

# Hightower Baptist Association Newsletter

## Volume 15: February-March 2026

Janice Tallant, Editor ([janicetallant@yahoo.com](mailto:janicetallant@yahoo.com)  
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. Let us continue to glorify our Father for the many things He is doing through your churches. Let's make the next deadline for sending in the news be **March 28, 2026** for the April-May issue. Send your good news and announcements to Janice Tallant, [janicetallant@yahoo.com](mailto:janicetallant@yahoo.com) Again, PLEASE spread the word about these newsletters!

### Hightower Association News

**The Discipleship Committee Teaching and Dinner Meeting** on January 10, 2026, at Coal Mountain Baptist Church was well attended. The fellowship hall was almost full. **Jason Power** welcomed everyone to the meeting. **Shad Faulkner** led us in prayer and said the blessing for the delicious meal that we were about to be served by the Boots on the Ground group. The meal consisted of chicken, steak, green beans, baked potatoes, sauteed mushroom, salad, bread, beverages, and a table full of desserts. Everyone enjoyed the meal and fellowship with fellow Christians. **Nancy Vaughan** played hymns on the piano for a few minutes while we ate and fellowshiped with each other.



We sang a few familiar hymns to begin the meeting portion of the evening. **April Pruitt** sang “Jesus, You’re the Center of my Joy”. \***Rev. Tommy Weldy** presented the teaching portion of the meeting using a slide show to talk about the Foundations of the Hightower Baptist Association beginning in 1835 to present day. The Hightower Baptist Association (HBA) was started at Silver Springs Baptist Church that was in the Coal Mountain Community in 1835. He mentioned the missionary controversy between Missionary Baptists who were pro-missions and Primitive Baptists which were “anti-missions” during those years. The churches composing the original membership were Hightower, Little River, Mt. Zion (all in Cherokee County), Island Ford (Gwinnett County), Beaver Ruin (Cumming), Mt. Tabor and Silver Springs (Forsyth), Liberty (Lumpkin then Dawson), and Providence (Cherokee, Milton, Fulton, and Milton again.) These churches in the newly formed association had approximately 500 members at that time. He told about four primary ministers who helped start the Association: **Brothers Richard Phillips,**

**Alfred Webb, F M Hawkins, and Humprey Posey** who had been a missionary to the Cherokee Indians. The first two foreign missionaries in the Association were **Adoniram Judson and Luther Rice**.

Rev. Weldy also told several other historical events in the Hightower Baptist Association that have happened in the past and some of the things that are going on in the HBA now. Hundreds of people have been saved over the last few years at the HBA Food/Clothing Bank. Now HBA has a Food Trailer that they can carry into the Mission Field. (It was at the meeting for people to look at). The new Hispanic Church on the Post Road was recently established. Boots on the Ground mission became a part of the Hightower Food/Clothing Bank over the last year. Rev. Weldy ended his presentation with "Go Tell!" Tell what you've seen. Tell what God's done for you. I know whose I am. We all need Jesus. He told about the next **Discipleship Meeting/Training will be Friendship Baptist Church on March 14, 2026.**



**Rev. Butch Kirk** spoke for a few minutes talking about the mission God has called him to do. He told his experience of grace.

**Rev. Dan Henderson and Rev. Vernie Worley** were there when he was saved and Rev. Henderson showed him how to go.

**Rev. Andy Wallace** spoke saying that we have stories that need to be told. He told how he got started with Boots on the Ground fourteen months ago. "God wants YOU!" Andy then told stories of Moses and of Peter and Andrew being called by Jesus to be "fishers of men".

A few announcements were made. The meeting was closed with the group singing "Amazing Grace". **Rev. Gary English** led us in prayer. An offering was taken at the door for those who would like to donate to this mission group.

