

North Central News

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

June/July 2017



2017

GO Georgia

A TOTAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP EQUIPPING EVENT

Sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, GO Georgia is a 2-day church leadership training event that includes 100+ topics, top national speakers, affinity and specialized training. The title of the event is GO Georgia because Georgia needs to hear the Good News.

For additional information or to register, please visit gogeorgia.net

WELCOME

Discover Georgia Baptists

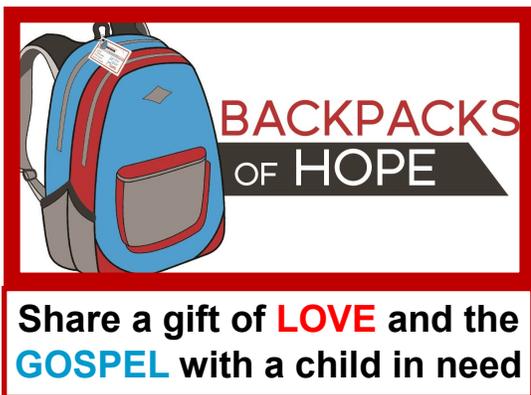


Come be our guest and learn about the ministries and missions of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and enjoy conferences tailored to your role as a church leader.

Discover Georgia Baptists is for ministers newly ordained 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



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 Wednesday, November 9, 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 truck on site at North Central Area Missions the week of November 6-9 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 or email her at hbawmu@yahoo.com for details.

Timeless Truths from the Oldest Voices

The Lesson from Joseph - "Awareness of God's Presence" Part 2

Genesis 41, 42:7-28; 43:1-10; 44:1-17; 45 1-9; 50:15-21

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 Joseph, a character that deserves more than just one article! So, here we go!

Before we continue with part 2, let's recap. As a young boy, Joseph dreamed he would be a leader over his own family. His ability to interpret dreams was nothing short of miraculous and extraordinary. However, his brothers all hated him and disposed of him while they were all away from home one day. They threw him into a pit, then sold him to Midianite traitors, who sold him to an Egyptian guard named Potiphar. He was then falsely accused of a crime and thrown into prison. While in prison he had two other men, a butler and a baker from Pharaoh's palace, join him in the prison. They both had dreams and Joseph accurately interpreted their dreams. However, he was again forgotten and left in the prison for 2 more years. In all of this, "the Lord was with Joseph," and Joseph revealed his awareness of the certain presence of the Lord with his integrity and godly behavior. Now you are caught up.

The next part of his story begins while he is still locked up serving faithfully the keeper of the prison. It just so happens that the Pharaoh had a dream. When he awakened he was extremely distraught and asked all of his wise men and magicians if they could interpret his dream. It was about 7 fat cows and 7 gaunt cows that ate the 7 fat ones. None of them were able to interpret his disturbing dream. He then had a second dream that also troubled him greatly. It was about 7 fat heads of grain, and then 7 skinny heads of grain that then grew up and ate up the 7 fat ones. Yet again, no one could give him an interpretation. Then his chief butler, the one that was in prison with Joseph for a couple of nights, remembered Joseph. He recalled how well he could interpret dreams and how precisely he interpreted his and the bakers. He immediately told Pharaoh of the "Hebrew" man in prison and how he rightly interpreted both of their dreams that day.

Pharaoh called for Joseph to be brought to him. They cleaned him up, had him shaved, and changed his clothes. They did

this because it is important that you present yourself well when in the presence of royalty or someone of importance. Pharaoh told Joseph that no one was able to interpret his dreams. What do you think Joseph said to the most powerful man in the world at that time? Joseph said, "It is not in me, but God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace." (41:16) Notice the humble attitude and the trust in God's ability to work. Pharaoh told Joseph his dream and Joseph interpreted his dream telling him that his dreams were one and the same. There would be 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine that will completely deplete the land of all its resources.

Joseph recommended to Pharaoh to select a discerning and wise man to appoint officers to collect one-fifth of all the crops during the years of plenty and store them under his authority. It will be enough to keep them during the years of the famine. Pharaoh saw the wisdom and discernment of Joseph and agreed to set him in that position. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See I have put you over all the land of Egypt." (41:41) He gave Joseph his signet ring, a symbol of his authority and power, gave him the second best chariot in the land, and covered him with fine clothes and jewelry. The people of Egypt bowed their knee to Joseph because he was now their governor. He was the second most powerful man in the world at that time.

