

Hightower Baptist Association Newsletter

Volume 16: April-May 2026

Janice Tallant, Editor (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 **May 28, 2026** for the June-July issue. Send your good news and announcements to Janice Tallant, janicetallant@yahoo.com Again, PLEASE spread the word about these newsletters!

(Correction from Volume 15 on the WMU article about Morgan Wright and about her mission in Kenya: "I love what you wrote in the newsletter - I love being able to be continually connected to the Hightower Association! I would just make two corrections, if you haven't already sent it out. If you have sent it out, that's completely fine! I went to Kenya for 4 months in 2018 and then moved there full-time in 2022. And in Kenya around 80% of people claim to be Christians, but we believe the number is well below 20%.")

Hightower Association News

(I asked Bro. Jason Power and Rev. Tommy Weldy to look at these notes that I made. I was writing fast so if you have any questions about any of these statements, please talk with these men. Janice Tallant)



The Discipleship Committee Teaching and Dinner Meeting on March 14, 2026, at Friendship Baptist Church was well attended and the family life center was almost full. **Jason Power** welcomed everyone to the meeting. **Rev. Shad Faulkner** led us in prayer and said the blessing for the delicious meal that we were about to be served. The meal consisted of BBQ pork, chicken, mashed potatoes, baked beans, broccoli salad, Brunswick stew, bread, beverages, and cheesecake prepared by Fagans and Brookwood Church and was served by Boots on the Ground. Everyone enjoyed the meal while fellowshiping with fellow Christians. **Nancy Vaughan** played hymns on the piano for a few minutes while we ate and fellowshiped with each other.



After the meal, prayer was led by **Rev. Garry English**, and the congregation sang “When We All Get to Heaven” and “Sanctuary” led by **Bro. Jason Power and Rev. Tommy Weldy**. **Sis. Shannon Laudermilk** sang “Hold On”. **Rev. Tommy Weldy** led the teaching with a slide show and talked about how Forsyth County has changed over the last 40+ years. In the demographics of Forsyth County in the 1980’s, there were 2 main faiths: Baptists and Methodists. In the Forsyth County demographics in 2020, Catholicism is the leading denomination currently. There are many other religions as well in Forsyth County including Hindu, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Latter Day Saints, Islam, and others. This session Rev. Weldy gave some information about Jehovah’s Witnesses, Latter Day Saints, and Islam. What does each religion believe? Do they believe in Jesus Christ? Do they believe in the Resurrection of Jesus? What are their doctrines? What do they

celebrate?

Bro Weldy began with a quote by Charles Spurgeon, “The Gospel is like a caged lion; you don’t have to defend it, just let it out of the cage.” He read scriptures defending The Faith: Jude 1:3, John 15:17, 2 Timothy 2:23-26. He spoke that meekness is not weak, but strong under control done in patience and love. Others may use our vocabulary, but they have a different dictionary meaning. Rev. Weldy believes in John 3:16, Romans 5:8-18, 2 Peter 3:9-17, John 8:17-19. He asks us to “Stand LOUD for JESUS”.

Jehovah’s Witnesses believe the only divine name is Jehovah. They do not believe in Trinity. (Bro. Weldy quoted several scriptures of the Trinity: 1 Peter 1:2, John 20:28-29, Acts 5: 34.) They believe that Jesus Christ was created by Jehovah. Jesus says “I and my Father are ONE”. LORD means Yahweh. Other scriptures mentioned were John 1:1, 10:25-30; Isaiah 43:11; Titus 2:13; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:18. They believe that the Resurrection was a “spiritual event”. Bro. Tommy read Luke 24:39, John 2: 19-21. They believe the Second Coming would come in the year 1914 and establishment of God’s Kingdom and they also predicted end of world would be 1918 and 1925 and the resurrection of Old Testament patriots. They believed also that the end of time would be in 1975 with Armageddon and about 144,000 going to heaven. They also believe that Salvation is Jesus plus a lot of works.

