* Newly Ordained
- \* New to Georgia

This invitation applies to all senior pastors, associate pastors, worship pastors,  
 youth/children ministers, etc.

If you are interested in attending this conference, please contact Phyllis Anderson at  
[panderson@gabaptist.org](mailto:panderson@gabaptist.org) or call 770-936-5381 for details and registration.



**Women on Mission Series @ PRC**  
 Friday & Saturday, September 18-19  
 Featuring Mary Jo Sharp

A Weekend Retreat in the Beautiful North Georgia Mountains  
 Worship & Spiritual Renewal | Meaningful Dialogue & Challenging Messages | Response to Cultural Changes

Pinnacle Retreat Center - Clayton, Georgia  
 For additional information and registration, visit [georgiawmu.org](http://georgiawmu.org)



# REVIVAL

Sunday, August 9th 8am, 11am, & 6pm

Monday, August 10th 7pm

Tuesday, August 11th 7pm

Wednesday, August 12th 7pm



with Evangelist Rick Coram

**New Victoria Baptist Church**  
6659 Bells Ferry Road  
Woodstock, GA 30188

**Sunday night, August 9, is  
Association night. All  
churches in the Etowah  
Association are especially  
encouraged to attend.**

**For additional information,  
call 770-926-8448**

## **Part-time Maintenance Position**

First Baptist Canton is seeking a part-time maintenance employee to work evenings and/or weekends. The job functions include tear-down/set up of the facilities plus general housekeeping and cleaning. Applicant must be dependable, flexible with schedule times, and able to complete assigned duties.

Please send resume and/or information to  
[maintenance@fbccanton.org](mailto:maintenance@fbccanton.org)  
or contact Ted Towns at 770-479-5538

## **North Central Area Missions and the Lanier Baptist Association welcomes:**

Restoration Church of North Georgia, Inc.  
Pastor Rev. Dave Gunter

Effective July 14, 2015.

## **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

The International Mission Board has recognized the following churches for their contributions to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering during the time frame of March 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015.

### **Top Per Capita Giving Churches**

Etowah Association - Open Door Baptist Church  
Hightower Association - Haw Creek Baptist Church  
Lanier Association - First Baptist Cumming  
Roswell Association - Crabapple First

### **Top Giving Churches**

Etowah Association - First Baptist Canton  
Hightower Association - Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
Lanier Association - First Baptist Cumming  
Roswell Association - Crabapple First

## Truett McConnell College Master of Arts in Theology Classes

Beginning this fall, Truett-McConnell College will offer Masters of Arts in Theology courses at Alpharetta First Baptist Church

### Monday Classes

CS 530 - Baptist History: 12:00 - 2:30 PM with Dr. Jason Graffagnino

CS 632 - Contemporary Apologetics: 3:00 - 5:30 PM with Dr. Phil Roberts

MI 601 - Cross-Cultural Ministries Practicum: 6:00 - 8:30 PM with Dr. Van Sanders

### Tuesday Classes

MI 501 - Evangelism, Discipleship & Church Planting: 6:00 - 8:30 PM with Rev. Thomas Hammond

For more information, please contact Hayle Swinson at [gradadmissions@truett.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@truett.edu) or you may visit [www.truett.edu](http://www.truett.edu).

## English as a Second Language (ESL) Workshop

*(A training for a church or associational outreach ministry to teach conversational English while sharing and demonstrating the Good News of Jesus Christ with your students without knowing their languages)*

### Dates

Tuesday, September 1, 2015, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm and

Thursday, September 3, 2015, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

(Must attend all hours of instruction for North American Mission Board certification)

### Cost - \$35.00

Includes Workshop Manual, snacks and lunch for all three days

### Location

Dunwoody Baptist Church  
1445 Mount Vernon Road  
Dunwoody, GA 30338  
Building D, Room 308

### Registration

Deadline: Monday, August 24  
Contact Melinda Coker at 770-280-1239 or [mcoker@dbc.org](mailto:mcoker@dbc.org) to register

For additional information, please contact Paulette DeHart at 770-979-0588 or [pdehart@gabaptist.org](mailto:pdehart@gabaptist.org).



A new conferencing approach to Sunday School and Small Groups

### August 8

Hebron Baptist Church - Dacula

### August 22

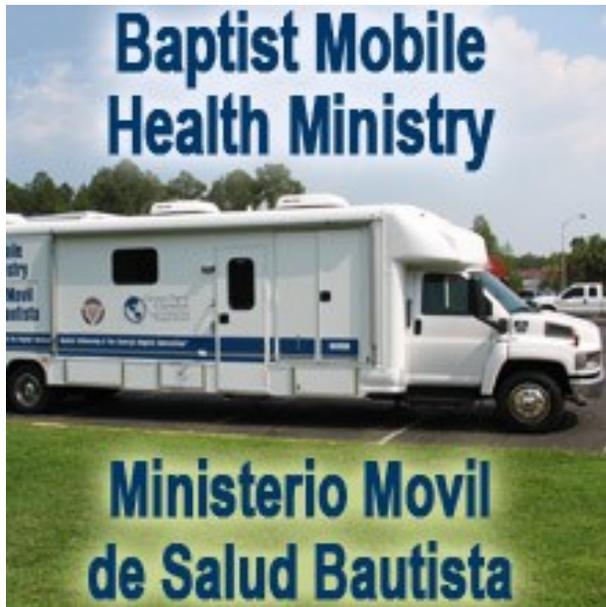
Eagles Landing First Baptist - McDonough

### August 29

Tabernacle Baptist Church - Cartersville

Registration \$35

For additional information or to register, please visit [gabaptistgroups.org](http://gabaptistgroups.org)



**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:

**September 10-12, 2015**

**Ministers Wellness Retreat**

**Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa, 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.

**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.***

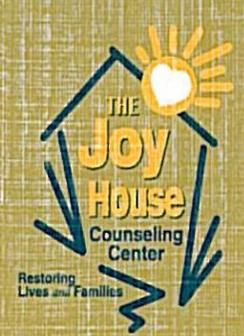
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### August 2015

- 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)  
12 Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Clear Springs Baptist Church, 10:30 AM  
Roswell Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, place TBD  
18 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Living Stones Church, 10:30 AM  
Lanier Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, place TBD  
25 Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, North Central Area Missions Office, 10:30 AM  
Etowah Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting, place TBD  
25 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00PM)

### September 2015

- 3 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)  
7 Labor Day (North Central Area Missions will be closed)  
7 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting - 7:00 PM  
12 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)  
22 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM  
29 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)



**Garry Barber, PhD**  
Licensed Clinical Pastoral  
Counselor

Ph: 678.452.2037  
Fax: 706.253.7570  
garry@thejoyhouse.org  
www.thejoyhouse.org



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Curtis@relevantlifecounseling.org      Woodstock, GA 30188

### North Central Area Missions Team

Alan Morris - Area Missionary  
Janice Dinsmore - Administrative Assistant  
Ramona Lively - Financial Secretary  
4206 North Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188  
Phone: 770-384-8548 Fax: 770-384-8658  
Website: www.northcentralga.org