**\*Rev. Weldy obtained a good bit of his information from Hightower Association History Volume II book. Hardback books are still available if you would like to purchase one. You can also find this history book online at the HBA Web page: [HISTORIC TABLE](#)**

**Shad Faulkner sent this PowerPoint of this night for all of us to share: [HBA CM.pptx - Google Slides](#)**

**Jason Power** sends this special announcement for the next meeting that will be at Friendship Baptist Church on March 14. The primary emphasis of the first Foundations study evening was missions and encouragement to reach those in our communities the same way as our founders did following our Lords example and command. **The next Foundations teaching will be on March 14 at 6:00pm @ Friendship Baptist Church and will cover Foundations of our Faith in contrast with what some of our neighbors and cultures around us consist of.** We will be compelled and equipped with the knowledge and opportunities to go into the mission fields that exist all around our churches. Praise the Lord! Please contact Jason Power to RSVP 770-815-1589 or [jasonapower@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonapower@yahoo.com)



## Join us for the Second Foundations Teaching March 14, 2026

Brothers and sisters, Is it a lost cause? Do we realize the mission fields around us? Do we know how to engage it? What about the world for our kids and Grandkids? Too far gone? No! We serve a living God with all power! It's time to be obedient! Come and discover more about who our neighbors are and the of power of Christ's love to change our communities and world! We need you to help us communicate this important message back to your churches. Now more than ever it is crucial that Christian men and women step up to the Great Commission given to us all by our savior! It's time to engage in the battle and learn to be better disciples!

PLEASE plan to attend and help us compel all brothers, sisters, families, youth groups, WMUs, and Brotherhoods from all churches to attend an evening of fellowship and teaching. Please join us for a Pulled Pork BBQ and Chicken dinner with all the fixings and music, followed by teaching as we learn more about what it takes to engage and minister to people of different beliefs around our communities, taught by our own Rev. Tommy Weldy. This evening will glorify Christ as we are encouraged to be better disciples of His! Come planning to have a good time and be challenged to engage in the battle as "His Light" in this world!!

**Where:** Friendship Baptist Church Family Life Center, Cumming Ga

**When:** March 14, 2026 @ 6:00pm

**Dinner:** Pulled Pork BBQ and Chicken Dinner with Sides and Desserts

**Teaching:** Bro Tommy Weldy: "Who are our Neighbors? What do we/they believe?"

To simply register call, email, or text Jason Power 770-815-1589.

We need your name and how many will be coming with you as soon as possible on or before March 8 to RSVP for this evening of teaching, fellowship, and food. [jasonapower@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonapower@yahoo.com)

**Matthew 28:18 Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.  
19 Go ye therefore, and teach...**

Thank you on behalf of the Discipleship Committee of the Hightower Baptist Association

## Boots on the Ground Report from Kim Weldy

The Lord is still in charge in 2026! We are so thankful for the new faces that have joined our group. In this last year, God has truly blessed us. Thank you, Jesus, for the growth and people who are willing to serve you.

We continue to try to support whatever needs arise! There have been many, especially with the weather so cold the last couple of weeks. We have many families that we are working with and continue to serve them as the Lord leads us. God has blessed us and allowed us to provide washers and dryers, stoves, furniture, home remodels, bathroom remodels, cars, car repairs, food, and the list goes on and on. Most of all, he has provided us opportunities to tell people about our Jesus! We have been blessed with opportunities to serve the homeless in Forsyth, Dawson, and Hall counties. Food, blankets, sleeping bags, gas heaters, tents, clothes, and more have been provided for those we serve. We desire them all to get cleaned up, get a job, and improve upon their circumstances.

On Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we were able to handout toys at Main Street Park in Dawsonville. Many families came to receive toys for Christmas. Thank you to the Hightower Foodbank for partnering with us in this endeavor.

We have teamed up with **Pastor Jerry** in Hall County. Pastor Jerry helps run a homeless camp. For this next year, Boots will serve at the camp every 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month. We will serve food, provide necessities and clothes, and oversee the service. Our first encounter will be Saturday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. Anyone interested in joining us, should meet at our Boots Building by 3:30pm. We are located at 63 Daisy Dr. Dawsonville. We are looking forward to worshipping with these that God has sent to us.

Thankfully, God sent Alpha Hope Counseling, to partner with us to provide Christian counseling to many of our families. Many of them have been through trauma and hardships many cannot comprehend. Christian counseling is providing them Godly guidance in maneuvering through the emotional trauma.



JOIN US FOR OUR  
2ND  
FOUNDATIONS MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH, 6:00 PM

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH  
2250 FRIENDSHIP CIR, CUMMING, GA 30028

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

SCAN HERE



OR

RSVP TO  
JASON POWER  
AT  
770.815.1589



Hightower Baptist  
Association  
He is the  
Lord God Almighty

Matthew 28:18 Jesus came and spake unto them, saying,  
All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.  
19 Go ye therefore, and teach...

