

**SAREPTA**  
Baptist Missions Network



**VISION**  
newsletter  
SEPTEMBER 2023

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER



## STRENGTHEN OUR SYSTEMS

SYSTEMS IN  
A HEALTHY  
CHURCH



ATTENTION SENIOR PASTORS!  
WE WILL BE EXAMINING EACH OF  
THESE SYSTEMS THIS YEAR,  
BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.



Topic: Stewardship Systems  
Presenter: John Walker  
Date: Thursday, September 21

Seminar begins at 11:30 with a catered lunch provided. After lunch, John will share with us about the stewardship system that is used in his church. We will conclude no later than 2 p.m.

Please reserve your seat by contacting Sarepta no later than September 14.

# Day Seminar



**September 19th  
10 am - 11:15 am**

Maysville Baptist Church  
Room 123  
8875 Hwy 82 Spur  
Maysville GA 30558

Join us as we host the Legacy Youth Mentoring Program and discover how you can encourage the next generation in our local school systems.

Scan QR Code to Register



# Calling Out

THE CALLED

**201ST  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GA  
BAPTIST CONVENTION**

November 12-14  
**CHURCH ON MAIN, SNELLVILLE**

[gbcannualmeeting.com](http://gbcannualmeeting.com)



## SENIOR ADULT FALL LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 2, NOON-2PM, AT SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH



PROGRAM BY REBEKAH BLACK, CEO OF JAMBOS

WE WILL BE COLLECTING NEW PAJAMAS  
FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE, AGES 0-18



SINCE 2022, SENIOR ADULTS IN SAREPTA HAVE GIVEN HUNDREDS OF PAIRS OF PAJAMAS TO JAMBOS, TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO KIDS IN FOSTER CARE. WE ARE EXCITED TO HEAR FROM REBEKAH BLACK ABOUT THE IMPACT.

Mark Your  
Calendar!

## SAREPTA ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17, COMER BAPTIST CHURCH, 7-9 P.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. JOSH SAEFKOW,  
GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION PRESIDENT



### Josh Saefkow

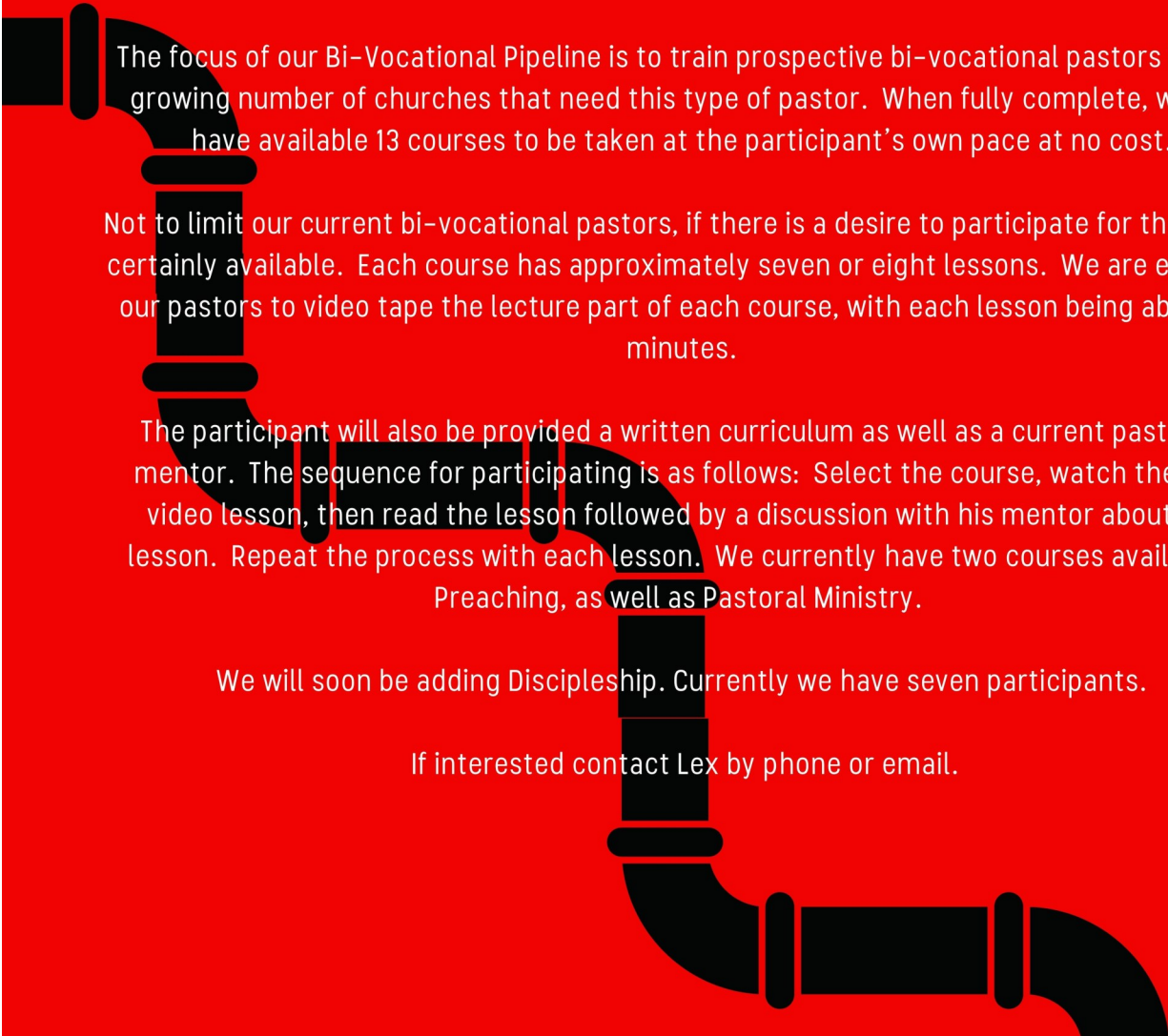
A native of Creston, Ohio, Pastor Josh began as the Senior Pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church in December of 2016. He has an earned Doctorate from Gateway Seminary of Los Angeles, California. He is married to Kelsie Saefkow, from Macon, GA. They have two daughters Chloe and Sophie. As the under-shepherd of the Flat Creek fellowship, he serves the people by giving himself to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Acts 6:4 is his life verse.



