

# **SUGGESTED REPORT MATERIAL 2017**

**FOR ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARIES MEETINGS, 2018  
(REV. JUNE 28, 2018)**



## SECTION III

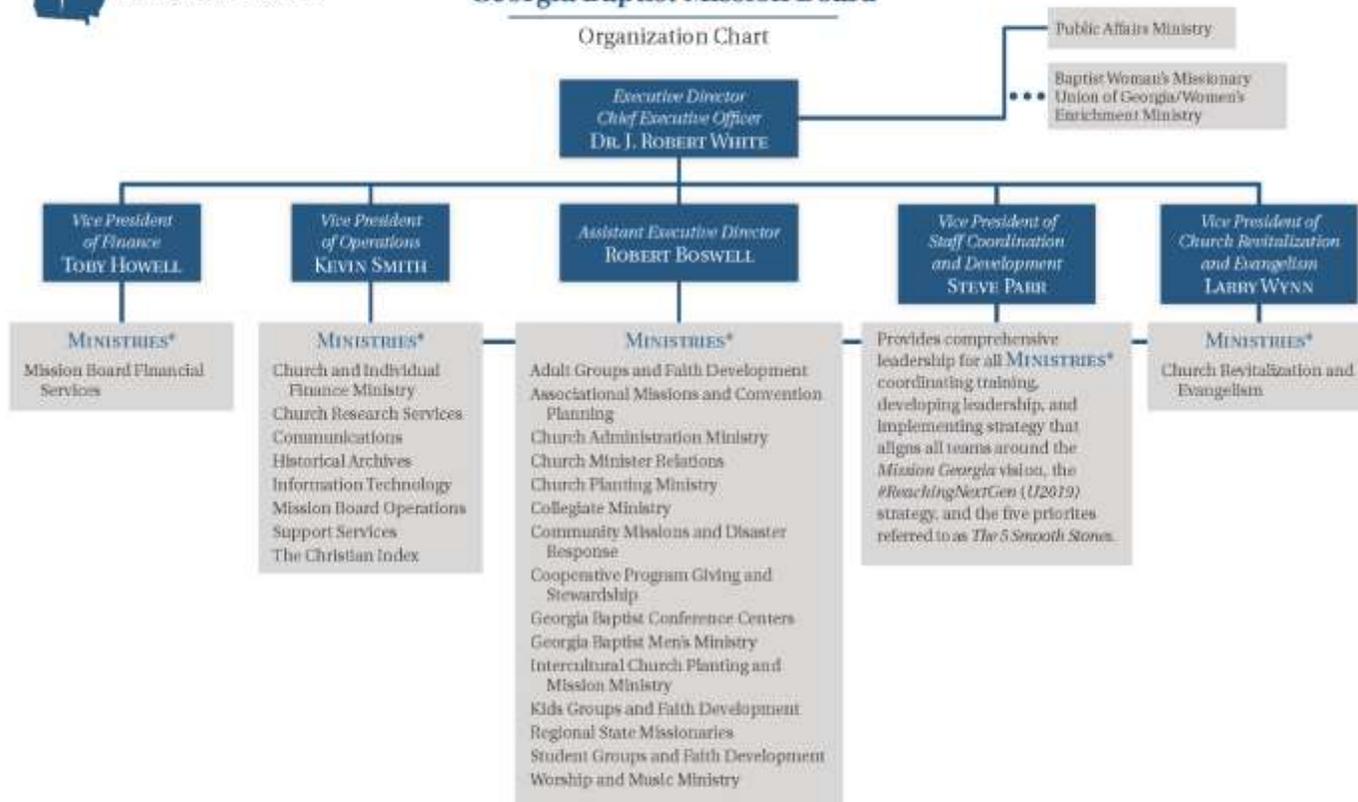
### STATE MISSIONS MINISTRIES

Georgia Baptist Mission Board state missionaries seek to reduce lostness by focusing with Baptists on spiritual renewal resulting in Kingdom generosity, church revitalization, church planting, and authentic evangelism.



#### Georgia Baptist Mission Board

##### Organization Chart



*The Georgia Baptist Mission Board will seek to reduce lostness by focusing with Baptists on spiritual renewal resulting in Kingdom generosity, church revitalization, church planting, and authentic evangelism.*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATION

J. Robert White

[jwhite@gabaptist.org](mailto:jwhite@gabaptist.org)

**Assisting Georgia Baptists in reaching lost people in Georgia for Jesus Christ is the priority of all state missions ministries.** State missionaries began aligning all ministries with the **5 Smooth Stones** following their adoption at the 2011 Convention annual meeting. The 5 Smooth Stones or core initiatives of Spiritual Renewal, Kingdom Generosity, Church Revitalization, Church Planting, and Authentic Evangelism, will help Georgia Baptists reach the projected 8.1 million lost people expected to live in Georgia by the year 2020. It will take spiritual renewal among all Georgia Baptists resulting in our working together to accomplish these initiatives in order to make the needed impact of the Gospel upon our state.

The administration of state missions is the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The ministries and operations of state missions are under the leadership of Executive Director, J. Robert White. State missionaries serve through the various ministries across the state assisting our churches in responding to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

The Georgia Woman's Missionary Union and Women's Enrichment Ministries is an auxiliary to the Georgia Baptist Convention and serves our churches through providing resources, training and mission opportunities. *The Christian Index* serves the interests of state missions in the publication of news and in promotion of the various ministry activities.

State missions ministry is supported through the **Cooperative Program** and the annual **Mission Georgia Offering**. It depends upon the local church family to faithfully and unselfishly share their resources through our cooperative efforts to reach Georgia with the Gospel and **provide a strong base for carrying out the Great Commission throughout the world.**

## ETHICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mike Griffin, State Missionary

[mgriffin@gabaptist.org](mailto:mgriffin@gabaptist.org)

<http://gabaptist.org/publicaffairs/>

Over the past year the Public Affairs Ministry has been very successful in representing Georgia Baptists on their positions regarding social and moral concerns. In 2017, Mike Griffin, Public Affairs Representative, and his assistant, Tom Rush, monitored approximately 35 bills in the Georgia General Assembly.

The following Christian Index article highlights the 2017 legislative Session, <https://christianindex.org/good-news-bad-news/>. The main subjects of interest this year were: Religious Liberty, Gambling, Marijuana, Abortion, and Alcohol. Once again, Religious Liberty and Gambling ended up topping the list. The good news was that all gambling legislation was stopped, but the bad news was that no religious liberty legislation was passed. This makes 3 years in a row that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) was not passed into law.

Each year a Legislative Prayer Breakfast is held at the State Capitol for all elected officials. These breakfasts are important in communicating that Georgia Baptists are not just concerned about public policy, but also the spiritual health of our legislators.

In addition to lobbying on legislation, many Baptists have been trained through Pastors Days at the Capitol, Public Affairs Pastor's Training Seminar, Alliance Defending Freedom Church Protection Seminar and the "UnHoly Tour" about Human Trafficking.

When the Georgia General Assembly is not in session, Mike Griffin is traveling the state speaking in associations, churches and conducting Public Affairs Briefings for ministers and laymen.

## WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION AND WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

Beth Ann Williams, Executive Director-Treasurer

[bawilliams@gabaptist.org](mailto:bawilliams@gabaptist.org)

The purpose of WMU and Women's Enrichment Ministry is to encourage and equip Georgia Baptist churches to fulfill the Great Commission and, more specifically, to lead women and girls to discover and live out their purpose in God's Kingdom.

- We assist new and existing churches in creating a tailored missions involvement strategy.
- We connect women and churches to local and global mission opportunities.
- We lay the foundation essential for children and youth to become tomorrow's mission leaders.
- We offer a customized, comprehensive ministry strategy for women.
- We prepare women to lead through personalized consultations, team training, and workshops.
- We challenge children, youth and women to a deeper commitment to Christ that leads to a missional lifestyle.

Ministries that highlight our 5 Smooth Stone priorities include:

### Spiritual Renewal

- Approximately 600 women gathered at the Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Center for the 2017 Spring Event to hear speaker and author, Trillia Newbell, musician, Shelly Johnson, and a variety of outstanding conference leaders and missionaries. To learn more visit [www.gabaptistwomenspringevent.com](http://www.gabaptistwomenspringevent.com).
- The annual Hispanic Women's Retreat was held in two locations with 469 participants in Toccoa and 169 participants in Forsyth.
- Forty women's ministry leaders from 23 churches gathered for three days at Pinnacle Retreat Center to participate in a retreat designed for networking, fellowship, and spiritual enrichment.
- One in Prayer is our web-based prayer initiative to equip and encourage a more effective individual and corporate praying life. For more information visit [www.oneinprayer.net](http://www.oneinprayer.net).

### Kingdom Generosity

- 3 in 1, our online ordering resource, continues to enable churches to create a standing order that leads to automatic shipments of materials for the Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Mission Georgia offering emphases. Visit [www.3in1missions.org](http://www.3in1missions.org).
- The Georgia Missionary Parents Fellowship continues to provide support and encouragement to parents of missionaries through a fall retreat, a spring meeting and a vibrant prayer network.
- In 2017, staff provided awareness of the Cooperative Program at events and in local churches and utilized missionary personnel at events to personalize giving through the Cooperative Program. A portion of Summer Missions Camp offering was given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

### Church Revitalization

- Equipping for missions growth took place in a variety of venues for 900 Anglo, African-American, Hispanic, Korean, and other multiethnic leaders.
- Summer Missions Camp exists to help girls and teens experience God and understand His desire to reach the nations with the truth of Jesus Christ. Our 2017 missions focus was Central Asia. Twenty-nine girls made salvation decisions and seven surrendered to follow God's call. Visit [www.campinnacle.net](http://www.campinnacle.net) to learn more.
- Over 600 children and volunteers experienced missions in three locations at Children's Extravaganza. Through missionaries, hands-on missions projects, games and prayer children learned how God is working around the world. One child made a salvation decision.
- Connect Events were held in three locations for 116 women's ministry leaders from 37 churches for networking, best practices and idea exchange.
- Two seminary scholarships were awarded to young women attending Southern Baptist seminaries and one mission trip scholarship was awarded to a semester missionary serving in Salt Lake City, UT.

### Authentic Evangelism

- The Hispanic WMU mission trip took place in Washington, D.C. with seven women participating through prayerwalking and sharing the Gospel.

- In partnership with churches and associations in Georgia, women participated in Christmas in Appalachia filling over 30,000 backpacks.
- Twenty-three churches provided craft supplies for First Baptist Church, Hampton, TN, Big A Program. Sixteen children made salvation decisions.
- Engage Conference was a hands-on missions weekend for young women. Fifty-six women served with a variety of refugee ministries in Clarkston and learned how to minister to internationals in their own communities.
- Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) provides a Christian context in which women in need are introduced to Christ and equipped for life and employment. Currently there are eight CWJC sites. Each site provides personal mentoring and weekly Bible study.
- Through an on-going prayer partnership with missionaries in Israel, four leaders participated in an exploration trip to Israel to meet with missionaries and discover volunteer opportunities for 2018.

Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, Georgia, is owned and operated by Georgia WMU. This beautiful multi-purpose conference center, nestled in the northeast Georgia mountains, is an ideal setting for staff, deacon or church retreats from August through May. June and early July are reserved for Camp Pinnacle Summer Missions Camp. Visit [www.pinnacleretreatcenter.com](http://www.pinnacleretreatcenter.com).

We are eager to assist churches and associations with personal consultations and customized training. If we can serve you, please contact us at 770-936-5234 or 1-800-746-4422, extension 324 or visit us at [www.georgiawmu.org](http://www.georgiawmu.org)

**ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**Robert A. Boswell, State Missionary**  
[bboswell@gabaptist.org](mailto:bboswell@gabaptist.org)

The state missionaries of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board provide leadership training, conferences and resources to assist 3,600 Georgia Baptist churches. Each event, conference and resource is designed to assist churches with Mission Georgia, the 5 Smooth Stones emphasis: Spiritual Renewal, Kingdom Generosity, Church Revitalization, Church Planting and Authentic Evangelism.

- Associational Missions and Convention Planning
- Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of Georgia/Women's Enrichment Ministries
- Camp Kaleo Retreat Center
- Church Administration Ministry
- Church and Individual Finance Strategy
- Church Minister Relations
- Church Planting Ministry
- Church Research Services
- Church Revitalization and Evangelism
- Collegiate Ministry
- Communications
- Community Missions and Disaster Response
- Cooperative Program Giving and Stewardship
- Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa
- Georgia Baptist Men's Ministry
- Groups and Faith Development
- Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministry
- Kids Groups and Faith Development
- Regional State Missionaries
- Support Services Groups and Faith Development
- Worship and Music Ministry

State missionaries are available for consultation to associations and churches. You may contact each ministry by phone at 800-RING-GBC (800.746.4422), 770.455,0404 or visit the GBC website at [www.gabaptist.org](http://www.gabaptist.org) to receive the latest information in each of these ministries.

In addition to state missionaries located at the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center in Duluth, numerous field personnel are located throughout the state. Among those available are the regional state missionaries located in three regions of Georgia. The RSM contact information is:

Charles Drummond, North Georgia Region, Augusta [cdrummond@gabaptist.org](mailto:cdrummond@gabaptist.org)  
Harris Malcom, Middle Georgia Region, Monroe [hmalcom@gabaptist.org](mailto:hmalcom@gabaptist.org)  
Mike Everson, South Georgia Region, Valdosta [meverson@gabaptist.org](mailto:meverson@gabaptist.org)  
George Barnett, Part-time, North Georgia, [gbarnett@gabaptist.org](mailto:gbarnett@gabaptist.org)

Each ministry exists to serve the associations and churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention, strengthen churches and reduce lostness in Georgia. You may contact Robert A. Boswell, Assistant Executive Director at 6405 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, Georgia 30097 or call 800-RING-GBC, 770-936-5381 or e-mail - [bboswell@gabaptist.org](mailto:bboswell@gabaptist.org)

**ADULT GROUPS AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT**  
**Tim Smith, State Missionary**  
[Smith@gabaptist.org](mailto:Smith@gabaptist.org)

All Georgia Baptist have the desire to accomplish the Great Commission! The Adult Groups & Faith Development(AGFD) state missionaries believe that small groups are one of the best tools to impact the lostness and make disciples.