The Mormon Church (Latter Day Saints) have an angel on their steeple instead of a cross. It was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830. He had his first vision in 1820 at the age of 14. In 1829, Smith claimed divine authority was given to him. Rev. Weldy spoke of the Book of Mormons; Documents and Covenants; The Pearl of Great Price; the Bible. They believe humanity lived with God as spiritual babies and that God once was like a man and that Jesus is a created being. Rev. Weldy quoted scripture of Jesus as Is, Was, and Always will be. They do not believe salvation is guaranteed. Salvation is received in grace after all they can do. There are 3 levels of Judgment and kingdom of glory 1) Celestial, 2) Terrestrial and 3) Telestial kingdoms. They believe that you can move from one level to another and go back to a level. They thought the end of world would be 1891.

Islam religion was founded in 610 AD by Muhammed. They do believe Jesus is a spirit from Allah, was born from a virgin, performed miracles, but they do not believe he died on a cross and rose from the dead. Allah is not a trinity. He is not a father to anyone and does not love believers. Tommy Weldy believes in John 3:16, Romans 5:8-18, 2 Peter 3: 9-17. There are thousands of Muslims in Forsyth County now. Quran is the Book of Islam. It was written over 23 years of time. It was only revealed to Muhammed. It acknowledges certain books as inspired works of God. Allah protects the Quaran.



Youth Pastor, **Rev. Gabriel Chedid**, from Iglesia Bautista Libertad on Wills Road off of Post Road, talked to us next. He acknowledged Castleberry Road Baptist Church as a special place and Pine Crest Baptist Church. The new Hispanic church first met in a house. Then as winter started, Castleberry Road opened their door for the congregation to meet there. The Hightower Association opened the door for their new church to use the previous Lighthouse Church on the Post Road. Gabriel said that God has done so much for them since they have their church. He said that the church held soccer games and other sporting events, fishing, Vacation Bible School, and other activities to have that one-on-one contact to reach people for Jesus. He read 1 Corinthians 3:7-9. God could do everything by Himself, but He desires us to work with Him. He asked us to pray for their pastor, Rev. Jimmy Soncco (who also is his father-in-law).

The next **Discipleship Committee Teaching session will be held at Oak Grove Baptist Church on June 6 at 6 p.m.** Pine Crest announced that their Spring Revival will be April 1-4. Pine Crest will be inviting their Hispanic neighbors to join them on 2 evenings in which the sermon will be in both Spanish and English. The session closed with the congregation singing “Amazing Grace” and dismissal prayer by **Rev. Craig Richard**.

Mark your calendar for the next teaching session at Oak Grove Baptist Church on June 6.

Where: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Cumming Ga

When: June 6, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Dinner: TBA

Teaching: Maged Atalla, Leading the Way (see Bio below), Oak Grove Boys of Dahlonga will be joining us for worship and dinner.

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 the event to RSVP for this evening of teaching, fellowship, and food. 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...



MAGED ATALLA, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF INT’L OUTREACH, Leading The Way, Atlanta, George - USA
Exposing the truth about Islam—while loving those in bondage to it.

Maged spent the majority of his life in Egypt under an Islamic regime. At age 17, after researching the claims of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, he encountered Jesus in a dream—and left atheism behind to follow Him. In 1996, he entered into full-time ministry to pursue God’s call on his life: reaching the lost, especially Muslims.

After serving as Program Manager for Trans World Radio in Monte Carlo, Monaco, for eight years, Maged joined Leading The Way with Dr. Michael Youssef in 2004 as the International Director. He has

