

5 smooth  
**OLIVE**  
stones





## Reducing Lostness in Georgia Together

God has blessed this state with wonderful pastors, dedicated associational missionaries, associational and church leaders, and faithful church members who love the Lord and deeply desire to see others come to know Him.

At the 2011 Georgia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Georgia Baptists were challenged through the report from the Convention Study Task Force to reach the 8.1 million lost people expected to be living in Georgia by the year 2020. What miracles might we see if we focus our energies upon the *5 Smooth Stones* presented by the Task Force:

- ▶ Spiritual renewal
- ▶ Kingdom generosity
- ▶ Church revitalization
- ▶ Church planting
- ▶ Authentic evangelism

Join me in praying that the hearts of Georgia Baptists will grasp the urgent need of people for Jesus Christ and that God will bring spiritual renewal among us that will lead to the realization of each of the *5 Smooth Stones*.

None of us can realize our mission alone. Just as God has called you to serve your church or association, God has called your Georgia Baptist Convention missionary staff to partner with you in accomplishing our mission together.

Enclosed you will find a resource which introduces the basic concepts of the *5 Smooth Stones*. I invite you to visit the web site at [5smoothstones.gabaptist.org](http://5smoothstones.gabaptist.org) to find more information and join the conversation. You will receive more resources in the coming months as we adjust ministries of the Convention to best accomplish the *5 Smooth Stones*.

I pray that you will resolve to meet every opportunity to share the Gospel and to allow God to work His miracles through Georgia Baptists to reduce the number of lost people in Georgia and around the world. Join me in praying every day that God will use every Georgia Baptist pastor, associational missionary, and church member in miraculous ways to effectively share Jesus Christ with lost people who desperately need Him.

J. Robert White, Executive Director  
Georgia Baptist Convention

## Context of the Mission

The ministry context in which Georgia Baptists serve is changing at an incredible pace. Over the next 10 years the population of Georgia will grow dramatically in numbers, ethnicity, and urbanization.

Ministry expressions of Georgia Baptists are also rapidly changing. Our churches have unique organizational approaches, worship styles, and theological tendencies.

Georgia is not staying the same and neither can Georgia Baptists.

## Calling to the Mission

Georgia Baptists have a divine calling to engage the lost in this state with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

By the year 2020 those in Georgia who do not have a personal relationship with Christ are expected to be a staggering 8.1 million. The lost population of Georgia will outnumber the current population of 39 states.

## Community on a Mission

The most effective Georgia Baptist church, association, or state missionary cannot accomplish this mission alone.

This divine calling and mission can only be accomplished by relying upon the power of God to unify the efforts of churches, associations, and state missionaries. We need all sizes, strategies, and styles to conquer this giant.

History has proven over and over again that to accomplish any great task requires an incredible commitment from those engaged in the battle. This has been true in the history of God's people as well. Time and again they faced overwhelming odds, but through a full dependence on God and full obedience to His commands they overcame.

One biblical example is David and Goliath. When faced with overwhelming odds, David pushed through the challenges of a defeated spirit to experience ultimate victory for God. While others struggled with the overwhelming task, the fear of failure, a lack of courage, and constant criticism, David relied on the power and person of God to lead him to victory.

“And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag...” – 1 Samuel 17:40a

When David saw the giant before him, he ran to the battlefield and along the way picked up five smooth stones. These stones were his primary earthly tool of combat. This wasn't just a giant he was facing; it was a gift from God to show all the world just how amazing, powerful, and personal the God of the universe is.

Just as David took five smooth stones to face his giant, God is directing the ministries, pastors, and churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention to pick up five smooth stones to face the growing giant of a projected 8.1 million lost people in the state of Georgia. These stones along with our commitment to obedience can allow us to win the battle.

*Photos are of Georgia Baptist State Missionaries who represent all Georgians working together in accomplishing the mission of reaching our state. GBC/Special*

Dear Pastor:

Along with this letter you are receiving some additional materials focusing upon the *5 Smooth Stones*. As a part of the periodic mailing of idea-generating information, these materials are intended to encourage your involvement with the *5 Smooth Stones* focus approved by our convention last November. In this mailing, some of our state missionaries share with you a few of the offerings of their ministries that are created to strengthen and encourage the ministry of your church.

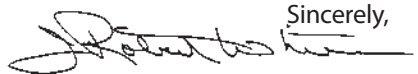
I am truly excited about these five areas of focus for our convention of churches as we seek to reduce lostness in Georgia between now and the year 2020.

- ▶ **Spiritual Renewal**
- ▶ **Kingdom Generosity**
- ▶ **Church Revitalization**
- ▶ **Church Planting**
- ▶ **Authentic Evangelism**

What will you do to make a difference in Georgia? I am praying that we will drill down on these five areas, that we will see our pastors take hold of this challenge and engage our churches.

As you read through these materials you will see some substantial offerings by our staff to assist you and your congregation in these five vital areas. Each staff leader offers contact information. All you have to do is write or call and you will find our staff very anxious to assist your church in successful ministry and outreach.

May God bless you in a great way today. We are thankful for you and assure you that we are prepared and anxious to serve you and your congregation.