Adult Groups & Faith Development – The largest age group in our churches as well as our communities are those 19 years of age and older. To reach and teach adults it takes a variety of ministries and approaches. Whether it be the young single adult or the oldest senior adult we desire for them to know and grow in the Lord. Pastors and other leaders need resources to help them in their mission to reach the lost and disciple the saved. Through the ministry of Groups and Faith Development we partner with churches and leaders in the Great Commission.

The state missionaries of AGFD are ready to assist you, your group and your church to accomplish the goals of reducing lostness and making disciples. The team has resources and conferences, as well as personal consultations, to assist you in daily Bible reading, training members to share their faith, connecting with members, planning mission projects, starting new classes/groups and training present and potential teachers/leaders.

- In 2017, the AGFD state missionaries conducted 332 state, regional, associational, and local church training events, with a combined attendance of 21,479.
- This past year, over 1,526 pastors, staff members and volunteer leaders attended the two GO Georgia Conferences in Marietta and Tifton. GO Georgia is a comprehensive 2-day leadership training event that included top national speakers as well as breakout sessions addressing over 100 topics related to church life and ministry. There were representatives from 338 Georgia Baptist churches and associations attending the events in 2017, there will be one Go Georgia conference in 2018 on August 17-18 in Macon and two Go Georgia Conferences planned for 2019.
- Through the FREE Growing Groups Online training and other Social Media video training over 90,000 various resources have been viewed for group training, instruction, personal development, equipping leaders and encouragement. Pastors, ministers, leaders, directors, teachers, and/or members were equipped in various topics to improve their skills to reduce lostness and make disciples.

Our Vision: "Every Georgia Baptist church engaged in creating a disciple making culture."

Our Mission: "Partnering with leaders and strengthening churches in their mission of making disciples through groups to reduce lostness."

Our Approach:

- Events - The target audience is the person in the pew.
- Training - The target audience is the volunteer leadership, Sunday School teachers, and small group leaders.
- Networking - The target audience is the professional staff member.
- Resources - Both print and online. Both free and pay.
- Engagement/Coaching - With leaders, churches or groups.

The AGFD state missionaries provide leadership training in churches as well as through associational, regional, and state events that give Georgia Baptists the tools they need to have healthy groups. Below is a quick review of some of the major events provided by AGFD.

- Minister of Education GBACE in January.
- Two 55+ Leadership Conferences in February.
- Fifteen Associational & Regional Sunday School/Small Group Training Workshops.
- Go Georgia Conference in August.
- Four Growing Groups Forums in October.
- Georgia Baptist Sunday School Director's Summit in October.
- Nine Sunday School mentoring groups in partnership with the local associations.
- Monthly FREE on-demand/on-line training opportunities through Growing Groups On-Line.

## **ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS AND CONVENTION PLANNING**

**Frank A. Nuckolls, State Missionary**

[fnuckolls@gabaptist.org](mailto:fnuckolls@gabaptist.org)

This ministry area seeks to engage Georgia Baptists in accomplishing the Great Commission through the mission of the "Five Smooth Stones." This task is accomplished through the following ministries: Associational Missions Ministries engaged Georgia Baptists in accomplishing the Great Commission and the mission of the "Five Smooth Stones" through:

- Engaging 8 associations in the development and implementation of a missional strategy.
- Engaging 5 associations in a missional strategy review process.
- Equipping Associational Missionary Search Committees in 3 associations.
- Equipping associational missionaries in Great Commission ministry through the Associational Missionaries Workshop and other training events.
- Equipping Potential Associational Missionaries to serve local associations.
- Encouraging and enlisting approximately 50,000 volunteers to serve on mission in Appalachia through a partnership with Appalachian Regional Ministries of the North American Mission Board. ([www.arministry.org](http://www.arministry.org))
- Engaging Georgia Baptists to develop missional connections to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the largest urban in Appalachia.
- Engaging Georgia Baptists to provide 38,216 Christmas Backpacks for Appalachian Children and children in Southwest Georgia, resulting in over 2,000 professions of faith in Christ.
- Connecting Georgia Baptists to the missional needs and educational training needs in the Dominican Republic.

The Georgia Baptist Educational Institutes (Continuing Education Ministries) engaged Georgia Baptists in accomplishing the Great Commission and the mission of the "Five Smooth Stones" through:

- Equipping approximately one thousand church leaders through the Georgia Baptist Educational Institutes in: associational, African-American, ethnic, and prison Continuing Education Centers.
- These church leaders were trained in twenty different locations.
- Equipping over 150 students in ministry at the Wheeler Correctional Center in Alamo.

Convention Planning Ministries seek to accomplish the Great Commission and the mission of the "Five Smooth Stones" through the logistical planning of the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

For additional information on Associational Missions Ministries contact Frank Nuckolls at [fnuckolls@gabaptist.org](mailto:fnuckolls@gabaptist.org).

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY**  
**D. Alan Folsom, State Missionary**  
[afolsom@gabaptist.org](mailto:afolsom@gabaptist.org)

The Church Administration Ministry seeks to strengthen churches by equipping and informing leaders through relevant resources in order to comply with applicable laws and Biblical mandates. Churches are challenged by 1 Corinthians 14:40, "...let all things be done decently and in order..."

Church Administration is organized into four areas of ministry and resources: F.O.R.M.

<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL</b>	<b>RELATIONAL</b>	<b>MANAGERIAL</b>
Financial Compliance	Church Governance	Personnel & Ministry Support	General Administration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Financial Compliance</li> <li>• Treasurer/Finance Training</li> <li>• Ministers Tax Info</li> <li>• Insurance Review</li> <li>• Payroll &amp; Benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation</li> <li>• Church Constitution</li> <li>• By-Laws</li> <li>• Policies &amp; Procedures</li> <li>• Parliamentary Procedure</li> <li>• Legal Issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministers Job Descriptions</li> <li>• Personnel Policies</li> <li>• Ministers Compensation</li> <li>• Ministry Development</li> <li>• Ministry Job Descriptions</li> <li>• Ministry Teams</li> <li>• Nominating Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building &amp; Grounds</li> <li>• Facilities/Space Analysis</li> <li>• Policies &amp; Procedures</li> <li>• Child Protection Policies</li> <li>• Administrative Assistants (GBAMA)</li> <li>• Insurance Coverage</li> </ul>

Church Administration Ministry highlights for 2017

- Over 2,000 ministry contacts, consultations, conversations and conferences related to Church Administration issues were serviced from over 1,000 churches.
- Over 600 church financial leaders were equipped in financial compliance accountability in 7 locations across the state. Other ministries also participated in leading in these seminars: Cooperative Program/Stewardship and the Georgia Baptist Foundation.
- 108 ministry leaders were trained in 3 locations through Ministry Safe's Child Protection- Safety System to protect children and those who serve them in churches and child-serving organizations. There were three locations in September rescheduled for March 2018 due to weather conditions of Hurricane Irma.
- 65 Ministry Assistants were equipped and encouraged through the annual Georgia Baptist Association of Ministry Assistants conference at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center - Toccoa.
- Published ***Legal Guide for Churches and Non-Profits in Georgia***. This resource is available to all churches in GA. Please limit one hard copy per church. A pdf version can be downloaded from our website, [gabaptist.org/churchadministration](http://gabaptist.org/churchadministration).

For assistance, contact Alan Folsom, [afolsom@gabaptist.org](mailto:afolsom@gabaptist.org) or Tony Neal [tneal@gabaptist.org](mailto:tneal@gabaptist.org) or call 770-936-5274.

**CHURCH MINISTER RELATIONS**  
**Marcus Merritt, State Missionary**  
[mmerritt@gabaptist.org](mailto:mmerritt@gabaptist.org)  
[www.gabaptist.org/churchministerrelations](http://www.gabaptist.org/churchministerrelations)

Church Minister Relations assists churches and staff in fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission by providing encouragement, training, and resources to develop and maintain healthy ministers and congregations. CMR relates directly to the office of Dr. J. Robert White, Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

Our wide-ranging ministries focus on the revitalization of churches and individual ministers. This focus blends quite naturally into the mission of The Five Smooth Stones, particularly Church Revitalization. Access to the Church Minister website: [www.gabaptist.org/churchministerrelations](http://www.gabaptist.org/churchministerrelations) \_

**Resume Service:** This service is available to ministers seeking a place of service, as well as churches, associations, institutions, and agencies searching for leaders. Resumes are shared as information-only through a profile system determined by those making the request. Our online resume sharing service is connected to nine other state conventions across the country. During 2017, we received 337 requests for resumes and we shared 9962 individual copies of resumes.

**Committee Training/Consultation:** We provide training/orientation for Pastor (or staff) Search Committees. This training program is done on-site and at a time convenient for the committee. Training includes a 5-step plan with printed materials, demographic information, and a variety of helpful resources. We are also available to meet with church leadership during transitional times. Often, we are asked to assist in securing pulpit supply, an interim pastor, or a transitional pastor. Last year 21 Georgia Baptist Churches received our 2-hour Pastor Search Committee (on-site) training, and dozens of other pastor-less churches benefitted from personal consultations by the CMR team.

**Pastoral Care:** This ministry reaches out to Georgia Baptist ministers, their families, and the Georgia Baptist Mission Board staff with compassion, encouragement, prayer, support, and assistance during times of illness/crisis through personal contacts and on-site visits. Each month, our staff traveled an average of 5,000 miles, extending an average of 60 visits to GBC ministers and their families, 15 visits with Associational Missionaries and 13 with Georgia Baptist Mission Board employees. An average of 350 more contacts were made by phone, e-mail, and regular mail.

**Barnabas Ministry:** The Barnabas Ministry is a ministry to terminated and hurting ministers. Georgia Baptist Churches forcibly terminated 27 Pastors (full-time and bi-vocational) and 9 full time church staff members; resulting in 36 ministers being forcibly terminated during 2017. CMR partnered with Sherwood Baptist Church and Pastor Michael Catt to combine the "Barnabas Retreat" for terminated ministers, with their "ReFRESH" Conference. Terminated ministers received both inspiration (through lively corporate worship) and information (through our break-out classes) with this new approach. Dr. Catt and his staff personally led a break-out class for our group. We ministered to a total of 135 "hurting pastors" at the retreat. In addition to the conference, last year 12 forcibly terminated ministers were helped with financial aid totaling over \$ 9000.00

**Interim Ministries:** On average, ten percent of Georgia Baptist churches are seeking a pastor. Our office is available for consulting with churches during the interim period to help the church discover which type of interim ministry is best for them. Options include; Pulpit Supply, Interim Pastor, or Transitional Pastor. As a service to both ministers and churches, our office keeps a roster of available interim ministers/Transitional Pastors. In 2017, 19 churches requested resumes for an interim minister and we mailed 157 resumes in response.

We offer Transitional Pastor Training in partnership with LifeWay Christian Ministries. In 2017, we trained 83 ministers to serve Georgia Baptist Churches as Transitional Pastors. This more in-depth interim service usually lasts twelve to eighteen months and follows an eight-step process.

**Deacon Ministry:** CMR gives leadership to Deacon ministry by providing Georgia Baptist churches with deacon training/retreats and resources. We offer an annual Pastor/Deacon/Spouse Retreat which was held at Toccoa's Conference center in 2017. Dr. Emir Caner and Mrs. Hana Caner led our Conference. We had a total of 96 participants.

In addition to the annual Deacon Retreat, we hosted 4 Pastor/Deacon/Spouse Fellowships in 4 different parts of the state with a total of 370 participants. The Purpose of the Pastor / Deacon / Spouse Fellowship is to Encourage, Educate, and Equip Georgia Baptist pastors and deacons, along with their wives.

- We *Encourage* through food, fellowship, and a word from the Word.
- We *Educate* through the participation of various state missionaries who report to the group concerning their respective convention ministries. The state missionaries emphasize how they can partner with, and/or assist, pastors, deacons, and/or their wives.

- We *Equip* by providing printed and electronic resources, books, information, etc.

**Conflict Mediation:** When ministers and/or churches find themselves in conflict, we are available for conflict coaching, mediation and/or arbitration. We were heavily involved with 20 churches involving numerous on-site visits, listening-sessions, and other assistance. The CMR staff assisted an additional 90 churches with conflict issues via emails and phone conversations.

**Counseling Services:** In 2017, the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, partnered with The Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation, to provide professional counseling services for Georgia Baptist ministers and their immediate family members. Last year we assisted 12 pastors and/or family members with counseling. We provided co-payments totaling \$1240.00 for a total of 45 counseling sessions. A list of certified Christian Counselors is available through the Church Minister Relation website.

**Forgiveness/Restoration Ministry:** Moral and/or ethical failure in the life of a minister, a key church leader, or a member of their family, has a great impact upon the total life of a church. A good biblical model for a restoration ministry in these types of crisis is essential. Our office provides counsel and resources in these areas.

**Pastors Wellness Retreat:** The CMR Office received a grant of \$108,000 from the GA Baptist Healthcare Ministry Foundation for providing a health care retreat for pastors/wives without health insurance. The CMR team brought in doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health care professions for the event held at Toccoa's Conference Center. We were able to provide extensive health care and other testing to a total of 78 pastors and their wives.

**Ministers' Wives:** Ministers' Wives are special women with a great calling to be the helpmate in ministry to their husbands and to also use their spiritual giftedness in ministry. We provide ministries that encourage, refresh and renew in the areas of physical, spiritual and emotional health. There are two events that are held every year to minister to our minister's wives.

**1. Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Luncheon**

The Annual Meeting Luncheon is used to encourage and inspire Georgia Baptist Ministers' Wives. Last year 257 women participated in this luncheon.

**1. Georgia Baptist Ministers' Wives Winter Retreat**

The Ministers Wives winter retreat is held every January and is a time of resting, relaxation, and renewing of mind, body, soul, and relationships. In 2017, we enjoyed the company of 185 ladies at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa, GA. The theme was 'Rest in Every Season' and the guest speakers were Diana Nix and Lori Frank.