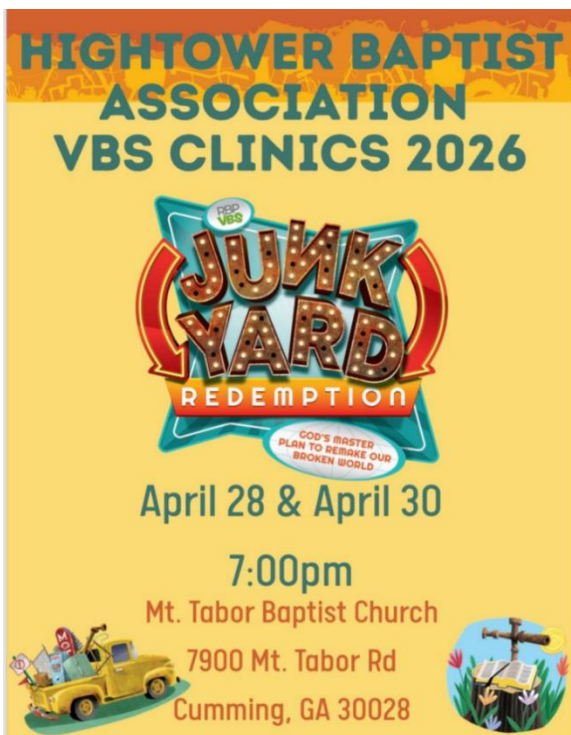
also launched and served as the Senior Director of Leading The Way's 24/7 satellite TV channel THE KINGDOM SAT, which God is using to draw many Muslims to faith in Christ.

Drawing on years of academic study, evangelism experience, and discipleship training, Maged is passionate about explaining the Islamic worldview and how to effectively share the Gospel with Muslims. His love for the Gospel and for Muslim people has led him around the globe many times, lecturing in classrooms and churches from Atlanta to Australia.

Maged is originally from Alexandria, Egypt, where he received his B.Sc. in Architectural Design and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning. He has completed professional studies on Islam and speaks Arabic, English, French, and German. He and his wife live in Atlanta and have two grown up sons, Roi and Lion.

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

Hightower Association News



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

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

Union Meetings

1st District – Bethlehem Baptist Church: Friday, May 1, 2026, 6:00 pm

2nd District – Crossroads Baptist Church: Friday, May 8, 2026, 6:00 pm

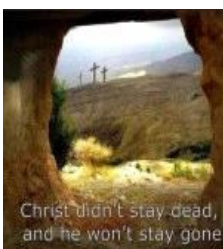
3rd District – Oak Grove Baptist Church: Friday, May 8, 2026, 6:00 pm

4th District – Birmingham Baptist Church: Friday, May 15, 2026, 6:00 pm

Hightower Baptist Association Church News and Announcements!!!

Brookwood Baptist Church: (2775 Brookwood Rd, Cumming, GA)

Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service & Communion in the sanctuary.



Sunday, April 5, 7:00 am - Easter Sunrise Service in the sanctuary, followed by breakfast hosted by the men's Brotherhood. There will be no Sunday School.

Sunday, April 5, 11:00 am - Easter Service in sanctuary. He is Risen!

Friday, Saturday & Sunday May 1-3 - Church Camp at Camp Hope in Dahlonega, GA. There will be no regular Sunday morning services at Brookwood on the 3rd. All are invited to attend worship service at Camp Hope at 10:00 am on Sunday morning.

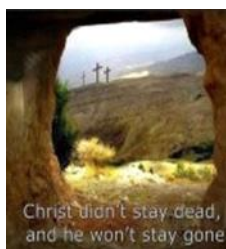
Sunday, May 17 – 11:00 am - May Meeting & Family Day. We will celebrate Communion during worship with lunch to follow. Please bring a side and/or dessert to share and invite your family.

Monday, June 19-25, 8:45 am - 12:00 noon - Vacation Bible School

Friendship Baptist Church: (2250 Friendship Circle, Cumming)



Friendship Spring Revival will be April 1-3 at 7 p.m. Rev. Caleb Byrd will bring the message on April 1, and Rev. Lucas Watson will bring the messages on April 2 and 3. Special singing each night. Communion services on Thursday evening. All are welcome to join us. Rev. Ricky Byrd, Pastor.



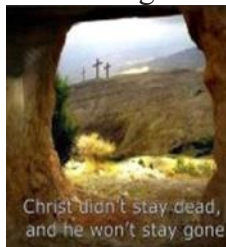
Friendship will have Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on April 5. Followed by a breakfast provided by the Brotherhood.

Easter Service will be at 11 a.m. on April 5, 2026. All choirs will be singing.

