

## VISION

newsletter MARCH 2025

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

# EVANGELISM ROUNDTABLE WITH THOMAS HAMMOND

LEXINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH MARCH 26TH, 10 A.M.

GBMB is launching a multi-year evangelism initiative to reach everyone in Georgia with the gospel.

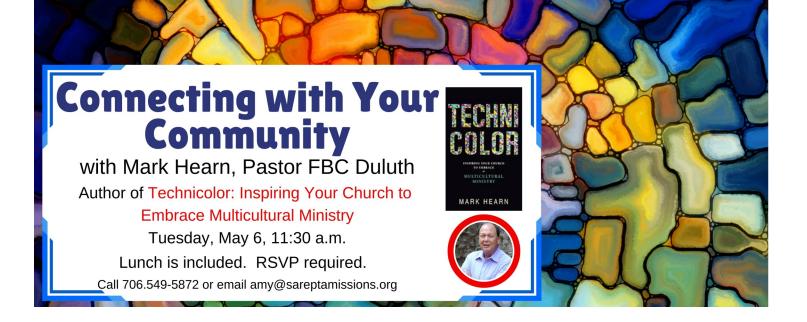
Thomas Hammond is hosting a listening session, which will last about 90 minutes. The purpose is to pray for the initiative and to discover the resources and support you will have in this initiative.

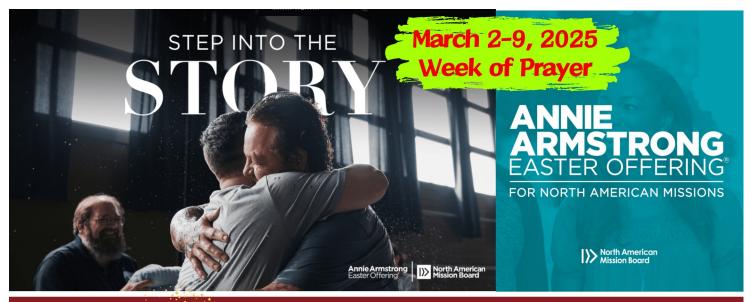
Pastors are invited to attend this session



Thomas Hammond
Executive Director, GBMB

Georgia Baptis Mission Board





### Senior Adult Luncheon

Lexington Baptist Church, April 10th, noon

Meat will be provided. Please bring a covered dish. Program provided by Jeffini Magic.



#### **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





How to Make VBS More Effective
Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.
Sarepta Office

#### A Line from Lex

**Missions** and **Ministry** are the two overarching words that capture the focus of Sarepta and our work. As you examine how our churches work together, the vast majority of what we do falls into those two categories.

In the Missions category, we have already sent one team of Pastors **to Panama** this year and we will be sending three more teams before the year is out. We are halfway through the process of teaching the pastors in Panama a series of 12 courses (provided by Pastor2Pastor) which will conclude in May 2026. Be on the watch for additional ways you and your church can participate. We want to provide a box of books for each pastor who completes the 12 courses. These books will be the basic resources needed by a pastor which most of them do not have. All of the pastors in Panama are bi-vocational. We are going to be challenging you and your church to give to help purchase those books for the pastors.

We are also embarking on a **new more in-state mission project** with a Baptist Camp called **Camp Hawkins**, located in Mt Airy, GA. This is a camp sponsored by Georgia Baptists and the Baptist Children's Home. **It is a camp for special needs kids**. We are currently in contact with the leadership of the camp about what their needs are. You will be receiving a list of items that we will be asking you to help us collect so that we can support the families in our state with special needs.

Under the category of Ministry there is **Unit 19R Disaster Relief.** Last year the volunteers for our unit from our association was about a dozen. We held a special event last August and challenged our people to get trained. We now have over 100 volunteers but you never have enough. On the heels of our enlistment emphasis came Hurricane Helene which devastated our state. Our volunteers were deployed for weeks in August in Statesboro and other places. There is still much work to be done. Even when we have no disasters, our unit is active. March 2-8 our volunteers will be going to Augusta to help with some of the cleanup still needing to be done. In April our volunteers will be going to Camp Pinnacle in Clayton for a work day at the WMU Camp on April 12 for a day of service. If you are interested in getting involved on our DR team, contact Jim Patton 706-255-8079. Also related to our DR Unit, there is a good chance in the near future we will be asking you to help us purchase some much needed equipment for our unit. We have not purchased any additional equipment (other than chain saws) in 30 years. More details will be coming about that. Thanks to all of you who have given to support our DR efforts.

Let me encourage you to pray for and give to support our North American Mission Board missionaries through the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**. We have a nation much in need of the gospel.



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The International Friends English Program meets on Thursday mornings, but there are so many other facets of the ministry that extend far past Thursday mornings. When I think of how the volunteers connect with the students outside of class, many recent examples come to mind.

Volunteers have provided a needed pair of shoes, played Santa Clause for a student's children, made hospital visits, helped students find jobs, taken a student to a court appointment, written letters of recommendation for students, met for coffee, had students over for dinner, provided needed groceries for a family in crisis, made crocheted baby items for an expectant mother, found healthcare possibilities for a student, attended a former student's baptism at the Athens Chinese Church, and the list goes on. These things were done out of love and friendship, not obligation.

I so appreciate how the volunteers love their students and get in the trenches with them. Oftentimes, they are their student's only English speaking friend. Please pray for the workers as they minister to people who are in many ways on the fringe of society. Without a special invitation and a friend to sit with, they are unlikely to ever visit an American church or join a Bible Study. I am thankful that we have volunteers who are willing to offer genuine friendship, in addition to conversational English classes.

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