



VISION

newsletter  
APRIL 2024

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

# SENIOR ADULT COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 11  
Begins at 12 noon  
Winterville Baptist Church  
Bring a covered dish

## Project:

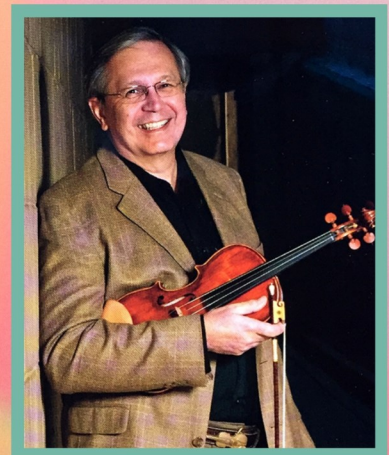
Collecting summer pajamas for kids in foster care, ages birth-18, for Jambos organization



## Program:

Chuck Nation

Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame,  
Three-Time GA State Fiddle Champion,  
Ga Music Awards Nominee – Bluegrass Artist of the  
Year, Ga State Mandolin Champion, Louisiana State  
Fiddle Champion. Grammy Nominated - Roots Gospel  
Category







**MISSION GEORGIA**

# REFUGEE MINISTRY

*Enlist your Sunday School Class,  
Men's Group, or Youth Group to  
help!*

Sarepta's Mission GA Team is responding to a new need in the Athens area. Each year, the U.S. government selects a certain number of refugees from around the world and resettles them in the U.S. Athens has been selected to receive some of these legal refugee families. They are able to work legally, but it takes a few weeks to receive their documents and find a job. There is a need for food and other support until they get on their feet.

You can help!

Each month, we will collect certain needed items.

## APRIL

Bags of Sugar  
Kitchen Trash Bags

## MAY

Coffee & Tea  
Dish Soap

Contact [amy@sareptamissions.org](mailto:amy@sareptamissions.org) or 706.424-1891 to coordinate the drop-off at Sarepta Office.



## Block Party Trailer

If you missed the training but still want to use the trailer, schedule a time to come by to review check out and check in procedures for the Block Party Trailer. Call 706.549-5872 for more information.



**THURSDAY, MAY 2**





# DEACON TRAINING

The target audience of this training is men who are currently serving as deacons.

Thursday, April 18th

6:30-8:30 p.m.



**Bryan Alexander**

Bryan Alexander was raised in the home of a Southern Baptist pastor and pastored Apalachee Baptist Church in Madison, GA and Sweetwater Baptist Church in Douglasville, Georgia until 2015. He has a degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His specialties are Deacon Training, Personal Pastoral Coaching in the areas of burnout and church revitalization. He served in the Church Minister Relations Department of the GBMB for 5 years before partnering with Dr. Marcus Merritt to form SCC.

CHECK OUT THESE  
**RESOURCES!**

**YOU NOW  
HAVE  
ACCESS TO  
THE**



**VAULT**



**NEXT GEN: KIDS**  
"NINE STEPS TO REACH  
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN"

**NEXT GEN: YOUTH**  
"YOUTH MINISTRY  
CURRENT TRENDS AND  
STRATEGIES"

[www.thesparkconference.com/access2023](http://www.thesparkconference.com/access2023)



# CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES!



## 10 Steps to Developing a Children's Ministry

 Send Network



- **Teacher:** Danielle Whitley has had a lifelong passion for ministry. Growing up as a missionary kid, her passion for discipling children was stirred in her teenage years as she led the children's ministry at her father's church. As Danielle began writing her own children's curriculum and outreach strategies, she saw the life-changing impact of gospel-centered kid's teaching. After serving as the children's director at a multi-site church where she helped start the children's ministry at different campuses, God called Danielle and her family to begin a nonprofit called "Solid Foundation Kids" to train, equip and advise churches and church plants in how to lay a solid foundation for their kid's ministry.
- **Resource Available for Download:** Checklist for Children's Ministry
- **Topics Covered:**
  - Biblical Vision
  - Parental Role in Discipleship
  - Choose A Children's Ministry Director
  - Evaluate Your Space
  - Determine the Age Groups
  - Determine the Format
  - Check-in Procedure
  - Write a Children's Ministry Manual
  - Recruit a Volunteer Team
  - Expenses
  - Choose a Curriculum
  - Purchase Supplies
  - Pray

