



# Hightower Baptist Association Newsletter

Volume 6: August- September 2024

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Hello Hightower Association Churches. I hope you have had a wonderful summer which includes witnessing to the Lost and being so blessed when you get to actually be with someone at the time of their new birth. I did get happy when I saw on Facebook my great niece go to the altar at Salem Baptist and get saved. There was rejoicing right here in my mother's bedroom. However, there is something very special about "makes me love everybody" feeling that you have seeing Jesus enter that person's being. This month I'm going to place the summer church story activities according to the church. Please be sure and check the Hightower Baptist Association Website Calendar for any events happening in our Association at [Calendar – Hightower Baptist Association](#). Let's make the next deadline for sending in news on September 27, 2024, for the October-November issue. You may send the information as it happens as well. Whatever works for you and your church. I remain very excited to hear all the great things going on in the churches of the Hightower Baptist Association. Many thanks to all our "reporters" and please make sure that your church is sending in your good news to Janice Tallant, [janicetallant@yahoo.com](mailto:janicetallant@yahoo.com)

## Hightower Association Churches Summer News

**Roanoke Baptist Church** has had fun this Summer! We held VBS the first week of June and we had a blast with the SHINE theme and diving into God's Word together. Summer Revival began the third Sunday in July with Reverends Terry Caylor and Logan Samples helping our pastor, Jamie Sanford. We had **one** precious soul saved and **two** baptized the following Sunday. We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for Roanoke as we head into this new church year! Blessings to our sister churches!

**Bethel Baptist Church** in Dawson County reports that VBS was the week of June 17-21 with a great attendance averaging over 225 children and adults each night. Revival was July 21-27 and Bethel was blessed to have Rev. Tim Biddy assist our pastor Rev. Dennis Bottoms in a great spirit filled revival. **Four** souls were saved, **eight** were baptized and one joined under the watch care. We are looking forward to church camp on September 27-29 at Pinnacle Resort in Clayton, GA

**Liberty Baptist Church-Dawsonville.** Vacation Bible School had a grand attendance of 301 children and adults attended during the week. **Nine (8)** children were saved. During our revival, **four (3)** were saved and **16** baptized. Rev. Will Glaze assisted Pastor Jason Hamby in the revival held at 11:00 and 7:30 daily July 14-20, 2024. **Another soul was saved** following the morning service on baptism day. Praise the Lord! Rev. Jason Hamby still has a burden for Liberty and will be staying another year. Liberty is hosting a Fall Concert in the field next to the church on September 14 at 6:30pm. We will have food and drinks for purchase and several musical performances. Bring a chair or blanket and spend the evening in fellowship. Tickets can be purchased at the gate. All funds raised go toward youth events including church camp. Address is 280 Liberty Church Rd, Dawsonville, 30534.

**Macedonia Baptist reports:** Our church camp will be held during the Labor Day weekend at Strong Rock Camp in Cleveland, Georgia. Our WMU is busy working on the Christmas backpack project. Our Thanksgiving dinner for seniors and shut-ins will be held on Saturday, November 23.

**Cross Plains Baptist Church** baptized two new members this last church year, Hudson Garmon and Reese Dinsmore. Cross Plains will be at Church Camp September 27-29 at Strong Rock in Cleveland, GA. Tyler Goode, Pastor

**Shady Grove Church Camp** will be Aug 23-25 at Strong Rock.

**Friendship Baptist Church** had a wonderful VBS with over 200 attending “Shine”. Summer revival was also wonderful. We enjoyed Rev. Tim Bidy being with us all week assisting our pastor, Rev. Ricky Byrd. We had five souls saved in the church and one saved after church in someone’s home. Rev. Byrd baptized two this summer. Friendship had Church Camp the last weekend in July with one more saved. Hallelujah!! Friendship thanks anyone who participated in the August 3 Car Show at the church which raised more than \$10,600 for church and youth missions.

**New Harmony Baptist** had 2 souls saved during our summer revival and 2 were baptized this year. We had a great VBS and had 1 soul saved. Our church camp is set for September 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> at Camp Hope in Dahlonega. New Harmony has a new pastor, Rev. Dennis Bottoms.

Total reported saved from these 8 churches is at least 28 plus 30 from 3 Saturdays at Food Bank = 58 new Christian brothers and sisters in our world. Also, 32 were baptized in these 8 churches. Praise the Lord!!! Jesus still is in the saving business!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

**189<sup>th</sup> Hightower Baptist Association Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 9:00 am.** At **New Harmony Baptist Church, Cumming, Georgia.**

**Liberty** is hosting a **Fall Concert** in the field next to the church on **September 14 at 6:30pm.** We will have food and drinks for purchase and several musical performances. Bring a chair or blanket and spend the evening in fellowship. Tickets can be purchased at gate. All funds raised go toward youth events including church camp. The address is 280 Liberty Church Rd, Dawsonville, 30534.