We held our very **first Discipleship Training on January 10, 2026, at Coal Mountain Baptist Church**. Thank you for all those that attended. What a blessing! Fergusons provided a delicious meal, and desserts were provided by many supporting churches. **Tommy Weldy** gave all the details on the history and foundation of the Hightower Association. By giving us the knowledge and understanding of the origin of the association, we were encouraged to remain on the path God has created for us. **Andy Wallace, Butch Kirk, and Jason Power** gave an update on the work that the Lord has been leading our Boots group to do.

Hopefully we will continue to share the love of Jesus by loving and helping those around us. **The next training will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Friendship Baptist Church**. Please see our facebook page – Boots on the Ground – to register for this training. An RSVP is requested for food preparation. I have attached a flyer also where you can scan and register. [\(20+\) Facebook](#)



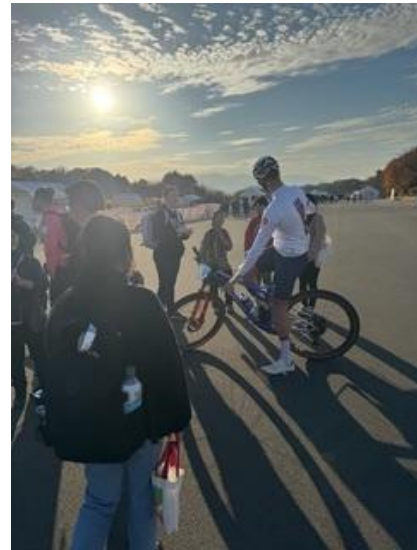
We are looking forward to our next community event on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. We are partnering with Harmony Grove Youth to serve a meal, provide necessities, and do some home repairs that have been requested. Most importantly, we want to spread the word of Jesus to all we meet. We will be at Dawson County Junior High for this event. More information will be on our Facebook page.

Dawsonville Suites and Dawsonville apartments have given us permission to bring the food trailer into the complexes to serve food and pray with anyone who approaches us. We are looking for additional complexes or locations we can do this with. Please let us know if you know of a place. Please follow our Facebook page for any updates or events. If you are interested in joining our group, we would love to have you. Just reach out to our Facebook page: [\(20+\) Facebook](#).

Continue to pray for our group. Pray for discernment, pray that we will serve those in need, but most of all share the gospel. Pray most of all that we will see lost people saved! We have realized quickly that we cannot outgive God!!

### **Ava Gilbert, Missionary to Japan for Deaflympics**

**Ava Gilbert**, daughter of Scott and Kendra Gilbert, was invited to the New Harmony Baptist Church WMU Meeting to share stories from her 2-week mission trip to Japan for the Deaflympic Games in November 2025. I loved the excitement that Ava had while telling us about her trip. At the Deaflympics she would look around everywhere and join in conversations with those she saw “signing”. This led to some very special relationships that are continuing even now.



There are 70-80 million culturally Deaf people globally. This means that they cannot hear and use some form of sign language as their primary form of communication, 98% of these people do not know Jesus. The Deaf are classified as UUPG (Unreached and unengaged People Group) primarily due to the fact that they lack access to Bibles in their sign language. There are over 300 different sign languages. The United States has the only complete Bible for the deaf. The DeafBible App has the whole Bible translated into American Sign Language on video.



not in her language she was overwhelmed with the power of the gospel and surrendered her life to Christ that day.

Ava said that part of the story that led her to feel a call to spread the Gospel to the Deaf occurred after she attended Camp Pinnacle in Clayton, Georgia 8 years ago where the summer's mission focus was the Global Deaf Population. Last summer she worked with the Deaf in Southeast Asia. In Southeast Asia the team had a set of 25 Bible stories translated into the local sign language that they used to teach the Deaf about Jesus. During her time there, Ava witnessed to a Buddhist woman, who gave her life to Christ after seeing the gospel shown in the *Jesus: A Deaf Mission* film movie. This movie displays the gospel acted out entirely by Deaf actors in American Sign Language. While the movie was