Friendship also has a Senior Ministry Luncheon on the second Tuesday of each month at 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meetings will be April 14 and May 12 (at Lake Lanier)

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

Liberty Baptist in Dawsonville will hold Spring Revival on March 29-April 1. Rev. Taylor Cole will be assisting Rev. Jason Hamby.



Easter Sunrise service will be April 5th at 7:00 AM.

May Meeting will be on May 17th with luncheon following.

Vacation Bible School is May 31st-June 5th from 6:30-8:30 nightly. Theme "Junkyard Redemption".

Summer Revival is July 12-18, 2026. Services will be held at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM.

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

The Preschool is accepting applications for students. Contact 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.

13th Annual Car & Truck Show

"Ye Must Be Born Again"
New Harmony Baptist Church
Saturday, April 25th
Poole's Mill Elementary School
7110 Heardsville Rd Cumming GA

Check in begins 9:00 am
 Ends at 1:00 pm
 Must be present to win door prizes!
DOOR PRIZES !!

Silent Auction !!

Grand Door Prize
Chevrolet Motor
 Courtesy of Andean Chevrolet

Trophies at 2:00 pm
 Show Topper
 Top Ford Car
 Top Chevrolet Car
 Top Ford Truck
 Top Chevrolet Truck
 Top Mopar
 Top 25

Registration Fee \$25.00 per entry!
 biscuits, hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, soft drinks, ice cream & desserts
 Proceeds benefit New Harmony Church Camp and Youth Groups

Rain Date:
Saturday,
May 2, 2026

!!!! NO ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES!!!!
 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CALL 770-633-1501

NO BURNOUTS!

Sponsored by:
 Andean Chevrolet
 Larry Evans Trucking
 Childers Foundations Inc.
 Evans Custom Homes
 Jasper Pipeline
 Edge Roofing
 Red Oak Sanitation

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

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

Vacation Bible School will be June 7th-11th nightly from 7 – 9 pm.

Pine Crest Baptist Church: (126 14th St., Cumming)

Pine Crest Baptist Church invites you to our **Spring Revival, April 1–4, 2026**. Services will begin each evening at 7:30 PM. We are honored to have young missionary **Gabriel Chedid** of Iglesia Bautista Libertad Church preaching nightly. On Friday evening, we extend a special invitation to all our Spanish-speaking friends. **Missionary David Gardner**, a lifelong missionary to Peru, will be preaching in Spanish, and Gabriel will translate into English. We would love for you to join us. If you are unable to attend, please pray that God will send us new friends, and even more importantly, new friends in Christ. (Thank you, Shane Wehunt, for sending us this invitation.)

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



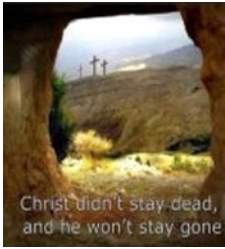
Shady Grove and Beaver Ruin Baptist Churches will have a joint Spring Revival Sunday night, March 29 thru Wednesday night, April 1 beginning at 7 pm each night

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



Spring revival will be March 29-April 1 at 7:00 pm. Rev. Cory Gilleland is assisting pastor.

Flashlight egg hunt will be on April 3rd with dinner served at 7:00 pm followed by games and activities until the egg hunt at 8:30. Don't forget your flashlight!



Easter morning begins with the Sonrise service at 7:00 am. Rev. Chandler Ingram will be bringing the message followed by a hearty breakfast prepared by the deacons before the Easter service.

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

VBS will be May 31-June 4.

Summer revival will be June 21-27.

Hightower Food and Clothing Bank
Church Volunteer Schedule 2026



We are asking that all 1st District churches plan to send volunteers and ministers for our 2nd Quarter HBAFCB distributions. **ALL CHURCHES are welcome to volunteer anytime.**

1st District Churches are- 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

2nd Quarter distributions dates are- **April 11, May 9 and June 13.** We meet at 7:30 am for prayer before we open the doors at 8am.

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

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

Hightower Baptist Association WMU News



- Annie Armstrong article
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering - More than a Gift

Just imagine...Thousands of churches praying. Mission teams showing up. Letters flooding in. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering isn't just an offering; it's God multiplying your generosity in ways you can't even imagine. It really is more than a gift!