**Friendship Baptist WMU** will hold their annual **Ladies Night Out on October 19, 2024.** Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner and program begin at 6 p.m. Follow our Facebook page, @friendshipbaptistGA for more details. Also, **Homecoming will be on October 13** with lunch following service.

Here is a letter from Rev. Jerry McCormick about the **Truck loading** that Hightower Association does for the **Georgia Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries.**

Dear Sister Churches,

It is hard to believe that it is time to start thinking about gift cards for the Georgia Baptist Children’s Home. It seems the older I get the faster time goes by. The generosity of the Hightower Baptist Association Churches over the past several years has been both inspiring and encouraging. What a great opportunity to help put food on their table and let them know there is a place for them at the Master’s table through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ezekiel 22:30 tells us that God looked for a man to fill the gap and found none. Each year the Hightower Baptist Association’s gift is a very small percentage of the overall Georgia Baptist Children’s Home budget. We are filling the gap that larger donors leave. What a privilege. What a responsibility. What an honor. Let’s do it. Thank you for showing your love for these children. May God Bless you.

Please make your donations of **Walmart, Mastercard and Visa gift cards**, as they are the easiest for GBCH to use. We will accept cash and checks made out to GBCH. Please bring these to the **189th Hightower Baptist Association Meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2024**. The meeting will be held at New Harmony Baptist Church. The meeting starts at 9:00 am but I will be collecting the donations at 8:00 am and up until the time of the meeting.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Jerry McCormick, Representative to the Georgia Baptist Children's Home**

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Since we are talking about Georgia Baptist Children's Home Truckloading, let's talk a little more about the beginnings of this mission. Here is some history about the **Georgia Baptist Children's Home** from the book *What Means these Stones* that celebrates 125-years-old history of Georgia Baptist Children's Home. The 1997 copy of the book was lying on a table at Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, GA., so I ordered the book that is written by Aubrey Lamar Hawkins. The summer camp for developing disabled children is named Camp Hawkins in the author's honor.

These events came from the Book mentioned above. In 1864, at the Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) William L Mansfield of Lumpkin made a motion to look toward establishment of an orphan asylum for the orphaned children in Confederate states. From the beginning there was discussion whether the orphan's home should relate to GBC. In 1871, we see that they were raising money for the asylum and a ten-room house with 100 acres on Peachtree Road, 2 ½ miles from the center of Atlanta, was bought for \$4100 and had 32 children crowded into it. In 1879, the GBC adopted a resolution to dissolve the relation between the Convention and the Home. In 1884, it was totally closed. But in 1888, the women of Second Baptist Church in Atlanta continued to do what they could for the orphans. These women decided to organize a Georgia Baptist Orphan's Home Association. In 1890 the new Home opened with five children. Between 1890-1893, the Home moved locations three times. In 1899, the GBC wanted a closer relationship to the Home. In 1899, the new Home opened in Hapeville with 65 children. (The property for this Home was sold in 1965 because of the rapidly expanding Atlanta airport.) In 1943, the name was changed to Georgia Baptist Children's Home. In 1968, the Palmetto campus was opened to replace the Hapeville Campus. In 1980, the GBC approved for mentally retarded adults – DDM. In 1985, the name was changed to the Georgia Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries.

So, when did the Hightower Association become involved with supporting the orphanage? The Hightower Baptist Association Minutes of 1901 states that \$3.10 was given to the "Orphan's Home". So, we know collections were given at that time for Orphans Home and records also indicate that missions were given to "Indians", "Association Baptist church in Cuba" "foreign missions", and "home missions".

I'm sharing with you some history from the 1922 Hightower Baptist Association Meeting Minutes which was held at Haw Creek Church on August 8-10, 1922.

"We your Committee on Orphans' Home, submit the following report:

The Georgia Baptist Orphan's Home at Hapeville is owned and controlled by Baptists. No one can know the Home as they should unless they visit it and hang around for a while. It is Home! Yes, it is Home, with the word "Orphans" eliminated. It is a home of training. They do not live on bread alone, but the idea of training for life is the uppermost idea. In the Hapeville Home, there is a training force of workers who have 360 children under their care, who get first-class training in every line of common life. The Home has a herd of 24 jersey cows. There is a boy to the cow who milks her and takes care of her. The cows supply a large part of the wholesome food used in the Home. The boys cultivate the farm of 52 acres of their own ground with some more rented; so, while they are getting physical and religious training, they are going up as far as possible toward self-support... The Home is particularly Christian.

