

# Hightower Baptist Association Newsletter

## Volume 12: August-September 2025

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or 404-309-4274)

Please check the Hightower Baptist Association Website Calendar for upcoming events in our Association at [Calendar – Hightower Baptist Association](#). Reporters, please keep telling others about this newsletter. We want to glorify our Father with you for the many things He is doing through your churches. Let's make the next deadline for sending in the news to **October 2, 2025**, for the October-November issue. If we wait until then, I will plan to highlight our Association Meeting. Send your good news and announcements to Janice Tallant, [janicetallant@yahoo.com](mailto:janicetallant@yahoo.com) PLEASE spread the word about these newsletters!

### Identify this Hightower Baptist Associational Church!



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Can you identify this church which is in the Hightower Association? There are a few hints listed from *The Men and Missions of Hightower-Volume 2: Churches*.

- Organized in 1834 and admitted to the Hightower Association in 1847
- First Pastor: Isom R Hall
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> District of HBA (Dawson County)
- This present building was built in 1843 and has been remodeled numerous times over the years.
- Held the four consecutive days of the Hightower Association Meeting in 1862.

(Hightower Baptist Church was the church shown in the June-July issue.)

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### 2025-26 School Year begins in Hightower Baptist Association Churches



Schools are starting back in the school districts in the Hightower Baptist Association! This is a time of great need for prayer for all involved in the education of our children. While we have education and schools on our mind, I looked back into the history of education in our Hightower Baptist Association. I hope that you will take a few minutes to read over what I have found. I did scan two copies of Hightower Baptist Association Minutes from reports on Education Committees of 1888 and 1897. The copies of the minutes are very fragile and yellow, but if you zoom the pages hopefully you can read the whole thing. Also, you can find the information in *The Men and Missions of Hightower-Volume 2: Churches* on pages 519-523.

*“School Days, School Days,  
Dear old golden rule days,  
Read-in and ‘rit-in and ‘rith-me-tic,  
Taught to the tune of a hick’ry stick.”*

I remember singing this little tune many years ago. I do not remember the next four lines of the song about Calico and bashful beau. This little tune was written in 1907 by Will D Cobb and Gus Edwards and it has been used in many plays.

As stated earlier, schools are starting again in our counties. There are a lot of excited and/or nervous children and parents in our families, churches, and communities. I imagine that there will be a lot of praying going on, too, for our children of all ages especially for those first few days of 2025-26 school term. Children say, “Who will be in my classes? What new friends will I make? Will I like my teacher?” Parents say, “Will my children be safe? What do I need to buy for this school year? I hope my child makes friends with good children. I hope their teacher is a Christian.” The school environment has changed a lot in my lifetime. When I was in elementary school many years ago, we read the Bible out loud in the classroom every day. I memorized Psalm 100 when I was in the first grade. Those verses are hidden in my heart to still encourage me today. So, what does all this have to do with the Hightower Baptist Association?

Who has heard of the **Hightower Institute**? Some of you have. I’m talking about the Hightower Institute of Education in Cumming, Georgia, that opened October 12, 1892. Here are some notes that I found in *The Men and Missions of Hightower, Volume 2-Churches* as well as some of the very old *Hightower Baptist Association Minutes*. If any one of you know more about the college (institute) that has been passed down by your great grandparents to you, please let me know. I am trying to imagine what things would have been like around the Hightower Association churches some 130 years ago. NO cars, phones, electricity, fast food, indoors bathrooms, Wi Fi, etc. People walked or road in buggies or on horseback to school and church. The Association meetings used to last from 3 to 4 days, so families of the host church would have extra guests during the Association meetings, especially if the delegate or ministers lived several miles away. Yes, things were very different then. What did they think about education in those days?