This was the first time that the International Mission Board worked in Deaflympics. There are 70-80 countries that participate in the Deaflympics and over seven thousand Deaf people in attendance. Ava showed us her gospel story pin that she was wearing and that she used to tell the story about Jesus. The IMB gave out cards with the same logo and a QR code to use as they told others about Jesus. Each part of the pin was used to tell people about Jesus: **Orange**- God's perfection and holiness, **Yellow**- God's Creation, **Black**- sin and man's separation from God, **Red**- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, **Blue**- the opportunity to ask Jesus for forgiveness and be in relationship with Him, **Green**- the Holy Spirit that begins to transform us so that we can be a light for Jesus, **White**- the church as a community of a believers who belong to God, **Yellow**- the gift of eternal life with

Jesus in Heaven, this brings us back to **Orange**- where we are in relationship with God the way He originally designed it to be.

Ava's Dad has always told her that mission trips start when you leave your house. Ava heeded this and witnessed at the US airport to a cyclist in the Deaflympics who invited her to come see his competition. Even though the competition was 3 hours south of Tokyo, while Ava was trying to figure out how she could get funds to go the extra miles, the IMB came through to pay for her trip to see him compete and win the Gold Medal in Cycling. (We know that Georgia Baptist Mission Board gave \$500,000 to the IMB at the Convention on November 11 so maybe we helped her get to that competition.) She is still hearing from these people since they have come home. Ava told us that one night on a short



walk to dinner God brought about two different conversations and opportunities to share the gospel with Deaf Americans and Deaf Japanese people leading to 7 people seeing the Good News that night.

Ava also signed the Lord's Prayer for us at New Harmony. She said it took her about 4-5 years to become fluent in American Sign Language, while this trip exposed her to International Sign Language which is more gesture based. Additionally, God provided divine language acquisition for Ava as she engaged in various gospel conversations that included roughly five other sign languages she did not know before the trip.

Ava was happy to report that there were 13 people who received salvation, 245 people interested in the Gospel, 1 person was baptized, and 4,000 QR

codes (on back of card above) were given out. The IMB did not just hand out cards, they talked to people. Other religions were there witnessing to the Deaf people and giving out their resources; however, that did not discourage the volunteers from sharing the Good News with everyone they could. She encourages the Baptists to go out and tell the Deaf about Jesus. **Eula Jean Campbell** commented that she would like to have more people “sign” in our churches. Ava has asked the Hightower Association to begin to include the international Deaf population in their prayers for missionaries abroad and to pray for the International Mission Board’s Deaf Affinity as they work to reach Deaf around the globe.

Ava shares these two links with us so you can see some videos and more news from the IMB about the mission: IMB report from the Deaflympics: <https://www.imb.org/2026/01/22/imb-teams-continue-excitement-after-tokyo-deaflympics/> and <https://vimeo.com/1141989455?fl=pl&fe=sh>

### **Hightower Association News**

**Vacation Bible School Clinics are Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church.**

**191<sup>st</sup> Hightower Baptist Association Meeting: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 9:00 am  
Coal Mountain Baptist Church, Cumming, Georgia**

#### **Union Meetings**

**1<sup>st</sup> District – Bethlehem Baptist Church: Friday, May 1, 2026, 6:00 pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Crossroads Baptist Church: Friday, May 8, 2026, 6:00 pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District – Oak Grove Baptist Church: Friday, May 8, 2026, 6:00 pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> District – Birmingham Baptist Church: Friday, May 15, 2026, 6:00 pm**

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

**Antioch Baptist Church: (2465 Antioch Rd., Cumming, GA)**



Pastor Travis Bridgeman invites everyone to their **Southern Gospel Singing on Sunday, February 8, at 6 p.m.** The Dixie Echoes are the guest singers and the host group is **The Bridgemans.**



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2ND  
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SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH, 6:00 PM

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH  
2250 FRIENDSHIP CIR, CUMMING, GA 30028

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

SCAN HERE



OR

RSVP TO  
JASON POWER  
AT  
770.815.1589



Hightower Baptist  
Association  
He is the  
Lord God Almighty

Matthew 28:18 Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying,  
All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.  
Go ye into all the world, and preach.

