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# The PROCLAIMER

Polk-Haralson Baptist Association Newsletter

## September 2024

### ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST

*Kevin McKoy*



How do we measure success in ministry? This morning I was reading from Jeremiah. God called this young man to the extremely important and difficult task of preaching the truth to people who did not want to hear it. Jeremiah's initial response to God was that he was not equipped for the work God was calling him to do. God reassured him that He would sustain him and speak through him. Ultimately, Jeremiah responded in obedience. And he lived happily ever after... Not quite.

Jeremiah faced rejection, ridicule, and a people who abused him for speaking the truth. He was told that his message was not from God. He spent his entire ministry calling people to repentance, while they continued in their sin thinking they were ok with God. Do you ever feel this way?

If we measure success in ministry by how well people respond to the message, Jeremiah would be considered a complete failure. His example would not be held up as one to follow, but we are reminded that God chose him for that purpose. No one promised any of us that ministry would be easy. In fact, most of us were probably told early in life to expect rejection and failure at some point. Jeremiah serves as a reminder that it could be worse. He also serves as a reminder that success is based on our obedience and faithfulness to God.

Most of us will never suffer the trials of Jeremiah.

Fortunately, the fruit of our labor is usually evident through life-change in those we minister to. We get to see people saved and disciplined in our churches.

We experience genuine worship and joy in our Sunday gatherings.

New families visit our churches and get plugged in to what God is doing there.

When these things happen, we rejoice!

But we must remember that even when they don't happen, we are still called to be obedient and faithful to the calling God has placed on each of us.

My prayer for you is that you would be encouraged today to faithfully run the race put before you.

Do not judge your own success by comparing yourself to others.

Ask yourself if you are doing everything you can to do what God has called you to do.

And rest in the reality that He has a plan and a purpose.

He invites us to join Him in this effort for His glory and your benefit.

If I can ever help you, even if it's just a word of encouragement you need, do not hesitate to call on me. We get to do this together.

May the Lord open your eyes today to His goodness and purpose.

Better Together!

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# SPARK

## CONFERENCE

THE TOTAL CHURCH EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

**Sunday, September 22**

West Rome Baptist Church, Rome

**[thesparkconference.com/2024](https://thesparkconference.com/2024)**

Cost: \$15 Per Person



### Keynote Speaker: Dr. Thom Rainer

Thom S. Rainer is a renowned church leader, author, and consultant, currently serving as the founder and CEO of Church Answers, an online resource platform for church leaders. He previously held the positions of President and CEO at LifeWay Christian Resources and was the founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His expertise in church health led him to establish the Rainer Group, a consulting firm that has guided numerous churches and organizations. A prolific author, Rainer has contributed more than two dozen books to the field, including influential works such as "I Am a Church Member" and "Autopsy of a Deceased Church."

### BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS:

#### CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

- Church Budgeting and Financial Issues
- Safety and Security at Your Church

#### COLLEGIATE

- Effectively Engaging 18-25 Year Olds in the Local Church

#### COUNSELING MINISTRY

- Grief Care Giving
- Navigating Loss: What To Do When You Don't Know

#### What To Do

#### DISASTER RELIEF

- Disaster Relief in the 21st Century

#### DISCIPLESHIP

- Why Groups Matter: Small Group & Sunday School Training
- Winning the Church Back to Men
- The State of Manhood
- Key to Multiplying Gospel Impact Through Your Senior Adult Ministry

#### First Impressions and Guest Services

- Fears in Disciple-making
- New Member Connection and Assimilation
- Open Your Church to Deaf People
- Teaching/Leading an Adult Class or Group

#### EVANGELISM

- The Power of Prayer in Evangelism
- The Five-Star Evangelistic Leader

#### MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION

- Artificial Intelligence and Your Ministry: The New Fuel for Efficiency and Impact