In the **HBA 1884 minutes**, the Hightower Association Committee on Education reported, “We are glad to know that our denomination has rapidly advanced in facilities of education, and there is room for greater improvement. We cannot refrain from pressing our brethren for a stronger effort to sustain our denomination schools. Mercer University needs and ought to have an endowment sufficiently large to supply every facility for the education of our sons, and especially our young ministers. We recommend the Baptist Female Seminary at Gainesville and the Shorter Female College at Rome for the education of girls. We also recommend the *Christian Index* and *Baptist Reflector* as good helps in denominational education. Now that we have the opportunity, we deem it the duty of the head of every Baptist family to subscribe for one or both of the above-mentioned papers. As parents we are responsible to God for the education of our children. When we taught their hands to labor, we have only partially discharged our duty. The head must be taught to think, the heart to feel. Must we rely wholly upon the knowledge gained from textbooks in the school room as a source of mental training? Without the addition of pulpit instruction and Sunday School training our duty is not fully discharged. At home when our sons and daughters are resting from domestic and field labor—during the noon and evening hours, we should place within their reach religious papers instead of dime novels and cheap, trashy literature now so much circulated, which corrupts the heart; stimulates the imagination while it weakens the mental facilities. In our religious literature the doctrine of reproof, correction, and instruction of God’s word is so presented as to attract the attention of the youngest mind, while it instructs and improves the wisest. Respectively submitted by J B Richards, Chairman.”

(Editor's note: As I read these words, I kept thinking of Deuteronomy 6: 6-9 (KJV): *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."* A few years ago, my Sunday School Class and their families took a weekend trip to see the Ark in Kentucky. I found out on that trip that several of our kids of all ages, who had been going to Sunday School most of their lives, could not recite The Lord's Prayer or Psalm 23 or other Bible verses. I told my mother who taught 6- and 7-year-old students, and she started having those children memorize those verses at Sunday School. I ask you to pray and encourage our children to read and study God's Word and yes memorize verses that they can have in their heart during emergencies. I had taken for granted that our church children knew these Bible verses, but they did not. Who is going to teach them? Janice Tallant)

The **HBA 1888 minutes** said, "Adopted a resolution appointing J B Richards, A B Nuckolls, D J Burt, J B Wallace, A J Julian and J L Heard to inquire into the propriety of establishing a Baptist school of high grade within the bonds of our Association, and report their action to the next session of this Body." (See back pages for a scan from original minutes for more details from the Committee on Education.)

In the **1889 HBA Minutes** the Committee of Education reported, "We find that such a school is greatly needed and very desirable: therefore, we think it ought to be established and well supported by the denomination and would recommend that at or near Friendship Church is a suitable and desirable place. A. B Nuckolls, Chairman."

The **1890 minutes** state: "Resolved, that said college building shall be erected of brick and shall cost three thousand dollars. It is recommended that a house thirty-six by sixty feet and that it be two stories high. The proposed location is to be adjacent to the grounds of Friendship Church."

In the **1893 minutes**, the Executive Committee said, "After receiving and discussing bids from the following places: Dr. Roberts School House, Concord, and Cumming. Cumming being considered to have the best inducements, all things taken into consideration for the location of the school, a motion was made by Brother W L Chamblee that Cumming be selected... Motion to make unanimous carried."

In the **1894 Minutes**, a motion was made to change the name of the Hightower Baptist College to that of the Hightower Baptist Institute.

In the **1897 Minutes** (which are attached), "the report of the board says the school has been running for five years, recognized by all to be your school." It shows how many students were attending the school including those who were boarding pupils. It tells of "difficulties" with the school and how the Association can help remedy the difficulties. I found all these facts to be very interesting.

**In the 1901 Minutes** there were debts and lawsuits against the Trustees of the Institute by the Haney School Furniture Co. The case was taken to Superior Court and then to Supreme Court. The Trustees lost the case and it was decided that the school property be sold to make payment for this debt.

The **1908 Minutes** state, "We have sold the property to the trustees of Cumming School District for \$300.00 with proceeds to be used for benevolent purposes."

Summary, the Hightower Baptist Association did establish a college or "high grade" institute, the Hightower Institute, for a few years between 1892 to around 1902. It looked like there were over 100 students attending the school including about 1/3 of the children boarding at the school. I wonder if the Old Cumming School (Playhouse now) was where this Hightower Institute was. The marker at the old school says that it was built in 1923. The minutes in 1907 said that the Hightower Institute was

dilapidated and needed to be torn down, I think. If you know any more about this school of 130+ years ago, please share with us. Thank you for your time to read through this. Janice Tallant

### **Hightower Baptist Association Church News!!!**



**Antioch Baptist Church:** (2465 Antioch Church Road, Cumming)

Southern Gospel singing will be held on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm featuring “The Mike LeFevre Quartet” and “The Bridgemans”. For more information about anything see [www.welcometoantioch.org](http://www.welcometoantioch.org) or call (678) 456-8684.