**CHURCH PLANTING MINISTRY**  
**Butch Butcher, State Missionary**  
[bbutcher@gabaptist.org](mailto:bbutcher@gabaptist.org)

As partners with churches and associations, Church Planting Ministry serves to fulfill the Great Commission by planting culturally relevant, healthy-kingdom, English speaking, reproducing churches in Georgia. During the year 2017, we assisted with planting 7 new churches, of which 5 were Anglo congregations and 2 were African-American congregations.

Our work can be divided into four areas.

I. **READINESS:** We strive to create an environment for church planting among the entire Georgia Baptist Mission Board family of Associations, Churches, Pastors and Staff, Mission Board Staff and Laity.

It is our task to assist Georgia Baptists to become more aware of the lostness among the population in Georgia and how planting contextual and culturally relevant churches among the English-speaking population can penetrate that lostness with the Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Readiness includes spiritual preparation, understanding the cultural diversity of our population, identifying people groups and their receptivity toward the Gospel.

II. ENLISTING: We recruit and enlist Associations, Churches, Pastors and Staff, Mission Board Staff, Lay Persons and Students to participate in a statewide church planting effort and to pray for a church planting movement in Georgia. We also recruit church planters and church planting partners from among the “called of God” to serve the Lord in the area of church planting.

It is our task to recruit and enlist individuals and churches and associations to participate in the ministry and mission of planting contextual and culturally relevant churches among the English-speaking population in Georgia.

Enlistment includes enlisting Georgia Baptist churches and leaders to sponsor and partner with church planters and new church plants. It also includes identifying and raising up leaders who will become involved in church planting as planters, staff members, coaches, strategists, small group leaders, team members and soul-winners. These leaders may be vocational, bi-vocational, and/or volunteers. We are looking for missionary-minded servants who are committed and “called of God” to the church planting arena.

III. EQUIPPING: We offer training and encouragement opportunities and events for Church Planters, Church Planters' Wives, Church Planting Staff, Church Planting Lay Leaders, Association Staff, Sponsoring/Partnering Pastors, and Coaches.

It is our task to equip and encourage church planters and church planting teams, sponsoring churches, strategists, coaches and other leaders and partners in the church planting effort. Equipping also includes financial support available through the Cooperative Program ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. Financial support is available in the form of Start-up funds and Church Planter Assistance.

Equipping and encouraging opportunities and events include: Church Planter Orientation, Assessment Event, Church Planting School, Conferences, and Coaching.

IV. MULTIPLICATION: We promote and assist in the establishing of a multiplication and reproduction vision and strategy among Church Planters and Church Planting Teams, Sponsoring and Partnering Churches, Associational Missionaries and Staff, Regional State Missionaries, Mission Board Staff, and Lay Leaders.

The multiplication and reproduction vision and strategy includes promoting and assisting churches to be strong, healthy kingdom churches that are reproducing new believers, disciples, leaders, planters and planting teams for the planting of new churches.

Multiplication includes an intentional and strategic commitment to evangelism and discipleship/leadership development. It focuses on a strong missions focus recognizing the more and more diverse and secular orientation of our state population. This focus demands a gospel sowing and missionary sending effort in all communities and areas of our state. The idea is simply to make disciples who make disciples and to plant healthy kingdom churches that plant healthy kingdom churches.

**COLLEGIATE MINISTRY**  
**Joe Graham, State Missionary**  
[jgraham@gabaptist.org](mailto:jgraham@gabaptist.org)

**The college and university students of today will be the leaders of, and missionaries from, our churches within a generation.** Collegiate Ministries works to inspire collegians with the principles of on-going cooperative missions and ministry while allowing their creativity and energy to flow back to the churches of their

association, to Georgia Baptists, and to Southern Baptists. For more information about Georgia Baptist Collegiate Ministries around the state, please visit our website at <http://gabcm.org/>

**Georgia Baptist Collegiate Ministries** focus a great deal of energy on **Collegiate Missions** through *Send Me Now Missions*. Every aspect of **5 Smooth Stones** is enhanced as these students prepare for their roles in God's Mission. In the summer of 2017, Georgia BCMs and partnering churches sent 133 students to serve in missions here in Georgia, across the nation, and around the world and raised \$180,205 to send them. For more information, go to <http://sendmenow.net/>

**Statewide Collegiate Events** focus on Spiritual Renewal, Church Revitalization, and Authentic Evangelism. Confluence is a statewide collegiate conference for all Georgia Baptist churches and BCMs. **Confluence 2018 will take place September 21-23** at Eagle's Landing FBC near McDonough. **The theme is "Bold"** and the emphasis will be on evangelism. For more information, go to <http://www.confluencega.com/>

**ENGAGE 24** is a national collegiate emphasis on evangelism that is focused on encouraging every collegian to share his or her faith with someone who is not a believer during one 24-hour period. This year, the emphasis date is October 10. Many of your Georgia Baptist Campus Ministers have expanded this emphasis to multiple days, an entire week, and for some, an entire month. For more information and resources for ENGAGE 24, go to [www.engage24.org](http://www.engage24.org).

**Reducing "lostness" in Georgia is something about which we are all concerned.** One of the ways we measure our success is by the total evangelistic impact of Baptist Collegiate Ministries. During the 2016-17 academic year, we had 4,033 students involved regularly in our ministries statewide. During that year our Campus Ministers reported 262 collegians who made professions of faith during BCM worship times and events. 154 other individuals made professions of faith as a result of BCM ministry programs and/or teams. Finally, our student Summer Missionaries reported that 2,280 individuals made professions of faith during the summer as a result of their ministries.

That was a total of 2,696 people who professed faith in Christ over the past year as a result of Georgia Baptists' investment in Collegiate Ministry. **This means for every 1.5 students involved in our ministry, one new Christian found faith in Christ.** 1:1.5 is an outstanding ratio and Georgia Baptists can be proud of their Campus Ministers and students.

## **COMMUNITY MISSIONS AND DISASTER RESPONSE**

**Stuart Lang, State Missionary, [slang@gabaptist.org](mailto:slang@gabaptist.org)**  
**Ricky Thrasher, State Missionary, [rthrasher@gabaptist.org](mailto:rthrasher@gabaptist.org)**

Community Missions and Disaster Response equips and encourages Georgia Baptist churches to be strategically missional through the following four areas: leader development, strategy planning, connection and resourcing, and disaster relief.

**Leader Development** includes areas such as chaplaincy training, direction for church and community ministries, oversight of Mission Service Corps, support and encouragement for multi-vocational pastors, and support for both resort and prison ministries.

**Strategy Planning** focuses on three different issues: safety training, disaster preparedness, and development of a missional strategy for the local church. Safety training includes so much more than just "active shooter" response. Safety Training is a comprehensive approach at multiple issues including child safety, medical emergencies, policies for counting and depositing money, and development of a safety team. Disaster Preparedness guides church leaders to develop a plan for ministry in the event of a disaster in the community. Missional Strategy development utilizes a workshop format for the pastor and key leaders to understand biblical principles for being a missional church and to identify both resources and opportunities to engage the local community through intentional missional efforts.

**Connection and Resourcing** helps connect churches to missional and ministry opportunities such as summer missions for students working in Georgia, rebuild and construction, global hunger, Olympic ministry, Campers on Mission, and more.

**Disaster Relief** is a state-wide ministry of credentialed volunteers responding to disasters through four ministry areas: chaplaincy, child-care, clean-up and recovery, and feeding. The last two years have been the busiest years for response efforts in Georgia that we have had since Mother's Day storms in 2008 and metro flooding in 2009. Three major hurricanes affected our country in 2017: Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Hurricane Irma left the greatest impact on Georgia. While many state convention Disaster Relief ministries responded to Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Puerto Rico, Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers took care of our own state without needing to call for any other state convention to come to our aid.

## **COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP**

**Buck Burch, State Missionary**

[bburch@gabaptist.org](mailto:bburch@gabaptist.org)

The Cooperative Program Giving and Stewardship Ministry of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board has as its purpose "to enlist and partner with churches to effectively meet their needs in educating, assisting and encouraging them to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus by developing biblical stewards and missions support." The Cooperative Program begins in the hearts of individual believers who are committed to reaching the world for Christ. As they give through their local church, the church then determines what portion of its receipts will be channeled through the Cooperative Program. These funds are sent through the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, where they are divided between Georgia Baptist causes and national/international Southern Baptist causes. Georgia Baptists continue to be one of the leading conventions in both percentage and total dollar giving through the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program allows the member churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention to extend their witness for Jesus Christ throughout our state, nation and around the world. As Cooperative Program produces natural relationships among individuals, churches, association, and the varied regions throughout Georgia, this past year has brought about several exciting connection points:

**Bridges to Missions** – In March, May and October of 2017, there were Bridges to Missions Celebrations in the Hebron, Morgan/Mountaintown and Gwinnett Baptist Associations, designed to draw attention to prayer and spiritual renewal, a renewed commitment to generosity, and our unity in giving through the Cooperative Program. In total, almost 67 Georgia Baptist churches participated in the weekend banquets and Sunday missionary speakers. A total of 825 people attended the three banquets/missions celebrations.

**CP Sunday 2017** – April 9, 2017, was designated CP Sunday by the Southern Baptist Convention as a national emphasis on our cooperative missions support through the Cooperative Program. A good number of Georgia Baptist churches ordered bulletin inserts, posters, and video downloads for CP Sunday.

**Mission Georgia Emphasis 2017** – John Bryan, State Missionary, set aside September 2017 as a month of prayer and offering for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and its 3600 missions and churches. The theme for the State Missions emphasis was: **GENEROSITY: Giving – Going -- Growing**. Over 1300 separate orders were received from the churches for materials including 120,000 Prayer Guides (English and Spanish), 4000 Posters, 140,000 Offering Envelopes and 775 DVD's (English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese).

**Stewardship Leadership Ministries** – Scott M. Preissler, State Missionary, [spreissler@gabaptist.org](mailto:spreissler@gabaptist.org) Stewardship Leadership provides a wide portfolio of services and products for Georgia pastor and churches. Two primary services are: (1) Educational training and (2) Consultation support services. These services are consistently updated to always remain current. Results are annually assessed and monitored to annually offer new portfolio of current "stewardship helps" and personal consultation for pastors. Research consistently shows that the local church pastor is not seminary-equipped nor trained for common church steward leadership duties. In response, Stewardship Leadership Ministries mobilizes dependable helps for pastors which they can turn to and can count on, with low-cost, if not free, resources.

- The Georgia Baptist Mission Board now has the most comprehensive list of available resources of all SBC states. 75,000 printed materials, video, and digitally mastered for download resources exist for immediate use by Georgia churches.
- The Kingdom Generosity Collection is available for viewing by church groups at the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center, displaying the world's largest collection of artifacts, resources and artistic

stewardship renderings. A video tour guide provides stewardship principles and narratives at 10 stops along the tour.

- Twelve state-wide “Better Stewardship and Church Giving” seminars reached over 1,200 church leaders.

### **Cooperative Program Advancement and Endowment Ministries**

John Bryan, State Missionary, [jbryan@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbryan@gabaptist.org)

Because we are called to be stewards and wise managers of what we have been entrusted, we must demonstrate this by giving back to God and in sharing the Gospel around the world. By doing so, we can assure future generations that we care enough about missions to provide for the present needs and are willing to meet the mission needs of the future. A continuance of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through on-going funding is the goal and challenge presented to all who participate in this ministry.

The Cooperative Program Endowment Missions Fund has been established to ensure present and future generations that our witness for Christ will not fade. We can make a difference now and until Jesus comes. Individuals, families, churches, associations and corporations can all participate in leaving a spiritual and financial legacy. The following are just a few ways in which this can be accomplished: estate planning, trusts, wills, charitable gifts and bequests. Although many worthy charitable opportunities are available for consideration, the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund (CP Fund) offers the assurance that nothing will be wasted and everything will go to advance God’s work through Southern Baptist ministries. Simply put, it is a one-stop method of giving with a guarantee of integrity for the present and into the future.

Individuals may participate through cash gifts or by placing the Cooperative Program Endowment Fund in their wills. Churches are also encouraged to participate through a joint venture between this ministry and the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. This unique approach, called Legacy For Life, allows a church to receive counsel and opportunity for all of its church membership to participate in an estate planning event benefiting the members, the church, and the Cooperative Program. For more information about Cooperative Program Advancement, access: <http://gabaptist.org/cp>

## **GEORGIA BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER**

**Bill Wheeler, State Missionary**

[bwheeler@gabaptist.org](mailto:bwheeler@gabaptist.org)

The Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa serves associations and churches by providing retreat facilities where people can “seek Jesus.” Toccoa offers a serene mountain and lake setting where both the body and soul can be nourished and renewed. Comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, ample meeting facilities, and the natural beauty of God’s creation combine to create a tranquil atmosphere for fellowship, relaxation and spiritual renewal and growth. Toccoa was blessed by serving more than 25,150 guests in 2017. More than 340 people received Christ as their personal savior at the conference center in 2017.

The Toccoa Conference Center includes 240 guest rooms, 1000-seat auditorium, 300-seat chapel, 42 meeting rooms, the Higher Grounds Coffee Shop, the Service Station Snack and Gift Shop and the Lakeside Dining Room also known for delicious buffet meals.

### **5 Stone Personal Retreat**

Please call the conference center to book your personal, complementary, 2 day, 1 night Spiritual Renewal retreat. Let us assist you as you seek how God wants to use Spiritual Renewal, Kingdom Generosity, Church Revitalization, Church Planting, and Intentional Evangelism to support the vision of your association or church.

Your conference center ministry assists churches by:

- Providing a place for Pastors to develop and equip a cohesive staff
- Providing environments to encourage relaxation, reflection and spiritual renewal
- Enabling Churches to fulfill their Mission by providing a place of retreat for:
  - Pastors and Families, Youth and Children Camps,
  - Deacon and Church Leadership, Senior adults
  - Men’s and Women’s Groups, Couples Renewal Weekends

- Choir, Band or Orchestra Events
- Senior Adult Retreats
- Offering hands on volunteer mission projects for churches
- Encouraging personal renewal, relaxation, and rejoicing in the Lord.