Not only the Board of Trustees, but all the governing forces, and men and women who are loyal to Jesus Christ. "Dad" Scoggins, as he is familiarly known in the Home, is a man of real ability. He seems to have special insight into the principles that should govern child life. As they all work, and then all play, these boys and girls will show you the signs of work in their hands and flash the smiles of play on their faces. Think of 360 people, and you will have some idea of the needs of this Home. Think of the manager on whose shoulders, yea, on whose heart, rests the responsibility of this large family. We feel that there should be a personal determination that no child in our Home should ever go hungry, and that our worthy manager should never be put to inconvenience in seeing to it that they are clothed, fed, and trained. When we think of the fertile fields of Georgia and her 325,000 white Baptists, we are assured that all we have to do is to get their eyes turned toward Hapeville." D W DeVore, Chairman, E L Nix, W A Adams, Committee

Editor's note of my (Janice Tallant) memories of Georgia Baptist Children's Home activities of Friendship Baptist. The church would take up a special offering on the second Sunday in October for the Children's Home and a special offering was taken for Georgia Baptist Hospital on second Sunday in May. We only had church services on the second and fourth Sundays during those years. In the 1980's, I remember that our Young Adult Sunday School class "adopted" a cottage led by Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Evans. We supplied their area with picnic tables and something else. We wanted to give them a little party but were told we could not do that because they did not want to spoil them (or something like that). Mr. and Mrs. Evans and the children did visit our church at least 2 times and talk about their lives at GBCH. Later years, the truckloading started for Hightower Association as each Association was assigned certain items to donate to the Home such as cereal, canned beans, canned fruit, detergent, toilet tissue, and other non-perishable items. Then comes a pandemic called Covid and the Georgia Baptist Children's Home then asked for money and gift cards. Hightower has been very generous with these collections. Last year's truck loading collection was \$33,126.00 plus unknown amounts on some gift cards according to the last minutes of HBA. Remember, bring your donations to the Association Meeting on October 2.

Tony Allen sends me this information: "Linda and I went with **Pleasant View Baptist Church** on a mission trip to Stearns, Kentucky last week. There were 21 in all on the team on this mission trip from Pleasant View. We served along with three other teams from SC and two from NC. For a total of sixty odd of us there. Concord Baptist will be on Missions at the same place next week.



We had a very good week of service to the Lord through serving the Crossroads Baptist Church, The Lords Café, The Light Community and to a VBS. Praise the Lord for souls saved, for seeds planted (both spiritually and physically) and for a wonderful week of fellowship and worship with brothers and sisters from other parts of the country."

Tony Allen sent this picture from the Kentucky mission story. a thank you from a recipient getting food on the "blessings porch" of the Lord's Café. Check out their web page: [Crossroads Community Baptist](https://www.crossroadscommunitybaptist.com/)

[Church - Live Fluid \(crossroadscommunitybc.org\)](http://crossroadscommunitybc.org) Here is another link about an ongoing mission this church is doing: [KY missionaries launch big idea with tiny homes - The Baptist Paper](#)

Grant Hasty, pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church and a Kentucky Missionary, sent this message to Tony: "Thanks Tony! I have been waiting to read your response to this week's mission trip. I love your insight each time. Loved the fellowship time with all the teams and love seeing multiple churches working together as the one body of Christ! We look forward to hearing more of what God is going to continue to do as a result of the obedience of the ones who came on missions."

Tony Allen's reply: "Grant, the multiple teams working together and fellowshiping together is something that I guess that I take for granted now. And yes, it is great to see the body of Christ come together and function as one! The fellowship this year was especially sweet, I told my team that Monday evening was nothing short of a minute glimpse of what Heaven is going to be like. We walk in and there is a feast on the table prepared before us. The teams meshed and fellowshiped like we had known each other for all of our lives. We were praising the Lord almost without recognizing it! Such is the 'magic' of a mission trip. I am already longing for our next visit. Just a brother in Jesus Christ, Tony"

### **Tony Allen also shares this with us!**

Here are a few practical ways to help you spiritually and mentally prepare for your mission trip.