#### MISSION GEORGIA

- Navigating Trauma in the Church

#### MISSIONS

- Steps to Recognize and Raise Up Missional Leaders in Your Church

#### Getting Ready to Go

#### NEXT GEN - KIDS

- Babysitter vs Influencer

#### Leading a Child to Christ

- Starting a Special Needs Ministry in Your Church

#### NEXT GEN - STUDENTS

- Six Things Every Volunteer Needs to Know to Work with Teenagers

#### Navigating Best Practices for Discipling Teenagers

- Beyond Meat: Helps for those that lead youth Bible study

#### PASTOR WELLNESS

- Four Keys to a Healthy Church

#### UNLEASH! 5 Strategies for Shaping a Church That's Reaching, Discipling, and Deploying Young Leaders

#### Deacon Ministry Foundations

- Current Trends and Common Practices in Turn-Around Churches

#### Dealing Effectively with Church Conflict

#### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Protecting Evangelism and Missions through Religious Freedom

#### Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church

#### WOMEN

- Five Essential Elements for Leading Women in the Local Church

#### Women in Ministry

#### WORSHIP & MUSIC

- Harmonizing Hearts: The Art of Being a Great Worship and Music Leader

#### Sound & Vision: Elevating Worship Experiences Through Audio, Visual, and Livestream Mastery

### SPARK 2024 Schedule

3:30 PM - Doors Open/Registration/Check In

4:15 PM - Inspirational Rally w/ Thom Rainer

5:30 PM - Light Dinner

6:15 - 7:15 PM - Breakout #1

7:30 - 8:30 PM - Breakout #2

8:30 PM - Dismiss



Georgia  
Baptist

We have assembled a diverse team of practicing leaders prepared to give you best ministry practices in their field of expertise. Every part of the gathering - from our keynote speaker to our SPARK breakout sessions - has been intentionally designed to equip and inspire your leaders.

### Who is **SPARK** for?

Lay Leaders, Childrens' Leaders, Womens' Ministry Leaders, Mens' Ministry

Leaders, Missions Coordinators, Student Pastors, Worship Leaders, Sunday School Leaders, Small Group Leaders, Pastors... anyone involved in ministry and equipping.

### Everyone can benefit!

It doesn't matter at what stage you are in ministry, there is something for everyone at SPARK. This conference is designed with YOU in mind, no matter your experience or skill level!

Breakout Flyer

Register Here



Confluence (September 20-22) is a gathering of college and university students from across Georgia who come together for one shared purpose: Jesus.

They come from different places, different experiences, and even different cultures, but they share the same passion to grow in their

relationship with God. Through a weekend of worship, learning, playing, and growing together, students take their next step in following Jesus and making Him known on their campus.

Ken Jones, the BCM Director at KSU, has extended this to the churches in our association. The conference is not just for BCM students, but all college students/ministries. If you want to know more information about Confluence, then visit their website: <https://confluencega.com/>.

View Flyer

### MS & HS Students...

Plans are underway to have an

Associational Youth Camp for the Summer of 2025.

The dates are set for June 6-9.

If you (or your students) are interested in attending the camp, please email Will Anderson, PHBA Next Gen Leader, at fbccedartownstudents@gmail.com.



## Pass It On.

Do you know someone in your church, a friend, or a neighbor that needs to get this monthly newsletter?

Forward it to them now and tell them to Sign-Up.

Miss a past issue? Find it [Here](#).

## Missions.

The Georgia Baptist Missions Board is excited to partner with Woodlawn Baptist Church for this exciting event! What a great way to introduce your churches to the many ways they can engage in missions!

Join us for a Global Impact Conference Friday evening, October 18 and Saturday, October 19.

Friday will feature a missions fair with displays from regional, state, national and international ministries as well as a



missions banquet featuring a keynote by Dr. Buck Burch, GBMB Missions Catalyst and fourteen year IMB missionary in Russia.

