



Hightower Baptist Association Newsletter

Volume 17: June-July 2026

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

Hightower Association News

Boots on the Ground news from Kim Weldy

Boots on the Ground have been praying and preparing for the summer activities planned. God has blessed us beyond anything we ever imagined or thought possible over the last year. We continue to do weekly Bible Study every Thursday night at 6:30pm and church service every Sunday night at 6pm. Dinner is served at both for all who attend. What a blessing these services have been. To see many of these children participating in the study and singing in church on Sunday night! God is so good and he always provides!! We are averaging around 30+ per Bible Study and 60-70 for church service on Sunday nights. We would love to invite everyone to come join us when possible. The address is 79 Bill Elliott St S, Dawsonville, Ga. We hold these services in the Etowah Masonic Lodge off the square in Dawsonville. Unchurched folks are showing up. Our current families are inviting friends and family to come with them.

Due to the weather, we had to cancel our One Day VBS that was scheduled for Saturday, May 23. Please be on the lookout for updates on Facebook as to the rescheduled date.

We are traveling to Gainesville on Saturday, May 30th to feed the homeless at 4:30pm. The address is 602 Oak St. Gainesville, Ga.

On Saturday, June 6th, our third Discipleship Foundations will be held at Oak Grove Church.

Dinner will be served. The training will begin at 6pm. Dinner will be Smoked chicken, hamburger steak and gravy, baked potato, green beans, and dessert. Brother Maged Atallah, Influence of Islam in our Culture and reaching the Lost, will be bringing the teachings. The Oak Grove Boys from Dahlonga will be in charge of music and worship. To register, call, text, or email Jason Power at 770-815-1589. We would like to thank Oak Grove church for hosting this event. (see more details in this issue)

On Saturday, June 20th, we will host our first supply and lunch distribution at Dawson County

Junior High from 10 am-1pm. Supplies will be distributed, lunch provided, and prayers and fellowship with all. Please be much in prayer for these distributions. This is how we meet most of the families God has placed in our path. We are extremely low on supplies for distributions. There is an Amazon list on our Boots on the Ground Facebook page or

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2E0D2VX4XRN6B?ref_=wl_share

Items ordered will be delivered straight to our Boots warehouse. These items are most needed to pass out to our families, especially during summer when many of the children are home. If any churches or groups

would like to do a supply drive, we are more than happy to pick those items up from you, or you can contact a Boots member, and we will arrange drop off.

Our **second distribution on Saturday, August 1 from 10am-1pm at Dawson County Junior High.** We will also be providing school supplies at this distribution. We are looking to plan a **tent revival in late August/early September.**

In addition to our distributions, we continue to help many families with household repairs, plumbing repairs, porch repairs, and any home improvements that make the living conditions better for the family. Cars are being repaired and donated to families. Whatever need God sends our way, we continue to pray for discernment so that we may do His will, and they may see him in us! If you know of any needs or help, contact a Boots member and we will do what we can! Follow our Facebook page for upcoming events and announcements. If there is something hard, that utterance may be burdening your heart, be bold! Bring it to the group, we will support you!

To be faithful to the great commission, we must be boots on the ground! Ephesians 6:18-20
Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints -and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it, I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak!

The next **Discipleship Committee Teaching session will be held at Oak Grove Baptist Church on June 6 at 6 p.m.**

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: Smoked chicken, hamburger steak and gravy, baked potato, green beans, and dessert
Teaching: Maged Atalla, Leading the Way (see Bio below), Oak Grove Boys of Dahlongega 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

We remember two of our HBA Pastors who passed away the last two months, **Rev. Harold Bottoms and Rev. Jack Biddy**. We want to remember their families in our prayers and especially their wives who have served many years with these men.



