

# SAREPTA

Baptist Missions Network



# VISION

newsletter

May 2023

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER



## Who is SPARK for?

Lay Leaders  
Childrens' Leaders  
Womens' Ministry Leaders  
Mens' Ministry Leaders  
Missions Coordinators

**Anyone involved in  
ministry and  
equipping!**

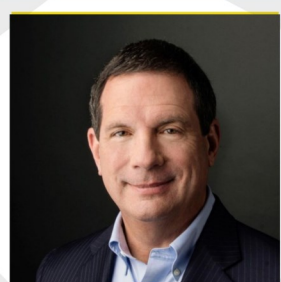
Student Pastors  
Worship Leaders  
Sunday School Leaders  
Small Group Leaders  
Pastors



**EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26  
BEECH HAVEN BAPTIST, ATHENS**

It doesn't matter at what stage you are in ministry, there is something for everyone at SPARK. This conference is designed with YOU in mind, no matter your experience or skill level!



Keynote Speaker  
**Thom Rainer**

Founder and CEO of Church Answers, an online community and resource for church leaders. Was president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Served at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for twelve years where he was the founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism. Led Rainer Group, a church and denominational consulting firm, from 1990 to 2005.

He is the author of more than two dozen books, including I Am a Church Member, Breakout Churches, Autopsy of a Deceased Church, Who Moved My Pulpit?, and Anatomy of a Revived Church.



## A NEW ADDITION TO THE **BLOCK PARTY TRAILER!**

We are excited to show you the new gas grill that will replace the super heavy charcoal grill that was on the Block Party Trailer. This gas grill is "tailgate size" so it can still be used to feed a crowd.



### Reminder:

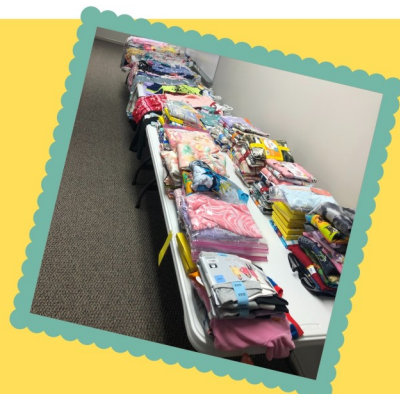
Make your reservation NOW for your church to use the Block Party Trailer. You can complete a reservation request, view the calendar, and make your payment online at [SareptaBaptist.com](http://SareptaBaptist.com)

**INFLATABLES, SNO CONE MACHINE, GRILL, POPCORN MAKER, GAMES, CANOPIES, COOLERS, TABLES AND CHAIRS, MORE**

## REPORT FROM THE **SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON**



- Over 100 participated
- 235 pairs of pajamas collected to be given to kids in foster care, via JAMBOS
- THANK YOU for hosting, East Athens Baptist!
- Looking forward to the Fall Luncheon





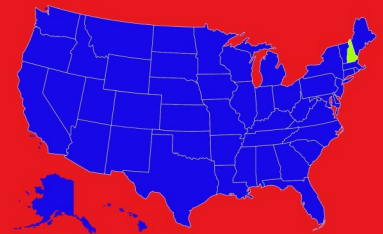
# RETIRED MINISTERS BREAKFAST CLUB

Thursday, May 18  
8-9 a.m.



## PRAY FOR OUR NEW HAMPSHIRE MISSION TEAM MAY 5 - 7

A 6-member team from Cloud's Creek Baptist, lead by Pastor Blake Ivey, will be traveling to Hampstead, New Hampshire. There they will be assisting Island Pond Baptist with a Spring Festival, as well as prayer walking the area.



The Sarepta Office will be closed on  
Monday, May 29 to observe  
Memorial Day.



PRAY FERVENTLY  
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS  
AND AVAIL MUCH