Thank you Travis and Alecia Bridgeman.

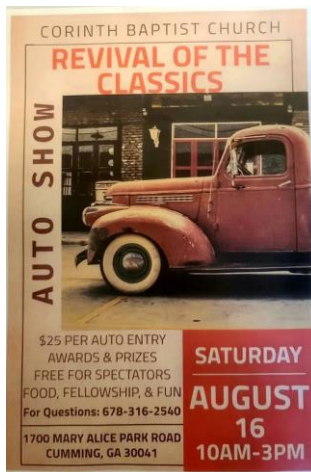
**Bethel Baptist Church (D):** (2659 Hwy 136 W,

Bethel enjoyed a wonderful spirit filled revival the week of July 20<sup>th</sup> with Reverends Sam Castleberry and Jonathan Kirby assisting our pastor Reverend Hunter Burt.

Church Camp is coming up September 5, 6, & 7 at Pinnacle Retreat Center.

Wednesday night Bible study will resume September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Thank you, Lanier Swafford, for sending us these announcements.



**Corinth Baptist Church:** (1700 Mary Alice Park Road)

Corinth will be sponsoring a Car Show on August 16 and Aug 23 at their church. There will be food, fellowship, and fun.

Church Camp will be at the church on August 23-25. Please Pray for us.

Thank you JoAnne Burruss for sending these announcements.

**Cross Plains Baptist Church:** (6500 McGinnis Ferry Rd, Alpharetta)

Cross Plains Baptist Church summer revival was July 13-19 with Rev. Danny Orr and Rev. Sam Castleberry. We saw 3 saved and were blessed to baptize 4 new members in the church. We have since had another join as a candidate for baptism.

Thank you, Tyler Goode, for the above announcements.

**Friendship Baptist Church:** (2250 Friendship Circle, Cumming)

**We are very thankful for the 2 souls that were saved during our Summer Revival on July 13-19 and 2 young ladies were baptized on Sunday, July 20.** It was a Spirit Filled Place all week with Rev. Donald Westray assisting our Pastor Rev. Ricky Byrd. We were so glad to have Rev. Bud Sutton preach and sing for us at the Wednesday morning service that was followed with lunch. Rev. Matthew Blackstock preached a wonderful sermon at the Friday night Youth Service. **To God be the Glory for great things that He has done!!!** Jesus was shining in the Friendship Community all week.

**Goshen Baptist Church:** (1540 Goshen Church Road, Dawsonville)

**VBS was held June 2 - 6.** Lots of work, prayers, and seeds were planted and we are looking forward to the harvest. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reads: *"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

**Goshen Members are thankful for the leadership of Pastor Andy Wallace** the past few years. Following revival on Sunday, July 20, Pastor Andy announced he was leaving the Church to follow the Lord's will. Andy, Lindsey, Andean, and Jenna Claire were dedicated servants to the Church and community. We are thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ and pray the Lord guides and protects them. Please pray for Goshen as we ask the Lord to send a Pastor to us.

**Revival was held July 13 - 19. Praise God three souls were saved and four were baptized on Sunday, July 20. We are excited the Lord is saving souls and growing the Church.**

Dawson County faculty and students return to school on August 1. Goshen has several faculty members and many students in our congregation. **Please pray for a spirit filled school year and safety for all.**

**Goshen goes to camp! On September 19, members will gather at Strong Rock Camp in Cleveland, GA to praise and rejoice in the Lord. Please pray for the Lord's will to be done.**

Thank you, Teresa Singleton, for sending these announcements to us!

