

ISION

newsletter OCTOBER 2025

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

SENIOR ADULT LURCHEON

November 6th, Noon **FBC Jefferson**

Covered dish! Please bring sides or desserts. The Church provides the meat and the drinks.

Project: We will be collecting PAJAMAS for kids in foster care, ages birth-18 years old.

Please bring New Winter pajamas in the package that you purchased.

The speaker will be Sammy Simmons, from NAMB Send Relief.









- October 14th
- 10:30-noon
- Sarepta Office





Adventures in Valdosta. That's right...the whole park!

A Line from Lex

Mission Panama Update – In August, our most recent team of pastors went to Panama. Pastor Mike Sarna and Pastor Blake Ivey made the trip and taught the course they were teaching in two different locations, just like our teams have done recently. There were over 60 pastors and church leaders trained with the Pastor2Pastor material. There is a total of 12 courses in the P2P curriculum and we will complete the 12th course in May of 2026. Our next team will be heading to Panama in November. We challenged our churches to provide \$200 for a box of books for each pastor who completes the 12 courses. You came through with flying colors. As each team heads to Panama, they are taking with them at least one of the books that we have purchased. Our next installment of books will be accompanying the team that goes in November. I want to remind you of just how critical this mission is for the pastors and church leaders in Panama. The ONLY theological training that they are getting in Panama is the training that Sarepta is providing. Their seminary is non-existent. They are totally dependent on what we are providing. I would anticipate that once the 12 courses are complete, we will reload and target other areas of Panama to begin teaching the courses. If you have resources, over and above the support you provide to your local church, that you would like to contribute to the Panama mission, we would gladly use it to send our pastors there to teach.

Disaster Relief Update – In late August we held our second annual Disaster Relief Celebration and Information event. Last year we had about 60 people attending and this year we topped 100. As a result of Jim Patton and the work our volunteers are doing, Unit 19 R now has more volunteers than any other DR Unit in Georgia. I want to thank Beech Haven for hosting the event. I want to thank those men who prepared the steaks for the event. I want to express my deep gratitude for those who give of their time and resources to deploy when disaster strikes. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us and we will let you know about the next training event.



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How do you get someone to go to church with you? Sometimes you invite someone, they agree to come, you tell them the location, the time....and you hope, but they don't show up. Sometimes this happens repeatedly.

While working with members of the local International Community who may or may not have a car and who may or may not be familiar with the area, we have stumbled on something that also applies to family members, co-workers, and neighbors, too. If you really want someone to go somewhere with you, OFFER TO PICK THEM UP AND TAKE THEM HOME! Sometimes, there are barriers that we are not aware of that keep someone from visiting a church that they have to walk into alone. Honestly, even I get self conscious entering any place where I feel like everyone else is more at home than I am. If I get an invitation to go somewhere that involves some level of discomfort for me, I am more likely to find an excuse not to go. Most of us are this way.

Is it inconvenient to drive across town to pick someone up for church? Yes. Does it involve extra expense? Yes. Is it normal to be concerned that maybe that person will only go to church if you provide transportation? Yes. But are they MUCH more likely to go and eventually stick there if they ride with us the first few times rather than just meeting us there? YES!

~Amy Wheeler-Sullivan, Director, International Friends English Program 706.424-1891 AthensEnglishClasses@gmail.com