Sincerely,  


J. Robert White, Executive Director  
Georgia Baptist Convention

## The 5 Smooth Stones journey continues ...

The Georgia Baptist Convention will encourage, support, and work alongside Georgia Baptist churches in 2013 as we seek to reduce lostness by focusing upon the 5 Smooth Stones.

During 2013, pastors and churches will be invited to gather at several locations across the state to pray for spiritual renewal. I believe that this stone is the most important because it will determine our effectiveness in the remaining 5 Smooth Stones. Contact Marty Youngblood, Discipleship and Spiritual Renewal Ministries, 770-936-5243, [myoungblood@gabaptist.org](mailto:myoungblood@gabaptist.org).

Reflecting the heart of God, biblical generosity is the application of God's resources to God's mission. Kingdom generosity will happen if we experience spiritual renewal. This will be evident by our response to the Great Commission to share Christ and by how we give to the Kingdom of God. Your regional state missionaries will be crossing the state in 2013 to help churches recognize that the local church is a "Great Commission Resource Center" that provides inspiration, training, and sends believers out across the world to boldly share the Gospel. For consultation and stewardship materials, please visit Cooperative Program/Stewardship's webpage at [cp.gabaptist.org](http://cp.gabaptist.org).

A key component of church revitalization is the development of networks of pastors who will encourage and help one another. Our state missionaries will continue to develop relationships with and among pastors with the goal of revitalizing churches. Contact Larry Wynn, Church Revitalization/Leadership, 770-936-5206, [lwynn@gabaptist.org](mailto:lwynn@gabaptist.org).

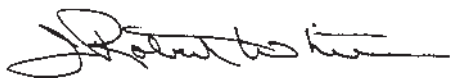
Every pastor and associational missionary will be encouraged to call out the "called of God" to be a part of church planting in Georgia. Church Planter Orientation will be offered every two months in 2013 and the Basic Training Journey will be available in English and Spanish on several weekends and on weekdays.

**Reducing** Lostness in Georgia **Together**

Contact Butch Butcher, Church Planting Ministries, 770-936-5227, [bbutcher@gabaptist.org](mailto:bbutcher@gabaptist.org) or Jerry Baker, Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries, 770-936-5217, [jbaker@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbaker@gabaptist.org).

Every Georgia Baptist church should be intentionally evangelistic. In the coming year we will be producing materials, training, and resources for pastors and churches to help them reach their community for Christ through authentic evangelism. Contact Joel Southerland, Evangelism Ministries, 770-936-5233, [jsoutherland@gabaptist.org](mailto:jsoutherland@gabaptist.org). Equipping site: [www.evangelismga.com](http://www.evangelismga.com)

Now is the time for Georgia Baptists to be more serious than ever about sharing the Gospel in Georgia and around the world. The 5 Smooth Stones provide a path toward that goal. Have you taken the first step? Let us know how we may help you make it happen in your church. Visit [the5smoothstones.com](http://the5smoothstones.com) for more information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. J. Robert White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. J. Robert White  
Executive Director  
Georgia Baptist Convention



# SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

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## Spiritual Renewal

As followers of Christ we long for a fresh sweeping movement of God in our land. Personal revival and renewal must be the foundation of any strategy for engaging our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hosea 6:1-2 | **Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.**

[5smoothstones.gabaptist.org](http://5smoothstones.gabaptist.org)

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# Spiritual Renewal

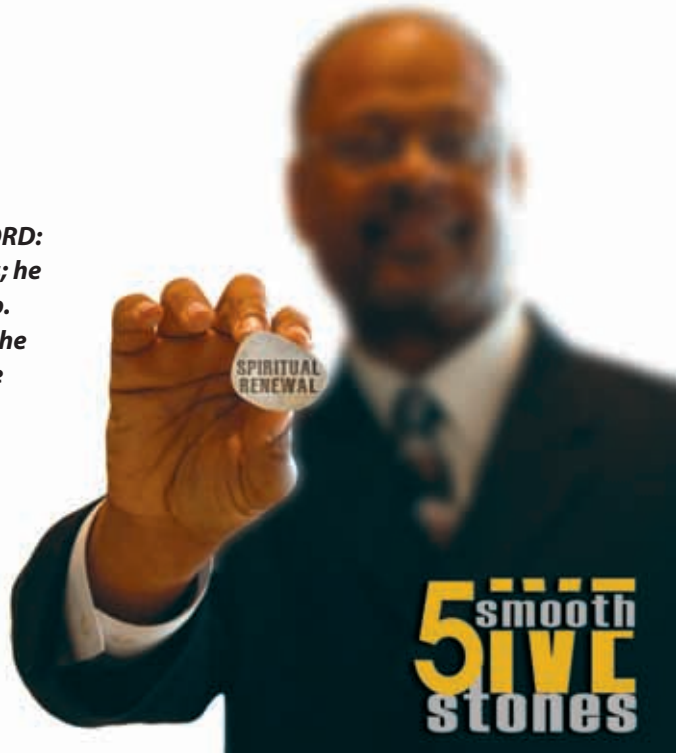
As followers of Christ we long for a fresh sweeping movement of God in our land. Personal revival and renewal must be the foundation of any strategy for engaging our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We ask that each Georgia Baptist pursue the following resolutions:

- ▶ We resolve to accept personal responsibility for developing a growing, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ▶ We resolve to engage in personal repentance over sin in our lives that keeps us from passionately pursuing the call of Christ.
- ▶ We resolve to pursue the teaching and Lordship of Christ to motivate our every thought and action to communicate the hope of Christ to this world.