**Liberty Baptist Church:** (520 Liberty Church Rd, Dawsonville)

**Liberty Baptist Church held Vacation Bible School June 1-6, 2025.** We had a total of 441 children and adults attend during the week. Our largest crowd was Monday night when 314 children and adults attended. **Thursday night after preaching by Rev. Jason Hamby, 9 precious souls were saved.**

**Liberty held their summer revival July 13-19, 2025. Rev. Brody Hughes and Rev. Brandon Benefield assisted Pastor Jason Hamby in the revival.** Large crowds attended morning and evening services and all who attended were revived and prepared for another great year in service to our Lord Jesus Christ. **Sunday after revival Liberty held an Ordination of Baptism service which saw 8 precious souls baptized and become members of the church.**

**Liberty Baptist Church cordially invites Ordained Ministers and Deacons to the ordination of Rev. Greg Moore into the full work of the ministry on August 17, 2025, at 3:00 PM. Rev. Moore has been called to pastor Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.** All are invited to this special solemn service and share your love for Christ as we ordain Rev. Greg Moore. Your prayers, presence, and support during this ceremony are greatly desired and appreciated.

**Liberty Baptist Church will hold church camp at Camp Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, Georgia August 1-3.** Come join us for a good time worship and fellowship together.





Liberty Baptist Church will hold its annual Gospel Revival Concert in the Field on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM. (Gates open at 5:30). There will be outstanding Gospel Music groups: **Backline Bluegrass, Logan Smith, The Cantrells**. Tickets will be sold at the gate. Concessions will be available. Come join us for a great time of music and fellowship. Bring your chairs or blankets.

**Macedonia Baptist Church:** (11230 East Cherokee Dr., Ball Ground)

Macedonia's church camp will be held during the Labor Day weekend at Strong Rock Camp in Cleveland, Georgia

Thank you, Marie Warbington, for the information.

**New Harmony Baptist Church:** (4952 Heardsville Rd, Cumming)

Church Camp will be September 5-7, 2025, at Camp Hope in Dahlonega. Church Camp directors are Jodia Hobgood and Marlene Satterfield.

Thank you, Joey Wallace, for the information.

### **Hightower Baptist Association Announcements**

This message was sent by Joey Wallace, HBA Clerk:



To all Churches, the Sunday School Committee for The Hightower Baptist Association would like to invite you to a **Sunday School prayer service** to be held on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Hightower Baptist Church, 3444 Hightower Road, Ball Ground. For more information you can call Phil Cochran at 770-289-3876.



Phil Cochran, Chairman of Sunday School Committee

The monthly **Hightower Association Youth Service** will be at Oakdale Baptist Church in Canton, GA on August 24, 2025. Thank you, Greg Moore, for sending us this information.

### **Hightower Food and Clothing Bank** **Church Volunteer Schedule 2025**



**3rd Quarter (July-September): 1st District Churches (August 9, September 13):** Beaver Ruin, Bethlehem, Castleberry Road, Coal Mountain, Corinth, Cumming Second Baptist, Daves Creek, Friendship, Haw Creek, New Hope, Pine Crest, Pleasant View, Riverside, Roanoke, Shady Grove

Facebook: [\(20+\) hightower food and clothing bank - Search Results | Facebook](#)

Tony Allen sent this out to Oak Grove this summer and shares with all our Hightower Churches.

“Hightower Baptist Association’s Food and Clothing Bank needs our services this summer! We typically experience a “falling off” of volunteers in the summer months. However, we have had several of our longtime volunteers who, for health and/or family responsibilities, are not able to volunteer like they

have in the past. As a result, we have need of help on Tuesday mornings especially for sorting and “warehousing” donations. But if you can’t help on Tuesdays, there is someone at the food bank everyday Monday through Friday so anytime that you are able to volunteer would be put to good use. During the summer months especially, the building gets very hot in in the afternoons, so we try to accomplish the work in the morning hours and get out by noon.” (One of the volunteers who had recently retired passed away a few days ago. Sheila Cole will be greatly missed by her HBA friends. Our prayers go out to Sheila’s family.)