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

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Foundations Meeting of Hightower Association presented by Discipleship Committee will be at Friendship on March 14, at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center behind the church with Roper Road entry. See pages 3 and 4 on how to make reservations for the meal part.**



**Friendship Baptist Church has been awarded a Pomeroy Foundation Marker for their cemetery in memory of John N LeGrand who was a member of the church from 1841-1843.** Mr. LeGrand is the only Forsyth County American Revolutionary War Patriot who is buried in Forsyth County according to the research that the Chestatee River Daughter of the American Revolution have found. **A ceremony for this event is planned for May 30.** More details will be given later. There are only 250 Historical Markers being placed across the nation for our country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year by Pomeroy Foundation. Mr. LeGrand is actually buried on Watson Property on Watson Road as there was probably not a cemetery at Friendship when he passed in 1843.



**Friendship will be hosting their annual BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, March 7, Carry out from 11 a.m to 1 p.m.** BBQ pork, Brunswick stew, 2 sides and a dessert for \$12. Brunswick Stew-\$15.

**Friendship also has a Senior Ministry Luncheon on the second Tuesday of each month at 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall** (except for one Tuesday in the spring and one in the fall when we go to Lake Lanier). **We invite any Seniors to join us.** Our

group has seniors from several other churches join us. We have a covered dish meal, devotion, birthday and anniversary recognition, door prizes, prayer requests, and enjoy BINGO or another activity. **Our next meetings will be February 10 (pizza) and March 10 (Italian foods).**



**Friendship Spring Revival will be April 1-3 at 7 p.m.** All are welcome to join us.

**Longstreet Baptist Church:** (6868 Longstreet Rd., Cumming)

Longstreet Baptist Church will have a **Sweetheart Dinner on February 7, 2026.** The youth of the church will act as servers. It is always a fun time of fellowship for the church.

**Longstreet Preschool is accepting applications for staff for 2026-27 school year.**

Contact [longstreetps@gmail.com](mailto:longstreetps@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Preschool is accepting applications for students as well.** Contact [longstreetps@gmail.com](mailto:longstreetps@gmail.com).

Longstreet Preschool is a half-day program 9:30-12:30 which has a focus on play in learning. Music and chapel weekly.

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

We will be having our **annual Chicken plate fundraiser for our youth program on Saturday, March 21, 11:00 am-6:00 pm.** We are asking for a donation of \$12.00 per plate.



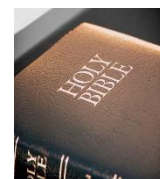
**Our Spring Revival will be held Sunday, March 22-Wednesday, March 25. Services will begin at 7:30 each evening.**



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



**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> - Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**  
each Sunday we will have **Bible Study** with our  
**Pastor Dennis Bottoms.**



**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm** will be the  
**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off** sponsored by the WMU. \$15.00  
Admission. We will have the Chili Cook-Off and Pound Cake Bake-  
Off. We will also be having a silent auction, cake auction, and  
gospel singing. All proceeds go to help the WMU and their mission  
work.

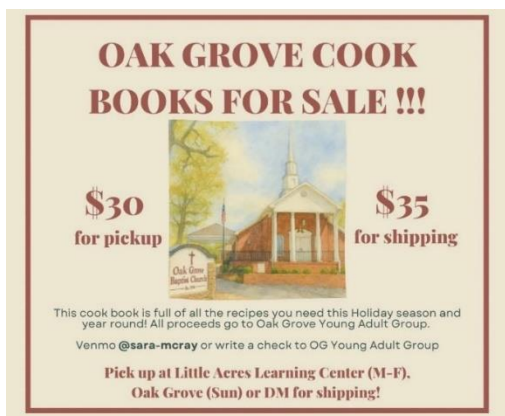
**March 15- 18, 2026, will be our Spring Revival at 7:30  
pm with Dr. Scott Gilbert**



**Our annual Car Show** will be at **Poole's Mill Elementary  
School Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm**, rain date  
is Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Vacation Bible School** will be **June 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> nightly from 7 – 9**

**pm.**



**Oak Grove Baptist Church:** (5640 Oak Grove Circle,  
Cumming)

Sara Stone sent this in December. I'm not sure if there are still  
cookbooks available. **The Young Adults group have made a  
cookbook as a fundraiser.** The books are \$30 for pickup or \$35  
for shipping.