***For further assistance with the stone of spiritual renewal, contact Marty Youngblood at 770.936.5243, or email [myoungblood@gabaptist.org](mailto:myoungblood@gabaptist.org).***

## Hosea 6:1-2

***Come, and let us return unto the LORD:  
for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he  
hath smitten, and he will bind us up.  
After two days will he revive us: in the  
third day he will raise us up, and we  
shall live in his sight.***



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**5** LIVE  
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## Spiritual Renewal – Worship

Worship is a priority for every believer and church. When God's people engage in biblical worship, the result is transformational. It is the priority of Music and Worship Ministries to provide training in biblical worship which honors Christ, nurtures believers, and reaches the lost through active ministry. Spiritual renewal and God-honoring worship go "hand-in-hand." We provide meaningful training for churches and associations through conferences which foster three key components:

- ▶ Embrace a Christocentric theology
- ▶ Driven solely by Scripture
- ▶ Sensitive to a church's history and demography

Music and Worship Ministries offers the following opportunities to strengthen worship in the church or association (or we will gladly tailor an event for your setting):

- ▶ **Discovering Biblical Worship**—a church conference focusing on biblical foundations of worship
- ▶ **Trends and Issues that Impact Worship**—a church conference dealing with cultural influences that affect today's worship
- ▶ **Priority of Worship Conference**—an associational or regional conference which includes practical aspects of worship (held in conjunction with Leadership Ministries)
- ▶ **Music Camps**—for children through high school offering training and worship experiences
- ▶ **Associational Training Events**—tailored to the needs of associations dealing primarily with worship resources, planning, and creative helps

For further assistance, contact Jon Duncan, State Missionary in Music and Worship Ministries at [jduncan@gabaptist.org](mailto:jduncan@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [mw.gabaptist.org](http://mw.gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5262.

## Spiritual Renewal – Prayer

- ▶ The discipline of prayer is one of the most neglected spiritual disciplines in the body of Christ today. It is important for us as spiritual leaders in the church to remember that personal daily prayer is the catalyst for spiritual intimacy with God.

“It is a joy to Jesus when a person takes time to walk more intimately with Him. The bearing of fruit is always shown in Scripture to be a visible result of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.” – Oswald Chambers

- ▶ A basic requirement of God to receive His power and presence in our daily lives is personal holiness through biblical obedience.

**“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:14-16**

- ▶ Dr. Gregory Frizzell, in his book, *Returning to Holiness: A Personal and Churchwide Journey to Revival*, reveals the following:

**“In today’s world, the missing element is profound spiritual cleansing in the seven crucial areas of every believer and church. While this study brings deep conviction and repentance, it is filled with grace and hope.”**

Across our state, the Georgia Baptist churches that are making personal and corporate prayer a priority are seeing spiritual renewal. Pastor, will you and your leadership resolve to make prayer a priority in your life and the life of your church?

- ▶ **Bibliography of books on prayer:**

*Power Through Prayer*: Bounds, E M (1979); *Saved, Certain and Transformed*: Frizzell, Greg (2011); *Come to the Lord’s Table*: King, Claude (2009)

For further assistance, contact Marty Youngblood, State Missionary in Prayer/Spiritual Awakening, at [myoungblood@gabaptist.org](mailto:myoungblood@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [prayer.gabaptist.org](http://prayer.gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5243.

## Spiritual Renewal – Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual Renewal is a common goal for many churches in Georgia. In order for leaders and their churches to begin this process of renewal, Christ-centered discipleship must be a focus. As we focus on Christ and learning His teachings, our prayer is that spiritual transformation in the heart and lives of our people will take place. In the newly released book, *Transformational Discipleship*, the authors contend that, “There is a discipleship deficiency in most churches resulting in a lack of transformation.”<sup>1</sup> One way to give depth to transformation resulting in spiritual renewal is to focus on spiritual disciplines.

The spiritual disciplines include, but are not limited to: Bible study, prayer, worship, evangelism, serving, stewardship, fasting, silence, journaling, and learning.

The purpose of spiritual disciplines is to develop Godliness. We are to discipline ourselves for the purpose of Godliness (1 Timothy 4:7). Don Whitney writes in his book, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, “The Spiritual Disciplines are those personal and corporate disciplines that promote spiritual growth. They are the habits of devotion and experiential Christianity that have been practiced by the people of God since biblical times.”<sup>2</sup> The *Transformational Discipleship* authors state, “The disciplines are activities that give time and space for the Spirit to give understanding about the truth presented in the Bible. When believers engage in spiritual activities, the Spirit can speak and move in our hearts. The disciplines give a place or structure for transformational growth to occur.”<sup>3</sup>

Leading congregations to utilize the spiritual disciplines in their lives will assist in the journey of spiritual renewal and Christian maturity.