*Check out our website*

***SareptaBaptist.com***

***for Resources, including Training Videos***

*For Example:*

## Guest Follow-Up

- "Creating Follow Up Systems That Retain Guests"
- "Six Reasons Guests Decide To Come To Your Church"
- "Why Your Greeter Ministry Might Be Running Guests Off"
- "Seven Ways To Double the Number of Guests Who Return"

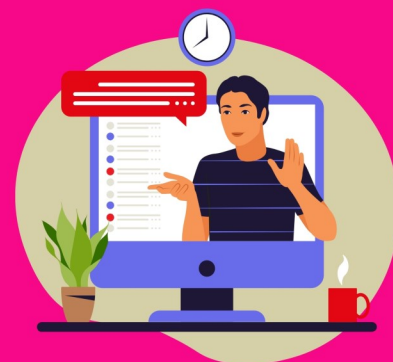
*Many other topics available:*

Social Media

Strategic Planning

Sunday School

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## A Line from Lex

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A new church has launched in Athens sponsored jointly by **First Baptist Watkinsville** and **Prince Avenue Baptist Church** called **5 Points Church**. As you might guess, if you are familiar at all with the layout of Athens, it is in the 5 Points area. Currently it is meeting in the Campus View Church building on Lumpkin Street at 4 p.m. on Sundays. The Lead Pastor is **Joel Shinpoch** who was formerly on staff as the Executive Pastor at Watkinsville First Baptist. We will be glad to have this church as part of Sarepta. As such, I would encourage you to be praying for them as they lay the foundation this church. If you have a prayer list at your church, add them to your prayer list and be praying for them each week as your church gathers. There are many challenges that new churches face both physical and spiritual.

We have currently six churches that do not have pastors: **Apple Valley** (Jefferson), **Pleasant Grove** (Neese), **Beaverdam** (Commerce), **Berea**, **Central** (Athens), and **Cave Springs** (Jackson County). All of these churches have bi-vocational pastors churches. One of the trends that is taking place in our state is the growing number of bi-vocational churches and the declining number of candidates to fill the pulpits. Please be praying for these churches. Several of these churches have been multiple years without a pastor.

**The National Day of Prayer** is just around the corner, the first Thursday in May. I think you would agree with me that our nation is in great need of prayer in light of the elections that will take place later this year. Pray that our nation, which seems to have drifted from the values that it was founded upon, will return to those values. Pray that our nation would view the phrase "In GOD we Trust" as more than a slogan but rather as a testimony as to how we live our lives. I hope you will make plans to spend part of the National Day of Prayer, praying for our nation to return to God.



4010 Jefferson Road  
Athens, GA 30607  
706.549-5872  
[www.SareptaBaptist.com](http://www.SareptaBaptist.com)

A student we hadn't seen in several years returned to our English program last month. His joy in being remembered was evident. He had some major medical problems since we last saw him and he mentioned that his speech had been affected. I asked him what he hoped to get out of our English classes and this was his reply:

**"I want to have a deep conversation. I want to have a conversation that I can think about after I leave the class."**

I placed this gentleman with one of our teachers who seems to only have good, deep, thought-provoking conversations. This teacher knows what to say to keep the conversation going, but to allow the class members to do the talking, to wrestle with their English and build their skills in meaningful and organic ways.

There are several Christian students in the class, and as they talk about deep subjects, inevitably Jesus is mentioned and His goodness and mercy is talked about. As I walk by the class now, inevitably the class members are leaning toward the middle of the circle of chairs, totally engaged in the conversation.

This dear gentleman hasn't missed a day of class since he returned to us.

Thank you so much for your support that allows these situations to happen, week after week.

Amy Wheeler-Sullivan  
Director, International Friends English Program  
706.424-1891 [AthensEnglishClasses@gmail.com](mailto:AthensEnglishClasses@gmail.com)