Stop right here. Now think back to Joseph's earlier days. He had family struggles, disrespected by his older brothers, thrown into a pit, sold as a slave, sold again, thrown into prison, and forgotten there. At 17 years old when this began, he endured all of this for 13 years before he stood in the presence of Pharaoh for the first time (41:46) at 30 years of age. Remember his original dream? It looked simply hopeless during all those hard years. Year after year he lived in seemingly complete and utter failure. No one would have wanted to be in Joseph's shoes. But God honored his faithfulness. God fulfilled his dream. Those times of difficulty were necessary in order to make Joseph into the man of God that he would become.

There is another secret to the strength and success of Joseph and its hidden in the names of his sons. Jews do not just pick a name out of a hat for their children. All names have meanings that represent something very important to the one that names them. Notice the names he chose for his sons. The first child that was born to Joseph while he was in Egypt was named, "Manasseh," which means in Hebrew, "to cause me to forget" (41:51). He even states, "For God has made me to forget all my toil in my father's house." The sorrow

he suffered was real. The pain was genuine and deep, yet he did not want to harbor hatred, bitterness, or resentment toward his family for the suffering they caused him. Joseph knew to do that would bring more sorrow and suffering to himself. Sometimes the best way to forgive someone is to ask God to help you forget the pain and sorrow. His technique is brilliant!

The second son born to him he named, "Ephraim," which means, "fruitful in affliction" (41:52). "Ephraim" is actually a picture of "fertilizer" as it is very harmful and corrosive in large doses (causes affliction), but properly administered it provides the best conditions for the most growth and fruit production. This is exactly what was necessary for Joseph to become the second most powerful man in the world.

Notice the meanings of these two names – cause me to forget, and fruitful in affliction. This reveals the secret to this man's success. The first thing is his desire to forgive those that had wronged him. Think about the wife of Potiphar that had him falsely thrown in prison. Even though he was the second most powerful man, it is never recorded that he "evened up the score" with her. The account of his brothers shows that, though he did have a little drama with them a bit, it was mostly to discover the fate and condition of the whole family. Once he knew that his other brothers and father lived, he revealed himself to them, and completely forgave them. He also provided a better place for them to live along with an abundance of resources. He acknowledged how they meant it for evil. Look at Genesis 50:20. They indeed did mean evil toward him, but God meant it for good. He forgave his brothers.

He also recognized that God had allowed him to suffer through those early years to develop the character and tenderness he would need to rule over a huge nation in a time of great distress and turmoil. He proved to be the best leader and it's obvious that it was because of the way he focused on pleasing the Lord through the hard times. He lived out the "Manasseh" and "Ephraim" in his own life long before he ever had them as sons.

The key to Joseph's life was that he had an **awareness of God's presence**. His mind was turned toward God when things were bad, when they were confusing and uncertain, and when they were good. The key to Joseph's life is the key to ours as well. An awareness of God's presence will keep you from holding a grudge, becoming bitter, and it will make you see that God allows you to experience hard times to create needed character for future opportunities of leadership.

Alan J. Morris



1 Timothy 2:1-2

1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people; 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.



Righteous Manhood

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Mabel White Baptist Church, 1415 Bass Road, Macon

Featuring



Kelvin Cochran



Chaplain Major
Phil Kramer



Music:
Chris McDaniel

For additional information, please visit righteousmanhood.com

MAGNIFICENT MONDAYS

A SUMMER OF GREAT PREACHING

6:30PM EACH MONDAY

Cumming Baptist Church
115 Church Street
Cumming, GA 30040

For a list of guest speakers,
please visit cummingbaptist.net
For additional information, call 770-205-6699

Pastoral Changes

Mision Bautista Biblica de Canton, Pastor Roberto Vanoye, joined the **Etowah Baptist Association** effective May 16, 2017. Welcome to Pastor Vanoye and his family!

Rev. Bob Horner resigned as **Senior Pastor of Foothills Community Church** effective June 30, 2017. Our prayers go with Bob and his wife, Mary, as they continue in service to our Lord.