- For more information on spiritual disciplines, refer to the following resources:
- *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald S. Whitney (NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1991)
  - *The Center for Biblical Spirituality*, Donald S. Whitney, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, <http://biblicalspirituality.org>;
  - *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow*, Eric Geiger, Michael Kelley, Phillip Nation (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2012)

(Endnotes)

- 1 Eric Geiger, Michael Kelley, Phillip Nation, *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman 2012), 16.
- 2 Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991), 17
- 3 *Transformational Discipleship*, 120.

**For more information visit the Discipleship/Spiritual Renewal web site at [dm.gabaptist.org](http://dm.gabaptist.org) or contact Alan Folsom, State Missionary in Discipleship/Spiritual Renewal at [afolsom@gabaptist.org](mailto:afolsom@gabaptist.org), or call 770-936-5288.**

## Spiritual Renewal – Connecting Women to Missions

▶ [Oneinprayer.net](http://Oneinprayer.net) is the new Georgia Woman's Missionary Union and Women's Enrichment Ministries (WMU & WEM) web-based prayer initiative providing a monthly prayer focus, thoughts, resources, and prayer requests. A weekly reminder, devotion, and prayer are sent every Monday morning to all who subscribe to this new website. Each Wednesday updates are provided for "Listening and Responding to God," offering insight into the names and attributes of God. The Georgia Baptist Women's Spring Event is designed for all Georgia women who desire a deeper walk with Jesus Christ. The conferences and worship sessions provide in-depth Bible study, missions inspiration, tools for sharing one's faith, help in understanding the importance of authentic relationships, and more.

▶ A statewide prayer retreat for all Georgia Baptist women is provided each September through the ministry of WMU & WEM. The retreat is held at Pinnacle Retreat Center in the serenity of the beautiful Northeast Georgia mountains. This setting provides the perfect environment for women to seek God and respond to His voice. The prayer retreat emphasizes praying for spiritual lostness in Georgia and around the world.

▶ The Georgia Missionary Parents Fellowship (GMPF) serves to offer encouragement, support, and spiritual enrichment to parents of Southern Baptist missionaries who have ties to Georgia. A GMPF retreat is held each November and is open to any missionary parent.

▶ Pinnacle Retreat Center, a ministry of WMU & WEM, is a year-round, full-service facility located in Clayton. Nestled at the foot of Pinnacle Mountain, the 47-acre campus offers a peaceful setting, scenic beauty, and activities for all ages. Pinnacle is the ideal retreat center for church group retreats. Visit [www.pinnacletreatcenter.com](http://www.pinnacletreatcenter.com) to learn more.

**For further assistance, contact WMU & WEM at [wmu-wem@gabaptist.org](mailto:wmu-wem@gabaptist.org); visit the web site at [www.georgiawmu.org](http://www.georgiawmu.org), or call 770.936.5321.**

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## Spiritual Renewal – Prayer

The personal daily study and meditation of God’s Word coupled with biblical obedience is essential in deepening and sustaining spiritual renewal. The priority of God’s Word is foundational for all spiritual disciplines.

The late A. W. Tozer identifies the significance of biblical obedience in this classic quote: “The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.”

The Bible reminds us that the discipline of “biblical meditation” is essential to living a life of personal obedience that leads to spiritual renewal in our lives, and in the churches across Georgia.

“But His delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalms 1:2-3

Henry Blackaby says that, “Our problem is we read without meditation. . . Meditation is that moment when God confronts you with the truth about Himself. It is that moment when you go into the presence of God and let God discuss it with you until you know exactly how to respond to Him, however long it takes.”

Pastor, will you and your leadership resolve to make biblical obedience a greater priority in your life and in the life of your church?

► Bibliography of Books on Biblical Obedience:

- *Fresh Encounter: God’s Plan for Your Spiritual Awakening*: Blackaby, Blackaby and King (2009);
- *Biblical Meditation for Spiritual Breakthrough*: Elmer L. Towns (1998)
- *Waiting on God*: Andrew Murray (Classic)

For further assistance, contact Marty Youngblood, State Missionary in Discipleship/Spiritual Renewal, at [myoungblood@gabaptist.org](mailto:myoungblood@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [prayer.gabaptist.org](http://prayer.gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5243.

## Spiritual Renewal – Prayer and Fasting

Fasting is a principle taught by Jesus. Matthew 6:16 states, “When you fast...” He did not say, “if” you fast. Jesus also said fasting would resume after His ascension into heaven (Mark 2:20).

*Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Mathew 6:16-18 (NKJV)*

Andrew Murray has said of prayer and fasting, “Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, and confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the Kingdom of God.”

### **Benefits of Fasting**

- ▶ Humbled heart – I Peter 5:5
- ▶ Life’s priorities are clearer – Matthew 6:33
- ▶ Balanced life – I Corinthians 14:33
- ▶ Selfish ambition and pride revealed – Philemon 2:3-4
- ▶ Sensitivity to God’s Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23
- ▶ Overcoming Spiritual darkness – Mark 9:29

It has been said that, “Fasting is not so much about food as it is about focus. Neither is it so much about saying no to the body as it is about saying yes to the Spirit.”