On Saturday, The display area will be open again with breakout sessions before and after lunch covering raising up leaders, disaster relief, women in missions, cross cultural missions, human trafficking, community missions, and developing a missions strategy in your church.



[View Flyer](#)

[Register Now](#)



- 2 PHBA Office Closed, Labor Day
- 7 OCC Workshop @ Fairview (2-4:30PM)
- 8 Deacon Ordination @ FBC Tallapoosa
- 12 Sons of Jubal @ Tabernacle, Carrollton
- 13-14 Women on Mission Retreat, Camp Pinnacle
- 13 Jubalheirs @ FBC Bremen
- 19 Families 4 Families Gala @ FBC Cartersville
- 20-22 Confluence
- 22 Spark Conference, West Rome (3:30-8:30PM)
- 24 Finance Team Meeting
- 26 Leadership Team Meeting



- 12 PBC Men's Night, Providence
- 18-19 Global Impact Conference, Woodlawn BC
- 23 Polk FCA Fields of Faith, Rockmart High 6PM
- 24 Public Affairs Training, Ropoville
- 28 PHBA Annual Mtg, FBC Cedartown
- Meal: 5:30PM - Family Life Center
- Worship: 6:30PM - Worship Center
- 30 East Coast Ambassadors' Academy 4PM

# PHBA 2024 ANNUAL

# Meeting



FBC Cedartown  
101 N. College St, Cedartown, GA 30125

**OCTOBER | 28<sup>th</sup> | 2024**

Meal Begins @ 5:30PM  
Worship Begins @ 6:30PM

[Register Now](#)



# EAST COAST AMBASSADORS' ACADEMY

October 30th - November 2nd  
*a LIVING WATERS EUROPE  
Outreach Conference*

a conference being hosted by FBC Bremen



## MEN'S NIGHT

Providence Baptist Church  
Tallapoosa, Georgia  
Saturday, October 12  
Meal Begins@4:30PM  
Worship@6PM  
Tickets: \$10  
[www.pbctallapoosa.com](http://www.pbctallapoosa.com)



Speaker: Rick Burgess



### Camp Director: Janice Stewart

In August we opened up the new school year with some inspirational, fun, and educational student events. One "off campus" event we promoted and attended was the "Engage Polk" community youth event held at Victory Baptist with youth from various churches coming together to worship and be inspired to take the light of Christ into their schools and share Jesus with their friends.

On August 22nd homeschoolers in the



area participated in a "Literature Fair" at Camp Antioch. Students in grades K-12th

made displays and projects about books they had read over the summer and set them up throughout the camp building to share with each other and their families.

Prizes in each age category along with a "kids favorite" category were awarded and everybody enjoyed an evening of fellowship.

For our regular Saturday Day Camp, campers and their families gathered at the camp to become "citizen scientist" for a day as they participated in the University of Georgia's Southeastern Pollinator Census (A.K.A. "Butterfly Count"). Our morning began with a devotional about being "transformed" into a "new creature" when we give our life to Jesus. This was illustrated in how butterflies go through metamorphoses to be transformed from a caterpillar into a butterfly. Students then had a lesson about how to identify insects and spiders, the importance of pollinators in our environment, and how to collect data for the Pollinator Census. Campers and their parents went outside with clipboards and tally sheets to collect official data by observing butterflies and other pollinators for the count which is then submitted to the University of Georgia. After the counting time we celebrated the beautiful late summer day with camp friends and a popsicle party.

#### SEPTEMBER EVENTS SCHEDULE (so far)

Monday, September 9

- American Sign Language (ASL) classes begin from 10:30am-noon. Classes will meet each Monday in September and October.
- Camp Library opens for checkouts
- Homework Helpers begin

Thursday, September 19

- Community 4-H Club begins its new school year meetings each third Thursday from 10am-noon in the chapel.

Saturday, September 21

- Day Camp: Theme this month is "Children's Missions Day" where campers will learn about and do a local mission project. This is in conjunction with the National WMU's Children's Missions Day.