The existence of this life-changing ministry can only continue with special care and devoted support. Prayer, Cooperative Program gifts, and State Missions Offerings are vital for Georgia Baptists to continue to see lives refreshed and God's Kingdom increased as people are saved at this beautiful retreat center. The Conference Center underwrites daily operating expenses through fees charged; however, capital improvements and facility development can only happen through the support of Georgia Baptists.

For more information about the Georgia Baptist Conference Center Ministry in Toccoa please contact Bill Wheeler. Bill can be reached at 706-886-3133.

#### Social Media Links

- Web: [MyToccoa.com](http://MyToccoa.com)
- Facebook:
  - Georgia Baptist Conference Center – Toccoa
- Email:
  - [Toccoa@gabaptist.org](mailto:Toccoa@gabaptist.org)

## **GEORGIA BAPTIST MEN'S MINISTRY**

### **A. Glen McCall, State Missionary**

[gmccall@gabaptist.org](mailto:gmccall@gabaptist.org)

Men's Ministry touched the lives of over 16,000 people through our various ministries in 2017. Mike Flowers and Glen McCall had the privilege of serving in 58 churches in at least 23 of our associations, preaching and developing men's ministries to more than 7,000 people across Georgia. That involved traveling nearly 28,000 miles. Camp Kaleo hosted more than 5300 children, young people, and adults for RA Camps, Church Group Camps, Racer Derby, Camporee, Congress and other special ministry groups. God blessed us with 129 Next Generation professions of faith. Over 900 men attended four men's conferences and trainings resulting in 19 salvations and nearly 200 rededications and commitments and responses to God's call upon their lives.

72%, or 2,595, of our churches have some type of ministry to men and boys as we work with you to develop an environment for men who follow the leadership of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission. Reaching men will help the church grow like no other effort. When a father is the first in a family to receive Christ, nearly 93% of the time his whole family will follow. It should be our highest priority because of the far-reaching effects on the family and the church. We stand ready to assist you.

**5 Smooth Stones Impact in 2017:** Four of the Five – Spiritual Renewal, Church Revitalization, Authentic Evangelism, and Kingdom Generosity were key elements addressed through Men's Ministry training events in South Georgia, and through men's retreats and conferences across the state. Particularly through our Righteous Manhood Conferences in February in Columbus, and August, in Macon, with Phil Kramer, Kelvin Cochran, and Chris McDaniel, and our GO Georgia Men's Breakout training with Kelvin Cochran (Overcoming Strongholds of Condemnation), Phil Kramer (A More Elite Man), Keith Boggs (Real Momentum Men), Royal Ambassador/Challengers Development with Mike Flowers and Rob Carr, at Roswell Street, Marietta, and FBC Tifton. Men are getting fired up about their relationship and responsibility with Christ and for His Kingdom work. In addition, our 3rd<sup>nd</sup> Annual North Georgia Men's Conference, in partnership with the associations and churches in the North Georgia Mountains resulted in salvations, rededications, and prayer for families led by Bailey Smith and the singing group, Crimson Ridge. 500 men attended the conference, with 17 salvations and over 140 rededications and requests for family prayer. The churches of North Georgia supported the conference with strong giving and commitment to cooperation.

**Resources for Your Men and Boys:** Men's Ministry can help you with Men's Missions and Spiritual Development, Church Lay Renewal, Legacy Builders Retreats, On Mission Celebrations, Camp Kaleo Retreats and Camps, Royal Ambassadors & Challengers Programs including – Summer Camp, Camporee, Racer Derby,

Campout Congress and State Track Meet. Please contact us for assistance. All our events and materials are available at [www.gabaptist.org/mensministry](http://www.gabaptist.org/mensministry) or call us at 1-800-746-4422 ext. 257.

**Below are details related to our Camp and Conference Center Ministry which also addresses some of our 5 Smooth Stone emphases.**

### **2017 Camp Kaleo Attendance/Decisions Report**

#### **Total for Summer at Camp Kaleo: 2506**

RA Attendance: 225  
Church Group Attendance: 1903  
Day Campers (new work): 333  
Summer Staff: 27  
Camp Faculty: 18

#### **Totals for 2017 year-round at Kaleo: 5321**

November Congress: 136 (8 professions of faith)  
Racer Derby: 450  
Camporee: 241 (9 professions of faith)  
Summer Camp: 2506 (111 professions of faith, 25 rededications)  
Off Season User Groups: 33  
Total Off-Season Numbers: 1988

#### **Mike Flowers Travel for 2017**

Number of churches 27  
Attendance 1514  
Miles Traveled 5763

#### **How May Men's Ministry and Camp Kaleo Serve You?**

Please contact us that we may assist you in your church's ministry to Men, Young Men, and Boys. It is our passion to help you develop a **Comprehensive Men's Ministry Strategy**. So, please take advantage of our resources for your men and boys development for Christ.

#### **Contact Us Any Time.**

A. Glen McCall  
State Missionary, Men's Ministry  
Georgia Baptist Mission Board  
Toll free: 800.746.4422 Direct: 770.936.5257  
Fax: 770-452-6575  
<http://gabaptist.org/mensministry>

Michael Flowers, Consultant & Director Camp Kaleo; [www.campkaleo.org](http://www.campkaleo.org); [www.ga-ra.org](http://www.ga-ra.org); 478-994-5333 or 800-746-4422 x 257; Website: [www.gabaptist.org/mensministry](http://www.gabaptist.org/mensministry) ; Administrative Email: [sdavis@gabaptist.org](mailto:sdavis@gabaptist.org)

## **INTERCULTURAL CHURCH PLANTING AND MISSION MINISTRY**

**Dennis Rivera, State Missionary**  
[drivera@gabaptist.org](mailto:drivera@gabaptist.org)

Intercultural Church Planting & Mission Ministry relates to churches and associations working cross culturally with people of other languages, cultures and nations. Reports included below reflect the varied work done by state missionaries who are a part of this ministry. It also serves to support Georgia Baptist Mission Board statewide initiatives of 5 Smooth Stones, most specifically in church planting and evangelism.

Dennis Rivera – State Missionary  
Carlene Cooper – State Missionary Support  
Luz Ayala – State Missionary Support  
Ted Kandler – State Missionary, Baptist Mobile Health Ministry  
Paulette Dehart – State Missionary, Literacy Missions  
Ovidio Cabrera – State Missionary, Hispanics – Central and South Georgia  
Vacant – State Missionary, Asian  
Yong Nam Suh – State Missionary, Part-time, Korean

<http://gabaptist.org/icpmm/>

New Works: There were 7 new church starts reported in 2017. Korean, Hispanic, and Ethiopian and Kenyan.

**Language Bibles:** In 2017, Intercultural Church Planting gave away 526 Bibles in multiple languages. The Spanish Bible topped the list with 188.

### **CONFERENCES AND TRAINING MEETINGS DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED:**

- The Intercultural Leadership Conference met at Mabel White Baptist Church in Macon with 100 total attendance.
- International Youth Camp at SuperWow served 83 campers.
- Hispanic Youth Camp met at Friendship Camp in Americus with 106 attending with 10 professions of faith.
- South Georgia Hispanic Church Growth and Missions Conference reported 270 attending at First Baptist Church of Lyons.
- Georgia Baptist Conference of the Deaf mini-conference was at Curtis Baptist Church in Augusta.
- Interpreter Training Program (Deaf) met at Camp Kaleo
- The Korean annual “Celebrate Jesus” conference was held at Sugarloaf Korean Baptist Church where 41 youth and refugees from Clarkston rededicated their lives to Jesus.
- A Korean WMU training was also held at Sugarloaf KBC with 120 in attendance.
- The annual Korean Pastors’ Retreat had 24 families present, and the Pastors’ Wives Retreat had 17 attending during 2017.

**Literacy Missions** trains volunteers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through teaching 6 different forms of literacy: 1) Adult Reading & Writing (ARW); 2) Alfalit (ALF) – which is the equivalent of ARW, but in Spanish for Spanish-speakers; 3) Citizenship (CIT); 4) English as a Foreign Language (EFL); 5) English as a Second Language (ESL); and 6) Tutoring Children & Youth (TCY). Among the 110 ministries that reported, 4,557 students were ministered to, led by 560 volunteer teachers and 720 support volunteers. There were 14 ARW; 20 CIT; 76 ESL; and 10 TCY in-church ministries, and countless one-on-one tutoring situations. These resulted in 25 students from 100 different countries, and 80 different languages, who received the Lord, 18 of whom were baptized. <http://gabaptist.org/literacymissions/>

**Baptist Mobile Health Ministry** completed 22 years of service by providing 119 clinic days at 41 sites to 4,655 persons in 2017. Dental care and medical screening were offered free of charge, as well as presentation of the Gospel to all, resulting in 142 professions of faith! That is the reason BMHM exists! <http://gabaptist.org/baptist-mobile-health-ministry/>

## **KIDS GROUPS AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

**Tim Smith, State Missionary**

[tsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:tsmith@gabaptist.org)

All Georgia Baptist have the desire to accomplish the Great Commission! The Kid's Groups & Faith Development(KGFD) state missionaries believe that small groups are one of the best tools to impact the lostness and make disciples.

Kid's Groups & Faith Development – At the youngest age we believe that we are building a foundation and as the children move from preschool to elementary school it is our prayer that every child makes a profession of faith. We are excited when we see our children come to know the Lord and we are just as enthused about leading our children to grow in their relationship with Christ. The home is the primary place of Christian instruction so we believe in equipping parents. The church is the secondary place so we believe in investing in teachers, leaders and staff.

The state missionaries of KGFD are ready to assist you, your group and your church to accomplish the goals of reducing lostness and making disciples. The team has resources and conferences, as well as personal consultations, to assist you in daily Bible reading, training members to share their faith, connecting with members, planning mission projects, starting new classes/groups and training present and potential teachers/leaders.

- This past year, the KGFD state missionaries conducted 114 state, regional, associational, and local church training events, with a combined attendance of 10,595.
- In 2017, a total of 1,893 VBS leaders were trained through the Groups and Faith Development area, who then impacted 1,394 churches resulting in 5,720 reported salvations.
- VBS Summer Missionaries assisted 7 churches and reached 484 people, 8 of whom made spiritual decisions.
- In 2017, 539 children, youth, and high schoolers participated in Bible Drill discipleship events this year. 279 high scoring students, representing 54 churches in 34 associations, advanced to regional and state Bible Drill competition.

### **Our Vision**

"Every Georgia Baptist church engaged in creating a disciple making culture."

### **Our Mission**

"Partnering with leaders and strengthening churches in their mission of making disciples through groups to reduce lostness."

### **Our Approach**

- Events - The target audience is the people in the pew.
- Training - The target audience is the volunteer leadership, Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, etc.
- Networking - The target audience is the professional staff member.
- Resources - Both print and online. Both free and pay.
- Engagement/Coaching - With leaders, churches or groups.

The KGFD state missionaries provide leadership training in local churches as well as through associational, regional, and state events that give Georgia Baptist churches the tools they need to have healthy groups. Below is a quick review of some of the major events provided by KGFD.

- VBS JumpStarts in January.
- Kids Ministry Summit in February.
- Regional VBS Clinics in March.
- Regional and State Bible Drill and Speakers Tournaments in April and May.
- Kids in the Word Celebration Rallies in April and May.

- Regional Hispanic VBS Clinics in April and May.
- Kids in the Word One-Day Extreme Events in September.
- Kid's Ministry Roundtables in September.
- Kid's Ministry Conferences in October.
- Monthly FREE on-demand/on-line training opportunities through Growing Groups On-Line.

## **REGIONAL STATE MISSIONARIES**

Charles Drummond, North Georgia Region, Augusta [cdrummond@gabaptist.org](mailto:cdrummond@gabaptist.org)  
 Harris Malcom, Middle Georgia Region, Monroe [hmalcom@gabaptist.org](mailto:hmalcom@gabaptist.org)  
 Mike Everson, South Georgia Region, Valdosta [meverson@gabaptist.org](mailto:meverson@gabaptist.org)  
 George Barnett, Part-time, North Georgia, [gbarnett@gabaptist.org](mailto:gbarnett@gabaptist.org)

In addition to State Missionaries located at the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center in Duluth, numerous field personnel are located throughout the state. Among those available are the Regional State Missionaries located in three regions of Georgia.

## **STUDENT GROUPS AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

**Doug Couch, State Missionary**

[dcouch@gabaptist.org](mailto:dcouch@gabaptist.org)

The Student Groups and Faith Development department of the Georgia Baptist Convention serves Christ by strengthening churches in passing the faith to the next generation. We accomplish that goal by offering strategic youth events, training events, and strengthening local networks of youth leaders around the state to cooperate toward reaching the 954,000 students who live in our state for Christ. [www.superwow.com](http://www.superwow.com)

This summer, over 2,800 students and their leaders attended Superwow. There was one week of Superwow on Jekyll Island and two weeks in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

Again this year, Impact was two camps in one location for High School and Middle School students. Both groups met at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa. We welcomed 814 students and leaders who attended this one great week of Impact. We are thrilled to expand Impact to two weeks in 2018 and look forward to watching this exciting ministry flourish.

This summer we had our tenth summer of MERGE in Toccoa, Georgia. MERGE is a full-fledged mission camp and this year we had 182 in attendance. In addition to seeing students come to know Christ, we also saw many students share Christ with a lost individual for the first time in their lives. Our students completed service projects around the city including construction projects, Vacation Bible Schools, and a variety of additional ministry initiatives. The most impressive dynamic of the camp was watching the MERGE students and adults pour themselves out to the local community by providing over 4,608 hours of service by the end of the week. MERGE was truly a beautiful example of the power of cooperation with the State Convention, local Association, youth groups from around the nation, and the city of Toccoa working together to bless a community. Moving forward we are thrilled to see the community of Toccoa take ownership of MERGE and continue it a community based mission project.

The 2017 MOVE Conference was held at the Macon Centreplex in Macon, Georgia on December 29 – 30, 2017. The goal of MOVE is to expose as many students as possible to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to challenge students who already have a personal relationship with Christ to make a difference in their families, church, and on their campuses. With a crowd of over 5,000 students and their leaders raised, we saw over 700 students come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and 4,000 students make public commitment to share Jesus with a friend.