**Remember:** Fasting is not “earning” an answer to prayer. God cannot be blackmailed by human effort. God wants to answer our prayers and He answers out of grace. Fasting simply prepares us for God’s answer. *Fast only if your health*

*allows it at this time.* If you are able to do only a partial fast - do it in faith and it will honor your intentions.

*Pastor*, will you and your leadership resolve to make prayer and fasting a greater priority in your life and in the life of your church?

**For further assistance, contact Marty Youngblood, State Missionary in Discipleship and Spiritual Renewal Ministries, at [myoungblood@gabaptist.org](mailto:myoungblood@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [prayer.gabaptist.org](http://prayer.gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5243.**

**Bibliography of books on prayer and fasting:**

- ▶ The Power of Prayer and Fasting: Ronnie W. Floyd (2010)
- ▶ The Daniel Fast for Spiritual Breakthrough: Elmer L. Towns (2012)
- ▶ A Guide to Prayer and Fasting: John R. Harris (2009) (PDF download available at [www.gabaptist.org](http://www.gabaptist.org))
- ▶ 7 Basic Steps to Successful Fasting and Prayer: Bill Bright (1995)





## Kingdom Generosity

The financial resources of any organization are primary tools for accomplishing vision and mission.

2 Corinthians 8:2, 5 | How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality ... And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

[5smoothstones.gabaptist.org](http://5smoothstones.gabaptist.org)

**Reducing** Lostness in Georgia **Together**

# Kingdom Generosity

The financial resources of any organization are primary tools for accomplishing vision and mission. The Georgia Baptist Convention realizes how important it is that as an organization of churches we make the following resolutions:

- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention of churches resolve to challenge, equip, and pray for whole-hearted stewardship of our people, which we believe will result in generous Kingdom giving. The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to be grateful in receiving the financial gifts from member churches.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to be transparent in all things financial and to the best of our ability to simplify the budget process.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to treasure all receipts as a sacred trust and to be effective and efficient in the expenditure of mission dollars at home and across the world.

**For further assistance with the stone of Kingdom generosity, contact Buck Burch at 770.936.5241, or email [bburch@gabaptist.org](mailto:bburch@gabaptist.org).**

## 2 Corinthians 8:2, 5

***How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.***

***And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.***



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## Kingdom Generosity – Stewardship

Generosity reflects the very heart of God. It is a biblically-based precept that should be taught to God's people. As the primary spiritual leader of the church, the pastor should model generosity in his own giving of time, talent, and treasure. He should integrate the teaching of generosity into church discipleship. The Georgia Baptist Convention is ready to assist a pastor and church leaders to enhance the focus on Kingdom Generosity and biblical stewardship of God's resources for Kingdom work.

The Bible often talks about giving, but a hallmark of generosity is giving when it is a challenge to give. The Cooperative Program is the most effective tool for giving to missions on the local, national, and international levels simultaneously. The process of giving generously is an attitude of the heart whereby we express a love for God as He uses us to bless the nations.

- ▶ Generosity is an expression of God's grace.
- ▶ Generosity is giving when it is challenging. Paul said the Macedonian church was experiencing an "ordeal of affliction" and "deep poverty" (2 Corinthians 8:2), "yet they gave beyond their ability."
- ▶ Generosity produces joy.
- ▶ Generosity is an expression of spiritual wealth.

The Georgia Baptist Convention offers consultation and stewardship materials free of charge to Georgia Baptist churches for a Kingdom Generosity emphasis.

For further assistance, contact Buck Burch, State Missionary in Cooperative Program/Stewardship at [bburch@gabaptist.org](mailto:bburch@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [cp.gabaptist.org](http://cp.gabaptist.org), or call 770-936.5241.

## Kingdom Generosity – Church Finances

Church Financial Services (CFS) seeks to teach generosity through regional and local church workshops relating to planning financial support. As part of its ministry, CFS challenges churches to be generous with church staff. There are some steps the church can take to ease the financial burdens of its employees without costing the church any additional money.

CFS teaches the importance of the church providing adequate health care coverage for the church staff and their families. CFS encourages churches to offer coverage as a tax-free benefit as opposed to the church employee paying the health insurance themselves as taxable income. Churches are encouraged to consider offering Section 105 Medical Reimbursement Plans to help cover the high deductibles and co-insurance costs for employees.

With a growing number of church employees retiring at below poverty levels, CFS strongly encourages churches to provide a minimum church retirement contribution of 10% to each employee's retirement account at GuideStone Financial Resources of the SBC. While the 10% funding will not provide a sufficient level of retirement income without an employee contribution, it should increase the employee's retirement income above poverty level. The Georgia Baptist Convention models this spirit of generosity by offering GuideStone survivor protection benefits and disability income benefits for many active participants in the Church Retirement Plan.

CFS also helps churches understand the importance of establishing the tax-free benefit of reimbursing church staff for ministry-related expenses. An accountable reimbursement plan reduces the chances of an IRS audit over a car allowance and the tax saving benefits are huge.

For further assistance, contact Keith Hamilton, State Missionary in Church Financial Services, at [khamilton@gabaptist.org](mailto:khamilton@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [churchfinancialservices.org](http://churchfinancialservices.org), or call 770.936.5295.