Tuesday, September 24

- CPR class for certification (also includes Basic Life Saving, Heartsaver, AED, and First Aid) by certified instructor, 5:30-8:30pm, cost for manual and card \$40. More CPR classes can be scheduled in the future.

TEXT Janice at 770-846-7760 (quickest response) for info, to volunteer, or donate supplies.

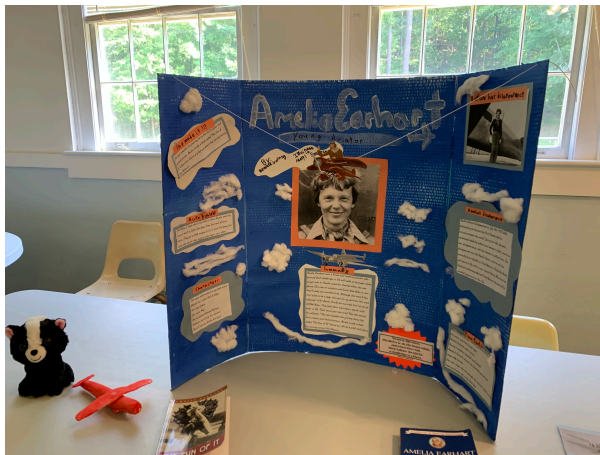
Follow us at [Facebook](#) for our most updated events.

Mail financial contributions to:

Camp Antioch \*make checks to "Camp Antioch"

3900 Antioch Road

Cedartown, GA 30125



### Unit Director: Jeff Carter

August continues to be a busy month for disaster relief. At the beginning of the month we had teams serving in Texas. By the middle of the month we had teams serving in Georgia following Tropical Storm Debby. Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief had operation centers set up in Statesboro and Savannah. Statesboro has been

completed and hopefully Savannah will be done by Sept 1st. We have had several members of our association serving in Statesboro. Glenn Robinson took the PHBA sponsored Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief Unit 34R to Statesboro August 15. Glenn was the blue hat (team leader) for the week. Others from the unit along with myself joined him for part of the week. Team 2 was led by another unit member and joined by Lyndon Smith and Bobby Parker. Thanks to all who served.





The most important part is our unit had a part in seeing 7 souls saved. The unit had a direct part in 3 of those. Lyndon Smith led 1 to the Lord. As you can see in the pictures, one lady couldn't wait. She wanted to be baptized right then, so they made it happen. Mud-outs are a nasty hard job but the souls being won for the Lord is the reason we go.

Storms are a tool to open doors, people showing up to work opens hearts, open mouths sharing the Gospel is what Disaster Relief is all about. Please consider becoming a part of it. There are jobs for almost anyone. If you are unable to go and do, please pray for those that are going.

Thanks to everyone for the support and prayers. I am thankful to be a part of something much bigger than myself, come and be a part of it too. 4 people out of 2 counties was all we could get to go.

Please, Please get involved.



Thanks to the PHBA, individuals, and churches for supporting disaster relief financially.

A SPECIAL thanks to everyone who prays for us.

If you know of an opportunity for Disaster Relief to serve please notify myself or the Association Office.

## Operation Christmas Child

We have been praying fervently for the

Lord to raise up laborers to join our local Operation Christmas Child team in the area as we are seeking to increase awareness of the ministry. Building a more robust team in our area could lead to a 40% increase in the number of children reached for Christ in just a few years. If you would like to talk with us more about the opportunities, please contact



Gina Brown [ginatoo@yahoo.com](mailto:ginatoo@yahoo.com) or fill out a volunteer interest form at <https://myocc.samaritanspurse.org/volunteer/vif>

Please join us on Saturday, September 7, at Fairview Baptist Church in Rockmart at 2:00 pm (registration at 1:45). We will have a special guest, Kimheang Vance, a shoebox recipient who will share her amazing testimony about receiving a shoebox as a child in Cambodia.

