


SAREPTA

Baptist Missions Network

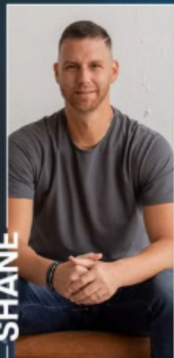
VISION

newsletter
FEBRUARY 2025

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

 Church
Strengthening

Evangelism Conference



SHANE



WAYNE



CHRISTIAN



KIE

FEB 23 & 24

CENTRAL
BAPTIST
CHURCH,
WARNER ROBINS



“

I truly enjoyed the 2024 Evangelism Conference that was held at First Baptist Conyers. The worship through song and the preaching was outstanding! That alone was enough to invigorate and energize the congregation. The breakout sessions offered practical wisdom, as well as practical actions that the attendees could take home and use to share the gospel.

I would wholeheartedly recommend for every church leader to be sure that they don't miss the Evangelism Conference.

John McMillan

“

What a power-packed event! I'd recommend it to all that can possibly attend. The heart of the gospel is to witness the glorious Lord that we have in Jesus Christ. The entire team did a fantastic job; I can't say enough good about it. Since the conference I've regained enthusiasm to share Christ in convenience stores and the Dollar Store and hope to let this be an everyday occurrence.

Lee Goodman

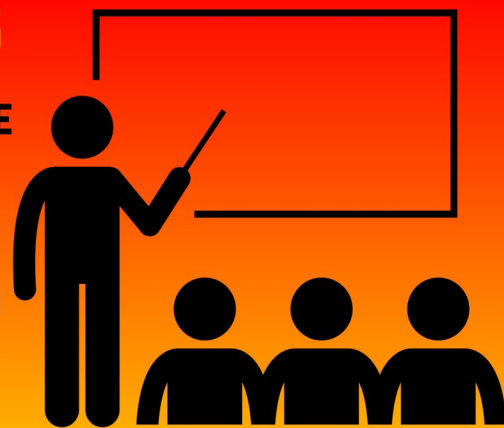
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For me, it is the single most important conference that Baptists have for encouragement, motivation, useful ideas, and spiritual growth. Thanks to everyone who worked to make the Evangelism Conference a success this year.

Bill Stokes

PANAMA MISSION TRIP- FEBRUARY 10-15

PLEASE PRAY FOR 2 OF OUR LOCAL PASTORS, SHANE ROBERSON (MAYSVILLE) AND MATT BARTLETT (LEXINGTON), AS THEY GO TO THE COUNTRY OF PANAMA TO TRAIN PANAMANIAN PASTORS.



GuideStone Retirement Seminar

Monday, March 17

Sarepta Office, 11:30 a.m.

Audience: Pastors, Staff, Church Leaders

Lunch will be provided. RSVP by calling

706.549-5872 or email Amy at

amy@sareptamissions.org



VBS Training

How to Make VBS More Evangelistic

Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

Sarepta Office

Evangelism Roundtable w/Thomas Hammond

Georgia Baptists are launching a multi-year evangelism initiative to reach everyone in our state with the gospel. Thomas Hammond is hosting a listening session on March 26, 2025 at 10 a.m. at Lexington Baptist Church in Lexington. The session will last 1 ½ hours. The purpose is to pray for the initiative, hear what you are seeing that is working, as well as what support and resources you may need to help your church be part of this gospel movement.



Looking for a Mission Trip This Year? Want to Help Hurricane Victims?



- Enlist a group from your church. At least 1 person must have construction skills.
- If you are the only person going from your church, contact Sarepta and we will put together a team.
- If you have a youth group (8th grade and up), there must be 1 adult to every 3 kids.

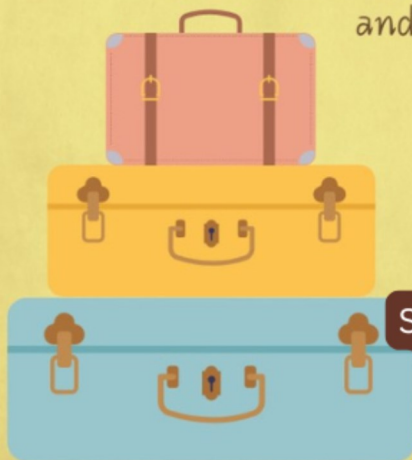
Lodging is being provided in churches that have shower and feeding units, so meals are provided.



Quieting your soul in a chaotic world

Riverside Women's Coffee Night

Join us as we study Psalm 131:2 with fellowship and sweet treats!



♥ Friday 2/21/25
♥ 6-8pm
♥ \$5 admission

Scan QR code with your phone to register!