## Kingdom Generosity – Resources

▶ *GBC Missions Calculator*: You can download a Microsoft Excel version of a missions budget calculator that shows exactly where your church's missions offerings go when you give through the Cooperative Program. This is a useful tool for planning missional giving with an Acts 1:8 approach. Visit [www.gabaptist.org/cpcd](http://www.gabaptist.org/cpcd) and click on "GBC Missions Calculator" to get this tool. Several promotional videos for Cooperative Program are also available for viewing or downloading.

▶ *Building a Budget Bridge*: Budget development lies at the center of a complex matrix of church activities. This step-by-step guide assists a church budgeting group with the process of developing a church budget. The budgeting group will work through four actions: to seek spiritual direction; to consult with church leaders; to build congregational acceptance; and to encourage personal acceptance. This approach is built from the story of Joshua, chapter 3.

▶ *UNlimited: God's Grace and Glory* is a three-Sunday stewardship emphasis that provides local congregations an opportunity to impact this world. When a local church conducts this emphasis, members will be reminded about the stewardship responsibilities in the areas of the gospel, our giftedness, and our need to be generous stewards. The materials include a two month preparation guide for the campaign.

**For further assistance or to order resources listed above, contact Buck Burch, State Missionary in Cooperative Program/Stewardship, at [bburch@gabaptist.org](mailto:bburch@gabaptist.org); visit the web site at [cp.gabaptist.org](http://cp.gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5241.**

## **Kingdom Generosity** – Accountable Reimbursement

Church Financial Services seeks to teach Kingdom Generosity through regional and local church financial support workshops and resource materials. Often churches do not realize how easy it is to bless their ministerial staff financially by structuring the staff compensation within current Internal Revenue Service guidelines. The changes might appear to be minor, but the financial impact of the changes is huge for the minister.

Traditionally, the church has provided the minister with a car allowance. The car allowance was designed to help him pay for his church travel expenses. While the IRS states a car allowance is permissible, it is considered taxable income to the minister. By using the car allowance approach, the minister must itemize his income taxes in order to take a partial deduction for ministry expenses. This is not the best approach to bless the church staff.

The IRS preferred approach is for the church to establish an accountable reimbursement plan. This plan is a simple way for the church to bless its staff financially. The church can adopt an accountable reimbursement plan like the following example. The simple approach is the minister turns in a monthly church business travel log and the church reimburses him the IRS standard mileage rate. The reimbursement is tax-free for the minister and there is not any IRS reporting requirement for the church. What a blessing of kingdom generosity!

► *Sample Accountable Reimbursement Policy*

In accordance with IRS regulations 1.162-17 and 1.274-5T(f), the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church hereby establishes a reimbursement policy for all ministers and employees with the following terms and conditions:

The church will reimburse only reasonable ministry-related business expenses incurred by a minister or employee. Subject to budget limitations, such expenses will include:

Business use of automobile, up to the current IRS standard mileage rate;

Business travel expenses away from home; Convention, conference and workshop expenses; educational expenses, if otherwise qualified as an itemized deduction and within IRS limits; subscriptions, books, and tapes, if related to ministry or employment; entertainment/hospitality expenses, if business connection requirement is met; cell phone charges if cell phone is required by the church.

The minister or employee will account for each allowable expense in writing at least every 60 days. Documentation will include the amount, date, place, and the business purpose of each expense. A receipt or travel log will accompany the documentation.

The minister or employee will return advances that exceed actual business expenses within 120 days.

**Additional information about Church Financial Services can be viewed at [www.churchfinancialservices.org](http://www.churchfinancialservices.org), or by contacting us at 1.800.746.4422 Ext. 295, or email [khamilton@gabaptist.org](mailto:khamilton@gabaptist.org).**

## Kingdom Generosity – Retirement Contributions

Church Financial Services seeks to teach Kingdom generosity by encouraging churches to provide a retirement contribution benefit for their ministers of at least 10% of the minister's salary and housing allowance to the Church Retirement Plan at GuideStone Financial Resources of the SBC. Many financial planners agree ten percent of an employee's compensation is the starting point of a solid retirement future if the employee is willing to reduce his pay by another five percent as a retirement contribution, too. The Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) is concerned about the financial security of its older ministers and their widows. Currently, over 138 Georgia Baptist retired ministers, or their widows, are living at or below poverty level.

The GBC not only encourages member churches to do their part, but the Convention has taken on a huge financial commitment to provide disability income and survivor protection benefits for ministers and other church employees. GBC provides a disability income benefit of up to \$500 monthly, and the survivor protection benefit up to \$100,000 at no cost to the ministers and qualified church employees contributing to the Church Retirement Plan. By practicing Kingdom generosity, the GBC and GuideStone Financial Resources have agreed to share the monthly bill of \$24.50 for this benefit, so that the minister and qualified church employees can focus more on ministry and less on personal financial concerns.