# Hull Baptist Church is seeking a part-time Ministry Intern

- 15 hours per week
- Primary responsibilities serving with youth by teaching Bible Studies, Facilitating Youth Events, and Chaperoning Youth Trips
- Contact Pastor Jeff Tinsley for more information at 706.548-1196 or [jeff@hullbaptist.org](mailto:jeff@hullbaptist.org)

## Bi-Vocational Pastor Pipeline Up and Running!



The focus of our Bi-Vocational Pipeline is to train prospective bi-vocational pastors for our growing number of churches that need this type of pastor. When fully complete, we will have available 13 courses to be taken at the participant's own pace at no cost.

Not to limit our current bi-vocational pastors, if there is a desire to participate for them, it is certainly available. Each course has approximately seven or eight lessons. We are enlisting our pastors to video tape the lecture part of each course, with each lesson being about 20 minutes.

The participant will also be provided a written curriculum as well as a current pastor as mentor. The sequence for participating is as follows: Select the course, watch the first video lesson, then read the lesson followed by a discussion with his mentor about the lesson. Repeat the process with each lesson. We currently have two courses available: Preaching, as well as Pastoral Ministry.

We will soon be adding Discipleship. Currently we have seven participants.

If interested contact Lex by phone or email.

## A Line from Lex

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Where did the summer go and now the fall is upon us. For some of our churches, fall marks a time to reboot after a break for the summer. **For some of the churches, it is a time to refocus.** That means different things to different people. I would like to make myself available to you and your church should you have some need in the following areas:

- **Strategic Planning** - By utilizing a system devised by Dr. Leo Endel in his book Where Do We Go From Here: Strategic Planning for the Smaller Church, I will help facilitate this eight stage process of mapping out a plan for your church.
- **Developing Teams** - There is a distinction between your typical committee and the dynamic nature of a team. Shifting to a team concept is more than just changing what your church calls them. There is a way a team should be developed and deployed. Through the resource The Secret of Teams: What Great Teams Know and Do, Mark Miller sets forth a process that will transform how ministry is done at your church. I have been trained by Mark Miller in this process and would gladly come to your church to equip your people to better function as teams.
- **Constitution and Bylaws** - Periodically, every church should take the time to review their constitution and bylaws to make sure they are current. With the current cultural upheaval that our churches are facing, there is a need to have your constitution and bylaws current. In doing so, you will be protecting your church from unnecessary challenges that can be avoided. I would be glad to assist you and your leadership in reviewing and evaluating your constitution and bylaws.
- **Budget Planning** - Several years ago, I heard a simple definition of what a budget is. A budget is planning how you are going to spend your money before you spend your money. There are certain guidelines for how a church budget should break down percentage wise. Unfortunately, many churches are unaware of these. Budget planning for many churches consists of just looking at individual line items rather than how it all fits together in a unified budget. If you would like to learn more about how to better structure your church budget, I would be glad to assist you and your church.
- **Communication Workshop** - You have heard it said, "Everything rises and falls on leadership." That is so very true. Hand in hand with that saying is this, "Effective Leadership rises or falls based on how we communicate." How many times conflicts have arisen, feelings are hurt, ministry is derailed because of poor communication. Have you ever considered a Communication Workshop for your leadership team, your staff, your deacons, or your church counsel? I have been trained to conduct communication workshops by Dr. John Trent's staff. This process involves taking an online personality assessment followed by a workshop explaining how you communicate as a team and how you like to be communicated to. The cost of the assessment for each person is roughly \$30 but there is no other cost involved. If you would like to do an in-house staff retreat, this could be a great tool to enhance the communication in your church.

Any of these consultations I will do as part of the job I have as your Associational Missionary Strategist. There is no charge for any of these services that I would provide for you.



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International Friends has started a new semester and it is already clear that this is going to be a year like we have never had before! We have been privileged to welcome many refugees who are new to the United States and we are figuring out how we can best help them during this intense chapter of their lives. An agency in Athens started receiving and resettling refugees in our area this summer, so this is a brand new opportunity. Pray for us as we learn how best to minister!

We have some specific needs, mostly centered around transportation of students to and from class. We also need a few American moms with young children to be part of a mom's group that meets during our class time. It will be a way of giving international moms a chance to practice and improve their English, without having to be separated from their babies. They crave connection and friendship, as we all do.

This past Sunday, as I walked into the second service at my church, I got to greet one of our French speaking students from the African country of Togo, and many members of her family. They had attended the first service. I sat on a pew with 2 German teenagers who are on fire for the Lord and who are new to our English program. A Brazilian couple sat on my other side. She has been our student for a couple of years and has been such a blessing in our lives, praying for us probably more than we prayed for her. As we all worshiped together, I was so reminded about how God is using this little English program for His purpose in so many different ways. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Please contact me if you want to get involved!

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