Over 291 million people in North America are living without the hope of the gospel. Without the Good News, they will face life and eternity without Christ. Every story you share, every prayer you lift and every dollar you give is a life transformed.

100% of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings train and provide resources to more than 3,000 missionaries and their families involved in church planting and compassion ministries who share the gospel of Jesus Christ across the United States and Canada to unbelievers.

Hear from North American missionaries who want to express their thanks and share how your gifts fuel their work every day: <https://anniearmstrong.com/resource/a-special-thank-you-message-from-your-north-american-missionaries/>

Visit <https://www.anniearmstrong.com/> to learn more .

As we prepare our hearts for the Easter season, pray for those who go and sacrifice so much to spread the good news.

Thank you for your support of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and North American Missions.



Hightower Baptist Association WMU

Spring Celebration

In appreciation of our pastors, mission partners, and the ladies of the WMU, you are invited to join us for a special dinner.

We are honored to welcome our guest speaker, Rev. Chris Reynolds, Lead Strategist for Pastor Wellness with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

Monday, April 20, 2026
6:30 PM

Haw Creek Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
1098 Haw Creek Cir E, Cumming

All pastors and wives and WMU ladies and their husbands are invited.

WMU Directors, please **RSVP** with the number of attendees for your church by **Monday, April 13** by text or email to Stacey Gonzales: 678-296-1463 or hightowerwmu@gmail.com

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
Romans 8:28*



(Thank you, Stacey Gonzales, Hightower Association WMU Director, for sharing the WMU news.

Georgia Baptist Women: Spring Event, Saturday, April 18, First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, GA. [Georgia Baptist Women Spring Event 2026 - Georgia Baptist Women](#)

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.](#)

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 Office 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](#)

Here is this month's brief video from Alan Morris: [New Journey - Mission Minutes 3.27.26](#)



North Georgia School of Gospel Music (NGSGM) will be held on June 7-12, 2026, at First Baptist Church in Cumming, GA. Registration is now open. Many people in the Hightower Association attend these sessions. Please see this Web site to find details and Register: <https://ngsgm.com/>

The **National Day of Prayer is scheduled for May 7, 2026.** Here is the Web site for Georgia's National Day of Prayer: <https://ndpgeorgia.com>

👁️👁️ Looking Back in our Hightower Association History: **What was happening in the Hightower Baptist Association 94 years ago?**

I found something interesting to me in the **97th Annual Session of the Hightower Association Minutes held at Sharp Mt. Baptist Church on August 10-11, 1932.** It is the **Report on God's Acre Committee** (I haven't heard of this committee). The Committee was Roy P Otwell, J A Holcomb, R G Bell.

We are glad to report that during 1932 something like one-half of our churches in the Hightower Association have adopted and are actually using the God's Acre plan, some of which are doing so by planting actual acres or plots, in cotton, corn, potatoes or other commodities, others by raising chickens, hogs, cattle, or by giving their Sunday eggs and some by giving a definite sum of money each week or month or in the fall. We find that even some of the children are saving a penny a day for this purpose, which we believe is excellent training for the children to learn them to give to the support of their church. We believe the God's Acre plan as a whole is a great plan for churches to adopt to raise money to be used by each local church for paying it's running expenses, such as repairs, painting, fuel, help out pastor's salary, missions, hospital work, and such other purposes as voted by the church in regular conference. We, your committee, recommend that at this session, the Hightower Association elect one general chairman and four district chairmen, being one from each Union Meeting district to promote this great work during this fall and next year in each and every Church, so far as is possible. After being discussed by Roy P Otwell, Geo. W Andrews, M M Mullinax, J L Wyatt and Walter Roper, was adopted.



After reading these minutes, I wanted to know more and I went to internet and found exactly what was going on in the country during the late 1920's and 1930's. If interested, please check out these 2 web sites about what all was done in the country when God's people worked together on mission.

<https://Dirtroadscountrychurchessmalltowns.blogspot.com>

[Lord's Acre Movement - Wikipedia](#)