**For additional information about the Church Retirement Plan and the added protection benefits, please contact Church Financial Services, 1.800.746.4422, Ext. 295, [khamilton@gabaptist.org](mailto:khamilton@gabaptist.org). Further information is available at [www.churchfinancialservices.org](http://www.churchfinancialservices.org).**



# Kingdom Generosity – Outwardly-Focused Giving

## **Ministry-Based Budgeting**

Kingdom generosity is outwardly-focused giving. It is Great Commission Budgeting. Budgeting, according to the Great Commission, is more than rearranging items in the budget or changing formats. It is aligning generosity with the commission to make disciples of all nations. You will learn how to prepare your leadership, prepare a budget planning group, plan spiritual enrichment emphases, and review your current budget procedures with this tool.

▶ This material is available to your church free of charge along with an online video to help you with implementation (<http://tinyurl.com/gcbudgeting>).

## **Traction: Living in Sync with God**

This latest publication related to generosity and missions offers an opportunity for people to make significant progress in their journey with the Lord! Members will be given the opportunity to remember, respond, return, and rejoice by realigning life with the Lord.

▶ Because of your Cooperative Program gifts, each GBC church can receive, free of charge, a copy of the latest Traction Leader Preparation Guide with preparation instructions, resources, lesson plans, printable information, and bonus materials in PDF or Word format. To receive your copy, email Buck Burch at [bburch@gabaptist.org](mailto:bburch@gabaptist.org) or call 770.936.5241.

## **Seasonal Missions Offerings throughout the Year**

▶ **Cooperative Program:** <http://cpmissions.net>

Working together, Southern Baptists see almost one million new believers baptized each year. Your regular gifts through the Cooperative Program help to further this work by sending state, national and international missionaries, as well as supporting six seminaries and addressing social/moral concerns through the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

► **Annie Armstrong: [www.anniearmstrong.com](http://www.anniearmstrong.com)**

Over 1,300 new churches are planted through the efforts of over 5,300 North American missionaries who depend on your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

► **Mission Georgia: [www.missiongeorgia.org](http://www.missiongeorgia.org)**

With over 7 million lost people in the state of Georgia, your state missionaries are at work on college campuses, as chaplains in various social institutions, as church planters and leaders of church revitalization through a diverse array of ministries. Your Cooperative Program gifts and Mission Georgia Offering help to meet these needs.

► **Lottie Moon: [www.imb.org/offering](http://www.imb.org/offering)**

Through the International Mission Board, Southern Baptists support almost 5,000 missionaries working with churches to reach the unreached people groups around the world. Your Cooperative Program gifts and Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings are crucial for this work.

**For further information about Kingdom Generosity, contact Buck Burch at [bburch@gabaptist.org](mailto:bburch@gabaptist.org) or call 770.936.5241.**



**CHURCH  
REVITALIZATION**

## **Church Revitalization**

The Georgia Baptist Convention consists of 3,620 churches and missions. These churches, large and small, are to be the representation of Christ to our culture.

**Matthew 16:18** | And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**5smoothstones.gabaptist.org**

**Reducing** Lostness in Georgia **Together**

## Church Revitalization

The Georgia Baptist Convention consists of 3,604 churches. These churches, large and small, are to be the representation of Christ to our culture. The Georgia Baptist Convention realizes how important it is that as an organization of churches we make the following resolutions:

- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to establish a mentoring network to engage plateaued or declining churches through the ministries of our healthiest congregations in order to revitalize our churches.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to engage pastors with practical and current leadership development training opportunities.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to equip and structure its state missions staff to focus on church revitalization.

***For further assistance with the stone of church revitalization, contact Tim Smith in Sunday School/Open Group Ministries at 770.936.5287, or email [tsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:tsmith@gabaptist.org); Alan Folsom in Discipleship Ministries at 770.936.5288, or email [afolsom@gabaptist.org](mailto:afolsom@gabaptist.org); or Jon Duncan in Music/Worship Ministries at 770.936.5262, or email [jduncan@gabaptist.org](mailto:jduncan@gabaptist.org); or Benny Pate in Leadership Ministries at 770.936.5277 or email [bpate@gabaptist.org](mailto:bpate@gabaptist.org).***

### Matthew 16:18

***And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***



**5** smooth  
**5** IVE  
stones

## Church Revitalization

### – Connecting Women to Missions

- ▶ Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and Women's Enrichment Ministry (WEM) is committed to developing effective leaders who will be missions catalysts in churches and associations across our state. Training opportunities are offered each August for age-level WMU leaders in Anglo, African-American, Hispanic, Korean and Multi-cultural congregations. Consultations, coaching, networking and leadership training are also provided for Women's Enrichment Ministry leaders.
- ▶ WMU equips new and existing churches by creating a tailored missions involvement strategy. Six months of free curriculum is available for new age-level groups upon request.
- ▶ WMU and WEM provides a customized, comprehensive ministry strategy for women in the local church.
- ▶ WMU and WEM offers online training resources and webinars for church and associational age-level WMU and WEM leaders.
- ▶ WMU and WEM connects women and churches to local and global mission opportunities. Resources for involving the church in the eradication of human trafficking can be found on our website: [georgiawmu.org](http://georgiawmu.org)

For further assistance, contact WMU and WEM at [wmu-wem@gabaptist.org](mailto:wmu-wem@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [www.georgiawmu.org](http://www.georgiawmu.org), or call 770.936.5321.