For our 20th year of Conclave, which was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee on January 25 – 27, 2018, we had over 854 youth workers from 14 different states come together for three challenging days of training and worship. This was a cooperative effort between the six state conventions. In addition, there were over 30 seminar choices taught by the leading youth ministers from each state.

The Youth Ministries Office also heads up the Student Ministry Network. The Network exists to help youth pastors and workers get connected to each other for networking, mentoring, training and extension. With over

55 experienced and trained youth ministers, or “coaches,” around the state of Georgia, there is always someone close by to turn to for help as we reach the students of Georgia. To find a coach in your area, please go to <http://superwow.com/smn> .

We celebrate that in total we witnessed 5,086 decisions. Of those 810 were first time professions of faith, 199 re-commitments to Christ, and 62 surrendering to a call of ministry, and 4,000 commitments to personal evangelism. In total we resourced and partnered with Georgia Baptist churches to welcome 8,796 individuals to our student events, not including Conclave.

Regarding the 5 Smooth Stones, each of our events creates an environment of Spiritual Renewal from the corporate worship to the small group times. Through offerings taken at certain events and through service/mission projects that attendees participate in, the opportunity for Kingdom Generosity is presented.

Church Revitalization is present not only at each of our events with provided leadership development but also through our state wide training opportunities through our network of youth ministers. Our events offer affordable opportunities for church plants to network with other young and small churches across our state.

At our events, training times, or in casual conversation with youth ministers and youth, Authentic Evangelism permeates what the Youth Ministries Office is all about.

Operating costs for Conclave, Impact, Superwow, Merge, and Move are based on conference registration income. Thank you Georgia Baptists for your continued prayers and support.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY**

**Jon Duncan, State Missionary**

[jduncan@gabaptist.org](mailto:jduncan@gabaptist.org)

The purpose of Worship and Music Ministry is to strengthen, enhance, and encourage the praise and proclamation ministries of local churches. When worship life in our churches is healthy then so, too is the evangelistic life in our people. In order to “Win Georgia” and reach the next generation we need a vibrant worship life in our churches. When people encounter God in worship—EVERYTHING changes! When people worship on the first day of the week, they are more apt to present a vibrant witness on day 2 through 7! It is our desire to equip God’s people in discovering biblical worship, which transforms lives. The biblical mandate for choral and instrumental ministry also includes the proclamation of the Word (1 Chronicles 25.1-7). The music of the church not only inspires God’s people—it teaches the Word of God (Col. 3.16). The music of the church allows the worshiper to grasp and internalize doctrinal truths from Scripture. It also provides a means and vehicle for expressing a unified confession of who we are as God’s people and the message we are responsible to carry out to the nations. Worship and Music Ministry is focused on worship and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our two state choral groups include The Sons of Jubal and the Jubalheirs (see website at [www.gabaptist.org/worshipandmusic](http://www.gabaptist.org/worshipandmusic)). The Sons of Jubal is a male chorus comprised of ministers of music and music leaders serving in local Baptist churches. This group has witnessed outstanding growth. In 2017 the group had well over 300 enrolled members. The Sons of Jubal sang to more than 12,000 people in 2017. This past year the men sang in churches large and small throughout every region of the state. We are witnessing an ever-increasing number of people in all age groups and ethnicities attending our concerts and offering support to the Jubal ministry.

The Jubalheirs is a choir composed of women who serve in various capacities in local church ministry. This group has continued to grow in numbers and effectiveness. The 300+ voice choir has presented concerts in a variety of settings. Like the Sons of Jubal, the Jubalheirs’ purpose is all about mission advancement. In 2017 the ladies participated in a massive undertaking in New Orleans. Their mission work included sponsoring health and dental clinics among substance addicts in order to share the Gospel. Another group shared the Gospel through care ministries to cruise ship personnel. Another participated in food and clothing distribution. Ten teams of 5-15 ministered throughout the city conducting concerts, cleaning, painting, laying carpet, landscaping, and ministering to the homeless and incarcerated. The group also presented evangelistic concerts every evening

culminating in a major concert at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where a full house heard the message of the Christ through this ministry. In addition, the Jubalheirs supported our music camps by providing more than \$10,000 in scholarship assistance.

The Jubal Chorus is a combination of both choirs and present 1 or 2 programs in local churches each year including this year's Annual Meeting.

Whether at a local church, concert hall, a prison, or mission point across the ocean, these ministry organizations are committed to the cause of Christ. The Jubals represent one of the strongest ministries of its kind in Southern Baptist life.

In addition to these programs, we are thrilled with the growth of music camps. Even with a very short yet busy summer we have seen this camp grow in numbers and effectiveness. Surge 150 ([gabaptist.org/event/surge150-music-camp](http://gabaptist.org/event/surge150-music-camp)) is drawing students from across the state. All three music camps are healthy and God is blessing the efforts with decisions that honor Christ. Nearly 400 students and faculty members make Surge 150 a major success story in Georgia Baptist life. These are our future musicians who are being trained in worship leading, accompanying, choir ministry, and technology. This past year the Youth 2 Camp was combined with Baptist All-State and presented concerts and served in mission events throughout the Pittsburg, PA region. This was done in conjunction with Bill Barker (Appalachian Ministry) and Frank Nuckolls (Associational Ministry). Last year we had several who professed faith in Christ and were baptized in their local churches. Many more made rededications, and others surrendered to vocational service. These camps are a vital testimony to the vibrancy of Cooperative Program support.

We also experienced excellent participation in our festival program. REEL Fest (Youth Choir Festival) is growing! In 2017 we had an excellent attendance of over 400 that has now expanded to 2 events (one North and one South). The 2018 event drew over 600! In addition, over 200 participated at the Handbell Festival FBC Lithia Springs. Our Senior Adult Choir festivals drew over 400 in two locations in North and South Georgia. These events touch evangelism as we see students come to faith in Christ, spiritual renewal, and kingdom generosity with the emphasis placed on support of Cooperative Program. Our Keyboard Festivals encourage students to play hymns and other service music to prepare them for service in the church. We had nearly 100 students participate in these regional events.

With the addition of Nick Duke to our ministry staff, we added training in technology and contemporary worship expressions. Since his arrival he has led training in 48 Georgia Baptist churches and associations. He has expertise in all areas of technology as well as giving effective leadership to those who are in church bands. His work is especially crucial as we enter a new phase of reaching out to students in the upcoming years.

Over 1,500 attended the two Go Georgia events held at Roswell Street Baptist and FBC Tifton. This event offered more than 100 class options over the 2 days. Leaders from across the state came to receive training and inspiration for their local ministries. The music training at the event is particularly driven to address the needs of revitalization of the worship life and music ministries of our churches.

Another area of growth is in the area of personal consultation. As Specialist, I have worked with dozens of churches dealing with search committee training, conflict mediation, tutoring other worship leaders, and providing encouragement to hurting ministers. A week seldom passes in which we aren't contacted by ministers of Christ needing some form of personal help. We offer what time is possible and place individuals at the forefront of attention.

Our connection with Association leadership training continues to grow. Led by Steve Brown, we led training in several associations at little or no cost covering multiple areas of specialization including worship, audio, keyboard, worship planning, and much more.

Although we are thrilled with the growth and success of these ministries, the real rejoicing relates to the churches that are strengthened in their ministries. These training opportunities and inspirational events are designed with the church in mind. Of course, we couldn't provide anything without the incredible support of the churches. It is a joy to serve such wonderful people known as Georgia Baptists!

To contact Worship and Music Ministry, please call 1-800-RINGGBC (800-746-4422), 770-936-5265 or email [dbailey@gabaptist.org](mailto:dbailey@gabaptist.org). Visit our website at [www.gabaptist.org/worshipandmusic](http://www.gabaptist.org/worshipandmusic) to access information about events, calendar, our staff, podcasts, blog posts, and photos.

**VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE**  
**MISSION BOARD FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
**Toby Howell, State Missionary**  
[thowell@gabaptist.org](mailto:thowell@gabaptist.org)

The Mission Board Financial Services Office receives, processes and disburses all funds in accordance with guidelines set by the Georgia Baptist Convention Constitution and Bylaws.

**FUNCTIONS:**

- Accounting – Performs all accounting functions for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. Responsibilities include complying with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- Accounts Payable – Distribution of funds approved for Mission Board related purposes are disbursed from this office under strict internal control policies.
- Gift Receipts – Receipt of mission contributions from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board family of churches. All gifts are received in Mission Board Financial Services and disbursed monthly in strict accordance with budgetary guidelines and donor designations.
- Payroll – All payroll is processed for Georgia Baptist Mission Board employees.

**VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**J. Kevin Smith, State Missionary**  
[ksmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:ksmith@gabaptist.org)

The Vice President for Operations has the responsibility for coordination of ministries staff and business operations according to the purposes of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

Ministry areas that are under the coordination of the Vice President for Operations are Church and Individual Finance Ministry, Church Research Services, Communications, Historical Archives, Information Technology, Mission Board Operations, Support Services, and The Christian Index.

This ministry area's functions include:

- Leadership in the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center operations
- Assist the Vice President of Finance in planning, preparation and administration of the Cooperative Program budget
- Leadership in Employee Services
- Shared responsibilities for Georgia Baptist Conference Centers
- Research and writing assignments for the Executive Committee
- Assist ministries, work teams, and committees of the Georgia Baptist Convention by managing resources that enable the successful fulfillment of their visions
- Special projects

**CHURCH AND INDIVIDUAL FINANCE STRATEGY**  
**Keith Hamilton, State Missionary**  
[khamilton@gabaptist.org](mailto:khamilton@gabaptist.org)

I Timothy 5:17 states leaders of the ministry are worthy of double honor; and the early church leaders encouraged the churches to take financial care of their leaders, (Acts 11:30; I Thessalonians 5:12). However, a

looming financial crisis has developed for ministers and church staffs in their later years of ministry and retirement. Only 42 percent of Georgia Baptist Mission Board churches have a staff member in the Church Retirement Plan at GuideStone Financial Resources of the SBC. Even if the staff member has a retirement account, the average account balance of a 65-year-old participant is only \$50,000. The inadequate retirement funds are causing a growing number of staff members to retire at or near poverty levels.

A staff member needs to contribute a minimum of 15 percent of his salary and housing allowance to have sufficient funds to live near the same standard of living as today. Also, a staff member needs at least 10 times his compensation in life insurance to adequately protect his family from financial disaster.

The problem is compounded even further after discovering the first time applicant for relief funds from Mission:Dignity is a pastor's widow at 77 years of age. Likewise, the Social Security system is wholly inadequate to provide sufficient retirement income and protection benefits.

Because of these overwhelming facts, the Georgia Baptist Convention passed the following resolution. Church and Individual Finance Strategy seeks to help fulfill the expressed wishes of the Convention on this matter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the responsibility of providing for God's shepherds should not be the government, but the responsibility of God's church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the church should take the leadership role in providing protection benefits for their Called Servants of the Living God; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the church should offer a church-provided retirement benefit contribution of at least 10 percent of salary and housing allowance for each full-time staff member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the church should offer a church-provided life insurance protection benefit of a minimum of four times total compensation for each full-time staff member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the church should support annually the Mission:Dignity ministry to help retired church workers and their widows struggling with financial hardships.

**CHURCH RESEARCH SERVICES**  
**Tom Crites, State Missionary**  
[tcrites@gabaptist.org](mailto:tcrites@gabaptist.org)

Church Research Services exists to Reduce Lostness in Georgia by encouraging cooperative missions, equipping convention ministries, and empowering local congregations to become healthier, mission-minded churches by providing relevant, timely, and accurate information.

Church Research Services provides and interprets customized reports for churches, associations, and GBMB staff strategy planning and decision-making. In 2017, we had the privilege of completing an estimated 800 Mission Field Reports – demographics and localized trends relevant to each church and association area. We also provided over 500 church and associational statistical reports, surveys and other specifically tailored reports. We were excited to be able to provide many of our pastors with a new online access to prospects living in their communities. This represents an estimated 1,300 total reports provided to nearly one thousand churches and associations for the purpose of reaching the people of Georgia for Jesus.

We also collect and analyze the Annual Church Report allowing GBMB pastors the opportunity to understand what God is doing around the state.

In 2017, Tom Crites and Steve Parr partnered again to provide pastors with an important resource called *Pivot Points*. This book was made available to every pastor for free and has already become a highly requested resource. The report was developed from a major survey that Research Services conducted in 2016 through the ACR process. We are blessed to be able to provide our pastors with this type of important information.

Church Research Services is continually developing new resources offering essential, ministry focused and locally relevant tools. We strive to make every tool freely available to each Georgia Baptist Member, Georgia Baptist Church and Georgia Association.

Please feel free to contact your Church Research Services Team by calling 770-936-5238 or emailing us at [research@gabaptist.org](mailto:research@gabaptist.org).

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Mark Strange, State Missionary**

[mstrange@gabaptist.org](mailto:mstrange@gabaptist.org)

The Communications Ministry is driven by three goals: 1. Share the Gospel and Tell People Plainly (Deut. 5:26-27, John 10:24, Acts 5:19-21); 2. Spread the Message Near and Far (Acts 1:8, Acts 13:49, II Thess. 3:1); and 3. Creating "Messages that Motivate" People to Take Action. It is our goal to share the Gospel directly using technology, and indirectly by supporting Georgia Baptist churches through the ministries of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

The Communications ministry acts as an internal Communications/Public Relations/Design agency that the Executive Offices and ministries leverage to promote their materials and messages throughout the state. Communications has subject matter experts and experience in marketing disciplines including website design and development, web analytics, social media, mobile application development, electronic and print design, printing, video production, streaming radio, podcasting, messaging, promotion, public relations, email strategy and more.

The team that makes up the Communications Ministry is blessed to have the ability of using our education, experience and professional skills to glorify God by serving at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. Communications participates in the Baptist Communicators Association (BCA), and industry group made of communications and marketing professionals from Baptist organizations including the Southern Baptist Convention, NAMB, multiple state Baptist conventions and auxiliaries, SBC seminaries, and Baptist colleges around the country. Awards for projects/programs released in 2017 were announced at April 2018 annual event. The Georgia Baptist Mission Board Communications ministry won multiple awards (7 in total) for outstanding work in the areas of audio production, mobile application development, website design and special event promotion.