Join us to find out more about how you can increase your partnership with us to share the Gospel with more children like Kim. Or learn how you can get started in partnering with us to reach the children of the world. We'll have food, door prizes (including shoeboxes), and fun so please mark your calendar today.

Come early and check out our expo.

Each church and group represented will be eligible to receive a carton of free shoeboxes. In addition, each church that brings their pastor (senior, associate, missions, etc.) will be eligible to receive a free carton of shoeboxes.

Invite anyone who is interested in reaching children and their families for Christ.

*Gina Brown*

*GA Highlands Area Coordinator*

*Operation Christmas Child*

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Sons of Jubal  
in concert  
September 12, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Carrollton, Georgia

**Jubal**  
Ministries



**The Jubalheirs**  
in Concert at FBC Bremen  
September 13 | 7:00PM

**Jubal**  
Ministries



The Northwest Georgia office for Families 4 Families is having their first annual Gala on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Cartersville First Baptist. Families 4 Families is a faith based, private foster care placement agency that only partners with churches to enlist, train and support foster families at no cost to the church or foster family. There is a foster care crisis in Northwest Georgia and our state. The Gospel is the answer to this crisis and there is something every church can say "Yes" to.

Contact Kenneth Aycock at  
770-231-8887

or  
Kenneth@families4families.cc  
for more information.



[Register Here](#)



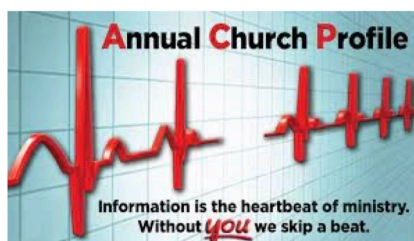
# UNLEASHED

## WOMEN ON MISSION RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2024

Registration for Women on Mission Retreat is open!

At the Women on Mission Retreat, you'll experience meaningful worship, and large and small group activities all focused on gaining a deeper understanding of God's mission and your role in it. We'll explore practical ways to connect to the local and global mission of God.



In August, every PHBA church will receive, via USPS mail and email, a letter from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board that includes Annual Church Profile (ACP) completion instructions, with the paper form and an online link to the forms, your church's username, password, and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The letter should contain the ACP statistical questions and have all current organization and leadership data prefilled in the provided forms. The deadline for completion is October 15, 2024.

Login Here

## Do Your Part.

State of GA Voter Guide:

<https://georgia.gov/register-vote>

Online Registration:

<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/voter-registration...>

My Voter Page:

<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>



# REGISTER TO VOTE

## WHAT YOU NEED TO REGISTER

To register to vote you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote.
- At least 17 1/2 years of age to register and 18 to vote.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register to vote online, you must have:

- a valid driver's license or
- identification card issued by the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

[Register to Vote Online >>](#)

## Check Your Registration

- Check to see if you are registered to vote on [My Voter Page](#).
- This page will also tell you where you can vote.

"We shouldn't allow political outcomes to consume our thoughts, direct our emotions, or dull our hope. Government may change, but our mission remains the same: love God and love others."



### PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

The intense conflict in the Middle East is a reason for Christians to pray. Thousands of people have been killed since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7.

As part of its ongoing ministry assignment of assisting churches through elevating the ministry of prayer, the SBC Executive Committee has created the [prayer guide](#) linked at the bottom of this article. The guide is also available in [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#) and [Korean](#).