Pickup Locations: Little Acres, M-F, 630a-630p; Oak Grove  
Baptist Church, Sunday's 10a-12p; or they can  
email [ogbcya@gmail.com](mailto:ogbcya@gmail.com) to place an order for delivery.

**\*If interested, please email to see if cookbooks are still available.**

**Shady Grove Baptist Church:** (6910 Shady Grove Rd., Cumming)



**Shady Grove and Beaver Ruin Baptist Churches will have a joint Spring Revival Sunday  
night, March 29 thru Wednesday night, April 1 beginning at 7 pm  
each night**

**Silver City Baptist Church:** (6170 Jewell Bennett Rd., Dawsonville)

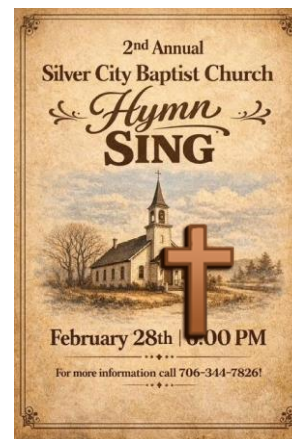
**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** will be our **Second Annual Hymn Sing.**  
We invite all to come and make a joyful noise with us!



**Spring revival** will be **March 29-April 1 at 7:00 pm.**

**May meeting** will be **May 3, 2026, including lunch after the service.**

**VBS** will be **May 31-June 4.**





## Hightower Food and Clothing Bank

### Church Volunteer Schedule 2026

We are asking that all **4th District churches** plan to send volunteers and ministers for our 1st Quarter HBAFCB distributions. **ALL CHURCHES are welcome to volunteer anytime.**

**1st Quarter 2026 distributions dates left are- Feb 14, and March 14. We meet at 7:30 am for prayer before we open the doors.**

**4th District Churches are Bethany, Birmingham, Brookwood, Carmel, Cross Plains, Hopewell, Liberty Grove, Longstreet, Macedonia, North Canton, Oakdale, Pleasant Hill, Rock Springs. Thank you for your prayers and support!**

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

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

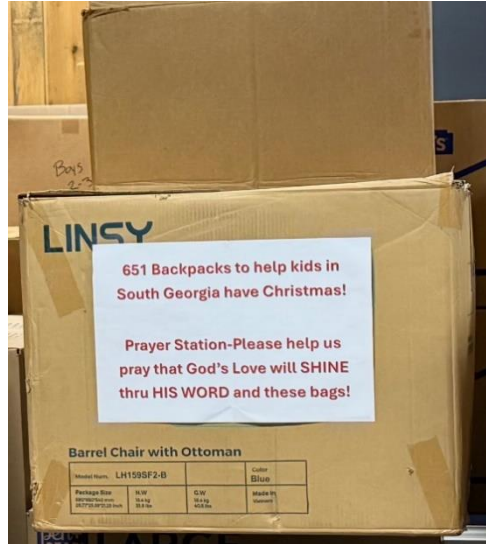
**Tony Allen** shares this report with us about missions. Thank you, Tony.

1. The **January Food/Clothing Bank Distribution** was a slower day on this rainy Saturday morning. Thanks to all the volunteers, especially the Service baseball teams that have been so faithful this fall and winter with help. Linda and I would like to praise the Lord for the great quantity of baby diapers and wipes donated last month! It is a wonderful feeling when we can tell Paul, Angie and Kevin, "It looks like we won't need to order diapers or wipes this month due to the donations this month." We would like to encourage our member Churches and their small groups and VBS groups to consider as a service to our Lord and Savior, supporting the Baby Goods ministry of our Hightower Baptist Association's Food and Clothing Bank.
2. I encourage our Churches to be in prayerful considerations of going on a **short-term mission trip this summer**. I don't believe that our Lord was speaking only to his disciples when he said "Go!" while giving them the Great Commission! I know personally, my walk with the Lord has been much closer since I began to regularly go on short-term mission trips. Churches, if you feel that the Lord is leading you to GO there are lots of resources available to you through The Georgia Baptist Association, the NAMB and another great source is our missionaries in the field. Also, our Hightower Baptist Association is a good source for help. Finally, if this is something that you are considering but just feel overwhelmed, I am available for encouragement and maybe a little guidance. Another possibility, especially if you are a small group or even just a family, look around. There are many churches around that regularly go on these trips that welcome 'outsiders' to join them. Our family has done this several times and we have always been welcomed. If you do this, I can guarantee you won't feel like an outsider on the second day of your trip! I recall a trip to serve with The Lord's Café in Stearns KY where there were groups from half a dozen churches that week. I went into the kitchen on the first day we served and said to my wife, "Would you look at those kids out there? They are working together like they have known each other all their lives. You would have never guessed that they are from at least three different churches in three states." She replied, "You mean they are not all from one group?" If you have ever wanted to see the body of Christ serving, come along with me on one of these outings! It is much easier if you start the planning process now. Tony sent us today's message from Stearns, KY the Lord's Café with Rev. Grant Hasty if you would like to listen: [\(20+\) Facebook Live | Facebook](#)