**The three main functions of the Communications Ministry are:**

1. Provide communication, marketing and related production support within the 5 Smooth Stones strategy to ministry departments of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, in support of their mission; training, supporting and helping churches reach the lost.
2. Promote Georgia Baptist Mission Board ministries, activities, and events to Georgia Baptist Convention churches.
3. To communicate to the public about ministries, the results of Georgia Baptist ministries, and to share the Gospel through multiple electronic channels.

In 2017, Communications completed over approximately 1500 integrated projects and over 1700 individual projects in support of Georgia Baptist Mission Board work around the state. This work ranged from designing simple promotional projects to complicated design and development of organizational level websites to complex video production.

**Activity summary includes:**

- Creation and development of electronic and printed materials for ministry departments
- Production and printing services for ministry departments
- Public Relations activities and monitoring
- Corporate communication strategy for web presence, social media, email communication, app development, and audio/video distribution
- Video production that includes: Executive Director emails, success stories, promotional videos, documentaries and ministry support/reports for annual meeting
- Web design of organization level websites such as gabaptist.org (corporate site), gogeorgia.net (organizational event), biginvite.org and reachingnextgen.com (organizational level promotions); and ministry websites such as superwow.com, ymconclave.org and more
- Website maintenance and updating of approximately 40 separate websites
- Promotional support of ministry events, including web, email, social media and more
- Communication of Georgia Baptist stories and ministry successes

- Branding and standards guidelines for corporate and ministry use for consistent branding, use of logos, names and communication
- Assistance with crisis communication needs of churches and associations
- Publication of the *Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Guide and Calendar*
- Consultations with churches and associations in marketing and communication areas including print design, web design, social media consulting, A/V needs, and video production
- Communication and promotional support for the President of the Georgia Baptist Convention relating to yearly emphasis and annual meeting
- Radio programming through:
  - [Mission Georgia Radio](http://lifewithpurposeradio.com/missiongeorgiaradio/) Internet radio at <http://lifewithpurposeradio.com/missiongeorgiaradio/> (24 hours a day/7 days a week)
  - Life With Purpose Radio at [www.lifewithpurposeradio.com](http://www.lifewithpurposeradio.com) and syndicated on radio stations in Georgia and nationally
- Direct support for the Public Affairs ministry

**HISTORICAL ARCHIVES**  
**J. Kevin Smith, State Missionary**  
[ksmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:ksmith@gabaptist.org)

The Georgia Baptist Historical Archives and Museum work in coordination with the Georgia Baptist Historical Commission to promote, preserve and record Georgia Baptist history and heritage. Documents and artifacts are assessed and stored that are of significance to Georgia Baptist history including items at the state, association and local church levels. The archives also serve as a repository for associations and churches who need a safe storage facility for their own historical documents. By preserving our past, we encourage future generations of Georgia Baptists to engage in learning and conserving their own unique history in the making.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**Kevin Wilson, State Missionary**  
[kwilson@gabaptist.org](mailto:kwilson@gabaptist.org)

Information Technology (IT) seeks to provide solutions to the informational and technological needs of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board staff, Baptist agencies and institutions, associations, and churches. IT plays a vital role in the implementation of the Five Smooth Stones initiative, and in reaching the next generation for Christ. Through the work of IT; a stable, reliable technology infrastructure is provided for State Missionaries to connect with associations and churches across our state.

In IT, we are passionate about serving the Lord by seeking to effectively utilize technology in ministry. We see in technology viable tools that can be used to greatly enhance and enable the Five Smooth Stones strategy. The gifts given through the Cooperative Program and the Mission Georgia Offering allow us to use technology as a tool to reach the over 7 million lost people in Georgia. We indirectly support your church by supporting the statewide ministries of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, covered in our services section below. If we can ever be of service to you or to your church, please contact us in Information Services.

**Services**

We administer, maintain and support the Georgia Baptist Mission Board network, the corporate email system, the telephone system and mobile phones, and we provide security to protect our technology systems from external threats (i.e. virus protection, etc.). We provide technical support for internet services, general hardware and software tech support, consulting for churches and associations (as time allows), and information support for callers (related to iGO).

We also work to maintain and develop iGO, the central database of the Georgia Baptist Convention. iGO includes over 100,000 records describing our Georgia Baptist Churches and their staff members. We offer iGO and Microsoft Access support, and integrate other databases with iGO. A large portion of the information within

iGO comes from the Annual Church Report (ACR). Each year, we work with Church Research Services to collect and process the information you send us about your church. We update the changes to church and leadership records, and incorporate the yearly church statistics into iGO.

## **Events**

We have continued to offer technology training for our staff throughout the year. We work each year to help with the registration process at the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, as well as setting up and overseeing our registration process for the Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting. In addition to the annual meetings, we oversee the registration process for many of our Georgia Baptist events throughout the year using our iGO system.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES** **Judy Hinesley, State Missionary** [jhinesley@gabaptist.org](mailto:jhinesley@gabaptist.org)

Support Services partners with State Missions staff and related ministries to provide a pleasant and safe working environment. The department is responsible for the oversight of the Missions and Ministry Center (MMC), and the facility is constantly being maintained to provide a beautiful place that will honor our Lord. The MMC houses the State Missions staff as well as office space for the Georgia Baptist Foundation, Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation and The Christian Index.

Support Services schedules and coordinates meetings and conferences, and oversees operations of the switchboard, reception area, building security, mail services, shipping and receiving, fleet services, and food services. In addition to daily operations, this ministry area is responsible for registration at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board's annual meeting.

Support Services also has the privilege to lead tours of this beautiful building that God has blessed us with. We share how the architecture, the inspirational murals and paintings, along with the ministry work within and without point to Him and glorify who He is and what He has done. These tours give a wonderful opportunity to share about the importance of the Cooperative Program and how much more can be accomplished for kingdom purposes through working together.

## **TENT MINISTRY**

The Georgia Baptist Mission Board owns three tents that are maintained through gifts of Georgia Baptists through Mission Georgia and the Cooperative Program. These tents are actively being used for evangelistic purposes all over Georgia. In 2017, 34 events were held under the dome of these tents including revival crusades, Vacation Bible Schools, children's camps, community outreach, church anniversary and homecoming celebrations, gospel singing, school fundraiser, first responder appreciation, back-to-school outreach, picnics and BBQ dinners, sportsman's dinners, leadership conference, Fall festivals, fair expo outreach, Judgment House, GO Georgia, and backpack distribution. From the reports we received in 2017, the attendance totaled 31,730. The Word of God preached, the way of salvation presented, the praises in song, and the testimonies shared under these tents resulted in 857 salvations, 205 rededications and 68 baptisms. To God be the glory for the way He uses a piece of canvas stretched over poles to draw people to Him and to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! Visit [gabaptist.org/tentrental](http://gabaptist.org/tentrental) for details on leasing the tent.

## **THE CHRISTIAN INDEX** **J. Gerald Harris, Editor and State Missionary** [gharris@gabaptist.org](mailto:gharris@gabaptist.org)

*The Christian Index* continues to serve Georgia Baptists and Christians everywhere through our online publication. *The Index* remains the oldest continuously produced religious news journal in America, founded in 1822.

We are getting ever nearer our bicentennial anniversary as a viable Christian publication. In fact, it is less than four years away. We believe that *The Index* continues to be an informative and influential treasure among, not only Georgia Baptists and Southern Baptists, but also Christians everywhere.

In 2016 our online publication had 816,000 page views. In 2017 we had over 905,000 page views, but in 2018 we are on a track to have well over one million page views.

Our analytics are meticulously informative in a myriad of ways. We can tell how many people are reading *The Christian Index* in Atlanta and Valdosta, but we can also tell how many are reading *The Index* in Dallas, Texas, Los Angeles, CA, Lagos, Nigeria and Seoul, South Korea.

While we continue to remain a Georgia Baptist centric news journal, we are pleased to report what God is doing across the nation and around the world.

It has been the responsibility of *The Christian Index* to report the news of how our churches have implemented “The Five Smooth Stones” – Spiritual Renewal, Kingdom Generosity, Church Revitalization, Church Planting and Authentic Evangelism. In the coming year we shall continue to provide news about how churches are engaged in #ReachingNextGen.

Since we are always one generation away from total atheism, we must reach our children and youth for Christ. We not only want to report what churches are doing to reach the next generation, but we want to challenge our churches to adopt schools, plan events for children and youth, target the next generation with Gospel program and appeals and do everything possible to impact students for Christ.

Please go to [www.christianindex.org](http://www.christianindex.org) and subscribe to our “email updates” on the right side of our home page. Encourage fellow church members and friends to do the same. And plan to help us celebrate our bicentennial anniversary in February 2022.

**VICE PRESIDENT OF STAFF COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Steve Parr, State Missionary**  
[\*\*Sparr@gabaptist.org\*\*](mailto:Sparr@gabaptist.org)

The V.P. of *Staff Coordination and Development* provides comprehensive leadership for all Mission Board ministries coordinating training, developing leadership, and implementing strategy that aligns all teams around the *Mission Georgia* vision, the **u2019 Initiative**, and the five priorities referred to as *The Five Smooth Stones*. The vision of the Georgia Baptist Convention is as follows:

***The Georgia Baptist Mission Board will seek to reduce lostness by focusing with Baptists on spiritual renewal resulting in Kingdom generosity, church revitalization, church planting and authentic evangelism.***

Responsibilities related specifically to this ministry area include but are not limited to:

- Service on the Executive Leadership Team.
- Leadership and coordination of the **u2019** initiative.
- Planning and leading staff meetings to enhance communication for and between staff members.
- Planning staff fellowship opportunities throughout the year.
- Seeking to align all staff members around the vision of Mission Georgia.
- Working with staff to coordinate calendars and enhance ministry activities.
- Developing training opportunities to improve staff performance including an annual Staff Professional Development Retreat.
- Working with church and associational leaders to provide quality ministry experiences to strengthen their ministries and leadership.

What is **u2019**?

**U2019** is an initiative of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board to challenge churches to reach out to kids and teens like never before. “U” means “under” and the challenge is to focus on reaching and making disciples of those age 19 and under. This is important for two reasons. First, churches in recent years have been baptizing fewer teens and children. [The average number of teen baptisms last year was only one per church.] If the decline continues, the consequences will have a great impact on our churches in future years. Second, almost three-

fourths of people come to faith in Christ when they are in this age group. The Georgia Baptist Mission Board will be helping churches and associations to partner together to equip leaders to be more effective at reaching the next generation. That is what **u2019** is all about. It is a choice we are calling on all Baptists to make. By God's grace and in His strength we are *choosing to reach the next generation*.

For more information, please go to [www.u2019.net](http://www.u2019.net).

**VICE PRESIDENT OF CHURCH REVITALIZATION AND EVANGELISM**  
**Larry Wynn, State Missionary**  
[lwynn@gabaptist.org](mailto:lwynn@gabaptist.org)

Church Revitalization is a process that begins with the pastor, the leader of the church. The pastor is the gatekeeper and the communicator of vision for the church. Our goal is to help pastors understand and embrace the process for revitalization in the church. Revitalization begins as the pastor influences the church and leads the church into revitalization. The church makes changes and as a result the community is impacted with the Gospel.

**PASTOR ROUNDTABLES**

Our most requested revitalization tool is the pastor roundtable. Pastor roundtables are being promoted throughout the state. Its foundation is Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." (NKJV) The purpose of the pastor roundtable is to strengthen pastors through the open exchange of questions, ideas, best practices, mistakes and successes. It's an environment where pastors can come together to exchange ideas and discuss topics related to ministry in the local church. These groups typically involve five to ten pastors representing churches of similar size, demographics, etc... These churches do not have to all *do church* the same way. We welcome diversity in this format because we can learn a lot from each other. The meeting is a productive time of encouragement and discussion. [Pastor Roundtable guidelines.](#)

**MOVING BEYOND**

Leadership conference with Johnny Hunt and Larry Wynn May 18  
Over 300 church leaders gathered at the Missions and Ministry Center to be encouraged by Dr. Johnny Hunt. Dr. Hunt addressed the role of leadership in church revitalization. Those in attendance came away with principles that are very applicable to local church ministry.

The Church Revitalization team provides resources to assist pastors with the revitalization process. These resources include personal growth and development, communicating and connecting effectively, [Ten Commandments for New Pastors](#), Strategic Planning, embracing change, transitional pastoring, bi-vocation pastoring, and consultation. We also resource the church through the existing tools of evangelism, Sunday School/small groups, discipleship, church assessments', community assessments and effective church mergers. <http://gabaptist.org/churchrevitalization>

**ASSOCIATED MISSIONS ACTIVITIES**

Through the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Georgia Baptists cooperate in witnessing for Christ and building the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth. These two Southern Baptist boards undertake to project globally the same kind of ministries that the local churches and conventions undertake at home. Missionaries of the boards, on behalf of all Southern Baptists, are preaching the Gospel, teaching the truths of the Kingdom, healing the sick, winning the lost, and growing self-supporting and cooperating churches across the country and around the world.

Financial support for these North American and international programs is provided through the Cooperative Program. In addition to the regular support provided each month through the Cooperative Program, designated gifts made during the observance of special days in the Sunday Schools, churches and the seasons of prayer in Woman's Missionary Union organizations make a valuable contribution toward the work of these two mission boards.

Both the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board are agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. Members of these Boards (four members on each of these boards are from Georgia) are elected by the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Boards are responsible to that body for the work they direct. Georgia Baptists, through their faithfulness to the Great Commission, have made it possible for Georgia to be one of the top contributors to missions in the Southern Baptist Convention. An increasing number of Georgia churches are cooperating with the Woman's Missionary Union in observing the Annie Armstrong season of prayer and offering for North American missions and the Lottie Moon season of prayer and offering for international missions. Georgia Baptist churches are urged to increase their gifts through the Cooperative Program by at least one-half percent each year so that Georgia and Southern Baptists may continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and around the world.