65 Sorrow-Patterson Rd, Colbert

All women are invited to a night of sweet fellowship, coffee, finger foods, and sweet treats! Mindy Williams and Donna Bennett will speak on "Quieting Our Soul In A Chaotic World." Admission is \$5.00, payable on the night in cash or check. Please pre-register at goriverside.com/womensevent

A Line from Lex

By now many, if not most, of you have already heard that I have announced my retirement effective at the end of December this year. I began this journey on May 1, 2006, and had no idea at that time that I would be in this role almost 20 years. I shared with the Leadership Team that Sarepta has a long history of Associational Missionaries with lengthy tenures. Over the past 68 years, Sarepta has had only five Associational Missionaries which means that the average length of their time here is 13.4 years each. Edgar Crosby has the longest tenure at 27 years.

The way in which the next Associational Missionary will be secured will be different than what has been done previously. Back in 2021, as a result of the work of a Reorganization Task Force, the organizational structure of our association was changed. We moved away from an Executive Committee structure to a Leadership Team structure. The Task Force also recommended that the Leadership Team have the responsibility of selecting the replacement for the Associational Missionary Strategist whenever the position needed to be filled. Those changes were included in the revision that was made in the Sarepta Constitution and Bylaws and approved in the 2021 Annual Meeting. Though the Leadership Team was given the responsibility for securing my replacement, the process and procedure for that was not given. Thus, the reason for me announcing almost a year in advance of my retirement was done so in order that the Leadership Team could begin the job of developing and approving the procedure that they will take over the course these next few months. Dr. Shane Roberson, our Moderator, will be providing the leadership for developing these guidelines. The desire is to have someone ready to assume the position of Associational Missionary Strategist next January, but there is no guarantee.

I cannot put into words what a blessing it has been to serve as the associational missionary for Sarepta over these past 18+ years. When I arrived, I did not know what Sarepta's name meant or where the name came from, but now I sure do. When I arrived, I was not a grandpa yet and now I have six grandkids. When I arrived, I had no idea that I would have a battle with cancer ahead of me, and that was 11 years ago. When I arrived, I was a young whipper snapper at the age of 52 and now I am 71! When I arrived, my wife and I had just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary and this summer we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. You have been a blessing to me in so many ways. The pastors I have worked with are some of the finest men I have ever known. The lay leaders in our churches are just stellar and I have loved working with them. The unity and peace in our association has been incredible. You have given me the freedom to shape the ministry here as I have sensed the Lord would have me to shape it.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the people on staff here through the years that I have worked with. The quality of the people I have worked with made coming to work a joy! It started with my support staff of Nancy Merck, and Betty Johnson when I began. Emily Fleming served as Financial Secretary many years before I arrived and stayed for almost 10 years after I arrived. I was blessed with some great administrative assistants: Kara Rebitch and Luanne Byrd. Each of them raised the level of ministry for the next person. Cassie Brown followed Emily Fleming for a couple of years. For the last several years, Amy Wheeler-Sullivan has been my assistant as well as our International Friends Director and is a blessing to work with. Chris Harper has served as our financial secretary and she has just done an incredible job. One of our ministries, International Friends, was led by Phil Smith when I arrived and later by his wife Linda until they could no longer do it. That is when Amy, their daughter, stepped in to provide leadership. That family has been and continues to be the epitome of servanthood in ministering to the international community. Working with them has blessed my life.

I am a richer person in every way for serving at Sarepta. The pastors, the people, and the churches have made this a wonderful place to invest almost 20 years of ministry. I am not done yet; I still have the remainder of the year to be your associational missionary. If I can serve you or your church, don't hesitate to ask.



4010 Jefferson Road
Athens, GA 30607
706.549-5872
www.SareptaBaptist.com

Sometimes people ask me who the students are who come to the International Friends English Program. We have such a wide variety of people attending our classes!

Off the top of my head...

There are lawyers from South America, an archaeologist from the Middle East, a former merchant marine, PhD students from around the world, refugees brought to the U.S. because they were helpful to American troops, a pharmaceutical company executive from Japan, people who already speak 4 other languages, a journalist, people who spoke out against violent dictators in their home country, spouses of American citizens, musicians, Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, engineers from Asia, students from formerly closed countries, students who work at the local poultry plant, students who will return home to work as government officials, moms, dads, newlyweds, senior citizens...the list goes on. We are so delighted to be able to serve this diverse group of people and represent Jesus to them. Thank you, Sarepta, for your support!

~Amy Wheeler-Sullivan, Director, International Friends English Program, 706.424-1891