Rev. Harold Bottoms was a lifelong resident of Forsyth County and passed away Saturday, May 16, 2026. He was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. Harold was a well-known pastor, having served a number of churches in the area and officiated many weddings, funerals and revivals. These were some of the churches that he served until 2004 when our history book of ministers was published: Mica, Marble Hill, and Cross Plains. He was ordained on September 20, 1985. His father, Broughton Bottoms, was also an ordained minister. His survivors include his wife, Rose Mary Bottoms; daughter and son-in-law, Liz and Wayne Rouse; grandchildren, Aerial, Damian, Logan and Max Rouse; brother and sister-in-law, Tommy and Joan Bottoms; sisters, Martha Hammond, Mary Nolan; brother-in-law, Hank Rider.

Rev. Jackie "Jack" E. Biddy, age 89, passed peacefully on May 10, 2026. Jack was ordained as a deacon in 1974. In 1976 he announced his call to preach and was ordained into the full work of ministry in 1982, and faithfully served as pastor of eight churches from 1982 until 2019: Silver Shoals Baptist Church, Settendown Baptist Church, Hopewell Baptist Church, Liberty Baptist Church, New Bethel Baptist Church, Ridgeview Baptist Church, Siloam Baptist Church and Mountain View Baptist Church. He rejoiced in seeing many souls saved and had the privilege of baptizing countless others through the years. One of his favorite pieces of advice to young preachers beginning their ministry was, "End up with what you started with." reminding them to stay grounded in the faith, and calling God first gave them. Jack is survived by his wife of 66 years Barbara English Biddy; son and daughter-in-law, Rev. Timothy & Robin Biddy; daughter and son-in-law, Aimee & John.



Hightower Baptist Association Church News and Announcements!!!

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

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

Corinth Baptist Church: (1700 Mary Alice Park Rd, Cumming, GA)

Summer Revival is June 21-27, nightly only at 7:00 PM each night. Rev. Matthew Milford and Rev. Tim Sullen from Dahlonega will be assisting our Pastor, Toby Hamby Everyone is invited. Pray if you cannot come. (Thank you Joann Burruss)



**16TH ANNUAL
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST
CHURCH
RUN FOR THE SON CAR
SHOW**
August 1st 2026 9am-2pm
Sponsored by:

**JOIN US FOR
BREAKFAST,
LUNCH,
HOMEMADE ICE
CREAM, AND
FELLOWSHIP!**

REGISTRATION

PRE REGISTER- \$20
DAY OF- \$25

AWARDS:

- Pastor's Choice
- People's Choice
- Kid's Choice
- Longest Distance Traveled
- Top 10

2250 Friendship Circle
Cumming, Ga 30028

Trevorevans97@gmail.com

404-660-8959



Friendship Baptist Church: (2250 Friendship Circle, Cumming)

Vacation Bible School is May 31-June 4 from 6:20-8:45 nightly. Dinner is 5:30 pm. Theme "Junkyard Redemption".

Summer Revival is July 12-18, 2026. Services will be held at 11:00 AM and 7 PM. Rev. Lucas Watson and Rev. Caleb Byrd will be assisting our Pastor, Ricky Byrd.

16th Annual Car Show will be August 1, 2026, 9am to 2 pm.

American Revolutionary Historical Marker will be placed in Friendship Cemetery this summer with a ceremony by Chestatee River DAR and SAR group. John N LeGrand was a Revolutionary War soldier and a member of Friendship from 1841-1843. He is the only known soldier of that war that they have found who lived in Forsyth County. There will be a ceremony at our church on November 7. There has been a Forsyth County Documentary that celebrates the 250th Anniversary of our

country that will be shown at the Forsyth County Main Library on June 7 at 2 pm and on July 25 at 11 am. There will be a brief segment in this about Friendship and Mr. LeGrand.

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

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.

Church Camp, at Pinnacle Retreat, Clayton, GA on July 31st-August 2nd

Macedonia Baptist Church: (11230 East Cherokee Drive, Ball Ground, GA)

Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, May 31-Thursday, June 4, 6:00-8:30. Ages Pre-K through Adult. The theme is "Junkyard Redemption".