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta GA 30022-4174**  
Kevin Ezell, President

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) exists to serve pastors and churches as they seek to reach others for Christ and NAMB wants to see all believers on mission for Christ.

NAMB provides assistance to churches through the following:

- Planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches

In 2016, 732 churches were planted and 232 churches affiliated with the SBC. It is NAMB's desire that every church plant become a multiplying church. Vision Tours and Sending Labs are in place to inform, motivate and develop more sending churches.

- Evangelism and making disciples

The Your Church on Mission blog provides practical, strategic training to pastors to help them lead their churches on mission. *3 Circles of Life Conversation Guides* as well as Engage 24 are tools that NAMB has made available to churches. The Evangelism Response Center has been streamlined and will also utilize user-friendly technology.

- Appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries

NAMB supports more than 5,200 missionaries and more than 3,700 chaplains. The Church Planter Care Ministry provides a high level of care to church planters and their families. Send Network also provides free resources to equip church planters and sending churches via the Send Network blog.

- Providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities

NAMB provides mission education resources such as the Send North America Activity Book for Children, materials for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Week of Prayer for North American Missions, *On Mission* magazine as well as materials for Woman's Missionary Union and Baptist Men's Day. The GenSend Program placed approximately 500 students in 21 Send Cities to engage various people groups.

- Leadership Development

Several events with the focus of developing leaders throughout the SBC were conducted; Sending Labs, Pastor Roundtables, Revitalization/Leadership Conferences, Galatians 6:6 and Engage 24. 15 Hispanic church planter coaches were trained who in turn trained 50 other church planter coaches.

- Disaster Relief

In 2016, Disaster Relief volunteers recorded 109,743 volunteer days, 35,181 ministry contacts, 31,592 chaplaincy contacts, 3,581 Gospel presentations, 549 professions of faith, 1,910,985 total meals and 6,748 Bibles distributed.

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**PO Box 6767 (3806 Monument Avenue) Richmond VA 23230**  
David J. Platt, President

The International Mission Board (IMB) is focused on five primary aims: exalting Christ, mobilizing Christians, equipping the church, facilitating church planting and playing our part in the completion of the Great Commission

IMB provides assistance to churches through the following:

- Evangelize people, plant churches and nurture church planting movements

The 2016 Annual Statistical Report of the IMB reports that the unreach people groups in the world totals 7,037. IMB missionaries reported 93,922 baptisms. Nearly two million people heard a gospel witness and 175,290 became believers. 340,787 people participated in ongoing Bible studies, more than 6,000 discipleship groups were formed and 6,138 new churches were started.

- Send and support missionaries and volunteers

In 2016, 122 new career/long-term personnel and 156 new mid-term personnel were appointed. IMB missionary personnel continue to reflect the geographic and church size diversity of the SBC with missionaries from all 50 states and these missionaries come from all size churches.

- Mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in missions

The 2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$165.8 million, the largest in the history of the IMB. Many churches also committed to pray for missionaries and their work around the world. In partnership with WMU, the week of prayer for international missions was conducted December 4-11, 2016. IMB hosted four livestream sending celebrations in order for more churches participate and celebrate the sending of new missionaries.

- Develop global strategies

IMB Global Engagement led strategic mission endeavors in nine specific affinities around the globe. Human needs operations administered 265 relief and development projects in 58 countries.

## SECTION IV

### BENEVOLENCES

#### GEORGIA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES AND FAMILY MINISTRIES, INC.

Kenny Thompson, President and CEO

[www.qbchfm.org](http://www.qbchfm.org)

HOME. We all long for *a place to call home*. A place where we can feel safe, accepted and loved.

Unfortunately, for many of the children in our care, home has sometimes been a place of hopelessness, fear and despair.

The children and families we serve today often come to us with very few possessions. Instead, they come with heavy emotional and physical scars. Many arrive defiant, traumatized, and angry at the world and everyone in it. And who can blame them? How would any of us feel if we had been forced to live on the streets, a homeless shelter, in the back of an old car, or in just another failed placement through the system?

Georgia Baptist Children's Homes isn't just our name; it's who we are. We are a place where healing and hope can be found. A place where the knowledge of our living Savior can be found. ***A Place to Call Home***. We realize that even though we may only be a temporary "Home" for some of our residents, we have the awesome responsibility of helping them build a solid foundation for their future.

Our campuses, residential group homes and family foster care programs offer a new beginning for children who have experienced abuse, abandonment or neglect. Our specialty ministries offer hope children with higher behavioral needs, girls who have been victimized through human trafficking, children with developmental disabilities in need of respite care, mothers and their children overcoming domestic violence, and individuals coping with physical and developmental disabilities through an innovative therapeutic riding program. Our community counseling centers, located on our campuses throughout the state, serve as a place for families to seek help, guidance, and understanding.

In 2016, we helped 1,274 children and their families find hope through a variety of innovative programs and ministries designed to bring spiritual, emotional, and physical healing.

We continue to minister to all of our children's spiritual needs and show them that true healing and hope only comes through the salvation of Jesus Christ. **We are blessed to share that this past year 49 children in our care made professions of faith!**

We are proud of our heritage as an agency of the Georgia Baptist Convention. Since we do not receive Cooperative Program funding, we are especially grateful to many of our Georgia Baptist churches across the state that place us in their church budgets, recognize special offerings for our ministry and participate in associational truckloadings.

During our 145 years of ministry, we have seen the world change and grow and have always adapted our ministry to the changing needs of the children in our care. Our ministry has changed; our programs have changed; but the one thing that has not changed is our commitment to providing a strong spiritual foundation for each child we serve.

**To view the Audit of the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries, select AUDITS**

## **THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION**

The Graham Foundation provides emergency loans to students who need assistance to remain in school. In 1991 the trustees turned over daily administration of the Foundation funds and loan servicing to the Georgia Baptist Foundation, Inc. The Georgia Baptist Foundation was chartered in 1941 to serve as the independent trust agency of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The Georgia Baptist Foundation is audited annually. Their report is submitted to the Executive Committee for inclusion in the Book of Reports. The audit of the Georgia Baptist Foundation suffices for the Graham Foundation's requirement for an annual audit. The unaudited Graham Foundation financial statements and notes submitted here are compiled from account information provided by the Georgia Baptist Foundation.

**To view Audit of the Graham Foundation, select AUDITS**

## **GEORGIA BAPTIST HEALTH CARE MINISTRY FOUNDATION**

**Will C. Bacon, President and CEO**

[www.gbhcmf.org](http://www.gbhcmf.org)

Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation is pleased to present our annual report for 2017.

As we selected the grant recipients for this year, we continued to emphasize transforming health care ministries in and through Georgia Baptist associations.

Our efforts in health care offer generosity that we pray will eventuate into continual deeds of kindness, both for the ones receiving the ministry, and the ones who offer it. In our Christian vocation, we are called to bring unity, walk with the stranger, lift the oppressed and give voice to the unheard. Our grants are distributed to help renovate communities for Christ, by touching individuals at their points of health care need.

Demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ through a health care ministry, grants from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation make a significant impact in the neighborhoods where our grantees are ministering, now and in the future. We thank you for your interest, prayers, and efforts to help us fulfill our great co-mission.

Please access our website at [www.gbhcmf.org](http://www.gbhcmf.org) to learn more about our organization, and the grant application process.

**To view Audit of the Health Care Ministry Foundation, select AUDITS**

**BAPTIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES OF GEORGIA**  
**Peggy J. Beckett, President and CEO**  
[pbeckett@grcga.org](mailto:pbeckett@grcga.org)

**Our Mission:** To provide comfortable, attractive homes for senior adults at an affordable price within a Christian environment, and to further provide services and programs that enrich senior living and enable senior adults to age in place.

From the beginning of our ministry in 1967 until today seniors have enjoyed a standard of living and community experience that satisfies and enriches their lifestyle. Over 400 seniors reside or receive services from our three communities.

### **Clairmont Crest**

Located on the outskirts of charming, revitalized downtown Decatur, Georgia near Emory University and hospital and Veterans' Hospital, Clairmont Crest is our urban community. Two 5 story apartment buildings are connected with lighted pathways through prayer gardens, flower patches, a fountain, and an in ground swimming pool. Studios, one and two bedroom apartments for independent living are available. The residents of Clairmont Crest call themselves Crestors and live full, active lives. Regular planned trips help them take advantage of the plethora of cultural and entertainment events provided by a large metropolis. From simple shopping, dining out, to the fabulous Fox and its variety shows, plays, and concerts to church services and adventures in botanical gardens the Crestors can be found enjoying themselves. An organized activity program ascertains that those who prefer staying near home have ample opportunity to participate in games, parties, and enrichment services such as weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings. Other amenities of Clairmont Crest are an on-site beauty and barber shop and a fully equipped senior gym. Podiatrist, audiologist, and family practioners who do house calls are part of the Clairmont Crest experience. A special agreement with Ability Rehabilitation provides on-site therapies and free strengthening exercises. Our staff chaplain leads vespers and Sunday morning services. Hospital visitations, counseling and some small group focus sessions are also done by our chaplain.

### **Palmetto Park**

Palmetto Park is our rural community. Situated on thirty acres in Palmetto, Georgia, the very edge of South Fulton County, Palmetto Park offers spacious grounds, lovely rolling hills and peaceful meadows. Twenty-six garden cottages for independent living are nestled around a pond filled with fish, turtles, and alternately wild geese. Deer and turkey often visit the campus. Situated on a small rise next to the cottages stands Baptist Manor, a two-story congregate living facility offering independent living studios, and one bedroom apartments. Baptist Manor has a large elegant dining room with vaulted ceilings and wide windows facing the pond. Residents enjoy waiter/waitress service with some table-side preparations, salad bars and a select menu. Other amenities include weekly light housekeeping, and convenient laundry facilities. A Lifestyle Director plans a full program of social, physical and spiritual enrichment opportunities. The staff chaplain is available for prayer meeting and visitation. Local businesses deliver groceries and pharmacy prescriptions and supplies at no additional charge for residents. On-site physicians are available for those who wish to have check-ups and family practice visits. A beauty and barber shop as well as a day spa complete with massages are available by appointment

### **Hiawassee Park**

Hiawassee Park is our mountain resort community. Located on the outskirts of Hiawassee, Georgia, this community is built on a mountainside overlooking Lake Chatuge and Brass Town Bald Mountain. Presently there are 34 cottages offering independent living and a central clubhouse that features a large kitchen and recreation area, a stone fireplace, and large screen TV where movies nights and games are shared. There is a fully equipped senior gym, and a separate pool room where residents may work out in the resistance pool which has cross currents and a retractable underwater treadmill. This no impact exercise is great for osteoarthritis. A Lifestyle Director plans group and individual activities, trips and excursions. Resident led clubs offer opportunity for sharing special interests such as bridge, photography, crafts, and writing.

There is never a large buy-in fee for BRC. Rental rates are all-inclusive, with exception of electricity at Clairmont Crest and Hiwassee Park. No additional maintenance or amenity fees apply. Our age requirement begins at fifty. Presently all our communities are in the upper 90 percentile for occupancy. God has richly blessed our ministry and we give Him the glory for all the success it enjoys. As an agency of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board we are a part of the Cooperative Program budget and receive a portion each month. Many churches have been led to include us in their budgets on a monthly or quarterly basis. Individuals have remembered us in their wills either with an outright gift or a trust with the Georgia Baptist Foundation. These funds enable us to adhere to our ministry mission of offering affordable rates as they supplement rental income.

We are grateful to Georgia Baptists for their generous and faithful support of our ministry. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to develop new services and complete our new community all to the glory of God. You are welcome to visit us at any location at any time or you may take a virtual tour and view pictures on our website. The individual communities also maintain Facebook internet for residents, families and friends to interact and view firsthand life at BRCGA. Website [www.brcga.org](http://www.brcga.org)

**To View Audit of Baptist Retirement Communities, select AUDITS**

## **BAPTIST VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES**

**Delos L. Sharpton, President/CEO**

[www.baptistvillage.com](http://www.baptistvillage.com)

The growth of Baptist Village Retirement Communities from facilities accommodating five residents to facilities in two locations (Waycross & Macon) providing retirement living for over five hundred senior adults shows the continued commitment of Georgia Baptists to minister to the needs of Senior Adults. Baptist Village is the only Georgia Baptist ministry that provides a full continuum of care, from Independent Living, Personal Care, to Skilled Nursing.

### Independent Living

The single family and duplex homes offer all the amenities one would expect from a modern planned community. A lifestyle where upkeep and repairs are someone else's concern, and a location where shopping, medical, recreation facilities are nearby. Independent living allows residents to age in place with tranquility and the availability of other levels of care. Baptist Village offers Independent Living villas in Waycross and Macon.

### Personal Care

Personal Care is designed for the moment in time when an individual needs assistance in activities of daily living but does not require nursing care. The goal of this level of care is to help the resident maintain as much independence as possible. Baptist Village provides a program that offers the resident personal comfort and independence with the benefits of a compassionate staff that gives each resident the assistance they may need. Baptist Village Personal Care facilities are located in Waycross and Macon.

### Skilled Nursing Care

The J. Olan Jones Health Center in Waycross offers the most intensive level of skilled nursing care available. Through every avenue available Baptist Village strives to improve the quality of life for residents. This is accomplished in part through a multi-disciplined team skilled in responding to the health care needs of the residents.

For almost six decades Baptist Village Retirement Communities has provided seniors with housing and health care in a Christian environment, and has stood as a unique community where faith and caring are a way of life. With a mission to make life better for residents and their families the vision of Baptist Village Retirement Communities continues to be *Serving God by Providing Excellence in Retirement Living*.

For more detailed on Baptist Village Retirement Communities please visit us at [www.baptistvillage.com](http://www.baptistvillage.com) .

**To View Audit of Baptist Village Retirement Communities, select AUDITS**

## **SECTION V**

### **EDUCATION**

#### **GEORGIA BAPTIST FOUNDATION AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

**Johnathan W. Gray, President and CEO**

[www.gbfoundation.org](http://www.gbfoundation.org)

The Georgia Baptist Foundation stewards Gospel generosity by working alongside individuals and organizations to gather and increase donations through creative gift plans and asset management. Because of our work, the Foundation strengthens ministry efforts to bring Gospel transformation to every part of life, in every place on earth, across every generation. We do this by managing and producing funds for Baptist churches, ministries, and institutions as well as helping generous givers contribute to their Spirit-led passions. As a service-oriented ministry, we continue the search for new ways to assist our Baptist family and leverage our gifts to steward all those we serve.

