

SAREPTA
Baptist Missions Network

VISION
newsletter
APRIL 2025

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

Lexington Baptist Church, April 10th, noon
Meat will be provided. Please bring a covered dish.

Jeffini Magic will perform a Christian-themed COMEDY MAGIC show.



We will Be collecting
SUMMER PAJAMAS
for children in
Foster Care,
ages birth to 18 years
old.



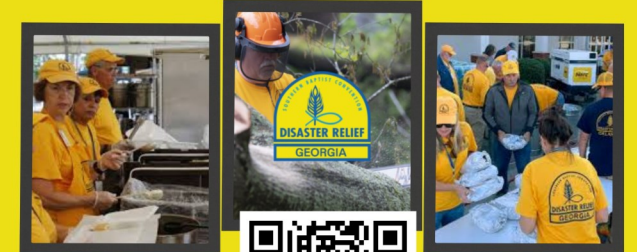
Georgia Baptist
Disaster Relief

Just a few of the upcoming Disaster Relief trainings & events...

April 5&6- Chainsaw training in Dublin, GA

April 12- Day of Service @ Camp Pinnacle

April 26- DR Training for new volunteers and recertification in Thomson, GA



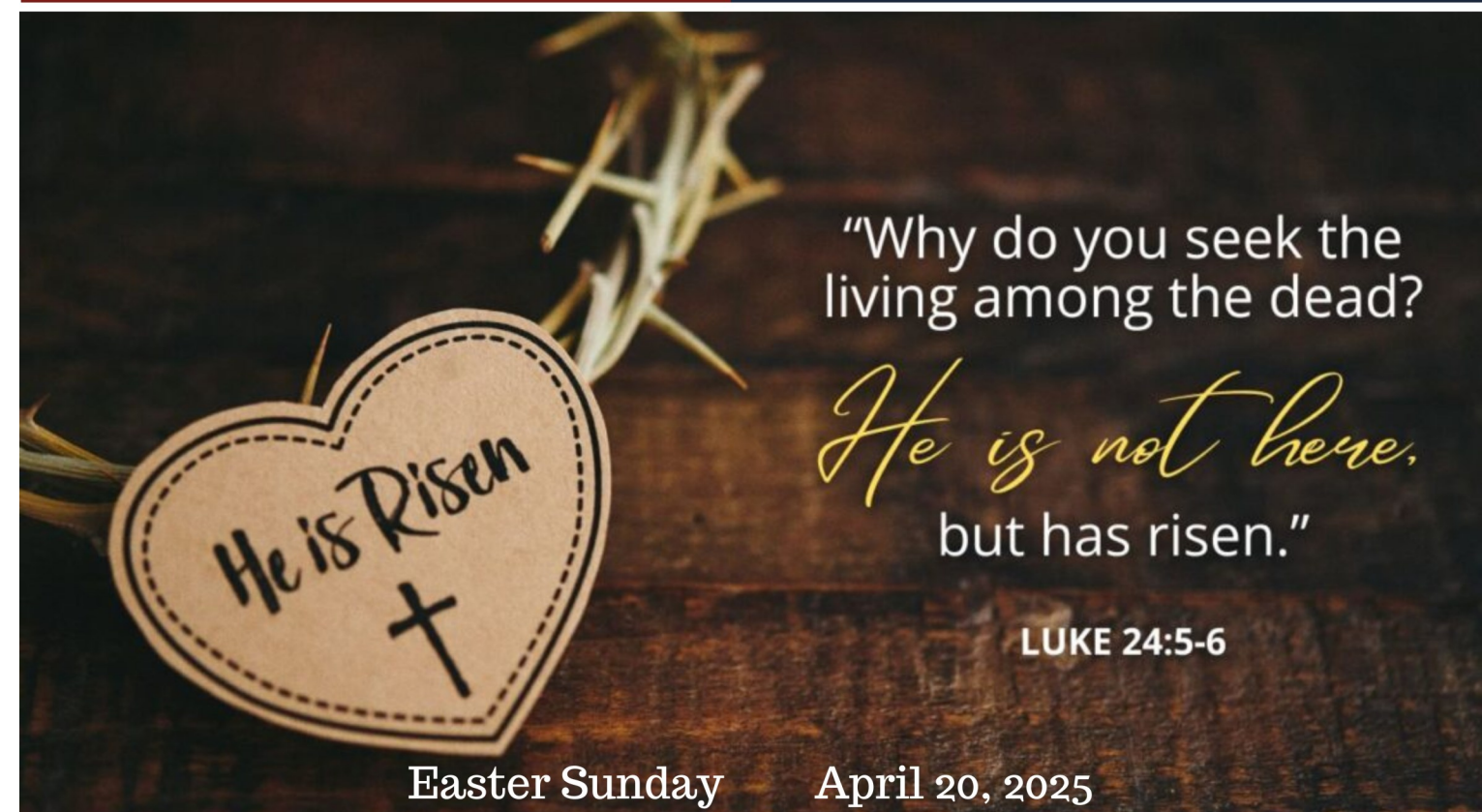
USE THE QR CODE ABOVE TO REGISTER FOR
UPCOMING TRAININGS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS,
RECERTIFICATION FOR EXISTING VOLUNTEERS,
AND ADDITIONAL/OPTIONAL TRAINING FOR
ACTIVE CURRENT VOLUNTEERS.



