



North Central News

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

December 2016/January 2017



Merry Christmas

Celebrate the Reason for the Season

From Your Staff at North Central Area Missions

Alan Morris

Janice Dinsmore

Ramona Lively

BACKPACKS for Appalachia



Pam Wright,
Sammy Wright and
Bridget Williams
with the boxes of
backpacks
collected by
Hightower Baptist
Association
churches.

Churches in the North Central Area brought 962 filled backpacks to our office. Please note: other churches in the North Central Area may have dropped off filled backpacks at other locations.

We thank each person who worked in any capacity with this very worthwhile program. For many children, this was the only Christmas they will experience.

As of December 15, 2016, churches/individuals in Georgia had contributed 33,700 backpacks!

Pastoral Staff

Stephen Folmar began serving as **Worship Pastor** at **First Baptist Waleska** on September 20, 2016. We welcome Stephen along with his wife, Karyn.

Keith Welton began serving as **Senior Pastor** at **Bridgeway Church** on November 20, 2016. We welcome Keith along with his wife, Amanda.

Dr. Steve Echols began serving as **Interim Pastor** at **First Baptist Canton** on November 13, 2016. We welcome Steve as he serves during this time of transition.

Rev. James Roberts began serving as **Senior Pastor** at **Zion Missionary Baptist Church** on December 19, 2016. We welcome James and his family.

Limited to 100 attendees per day

{ SAVE
the DATE }

PASTORS DAYS AT THE CAPITOL

February 2 and 9, 2017

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (lunch included) | Georgia State Capitol

Learn more about how we can and should be engaged in the process of our state government from Dr. Emir Caner. The day will also feature other speakers who are actively involved in political life.

For additional information or
to register,
please visit gabaptist.org
or call 770-936-5204



Guest Speaker
Dr. Emir Caner
President,
Truett McConnell University

Timeless Truths from the Oldest Voices

This month we continue our study of characters from the Old Testament. We have already looked at the first couple, Adam and Eve, Abel and Enoch. Now let's turn our attention to a very popular character that has much to offer us in discipline, devotion, and integrity.

-The Lesson from Noah - "Godly Fear and Faith"

Genesis 6-9; Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5

Who hasn't heard of Noah? His name and the events surrounding him are actually one of the most notable in world history. The story of the flood, a family of eight surviving, and even the name, "Noah," are known in practically every civilization, both recent and ancient. For instance, the Mesopotamians, Egyptians, Chinese, and Greeks all have the story of Noah in their primordial times. Though modern, secular historians scoff at the mere mention of his name when considered as fact, they cannot deny the hundreds of cultures all over the world that have a "Noah's flood" legend or story in their historical records. Science mocks the mention of a worldwide flood to their own embarrassment as the scars, fossils, and mountains of evidence of the Noachian Deluge "floods" every continent and ocean on our globe. Noah and his story are more than just legendary, and for good reason. It really happened! Although I'd love to continue with the scientific evidence of Noah's real life event, my purpose for this article keeps me from going down this path.

In the Genesis record, Noah embarks on an assignment that is somewhat overwhelming to grasp. He is commissioned by God to build a ship with three levels that, by today's illustration, would not fit on a regulation football field (approximately 450 by 75 feet), and he built it nowhere near water. This ship was literally the salvation for all mankind and for all the land animals that now cover the face of the earth, because everything else, and we are talking about quite a huge list, was destroyed by the flood. All those living things that perished in that flood became our gasoline, heating oil, and coal. This is very tragic when you think of the loss of life for both man and beast. But you see, the flood is as much about God's judgment and wrath towards sin as it is about saving the family of Noah and the animals. Noah was singled out as a man that found "grace" with

God (Gen. 6:8). What characteristic made Noah that special? What made him different? It says that he "walked with God" (Gen. 6: 9), a reference that we studied earlier about the man, Enoch. Hebrews says it most clearly, Noah "was moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household" (11:7). Did you catch that? The motivation of his incredible unselfish life and toilsome labor was **godly fear**!