The Foundation provides a professional investment solution for churches and ministries that is both diversified and screened. The Foundation manages over 1,650 ministry and trust accounts with a market value of assets under management of approximately \$400 million dollars. These funds are invested in a portfolio of stocks and bonds to provide long-term sustainable income to support Baptist ministries. Additionally, we work with individuals who want to give a portion of their estate to support Baptist causes or who may be seeking tax and income solutions for appreciated assets. Our ministry is producing real fruit! In 2017, a total of \$11.8 million dollars flowed from the Foundation to support Baptist ministry.

This year our ministry welcomed a new Director of Communications, Chad Freeman. Chad joins us following 18 years of service with the International Mission Board. Twelve staff members form our ministry team, led by Johnathan W. Gray as President/CEO, Susan DePasquale serves as Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer. Candy Cannon serves as Client Accounting & Scholarship Director, and Scott Mitchell as Investment Accounting Director. Rachel Pinard also assists with accounting, as well as records management. Sam Warner serves as the Vice-President and Director of Development for North Georgia and Ray Sullivan as our Director of Development for South Georgia. Rick Head serves as our Director of Development for Institutional Endowment and Pam Mills as Vice-President of Trust Services. Nancy Patterson is our Director of Donor Relations. Ruth Ruiz serves as Executive Administrative Assistant and Corporate Secretary. And as previously mentioned, our most recent staff member Chad Freeman serves as our Director of Communications. Our faithful staff love the Lord and are always eager to help your church or ministry.

It is our joy to serve believers along with hundreds of Baptist churches and ministries as we follow God together in making all things new.

GBFOUNDATION.ORG  
800.452.9064

**To View Audit of the Georgia Baptist Foundation, Select AUDITS**

## **BREWTON-PARKER COLLEGE**

**Steve Echols, President**

201 David-Eliza Fountain Circle

PO Box 197

Mount Vernon, GA 30445

Phone: 880.342.1087

Website: [www.bpc.edu](http://www.bpc.edu)

Brewton-Parker College (BPC) is grateful for its Georgia Baptist heritage. The school had its beginning in 1904 through the efforts of local Georgia Baptists who had a vision for the importance of Christian education. Along with leaders from the towns of Mt. Vernon and Ailey and the surrounding area, Dr. John C. Brewton and C.B. Parker were particularly instrumental in the founding of the school. Since its inception, the institution has unapologetically provided biblically centered instruction and a Christian worldview. Initially established to offer a grade school education, today Brewton-Parker College is the only accredited four-year Christian college south of Macon and north of Jacksonville, Florida. As Alma Mater to over 20,000 students from throughout Georgia, the United States, and across the globe, the influence of BPC for the Kingdom's sake continues to be inestimable.

Brewton-Parker College offers students a picturesque 270-acre campus set in the heart of sweet Vidalia onion country. Students find a warm welcoming atmosphere fostered by the cities of Mount Vernon and Ailey and the other nearby towns and counties. Typical of the scenic setting, the BPC community enjoys dining together in the beautiful and recently remodeled cafeteria. From there, the view encompasses Jones Lake which is adjoined by a quaint historic village and Tyre chapel where the cross steeple is a reminder of the purpose of the college.

The athletic fields, the track, and the newest addition to BPC, the Bartow and Jean Snooks Athletic Complex, are places where the students and community enjoy rooting for the Barons who compete on 12 athletic teams in one of the best NAIA conferences. However, far more important than the final standings in the conference is the stated passion of the entire athletic staff, which is to lead our student athletes to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

BPC equips students spiritually, and through numerous majors and concentrations provides students with the educational foundation they need to have successful careers. Staple majors, including business, English, history, Christian studies, biology, music, communication, social science, ministry, and education, establish the core of our institution. A small student-to-faculty ratio allows for mentoring and personal attention to the students by faculty members.

In recent years, BPC has made enormous progress in its financial health. The school has reduced its debt from over fourteen million dollars to a little less than eight million dollars. BPC has operated in the black for the last several years and in addition to endowment and operational funds, BPC has an ongoing cash reserve fund of over three million dollars. Because of its financial progress, BPC has more than doubled its federal financial composite score (a DOE measure of financial health) to a current number of 3.0 (the highest possible score). In 2014, SACS gave BPC a reaffirmation of accreditation with the next major review due in 2021. More recently, (December 2016) BPC passed a financial review that was part of the five-year SACSCOC report. BPC received the best possible report with no recommendations or notations of any kind concerning its financial health. In addition, the overall report for the five-year review (January 2017) was very good. The minimal responses required on a very small number of items is the best outcome the school has had in many years.

While BPC exists as a liberal arts academic institution, the most important part of the mission of BPC is to see spiritual transformation. This academic year, 40 students have made professions of faith and 70 more made commitments of their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Taking this spiritual commitment beyond the campus, BPC has endeavored to minister to the surrounding area. Our staff, students, and faculty serve in many of the churches in the area on a volunteer basis. Cabinet members and faculty have preached in numerous churches over the past year and the concert choir and Voices of Truth have performed in Georgia Baptist churches throughout the state, including being the featured singing group at the 2016 Georgia Baptist Annual Meeting in Savannah.

Dr. Billy Puckett, BPC's director of church and community relations, has led our students to minister at several disaster relief sites. In an expression of BPC's commitment to local churches, Dr. Puckett also serves in a unique partnership with the Daniell Baptist Association as their DOM. In October of 2016, BPC students were instrumental

in helping to evacuate nursing home residents from the coast to Vidalia during the threat of Hurricane Matthew. Recently BPC athletes helped with major cleanup and renovation efforts at the Montgomery County Recreation Center. Our students are active in tutoring students at local schools, and work in the local Boys Club. The BPC campus is the location for many events with thousands of guests annually at the sports day camps for children, fall festival, Easter egg hunt, athletic games, summer enrichment camps, biannual math and science festivals, and a Young Writer's Conference. These events provide BPC with the opportunity to give back to the community and share the love of Christ.

BPC continues to work hard to improve its facilities. With the exception of one dorm (remodeled in 2010), all of the dorms at BPC have been remodeled in the past two years. The school will complete a new dorm unit by the fall of 2017 that will house 24 male students. An additional, unit is planned for the fall of 2018. These two units are part of a \$1.5 million dollar *Rise and Shine Campaign*, which will also include extensive renovations on roofs, HVAC systems, and other improvements.

With so many blessings from God, including an increasing number of students, there is good reason for enthusiastic optimism concerning the future of BPC. Total enrollment for the 2016-2017 academic year is 897. That is an increase of 190 or 26% over last year's 707. Signs are pointing to another major enrollment increase for the fall of 2017. We ask that you join our leadership in praying for BPC to fulfill its mission of seeing the lives of students transformed spiritually and academically for the glory of God.

Athletic website: [www.gobaronsgo.com](http://www.gobaronsgo.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/brewtonparker](http://www.facebook.com/brewtonparker)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/brewtonparker](http://www.twitter.com/brewtonparker)

**To View the Audit of Brewton-Parker College, select AUDITS**

**SHORTER UNIVERSITY  
Don Dowless, President**

315 Shorter Avenue, Rome, GA 30165  
Phone: 800-868-6980 / 706-291-2121  
Web Site: [www.shorter.edu](http://www.shorter.edu)

In the spring of 2018, the Shorter University campus celebrated a national victory in the academic realm. Our chapter of the Alpha Chi Honor Society received the 2018 President's Cup—the most prestigious award that the national honor society has to offer. This award is based on the last five years of work and says that Shorter's chapter is the best Alpha Chi chapter in the country. Being judged the best of more than 300 chapters means Shorter beat out much larger institutions, including Baylor and SMU—truly an impressive accomplishment.

The deciding factor, according to the honor society's selection committee chair, was the amount of scholarly work generated by our students. Our students excel when competing against their peers at other institutions, and we are proud of their accomplishments. For example, senior David Thompson was selected to receive the highly competitive Alfred H. Nolle Scholarship from Alpha Chi for his senior year of study at Shorter. He was also chosen as a recipient of a Region III scholarship for undergraduates by the honor society. The double win shows how academically competitive the triple major was nationally. In addition, 2018 graduate Mary Jayne Caum received a regional scholarship from Alpha Chi to assist with paying for her first year of law school. Communication Arts graduate Cecil Robinson was one of only eight students selected to take part in a weeklong internship with a major PR firm and was the only one who came from a small university.

The accomplishments of these students—and hundreds more that could be listed—are a testament to the high-quality, Christ-centered education our students receive at Shorter. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing the best educational opportunities and to helping prepare students for success. *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Princeton Review*, and *College Consensus* all include Shorter on their lists of best colleges and universities in our region. Our MBA program in Sport Management was ranked as No. 4 in the nation by SportsManagementDegreeHub.com, while TheBestColleges.org ranked Shorter at No. 2 on its list of Top 5 Online Associate in Sports Management Programs. Zippia ranked our Criminal Justice program No. 5 on its list of Best Criminal Justice Programs in Georgia. Zippia also placed our Ben and Ollie Brady School of Nursing at No. 6 on

its list of the 10 Best Colleges for Nursing Majors in Georgia. Our Human Services, Online Bachelor's in Business Administration, and Online Master's in Accounting Degree programs have also been highly ranked. Shorter has also been recognized among the top online colleges in Georgia.

We greatly appreciate the support of Georgia Baptists through your giving, prayer support, and entrusting us with your students. In addition, we are pleased to report that upgrades are underway in our Brady School of Nursing's Simulation and Skills Practice Suites, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation. The grant will fund the purchase of a state-of-the-art women's health/birthing dual training high-fidelity simulator, IV pumps, and equipment for training nurses in life-saving techniques, including a defibrillator, basic cardiac life support training equipment, and related supplies.

We want our students to have the opportunity to follow their dreams, both on campus and after graduation, without the burden of student loan debt. To help make that possible, this year, Shorter has established a student loan assistance program for incoming freshman students who are active members of Georgia Baptist Mission Board churches. The Shorter Promise is offered to a limited number of Georgia Baptist incoming freshmen for the fall of 2018, and our Admissions office can provide additional detail.

Shorter also seeks to instill in our students an understanding of the importance of serving others as they learn to become the hands and feet of Christ. Among the many ways our freshman Learning Communities served were hosting canned food drives for Rome Action Ministries, volunteering to pack bags for the homeless and organizing canned goods, supporting Restoration Rome's programs for foster children and the families who serve them, and reading to children in local elementary schools. Our Baptist Collegiate Ministry students volunteered in the ministries of West End Baptist Church and 20 different churches during the semester. We also had two mission teams go out during Spring Break: one serving in Disaster Relief in Texas following the hurricane and one ministering in the Horn of Africa, where they helped with goat clinics and took part in outreach work with families in need.

Fifty-four students were commissioned for summer missions work, including eight who will be serving through SendMeNow Missions during the summer of 2018 in Boston, Clarkston, New York City, France, Northern Africa, Canada, and Texas. Campus Minister David Roland baptized three members of the women's softball team, and two other student athletes accepted Christ during the spring semester. In addition, six students accepted Christ during a four-hour "The Great Exchange" event held in the front circle, where students were encouraged to share their faith in Jesus.

In January, we welcomed Shorter graduate Zach Morrison home to the Hill as our head football coach. We look forward to his leadership as he recruits student-athletes with high achievement in the classroom as well as on the field of competition.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of Georgia Baptists, the State Mission Board, and of its leadership as we work toward *Transforming Lives through Christ*. We ask three things of you:

- Pray for us.
- Support us.
- Send us students.

**If we make a difference in the life of even one student, it is worth it.**

In closing, please listen to the words of nursing major Yanelis Hernandez as she shares her thanks for the investment being made in her life and future:

*"I am from Puerto Rico. We got hit with a big hurricane, and my grandfather, who was helping me pay for school, lost everything. The scholarship support I received from Shorter not only helped me finish my first year of nursing school but it also brought some light into my life at a very dark time. For that, I will be eternally grateful."*

**To View the Audit of Shorter University, select AUDITS**

## **TRUETT-McCONNELL UNIVERSITY**

**Emir Caner, President**

100 Alumni Drive

Cleveland GA 30528

Phone: 706-865-2134

Web Site: [www.truett.edu](http://www.truett.edu)

The following points are true of Truett-McConnell University:

- Truett McConnell was chartered on July 23, 1946 to train up a generation of ministers to pastor churches and students who would love Christ. This same vision stays intact and only grows and expands.
- Scripture is the foundation for everything we do and of all that we are.
- Students get a biblical education, inside and outside the classroom.
- All undergraduates are required to take the Great Commission minor.
- We're training students to love the Lord, love the Word, love the Church and love the lost.
- We're preparing students not only for a career or to receive a paycheck, but to fulfill God's high calling on their lives.
- We're located in the beautiful Northeast Georgia Mountains in Cleveland, Georgia.
- All full time faculty have publically signed the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
- We offer a wide array of programs of study including Biology, (for all pre-health majors – dental, allied health, medicine, pharmacy, veterinarian, etc.), Business Administration, Christian Studies, Criminal Justice, Education, English, Exercise Science, History, Music, Nursing, Psychology and World Missions.
- We offer online programs including a BS in Business Administration, B.A. in Christian Studies, B.S. in Psychology, M.A. in Theology, and BS in Criminal Justice.
- We offer Master programs of study in Business, Education, Biblical Counseling, Theology, and Biology.
- TMU has a family friendly campus which offers students University activities including sporting events (Volleyball, Men and Women's Soccer, Men and Women's Basketball, Men and Women's Golf, Men and Women's Cross Country, Men and Women's Track and Field, Wrestling, Women's Lacrosse, Softball, and Baseball).
- Residential students live and learn in a community of faith with personal attention from TMU faculty.

**To View the Audit of Truett-McConnell University, select AUDITS**