Summer Revival will be held Sunday, June 21 through Saturday, June 27. The services will begin at 10:45 am and 7:30 pm each day. Rev. Richie Gibbs and Rev. Greg Hamilton will be helping our pastor, Terry Caylor.

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

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

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

Summer Revival will be held on July 12-18 at 11 am and 7:30 pm. Rev. Taylor Cole and Rev. Brody Hughes will be assisting our Pastor, Craig Richard. All are welcome.

Oak Grove church camp will be at Strong Rock in Cleveland, Ga on August 7-9, 2026.



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

VBS will be June 7-11 from 5:45-8:45 pm.

Summer Revival will be July 19-25, 11am and 7:30 pm each day.

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

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.** **Beginning on July 11, 2nd District Churches will work 3rd Quarter.**

On June 13, the 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

On July 11, 2nd District Churches are: Bethel (D and F), Concord, Cross Roads, Dawsonville, Etowah, Goshen, Harmony, Harmony Grove, Juno, Liberty, New Bethel, Ridgeview

Next distributions dates are **June 13 and July 11. We meet at 7:30 am for prayer before we open the doors at 8am.**

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

Hightower Baptist Association WMU News

The Hightower Association WMU Spring Celebration was held at Haw Creek Baptist Church on April 20, 2026. Stacey Gonzales, HBA WMU Director and Ginny Hall, Haw Creek WMU Director, welcome Hightower Association WMU members, pastors, and other guests to the event. Rev. Shad Faulkner, Haw Creek pastor, led the blessing before all enjoyed a plentiful delicious meal.

Justin Power sang “Did I Mention”. **Julie Elzey**, HBA Assistant WMU Director, thanked Haw Creek WMU for such a wonderful dinner and told the Pastors and their wives how much our WMU members appreciate their support of our WMUs. Julie also did the HBA WMU Roll Call. There were ladies from ten churches at the celebration.

Stacey told the officers how much she appreciated them. She also made announcements about upcoming state events. She spoke about the Georgia Baptist Women Spring Event at First Baptist Jonesboro. This year’s theme was “Better Together” from Psalm 133:1. We are strong together. We are all woven together for God’s Purpose. Encourage others. There is a resounding message of unity for today’s work, whether at the Food and Clothing Bank, Boots on the Ground, Hispanic church, etc.

Joann Burruss shared the Missionary prayer requests and read Proverbs 31. **Justin Power** sang “I’d Rather Have Jesus”.



Rev. Chris Reynolds, Lead Strategist for Pastor Wellness from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board was our Guest Speaker. Rev. Craig Ward from NW Region was also with us. Rev. Reynolds has pastored for 20 years at Mount Zion in Jonesboro. His job is to help Pastors in several ways: spiritually, vocationally, financially, or whatever they need. Covid pandemic is what propelled the ministry of Pastor Wellness. He read Colossians 1:1-3, 8-9 with the theme verse 9. It exists for pastors to have someone to talk to and to invest the Gospel into. Pastors are taken on Retreats. Their wives are taken on Retreats. There are Couple Retreats. Why do people connect? To discuss, fuss, call us, reach out. Pastors reach out for community. Keep on keeping on!! Pastors are invited to a Fall Retreat at Lake Lanier this fall or spring in Savannah.

Announcements were made and **Peggy Pruitt**, HBA WMU Treasurer led the closing prayer. The Pastors’ wives were given the plant center pieces on the table. (These notes were from Janice Tallant and the pictures.)





Hightower WMU Ladies attend the Spring Event on April 17-18, 2026, at First Baptist Church in Jonesboro. (Leigh Hawkins, Stacey Gonzales, Kathy Dishroom, Janice Tallant, Teresa Singleton, Cathy Finley). Unique meeting of Spanish and English-speaking speakers leading the sessions. 1500 hygiene bags were filled on Friday evening for persons across Georgia. Great conference!

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](#)