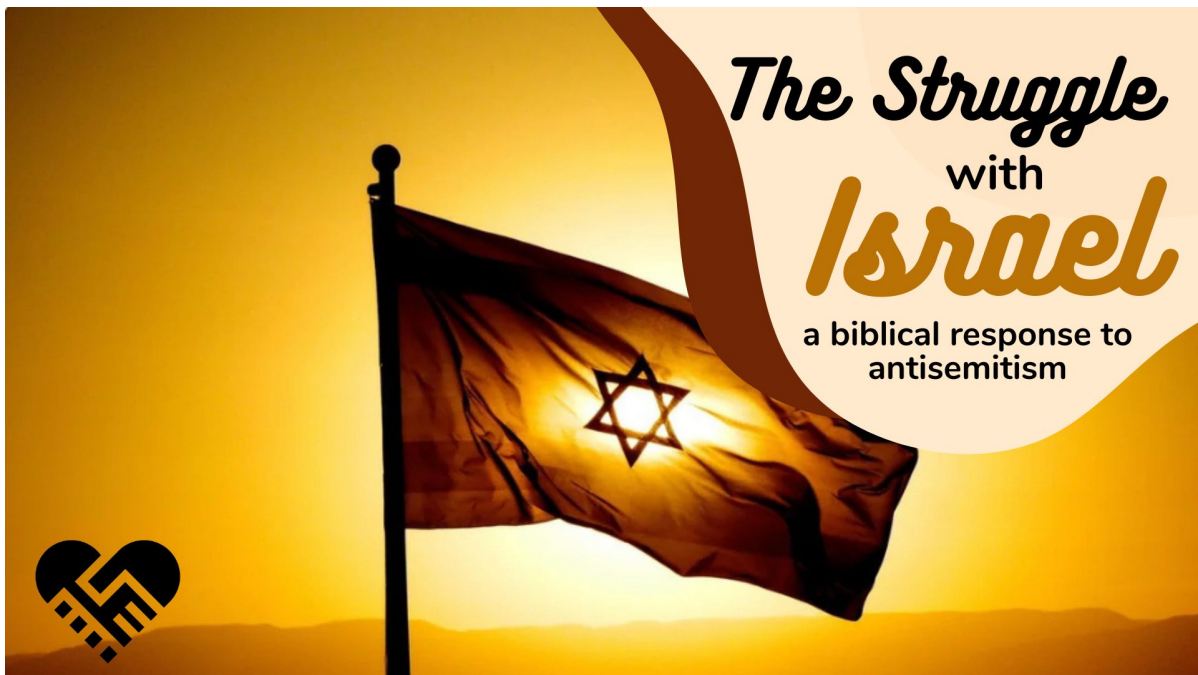
Would you pray with us as we ask God to comfort those who are grieving, bring peace in the Middle East and guide political leaders to act with Godly wisdom?

Please join in praying through:

- Romans 13 where we learn that God has given governing authorities to protect the innocent and bring justice to evil doers.
- Romans 9:15-16 as we ask God to show compassion on those suffering because of the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza.
- Micah 6:8 as we learn how the Lord desires for humanity to live.
- Psalm 34:14 where God's people are called to pursue peace.
- John 14:6 as we ask the Lord to draw Israelis and Palestinians to Jesus Christ.

May God bring peace to the Middle East.

[DOWNLOAD GUIDE](#)





## **PHBA Churches Without Pastors**

Lake Creek Baptist Church, Cedartown  
New Harmony Baptist Church, Cedartown - *(Voting Soon)*  
Southside Baptist Church, Cedartown

## **PHBA Ministry Positions Available**

*Corinth Baptist, Bremen*  
Part-time Worship Leader. Contact Pastor Barry @ [barrytaylor@cbbcbremen.org](mailto:barrytaylor@cbbcbremen.org)

*Mount Olivet Missionary Baptist, Dallas*

Part-time Pianist. Contact Pastor Derrick @ 404.867.7459

*Corner Stone Baptist Chapel*

PT Worship Leader. Contact Pastor Dave @ David.pollard@raymondjames.com

*Calvary Baptist, Bremen*

In need of a Pianist, a Choir Director and an Organist. Contact Pastor Woody @  
770.823.7789

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Bro. Kevin McKoy, Associational Mission Strategist - kevin@polkharalson.net

Cindy Freyberg - cindy@polkharalson.net

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