### Hightower Baptist Association WMU News

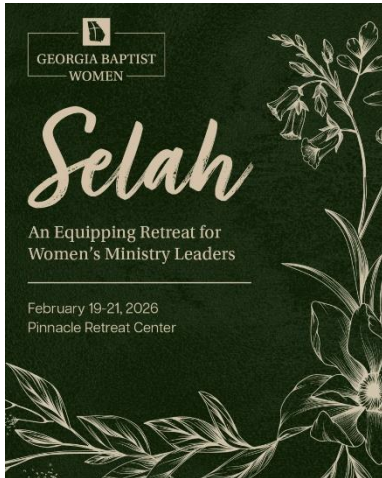
The HBA WMU reports another successful Backpack Drive in 2025. Here are a few pictures to share with you. We were blessed to collect 651 Christmas Backpacks that were filled with Bibles, school supplies, canned food, toiletries, clothes, and toys or other interesting gifts for children in South Georgia. **Bro. Gene Roberts**, Summerhill Associational Missions Strategist, drove to Friendship from Albany area two different days to pick up the backpacks. Here are a few pictures to share with you. Thank you to every person who donated money, time, supplies, and prayers for this mission. (Pictures below L-R: Bro. Roberts; Prayer Station over backpacks at Fall Festival; Receiving the Backpacks; 2nd Row: Friendship Middle School Group backing bags; Jason, Janice and Leigh assisting Bro. Roberts in loading; a lot of huge boxes filled with backpacks from Hightower Association churches.



**Living Faith Ministries International** is a mission that **Bro. Alan and Rebecca Morris** started. Many of us know Alan from the time he served at North Central Mission and helped us load up backpacks from us for Appalachians and later Georgia. Here is the Web page for Living Faith Ministries where you can watch the progress being made and the needs identified. [Home | Living Faith](http://www.livingfaithministries.org)

Here is the 2025 report from Alan Morris about the things done through this mission: [simplyk-bucket-production.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/deliveries/64e79486-99ad-4f92-84f1-fe98f232fe8c/emails/f03dacba-3af3-4e43-811c-70f157029ba1.html](https://production.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/deliveries/64e79486-99ad-4f92-84f1-fe98f232fe8c/emails/f03dacba-3af3-4e43-811c-70f157029ba1.html)

## **Georgia Baptist Women Events coming up:**



**Selah Conference on February 19-21, Pinnacle Retreat Center, Clayton, GA**

**Spring Event, Saturday, April 18, First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, GA.**

If you want to know more about any of these things visit Facebook: [\(20+\) Facebook](#) and Website: [Georgia Baptist Women: Every Woman. In Community. On Mission.](#)



**Wow! This newsletter is filled with stories of missions in our “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the world.” (Acts 1:8). God has placed the mission field all around us. I hope you will enjoy reading about all these missions and join God in his work. He is inviting us to get involved with Him in His Work.**

**Rev. Henry Blackaby** wrote this Bible Study course several years ago, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. Our Sunday School class studied this course over several months. This study changed my life and I think many others in our class. (submitted by Janice Tallant).

### **The Seven Realities of Experiencing God**

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

As I see many of the things going on in the Hightower Association now, I think of this study. We can see God at work all around us. We can have a relationship with God. Then God invites us to work with Him. God speaks to us. Then we must decide if we will follow Him in His work. If we do follow Him, we will make major adjustments in our life. Then we Experience God when we obey Him and His work is done through us. The study of God calling Moses is an excellent example of these Seven Realities.