Web site: [www.hbafoodbank.org](http://www.hbafoodbank.org), [Hightower Association Food Bank](http://www.hightowerassociation.org) , 8630 Wallace Tatum Rd, Cumming, GA 30028 · (770) 205-2464



### **Boots On the Ground** -an update from Kim Weldy

**Boots On the Ground** continues mission efforts transforming lives locally and through disaster relief by showing the love of Jesus to all of those in need whether physically or spiritually. We are lacing up our boots, stepping onto that Holy Ground and embracing the mission of love, service, and faith that God has entrusted to us.

We had a busy summer working locally. In June and July, we held local distributions at Dawson Co Junior High School on a Saturday serving lunch, snow cones, providing free haircuts and handing out household supplies - toiletries, paper products, laundry detergent/soap, kids' toys, and clothing. We have been blessed with large crowds and had the opportunity to pray with many people and show the love of Jesus. This has also given us the opportunity to develop relationships with people that we continue to foster and love.

We helped Dawson County Schools hand out over 400 book bags full of school supplies to students who are homeless, or on free and reduced lunch in need of school supplies. We have been blessed with 9 vehicles donated to give to those who need transportation to get back and forth to work. At the current time, we have placed 25+ families in homes/campers. We continue to help local families with housing and/or clean up around their homes to make them livable so that they may keep custody of their children.

Keep us in your prayers as we ask God to continue to lead us in the direction he would like for us to go with our group and show us the needs both locally and through disaster relief. We pray that Jesus is so far out in front of us and so big, all people see is Jesus through it all.

If you would like to donate either financially or with supplies to our group, please go to the Hightower Food and Clothing Bank Website, <https://www.hbafoodbank.org> contact [weldyk7268@gmail.com](mailto:weldyk7268@gmail.com) .

If you would like to come be a part of our volunteer opportunities, follow us on Facebook at [\(20+\) Facebook](#) to see when our next opportunity will be occurring or contact [weldyk7268@gmail.com](mailto:weldyk7268@gmail.com) . Also, if you know of someone that is in need of help, please contact the same email address.

God Bless,  
Boots on the Ground

### **Hightower Baptist Association WMU News**

**The Hightower Association Fall Missions Meeting will be at Liberty Baptist on October 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 630pm.** We are so excited to join these “on Mission” ladies for this event! If you have questions, please contact Leigh Hawkins.



## Calling all Georgia Baptist Women!

You're invited to **Women on Mission: Joy in His Presence**, a retreat for Georgia Baptist women of all ages, happening on **September 12–13, 2025** at **Pinnacle Retreat Center** in Clayton, GA.

**Theme: Joy in His Presence**

*"You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; at Your right hand are eternal pleasures." — Psalm 16:11*

You'll be encouraged by speaker **Frances Worthington**, led in worship by **Sarah Willis**, and experience fun, meaningful moments of connection—including a one-of-a-kind night of

laughter you won't forget.

Highlights: Be refreshed in God's Word surrounded by the beauty of the North Georgia mountains. Laugh, worship, and grow alongside other Georgia Baptist women. Experience personal reflection and Spirit-led prayer. Gain tools to fight for joy in everyday life. Return home renewed and ready to pour into others. **Space is limited—click below to get all the details and register with your group today!**  
[Women on Mission Series \(September 2025\) - Georgia Baptist Mission Board | Brushfire](#)

## **Spark Conferences throughout Georgia in August and September**

**Georgia Baptist presents the regional Spark Conference meetings.** There are sessions for all groups in the church such as Lay Leaders, Children's Leaders, Women's Ministry Leaders, Men's Ministry Leaders, Missions Coordinators, Student Pastors, Worship Leaders, Sunday School Leaders, Small Group Leaders, Pastors. There are sessions on Collegiate Ministry, Senior Adult Ministry, Discipleship, Evangelism, Gen X, Deaf Ministry, etc.

Check out the locations and dates for the Spark conferences in August and September:

[https://www.thesparkconference.com/2025\\_dates](https://www.thesparkconference.com/2025_dates)

**Hightower Baptist Association falls in the Northwest region and this meeting will be on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at Peavine Baptist Church, in Rock Spring, GA.** The Northeast region meeting will be on September 14, at Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, which is actually closer to some of us. You can go to any that you choose to attend. There are different guest speakers at each. Here is a description of a breakout session that one of our Hightower Association women will be leading at Peavine in Rock Spring, GA.

