



VISION

newsletter
NOVEMBER 2023

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

Calling Out THE CALLED

GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12-14, 2023

CHURCH ON MAIN | SNELLVILLE, GA

Inspiring Speakers!

201st Annual Meeting!



Speakers, Agenda, &
Registration:
gbcannualmeeting.com

Bi-Vocational Pastor Pipeline

- o Training for those men who desire to get prepared to be a bi-vocational pastor.
- o Current lessons available:
 - Preaching
 - Pastoral Ministry
 - Discipleship (Soon to be added)
 - 13 Courses will be available when the video recording is complete.
- o Process:
 - The participant watches video lessons.
 - The participant reads the lesson in the curriculum.
 - The participant contacts his mentor after each lesson to discuss questions.
- o Cost: \$0 (Sarepta's investment in the ministry of our potential bi-vocational pastors and current bi-vocational pastors.)



Sarepta's MISSION GA Team is teaming up with the International Friends ministry to provide help and resources for **refugees** arriving in the Athens area. These refugees have been living in refugee camps in a 3rd country for years, and were chosen by the U.S. government for resettlement in our area. This is an **AMAZING OPPORTUNITY** for Christians to show **compassion and kindness**.

We are **collecting personal care kits** and **home cleaning kits** for the refugee families, who usually arrive with almost nothing. We will begin collecting particular food items in 2024. This is a **brand NEW ministry opportunity**, as Athens has never been a refugee resettlement area until now. There are **MANY opportunities to get involved**.

Please contact Amy Wheeler-Sullivan, 706.424-1891 for information about the kits needed or other ways you can help.





Dates: Thursday-Saturday, January 18-20, 2024
Location: Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge

This retreat is designed specifically for ministry wives whose husbands serve in a Georgia Baptist Mission Board affiliated church or ministry capacity. It is a time to be renewed and fed spiritually, emotionally, and physically. The theme this year is "Hold On" based on Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Cost is based on occupancy status. Total payment is expected when you complete this registration. Total for both nights is \$149-\$316, depending on occupancy.

Mammograms, Biometric Screenings, Haircuts, Counseling, Massages Available at the retreat!

See ga.sbcworkspace.com/pub/event/register/55236516 for more information.

Scholarships Available! Contact the Sarepta Office!

The Sarepta Office will close at noon on Wednesday, November 22, and be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23. Happy Thanksgiving!

A Line from Lex

Important Church Tax Exemption Information

Many of our churches are under the 501c3 umbrella of the Georgia Baptist Convention. We were informed by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board that one of the requirements of the IRS has been neglected for the last two decades. For the GBMB to have a group 501c3 exemption, they have to provide a list of those churches included in that list every year. That has not been done. Also, each church included in the GBMB 501c3 group exemption must register to be included each year. That has also not been part of the practice of our churches and associations.

With that being said, the GBMB is setting up an easy registration process. Once each church has registered, each church will receive a letter from the GBMB indicating that the church is included in the GBMB group 501c3 tax exempt. This will be a yearly thing that each church will have to do and the association cannot do this for the church. We will have to also do the same thing for the association. You are being encouraged to do this by December. **You can go to the following web address and find the registration process: gabaptist.org/nonprofit.** You will also find at that site the name of Theresa Little and her contact information to provide you with the help needed.

State Convention – “Calling Out The Called”

I want to encourage you to attend the state convention this year since it is fairly close in Snellville.

Sunday Night: There will be an Inspiration Service on Sunday night from 6:00 to 7:30. Clay Smith, Pastor at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, will be bringing the message.

Monday Afternoon (1:00 to 4:00): Preaching Conference

Monday Evening – Session 1 of the State Convention (6:00 – 9:00)

- o Jason Dees, Pastor of Christ Covenant Church in Atlanta will speak
- o Chuck Chambers, Pastor of Woolsey Baptist in Fayette County

Tuesday Morning – Session 2 of the State Convention (9:00 to Noon)

- o Josh Saefkow, Pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church and President of the GBC

Tuesday Afternoon – Session 3 of the State Convention (2:00 – 5:30)

- o Shane Pruitt, Next Gen Director at NAMB

I hope you will take advantage of the close proximity of the convention and make it a priority to be a part of the tremendous work Georgia Baptists do.



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Shout out to **Forest Heights Baptist** for bringing in the first personal care kits and home cleaning kits for new refugee families in our area! Don't worry! You haven't missed the chance to get your church, small group, or family involved. We still need lots of kits packed. Please contact me for more information.



A recent donation from Forest Heights Baptist:
2 Personal Care Kits and 2 Home Set-Up Kits, plus extras. These kits will bless a Syrian family arriving in Athens on November 1st. The family is dealing with a recent cancer diagnosis, in addition to having their lives uprooted. They have been living in a refugee camp in a 3rd country since 2015. Sarepta is privileged to have a small part in this family's story and the kits are a way we can be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus in their lives.

International Friends has welcomed students from 29 different countries since August. Many are affiliated with UGA in some way, some are immigrants who work in the community, and some are refugees who will soon be settling permanently in the U.S. to work and begin a new life. We appreciate your prayers and support!

Amy Wheeler-Sullivan
Director, International Friends English Program
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