1. PRAY "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 4:6-7)
2. Understand the Purpose of Your Mission Trip. Rev. Grant Hasty, Kentucky Baptist Missionary to the Appalachian region of Kentucky puts it this way, "if you came here to help the poor people of Kentucky, you can go home now." The primary reason for any Christian mission is to point the people that we are ministering to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There are no secondary reasons!
3. Pray.
4. Study your Bible 15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.* 2 Timothy 2:15-16
5. PRAY
6. Don't Try to Be Perfect. (That is your own idea of perfection) but seek God's will in everything. 8 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord* Isaiah 55:8
7. PRAY
8. Work on the Fruits of the Spirit. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* Galatians 5:22-23 Do your best to demonstrate these qualities in everything that you do, especially while on missions!
9. PRAY. Put on the whole Armour of God, Ephesians 6:5-24 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.* 1 Peter 5:8 New King James Version This verse is especially applicable when one is on missions. Be prepared! And the best preparation for this battle that I know of is the whole armor of God.
11. PRAY
12. Be Flexible Fluid and Adjust Your Expectations. Being flexible is to be fixed to some point and bending when pressure is applied. On the other hand, being fluid is to roll with the punches. That is changing your direction at the changing of the circumstances. Luke 5:1-11 nevertheless... An online search of the Bible reveals that this word, nevertheless, appears 97 times. While I have not read all 97 of them, a random reading of the results reveals that circumstances are changing, thus people's lives are changing also. I find on a mission trip that I experience nevertheless often. On missions one quickly learns to 'roll with the punches.' My friend and missions' partner, Rev Garry English has a mini sermon that he uses as a devotion on almost every mission that I have been on with him. It is the story Jesus is

teaching on the shores of the sea of Galilee, taken from Luke 5, where to get away from the press of the crowd he 'borrows' Simon Peter's boat and pushes out from the shore a little way to teach. When he finishes teaching, he tells Peter to launch out into the deep part of the sea and let down his nets for a catch. Simon Peter a professional fisherman, knows that it is the wrong time of the day and the wrong place to be fishing on the Sea of Galilee, but his response to Jesus' command is a classic. And I paraphrase his response, 'Lord we have fished all night and caught nothing, nevertheless at your command I will do what you tell me to.' The passage farther records that the catch was so great that his boat began to sink and he called to his partners to come help and their boats began to sink. So it is especially through missions that I have learned to say to the Lord 'that is not what I have planned Lord, nevertheless at your command...'

He always has a surprise 'catch' instore when I respond this way. The truth be told most of the time my response is more like that of Jonah, 'Lord I had this planned and I'm going to do it my way.'

13. PRAY Ephesians 6:10, 18 A good example of the power of prayer, on this recent mission trip we prayed before we left home, 'Lord please give us saved souls for our labors.' On the first morning of our working there, there was one man saved. Praise his holy name! Furthermore, one of our planned activities on this trip was to distribute baby supplies that the church had collected the week before at Vacation Bible School. On Monday and Tuesday, we saw a total of five babies. Tuesday night during our 'blessing and challenges' session of our nightly devotion we prayed that we would see more babies on Wednesday, and did the Lord respond! On Wednesday we saw probably more than fifty babies! Praise the Lord! It just goes to demonstrate the power of Prayer. The missionary's wife who handles the online advertising for the Lord's Café, had posted all week 'FREE baby supplies at the Lord's Café.' But on Wednesday the Lord showed us the power of prayer...



This team I believe is from Concord Baptist who worked the next week. Tony Allen supplied this picture and the following letter from the pastor.

“Greetings Mission Team Leaders,  
We just completed Summer Missions Week #4! So far, the summer has been amazing! We are blessed to have worked with many great brothers and sisters. We greatly appreciate everyone's willingness to be fluid on missions. Many gospel seeds

have been planted, at least three have come into relationship with Christ, and many prayers have been offered for so many needs.

We do have some major updates. This week, I received a call from a church wanting to help get the first homes completed at The Light Community. In the coming days, we should be receiving a check that will cover completing three homes, the laundry house, and moving forward with other homes! Please pray for wisdom and favor as we move forward lining up the work to be completed. In addition, we also have a

KY electrician coming to pull the permits for more homes to move forward and work with others electricians from other states. When the rough in inspections for the next set of homes is complete, we can begin to close any walls that have no water lines.” Grant O. Hasty, **Pastor & KY Baptist Missionary, Crossroads Community Baptist Church**

### **Food/Clothing Bank News**

**Kevin Smith, Director of the Hightower Food/Clothing Bank** gives us this update.

**In June we had 371 families served and 11 souls saved.**

**In July we had 427 families served and 13 souls saved.**

**In August, we had 370 families served and 6 souls saved.**

**Total saved this summer at least 30. Praise the Lord!!!**

We had 580 children sign up for back-to-school backpacks.

Kevin encourages that “we need volunteers on 2nd Saturdays and on Tuesday mornings. Thank you.