THURSDAY, MAY 1

- THE CLASSIC CENTER, ATHENS
- BREAKFAST BEGINS AT 7:00
PROGRAM: 7:30-8:30
- TICKETS: \$30 EACH OR \$300
FOR A TABLE OF 10

To purchase tickets:
CollegeofAthens.edu/National-Day-of-Prayer
or call 706.769-1472



"Why do you seek the
living among the dead?"

He is not here,
but has risen."

LUKE 24:5-6

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

A Line from Lex

Leadership Team Update on the AMS Search Process: With my retirement scheduled at the end of the year, the Leadership Team has begun the process of laying the foundation for the search procedure for the next AMS (Associational Missionary Strategist). As shared previously, in 2021 when Sarepta was restructured, the task force that made those recommendations also recommended that the next AMS would be searched for by the Leadership Team rather than a traditional search committee as had been done in the past. What was not ironed out at that time was the process that would be used by the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team assigned a group to begin working on the process as well as a job description and the procedures that will be used as the formal search begins. The plans are to present this to the full Leadership Team in the May meeting for approval which should clear the way to begin receiving applicants for the position shortly thereafter. I want to express my thanks to Dr. Shane Roberson (Maysville) our Moderator and leader for the Leadership Team as well as our Vice Moderator Pastor Matt Bartlett (Lexington) for their leadership in this process. Our Leadership Team is comprised of the following: Associational Officers, Associational Staff, Team Leaders of our Ministry Teams, and 9 regional representatives. The association is divided into three regions with approximately 20 to 25 churches in each region. Out of each region is a full-time pastor or staff person, a bi-vocational pastor or staff person, and a lay leader. Each of these regional representatives serve a three-year term then they rotate off. I cannot express my appreciation enough to those who have served and are serving on our Leadership Team. This new structure has been an incredible success. Watch for more details regarding the search process as it unfolds.

Disaster Relief Front and Center – Last August, we organized a time to celebrate those who had been involved and motivate those who might be involved in Disaster Relief for Unit 19R. Since then **we have added about 100 additional volunteers** to our list of volunteers. Recently we had a work day and Jim Patton told me that the previous work day they had 3 people, but this work day we had over **30 people to help**. I would add that the giving for DR in Sarepta has **grown from about \$5000 to \$19,000** over that same period of time. When Sarepta churches are presented with a challenge, you always respond in an incredible way! We have not purchased any DR equipment (other than chainsaws and small equipment) since the original trailer was purchased back in the 1990's. We had a trailer donated to us back in 2017 but we did not pay a nickel for it. We did build a cover for the trailer to protect it from pecan trees in the back of the building. We are exploring the possibility of purchasing a piece of equipment that will greatly enhance the work of DR on our call outs. It will require our churches to pitch in to help pay for the equipment. More information will be sent out in the near future as the details are ironed out. I have confidence you will come through as you always do and support an incredible ministry like DR.

Mission Panama Update: For the past 18 months we have been in a partnership with Panama to train their pastors using Pastor2Pastor Courses. There are 12 courses in all and we are over the halfway point with 5 more classes to go. This theological training for Baptist pastors in Panama is the only training that they are receiving. We will send 3 more teams down this year and 2 more next year. Each team is made up of senior pastors going to teach. Sarepta provides \$1000 for each of the senior pastors who goes to teach to help with travel, lodging and other expenses. In February, Shane Roberson and Matt Bartlett went to teach "The Theology of God." In May the next team goes to teach "The Theology of Salvation." In addition to that, our Partnership Missions Team approved the support of a church planter in Panama for two years. Those funds come from our Missions and Ministry Funds. If you as an individual want to donate toward that, you may do so at any time through our website, click the "donate" tab, or just send a check to Sarepta and indicate Panama on the check. There will be other opportunities for you to participate as this partnership continues.



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Chocolate bunnies, brightly colored eggs, and fluorescent orange candy carrots are in all the stores right now, near the green leprechauns that are on the clearance tables.

Imagine that you aren't familiar with American culture, have not been exposed to Christianity, and then you see this display. What conclusions would you draw about the upcoming Easter Sunday? We expect newcomers to somehow absorb some basic knowledge about what we hold true, but our culture usually gives them no clues!

The International Friends English Program is frequently the setting where students finally get a fuller picture of who Jesus is and what being a Christian is all about. While we are a conversational English program, holidays like Christmas and Easter give us a chance to share about what the holidays mean to us. Students listen to us because we have earned a place of respect in their lives and because they know we love them. I remember one young lady asking in an astonished way, "Do you mean that Christmas and Easter are connected?" We are so blessed to be able to have these meaningful conversations as we go about ministering to people in our community. Thank you for making this ministry a priority!



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