Part-time Children's Director Position Available

**Hopewell Baptist Church
78 Ridge Road, Canton**

Part-time - 20 hours per week

Interested parties may call the church office at 70-213-1690 or you may send your resume to rebecca.norton@hopewellbaptist.com

Available position

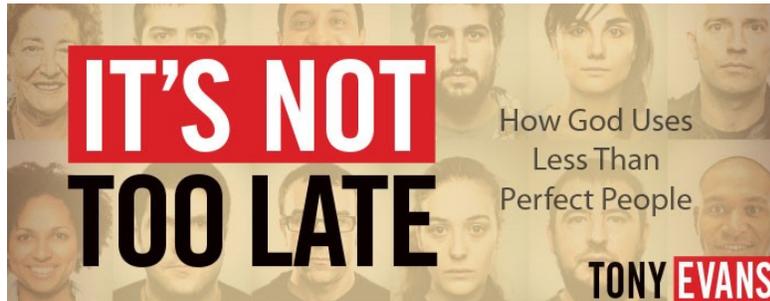
**Goshen Baptist Church
311 Goshen Church Way, Waleska**

is seeking a person to lead their Children's Ministry, K-5th grade, as follows:

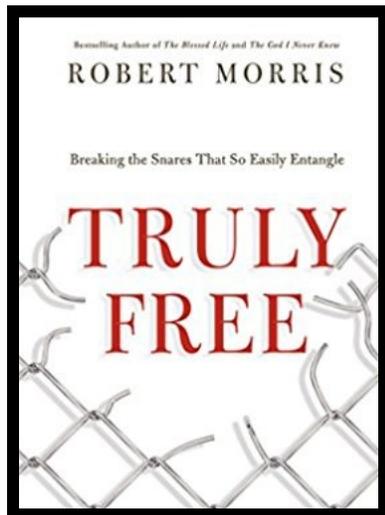
Sunday School
Children's Church (K-3rd grade)
Sunday Worship Service
Wednesday nights during school year

For additional information or to apply, please contact:
Pastor Chris Bagley at gbcpastor1888@gmail.com or 770-891-9320
or Steve Garrison at grrson1@aol.com or 770-853-2902

New Discipleship Kits recently purchased by North Central Area Missions



If you've ever wondered, Is it too late for God to do something with me? this study is for you. God frequently uses broken people to accomplish His purposes on earth. A broken person who has learned dependence on God is a force to be reckoned with. This six-session study looks at three men and three women of the Bible who were used mightily by God despite their previous mistakes. You too can learn to focus on the potential of your future, not the missteps of your past.



As believers, we have Christ and never need to be afraid. Yet it's also true that we are not immune to the effects of evil. Even if we're saved and trust in Christ, we may still find areas in which we just can't get victory.

In *Truly Free* bestselling author Robert Morris invites us into a glorious truth—that the promise of being set free from the slavery of sin is a promise to be set free completely. Although evil is real and Christians can be oppressed by it, we have the promise that the one who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4). Jesus saves us, trains us to resist the power of evil, and delivers us from anything that holds us back.

With Jesus, we can be truly free forever.

Church Financial Compliance & Giving Seminar

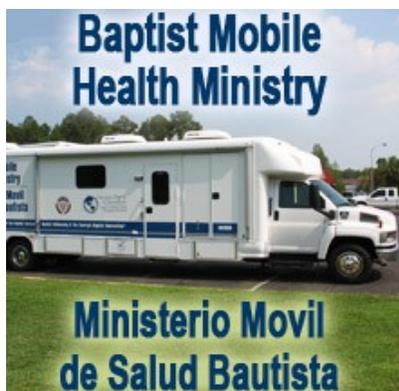
Keys to Best Practices in
Church Compliance &
Giving in the Church

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE  CHURCH COMPLIANCE  GIVING

September 19, 2017

Sardis Baptist Church
4359 Anderson Highway
Hartwell

For additional information,
visit www.gabaptist.org
or contact Dana Sharitt at
770-936-5274 or
dsharitt@gabaptist.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

June 2017

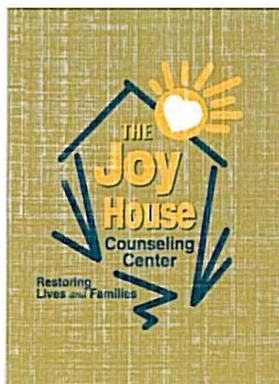
- 1 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 5 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 10 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 13-14 Southern Baptist Convention, Phoenix, AZ
- 15 Lanier Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Slopes in Cumming, 11:00 AM
- 18 Father's Day
- 27 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM

July 2017

- 3 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 4 Independence Day (North Central Area Missions closed)
- 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
- 25 Etowah Baptist Association Pastor's Luncheon, Red Lobster in Canton, 11:30 AM

August 2017

- 3 Talking Rock Baptist Church Food Trailer (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
- 7 Hightower Baptist Association Preacher/Deacon Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 9 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
- 12 Hightower Baptist Association Food/Clothing Bank (7:30 AM - 12:00 Noon)
- 17 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
- 29 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



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