JAMES 5:16B

Thursday, May 4, 2023





# Breakout Groups

**HERE IS JUST A SAMPLING. THERE WILL BE MANY MORE!**

TRACK	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Next Gen- Kids	Nine Steps to Reach Families with Kids	An interactive session where we'll discuss what is working and what's not.
Evangelism	Blueprint: Reaching People and Keeping People Developing Evangelistic Habits	Evangelistic churches live within a blueprint that consists of 6 principles for reaching and keeping people. We'll discuss these principles and how to implement them in your church.
Discipleship	Relationships that Multiply Groups	Being a friend worth having in your group might be the key to unlocking exponential disciple-making growth in your church. See how creating a culture of trust to share truth in love will make disciples who make disciples.
Missions	Cross-cultural Missional Outreach	Cross-cultural Gospel conversations can happen anywhere- in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools! Come join a conversation about how to be missional in your everyday living.
Collegiate	Reaching College Students is Easier than You Think!	College students are the most reachable, trainable, sendable population in GA! And college campuses are the most accessible mission field in your community. Learn how your church can be a part of reaching college students with the gospel of Jesus.
Pastor Wellness	Deacons-Partners in Purpose	Effective Deacon ministry is essential for impactful ministry to both the congregation and the community. Join us for practical Biblical principles that encourage and empower deacons.
Leadership Development	Proven Ideas to Develop Ministry Leaders in Any Church	We'll discuss the keys to building ministry momentum by creating a culture of leadership development. We'll outline a simple method you can use now to develop any ministry leadership in your fellowship.
GA Baptist Women	Women's Ministry in Community Renewing the Priority of Missions Discipleship	We were created to be in relationship with God and each other. Practical ideas of how to guide groups that grow together as disciples and help bring women together in Community.
Worship and Music	Worship and Music Roundtable	The breakouts will help create effective strategies to grow and sustain our ministries. This training will help you, no matter the size, style, or structure of your ministry.
Communications	The Power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Ministry: Streamlining Tasks and Enhancing Bible Study	The future is NOW. This training will guide you through the use of AI in your ministry work. You will learn how to interact with AI tools such as chatbots, craft effective prompts, and get relevant and accurate answers to deepen their understanding of Scripture, and quickly create engaging and informative teaching content. Streamline time-consuming tasks! The ethics of AI will also be discussed.
Disaster Relief	Does the Disaster Relief Ministry Make Disciples?	There is much more to Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief than cooking food and chainsaws. Let's take a deeper look at the inner workings of DR. You might be surprised!

# A Line from Lex

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On a personal note, the year was 1973, fifty years ago, and I was completing my freshman year at Mississippi College. I was starting my first ministry job as a summer youth director (that is what we called them back then) at Lyon Baptist Church in Lyon, Mississippi. It was there, in our weekly newsletter, that "A Line from Lex" was written for the first time. Little did I know that newsletter column heading would still be around five decades later. I have been in some form of ministry for the past 50 years.

What a joy and privilege it has been for me to serve you as your Associational Missionary Strategist over these past 17 years. Thank you for your support. Like any place in ministry, it is the people who make it so special. I love helping pastors and churches. Thanks for all you do to make this ministry such a pleasure.

**SPARK Conference - Saturday, August 26 at Beech Haven Baptist Church** - Summer is practically upon us and before you know it, the summer will fly by. At the end of summer we have the largest event we will host this year. Partnering with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and Beech Haven Baptist, we are helping sponsor an event for northeast Georgia. It will be an "in person" training event for virtually every conceivable leader and worker in your church. We will have the privilege of hearing Dr. Thom Rainer as the keynote speaker. Dr. Rainer was President of LifeWay, a former seminary professor, an author and a church growth consultant. He currently is the founder and CEO of Church Answers which is an online resource for pastors and leaders. He hosts a podcast called Rainer on Leadership. In addition to that there will be over 40 breakout sessions. If you sign up and attend, you will receive access to the VAULT for a year which will contain many of the breakout sessions. The cost is a modest \$10. However, if your pastor signs up as a **Sarepta Spark Partner**, he will gain entrance at no cost plus an additional five church members. Now, a church can bring as many people as they like. We can scholarship the pastor plus five others. Make sure your pastor takes full advantage of this opportunity. We are blessed as an association to be able to host such a fantastic event right in our own backyard.





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One of the things that our teachers do so well is to use organic opportunities to share about Jesus with our students.

During the week leading up to Easter, we dyed eggs before class. This prompted students to ask their teachers questions about Easter.

One teacher told me that her student asked if there was a connection between Christmas and Easter, and she was able to share the beautiful link between the holidays. This was not a fabricated, awkward conversation, but a natural opportunity to share the Truth with a friend.

Thank you for your support of the International Friends ministry!

**If you are interested in finding out more about the INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS ENGLISH PROGRAM, please contact Amy Wheeler-Sullivan at 706.424-1891 or [AthensEnglishClasses@gmail.com](mailto:AthensEnglishClasses@gmail.com).**