**Meant for Missions: 3 Ways to Involve Women** led by Lauren Sullens, Leigh Hawkins, Pam Murphy, Cindy Schaeffner, Beth Ann Williams

In the busyness of life getting involved in one more "project" just feels impossible! As Christ-following women how do we guide the women we lead to live out a missions lifestyle? How do we encourage them to connect their God-given gifts to serve and love others? We'll dive deep into Relationships, Resources and Responses that will help women take another step toward the joy of missions.

**The GA Baptist Convention Annual Meeting is November 9-11 at First Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia (registration is August 1)!** If you are interested in attending the Convention, check with your church clerk about being a messenger from your church. Check all the trainings and events going on at this web site: <https://gabaptist.org/events/>



The 190<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Hightower Baptist Association will be held at Hopewell Baptist Church, 15730 Hopewell Road, Milton, Fulton County, Georgia, on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, beginning at 9 a.m. This will also be the date that donations of gift cards or checks will be collected for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. Your church should have a letter with more details about this collection.

**Southern Baptists Step Up-- Join the Relief Effort for Texas**

Gifts for Central Texas Floods disaster relief response will be used in connection with disaster relief efforts and human care needs associated with the flooding. TWO Baptist disaster relief groups are actively responding:

**(1) Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Disaster Relief**

<https://sbtexas.com/disaster-relief/>

**(2) Texans on Mission (Texas Baptist Men) Disaster Relief**

<https://www.texansonmission.org/donate>

**Tony Allen sends this to us and asks everyone to SHARE this info on church pages, personal pages and at church with friends**

I don't like to waste any space in my newsletters, so here is a little trivia about familiar hymns that you have sung. I hope you enjoy doing this little activity. Please send me your news anytime for our next newsletter.

Name that ***Church Hymnal*** song that has the LAST verse beginning with the following words:

1. "Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory." \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Onward I go, rejoicing in His love. I'm in \_\_\_\_ \_" \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?"  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. "He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove"  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. "Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest" \_\_\_\_\_
7. "If you're ashamed of me you have no cause to be," \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Just a few more weary days and then" \_\_\_\_\_
9. "I have the Holy Ghost living in me, He is my Royal Host" \_\_\_\_\_
10. "When we've been there ten thousand years" \_\_\_\_\_



9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and general judgment.
10. We believe that the joys of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
11. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances, only such as have been called of God, as was Aaron; regularly baptized, approved of by the church and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.
12. We believe that none but believers, have a right to the ordinances of baptism, and the Lord's supper.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

### ON MISSIONS.

Your committee were astounded on hearing the report (yesterday) of the finance committee. We expected in that report a reasonable sum for missions, but on the contrary, there was a very small pittance, not at all worthy of this grand old Body. The action of this Body in its last session, requesting the churches to appoint committees, whose duty it should be to solicit contributions for missions, seems to have been so far as getting funds, is concerned, almost a failure. Brethren, what shall we do? Something must be done. The field is white unto the harvest, the whole world to-day, is open to the preaching of the gospel. Thousands upon thousands are dying daily out of Christ, and being lost. Yes, certainly lost. And here we are a great giant, soundly asleep, doing comparatively nothing to give them the gospel of the Son of God, with the words of Jesus sounding in our ears: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, go and teach all nations and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth." O! how strange it is, that we will still say, as the sluggard "yet a little more sleep, a little more slumber and a little more folding of the hands together in sleep." O! Brethren let us arouse ourselves from our slumber, that we may have the glorious gospel of the Son of God, preached in every nook and corner, and in every nation, and elime to earth's remotest bounds, that every one of Adams lost race may hear the blessed name of Jesus, and be saved from all their sins. Now to accomplish this end, we recommend the churches to raise a liberal contribution and turn it over to the Treasurer, of this Association, that direction may be given it by the executive committee.

Respectfully Submitted,  
A. B. NUGGOLLS, Chairman.