In that same verse as above, there is another statement about Noah that bears study. It states Noah "became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." Noah demonstrated the unique characteristic that God seeks from us – righteousness which is according to **faith**! THIS is what God saw in Noah that set him apart. Notice his faith was in action. This is faith that builds an impressively huge ship, an ark that can hold samples of all land animals and a family of 8, along with their food source, for almost a year. This is the kind of faith that makes a humble man a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5) when everyone else thinks you are totally crazy, and they reject your message of God's judgment outright. It is beyond the simple, "I-believe-in-God" faith. What made this faith so real, so supernatural? Only **godly fear** can demonstrate itself through **living faith**. James tells us, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:20). The spark that brings faith to life is godly fear. This type of fear is the realization that God is God, and you are not, and because of that, He is the Master of your life and destiny.

Noah was given a truly impossible task. Now let's just think about this. Here is Noah, tasked with the gruesome, overwhelming job of building an ark for the survival of his family and all the land animals. He has demonstrated godly fear and living faith. Did any of his peers demonstrate such character? You would think that God could have allowed Noah to live a peaceable, carefree, unencumbered life, free from difficult work and horrific circumstances because he found favor, or grace, in God's sight, or because his relationship was so close with the Lord. Genesis tells us that he was "a just man, perfect in his generations" (Gen. 6:9). Of course this does not mean that Noah did not have any sin, it was a comparison that he was the best and brightest of his generation as well as the ones before him. With all these glowing compliments you would assume that God would make things much easier for him. Right?

Not a chance, Jack! He gave him a massive job to do – save all mankind and all the land animals – and to watch the entire world go topsy-turvy in a cataclysmic global event! He had to build an ark that could hold them all, three levels up, with enough storage room for food and supplies. He also was tasked with the job of preaching righteousness to those that made up the culture of that day – a culture of people that the Bible describes like this: "... every intent of the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Try to start a church with this crowd! To this man that found "grace," he had an impossible life ahead of him! Imagine the job of being a pastor of a "San Francisco-style" community and in your spare time build an ark 450 feet by 75 feet. And you thought you had it tough!

The focus here is on what Noah had that caused him to be the man God called out, the one God had the confidence to give a monumental assignment to, and the one that fulfilled this task without ever a word of complaint, second guessing, or compromise. Hebrews 11:7 nails it – "godly fear." This is that foundational characteristic that sets him apart. It's the linchpin that holds the other attributes and actions together and that made Noah the man he was.

Godly fear is deeper than just reverence. Godly fear is not being scared or worried, though it does have a level of awareness of God's awesome power and sovereign rule, and if accurately understood that can make you weak at the knees. It is the action of fear without the reaction of fear. Let me explain. The **action** causes us to respond to God's voice attentively and to obey immediately. The **reaction** causes us to crumble in dread, selfishly worrying only about our own safety. Noah was not worried that God would not protect him or be displeased with him because he had developed a consistent, meaningful relationship with Him. A relationship based on godly fear is one of deep respect and knowledge of God's perfect character and understands His ultimate intentions – to bring salvation to mankind. How we respond to God's presence and His instructions are an indication of our level of relationship. If it is built on godly fear, that relationship can do the impossible.

Alan J. Morris



The Lifeway 2017 VBS
theme is
*Galactic Starveyors -
Discovering the God of the
Universe*
Sounds like so much fun!

Once again, the Georgia Baptist Mission Board will conduct VBS Jumpstarts and Clinics

VBS Jumpstart - January 17, 2017

(No Registration Required)

VBS Clinic - March 18, 2017

(Registration Required)

Both the Jumpstart and Clinic will be held at:

Roswell Street Baptist Church

774 Roswell Street

Marietta, GA 30060

Additional information and clinic registration are available at gabaptist.org/kids.

Or, you may call 770-936-5286.

North Central Area Missions will have *Galactic Starveyors* literature available to any church that would like to drop by and view the material firsthand.

We are also available to answer any questions you might have regarding the *Galactic Starveyors* literature.

As in the past, North Central is available to help 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, by fax to 770-384-8658 or by calling our office at 770-384-8548.