The 4<sup>th</sup> District Churches are asked to volunteer during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. The distributions dates are July 13, August 10, and September 14. We meet with prayer and announcements at 7:30 a.m. on the day of distribution before they open the doors. Of course, any volunteers from anywhere are always welcome anytime. **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!

[www.hbafoodbank.org](http://www.hbafoodbank.org)

[\*\*Hightower Association Food Bank\*\*](#)

[8630 Wallace Tatum Rd, Cumming, GA 30028](#) ·

[\(770\) 205-2464](#)

### **Upcoming Church Camps**

**Concord Baptist** will have Church Camp on August 9-11.

**Coal Mountain Baptist** will have Church Camp on August 16-17 at Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, GA.

**Macedonia Baptist** will have Church Camp on August 30-September 1 at Strong Rock Camp in Cleveland, GA

**Bethel Church Camp** will be held September 27-29 at Pinnacle Resort in Clayton, GA

**Shady Grove Church Camp** will be Aug 23-25 at Strong Rock. Angie Bagley reporting

**New Harmony church camp** is set for September 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> at Camp Hope in Dahlonega.

**We would love to share any news that you have not only from church camps, mission trips, revivals, but anything going on at your church.**

## Hightower Baptist Association WMU:

**The Fall Missions Meeting will be October 14<sup>th</sup> at Brookwood Baptist Church at 6:30pm.** We will also be collecting backpacks around that time. The dates will be sent out immediately following a few items to work through. If you are interested in missions, local or abroad, please make plans to attend! We accept our Mission-Minded men to join us, as well as our Pastors and their wives for this special time together! For more details, please contact Leigh Hawkins, [hawkins@sseb.org](mailto:hawkins@sseb.org) or 678-427-1821.

Our backpacks will be heading to Summerhill Baptist Association in Albany, Georgia again this year. We are finalizing plans through our contacts there to help them provide the bulk of the 1400 needed in their area. These backpacks provide Christmas to the kids who are in poverty in this part of our state. If you would like to participate, stay tuned to the Hightower WMU for details or contact Leigh Hawkins directly for the list of needed items and packing instructions. **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!**

The following are great opportunities to learn more: [www.thesparkconference.com](http://www.thesparkconference.com) and of course the Georgia Baptist Convention which will be held this November 10-12, 2024 in Statesboro, Georgia. (Our region meeting is September 22, 2024 in Rome, GA)

Please know that missions are all around us. Do you know you need to be serving, but not sure where to start? There are so many statewide opportunities, from the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief to English as a Second Language Training, Mission Georgia opportunities, Women on Mission Retreats, even training events to educate in the Public Square. Visit [www.gabaptist.org/events/](http://www.gabaptist.org/events/) for more details on this and more!

**Mission Georgia offering** is specifically collected by Georgia Baptists in the month of September. You may get more information at [www.MISSIONGEORGIA.ORG](http://www.MISSIONGEORGIA.ORG) Here are the mission emphasis this year with a brief explanation from the 2024-2025 Prayer and Action Guide. There are specific things to pray about and things you can do in each category.

1. Poverty exists in every community in our state. There are 1,426,880 Georgians with food insecurity. Statistics also show 10,689 Georgians are homeless on a given night.
2. Maternal Health is a long-standing concern in Georgia. It is estimated that 33.9 deaths per 100,000 live births. More than half of Georgia's 159 counties have little or no access to maternity care.
3. Low literacy is a multi-generational problem. 34.1% of Georgia's third-graders are reading below grade level. Georgia has nearly 800,000 adults with low literacy skills.
4. Sex and Labor Trafficking is a Georgia Nightmare. Atlanta was named by the FBI as one of 14 US cities with the highest rate of children used in sex trafficking.
5. Georgia's foster care system continues to struggle. In July 2023, there were approximately 10,674 children in foster care in the state.
6. The plight of refugees is often misunderstood. In 2023, the US resettled a total of 60,014 refugees, 3171 of them in Georgia.

I have not had a lot of time to add some trivia in this issue. Let me know what things you would like to see in our newsletter and contribute them to me. I love hearing all the ideas that churches have that I might be able to help them with or at least pray for. Since we talked about children a lot in this issue, here are a few short things about children in the Bible. Fill in the blank with the child who is described.

- \_\_\_\_\_ His father had him on the altar to be sacrificed when the angel of the Lord called him to stop.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This 12-year-old lad was found at the temple in Jerusalem listening to religious leaders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dedicated to God by his mother, Hannah, after she prayed for this baby; became a prophet
- \_\_\_\_\_ This older sister protected her baby brother when he was placed in the river for his protection
- \_\_\_\_\_ He was only 8 years old when he became King of Judah