### ON EDUCATION.

We the committee on education, beg leave to make the following report:

## MINUTES.

That the gospel makes it incumbent, upon Christians to give serious consideration to the mental wants of the community in which they live, that religion was intended to better man in every part of his nature. And while it is true, that it is the means and purposes, to meet his spiritual wants, and secure his salvation. It is equally true that it is intended to benefit him physically and mentally. It is a matter of surprise, to any one whose attention has not been called how much consideration the Saviour gives to the wants and necessities of one's physical being. The Saviour gave these things as an evidence of his Messiahship. When John the Baptist was sent to enquire who he was, he replied: "Go and tell John the things you have seen, and how the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised up and to the poor the gospel is preached." He expected such attention to the wants of the body, to characterize his people in all generations, for he says, at the last day he will say to them: "I was hungry and ye fed me, I was naked and ye clothed me, I was sick and in prison, and ye ministered unto me." And it cannot be possible that the Saviour designed that his people should neglect the spiritual wants, and physical wants, and yet wholly neglect the mental wants of man. The gospel is designed to affect the man in his entire being, and prepare him for the brightest usefulness and happiness, both in this life, and that which is to come. An ignorant christian, other things being equal, cannot be either as useful, or as happy as he would be if he possessed a cultivated mind. The obligation of a christian man to educate his own children first, and then others as far as possible, is strengthened by the relation which he sustains to Christ, and to the human race. The time has been, when the Baptists were sneered at, as being an ignorant people, glorying in their ignorance, but they have demonstrated by their action the falsity of this charge. Baptist institutions of learning are scattered through all the States of the Union, and among these with pleasure, we recommend for young ministers especially, Mercer University. And the Female Seminary, at Gainesville, and Shorter Female College, at Rome for young ladies, among many others. We also recommend The Christian Index, our State Baptist paper, and the Baptist Sun, published at Gainesville, Ga., as being in every way worthy of our patronage. For Sunday-school literature, we recommend the International lesson papers published by the Baptist publishing company in Philadelphia, Pa., furnished and sold by the branch house in Atlanta, Ga., No. 66 1-2 Whitehall Street.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John B. RICHARDS, Chairman.  
ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath-schools, beg leave to submit the following report:  
We notice from the reading of the letters from the several churches, that there are but few Sabbath-schools reported, of which we very much regret. Believing that this noble work, should be engaged in by all the churches composing our Association,



in the building, some new sleepers are needed for the primary room and some changes made in the arrangement of the recreation rooms. These are only a few of the many things that are needed.

Now other schools in our territory are offering to our brethren and to our young people the things that we have not in the way of equipment and hence they are choosing the latter schools and we cannot and do not blame them.

We need to devise ways and means by which our people may appreciate Hightower Institute as the school of our own creation and purchase, and then to equip it equal to any and thus encourage the present faculty, which cannot be improved upon and then we will inspire confidence and our people will feel a pride in the success of the school and the building will be filled with pupils from our own association.

There is no question as to the success of the school if these difficulties are removed, but as things now exist, we cannot expect to hold a permanent patronage nor can we have the courage to invite pupils to look into our surroundings and then tell them that this is the school of the Hightower association, a body of Baptists six thousand strong, who rank in wealth with any in Georgia. There are many in our state who will seek and are seeking just such a school as our location offers, for it is ideal, and they will matriculate with us if we will offer them advantages equal to any other school in the state or in our territory.

Dear brethren, we say to you that as far as we are individually concerned we have no personal motive in making you such a report, we are only seeking to do our duty and to be honest with you in the discharge of the duty you have placed upon us as trustees. We are trying to give you a clear and honest report and we do say and we would emphasize it, the crisis is upon us, we must go forward or we will go backward.

We have property worth all the way from \$2,500 to \$4,000 with only an indebtedness upon it of \$50. The insurance policy upon this building is now being carried by individuals.

This property was deeded to the officers of the association and in its present condition it is depreciating in value every day, we cannot afford to let it run longer without the necessary repairs. The association is able to equip the building and to put the school on a footing with any in North Georgia.

Now will you do it? We lay the matter before you.

1st. We ask you to encourage us by sending us your children.

2nd. We ask the association to save the property by making the necessary repairs and securing the payment of the insurance.

3rd. We ask you to equip the building and devise ways and means to secure a permanent administrative basis.