THE URGENCY OF THE GOSPEL

THE GEORGIA BAPTIST EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 23 and 24, 2017

Central Baptist Church
1120 Lake Joy Road
Warner Robins GA 31088

SPEAKERS

DERWIN GRAY

FRANK COX

JOHN BISAGNO

MICHAEL CATT

VANCE PITTMAN

ROBERT SMITH, JR.

ED NEWTON

JEFF CROOK

HERB REAVIS

BILL PURVIS

REACH
EVANGELISM CONFERENCES
REVIVAL STRATEGY LEADERSHIP VISION

GBCevangelismconferences.com

Church Financial Compliance & Giving Seminar

Keys to Best Practices in Church Compliance & Giving in the Church

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE CHURCH COMPLIANCE GIVING

7 Locations in 2017 Around the State

February 21, 2017 - FBC Rockmart, 311 E Elm Street, Rockmart
September 19, 2017 - Sardis Baptist Church, 4359 Anderson Highway, Hartwell
(These two locations are the only ones physically close to churches in the North Central Area)

SOUTHSIDE SUMMIT

Thursday, February 23, 2017
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Eagle's Landing FBC
2400 Highway 42N
McDonough

Cost: \$29 (if you register by January 31)
For additional information or to register, visit
southsidesummit.org or call 770-957-3032

**MORAL
REVOLUTION**
and the church's answer

Georgia Baptist Association of Christian Educators

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

THRIVE

Becoming and Building Transformed Disciples

Register at
gbace.org

JANUARY 19, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mabel White Baptist Church, Macon



BIBLE DRILL 2017
MAY THE WORD BE WITH YOU

BIBLE DRILL RETREAT

Worship Leader

Jeff Slaughter

January 27-28, 2017 | Shocco Springs, Alabama
Tracks for Children, Youth/HS Drillers, and Leaders

For additional information, visit gabaptist.org/kids

55+ Leadership Conference

February 6-7, 2017

**Mabel White Baptist Church
1415 Bass Road
Macon**

*For additional information
or to register,
please visit gabaptist.org/groups or
call 770-936-5286*

KIDS MINISTRY SUMMIT

GEORGIA BAPTIST MISSION BOARD

February 2-3 2017

Jekyll Island Club

*For information and to register:
gabaptist.org/kids/
or call 770-936-5272*



Join the Fun!

Children's Missions Extravaganza

February 25, 2017

For information or to register: georgiawmu.org/extra/ or call 770-936-5326

North Central Area Missions extends an invitation to all wives of pastors in churches in the Etowah, Hightower, Lanier and Roswell Baptist Associations to attend a Dinner and Evening Out!
See details below.

Pastor's Wives Dinner and Evening Out

He Sees Me

God sees us no matter where

Special Guest Speaker

Mary Cox

State Missionary, Ministers' Wives, Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Wife of Dr. Frank Cox, Pastor of North Metro Baptist Church in
Lawrenceville

Special Music by Audra Lynn

February 24, 2017 - 6:00 PM

Crabapple First Baptist Church

12760 Birmingham Highway

Milton, GA 30004

Attire: Sunday/Dress Casual

**For additional information and/or to register, please
return the Registration Card, email janice@northcentralga.org
or call the North Central Office at 770-384-8548**

Sponsored by North Central Area Missions for Pastor's Wives in the Etowah, Hightower, Lanier and Roswell Baptist Associations

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 2016

- 1 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 5 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 10 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
- 20 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 23-31 Christmas Holidays - North Central Area Missions closed (we will return to work on Tuesday, January 3 2017)

January 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 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- 31 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM

February 2017

- 2 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 6 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 8 Roswell Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Clear Springs Baptist Church, 10:30 AM
- Roswell Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, immediately following Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 11 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 16 Lanier Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, Living Stones Church, 10:30 AM
- Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon immediately following Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 24 Pastor's Wives Dinner and Evening Out (see page 7)
- 28 Etowah Baptist Association Executive Ministry Team Meeting, North Central Area Missions, 10:30 AM
- Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon immediately following Executive Meeting at a place TBD
- 28 New Hope Baptist Church (Etowah Association) Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)





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