4th. We ask your co-operation heartily in this work of the education of our children by our own people, which just at this time seems an imperative duty upon us.

What will you do with the matter? If you refuse the school will become nothing more than a local school and efficient teachers cannot be secured and it will stand as a reflection upon us as a body of intelligent, able Baptists.

To go forward with the school along the line of progress suggested in this report means a long step forward in the history of our people. It means taking North Georgia for the Baptists. It means the education of our boys and girls by our own people, and it means denominational patriotism and progress.

We suggest as your Board of Trustees that steps substantial be taken at this meeting of the association to remedy the difficulties that now exist or that the officers of the association be instructed to lease the property to those who will do this and release all claims upon it as far as administrative powers and honor is concerned.

W. R. OTWELL, Secretary.

T. L. LIPSCOMB, Chairman.

On motion, collections and subscriptions were taken for Hightower Institute, amounting to \$147.50 and certain delegates from all the churches agreed to take a subscription to make the needed repairs and to furnish the proper equipments.

should be. There should be three or four hundred pupils in this school from our association alone. Let us awake to a sense of our duty as to our responsibility to our children, our school and our denomination. We invite your careful consideration of the report of the Board of Trustees of Hightower Baptist Institute hereto appended. For higher education we recommend our own Mercer University, and the female schools at Lagrange, Rome and College Park.

H. I. FOSTER, Chairman.

**Report of the Board of Trustees Hightower Institute.**

To the Hightower Association:—

Dear Brethren:—We herewith hand you our annual report: we ask you to give it your careful consideration.

We come not this year to lay before you a paper, polished and painted, purporting to be a report, but we shall try to lay before you cold and bare facts, giving you the exact condition and status of the school which belongs to you and which you have placed in our hands as trustees to look after.

Hightower Institute is the creature of the Hightower Association, it has been running for five years, recognized by all to be your school.

Last September, immediately after the meeting of the association we found ourselves without a president, the president elected last summer finding the school unsuited to his peculiar tastes and notions, resigned.

The Trustees after casting round for a president elected Rev. A. E. Booth, Bro. Booth being familiar with the school, the needs, conditions and surroundings, having been the first president of the institution upon its establishment, was thought to be the right man in the right place.

Prof. Booth moved here from N. C. and opened the school on Oct. 12th and closed the school year May 6th 1897.

During this time he enrolled one hundred and ninety-one pupils, forty-seven of this number were boarding pupils; this, looking at it from the standpoint of present conditions and surroundings is very encouraging, but instead of 191 enrollment and 47 boarding pupils there should be an enrollment of 300 and 147 boarding pupils.

We have reached a period in our history where something must be done and some progress must be made. We may put the finest faculty in the charge of the school and unless we as an association do our duty the school is a failure.

Here are some inside facts in reference to it which we have found out by observation and experience with the school as your trustees.

The school now has an actual attendance of 110 pupils and represents about the same class of patronage as formerly, i. e., local from the town of Cumming and a few scattering boarding pupils. Then let us call your attention to the

1st difficulty: The people of the association do not patronize it. There are to-day in other schools of our state, and often in schools of other denominations, perhaps more than one hundred pupils from our own territory that we should have and which we are entitled to. Why is this? The answers are given in the other difficulties.

2nd difficulty: Our brethren have no confidence in the school. This lack of confidence has been brought about by the fact that the management for some time has been unsatisfactory, the faculty has been subject to changes constantly and teachers of various degrees of efficiency have been in charge. The Hightower Association with her six thousand constituency is a power and is well able to take hold of this institution and to so manage it that they will have confidence in it themselves and will inspire confidence in it on the part of others.

3rd difficulty: The equipment is poor. With the 110 pupils now in attendance there are less than one dozen good desks for these pupils, they are sitting upon rude benches and chairs, many of the chairs supplied by the president at his own expense, and often two pupils occupying the same chair.

We have little or no equipment in the way of tools to work with, i. e., blackboards, maps, charts, etc. The stoves are old and burnt out, the building needs repairs, the windows have a number of broken panes in them, the roof needs repairing, it is almost impossible to keep dry during a heavy rain while