## Church Revitalization – Disciple-Making

One step a church can take to experience revitalization is to develop an intentional disciple-making strategy based on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). The purpose or command is to “make disciples” (v. 19). The process of making disciples is to *go*, *baptize*, and *teach*. *Go* is the priority and implies the task of evangelism (v.19). *Baptize* represents conversion and commitment of one’s life to Christ (v. 19). *Teaching* is the task of instructing converts to obey the teachings of Christ (v. 20). By focusing on a Great Commission disciple-making strategy, the church should experience vibrant spiritual growth which will lead to church revitalization.

Discipleship Ministries can assist with Church Revitalization in the following ways:

### DiscipleEquip Seminars

- ▶ A two-hour seminar encourages church leaders to focus on making and equipping disciples. Seminar sessions include: Being a Disciple-Making Church; Making and Equipping Children, Youth, and Adult Disciples. Check our web site at [ssog.gabaptist.org](http://ssog.gabaptist.org) for current offerings.
- ▶ Contact Jonathan Jordan, State Missionary in Discipleship Ministries at [jjordan@gabaptist.org](mailto:jjordan@gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5271.

### Disciple-Making Evaluations/Consultations

- ▶ Discipleship Ministries offers a disciple-making evaluation/consultation session for becoming an effective disciple-making church.
- ▶ Contact Alan Folsom, State Missionary in Discipleship Ministries at [afolsom@gabaptist.org](mailto:afolsom@gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5288.

A great resource for Church Revitalization is *Fresh Encounter: Experiencing God’s Power for Spiritual Awakening*, by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King. It can be ordered at <http://lfw.co/HfFUuv>.

For further assistance, visit the web site at [dm.gabaptist.org](http://dm.gabaptist.org).

## Church Revitalization – Lay Renewal

A great way to engage your church in ministry is Lay Renewal. The *Church Renewal Journey* is one of Men's Ministries opportunities that helps facilitate church revitalization and revival. The *Church Renewal Journey* offers a series of five weekend events that can be held successively over a period of months or years, or as a one-time event. Lay volunteers from across Georgia and the Southeast help facilitate these weekends.

Testimonies and generous acts of love and ministry are key components to the revitalization process offered through the Church Renewal Journey. Your church may begin the process through any of the following:

- ▶ Lay Renewal "Awakening" Weekend
- ▶ Lay Ministry "Equipping" Weekend
- ▶ Marketplace Evangelism "Commissioning" Weekend
- ▶ Prayer "Empowering" Weekend
- ▶ The Acts 1:8 "Sending" Weekend

Baptist Men, Royal Ambassadors and Challengers are the on-mission connections for men, young men, and boys that will help revitalize the commitment of church members through missions and mission action in the following ways:

- ▶ Teaching Royal Ambassadors summer campers at Camp Kaleo in Bible storying
- ▶ Training men to lead Royal Ambassadors through prayer, mission study, camp craft training, Bible knowledge, and Bible storying
- ▶ Providing events as outreach to men and boys: Racer Derby, Camporee, Fisharama/archery, Summer Camp, and Royal Ambassador Congress. These conferences are offered as Church, Associational, Regional and Statewide Men's Conferences

For further assistance, contact Glen McCall, State Missionary in Men's Ministries, at [gmcall@gabaptist.org](mailto:gmcall@gabaptist.org), or Mike Flowers, State Missionary in Men's Ministries at [mflowers@gabaptist.org](mailto:mflowers@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [mens.gabaptist.org](http://mens.gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5257.

## **Church Revitalization** – Conference Centers

Georgia Baptist Conference Centers in Toccoa (northeast Georgia) and Norman Park (south Georgia) serve associations and churches by providing retreat facilities where people can seek Jesus. Both locations offer settings where 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, spiritual renewal, and growth.

Pastors can contact either Conference Center to book a complimentary two day, one night retreat. A member of the Conference Center team will assist you with your reservation. Plan now for your personal retreat to determine God's plan for using Spiritual Renewal, Kingdom Generosity, Church Revitalization, Church Planting, and Authentic Evangelism to undergird the vision of your church.

▶ **Georgia Baptist Conference Center-Toccoa**  
**Bill Wheeler, Director**  
**[bwheeler@gabaptist.org](mailto:bwheeler@gabaptist.org)**  
**706.886.3133**  
**[www.mytoccoa.com](http://www.mytoccoa.com)**

▶ **Georgia Baptist Conference Center-Norman Park**  
**Brian Blackburn, Director**  
**[bblackburn@gabaptist.org](mailto:bblackburn@gabaptist.org)**  
**229.769.3011**  
**[normanpark.gabaptist.org](http://normanpark.gabaptist.org)**



## Church Revitalization – Kingdom-Minded Men

Motivating men to be kingdom-minded is a key to Church Revitalization. Men who have the commitment of Joshua 24:15 (“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”) will engage their families in the life and ministry of the church which will bring about revitalization.

▶ Consider these Men’s Ministries opportunities to help bring life and vitality to your church:

▶ Church Lay Renewal Weekend – Five different topics are offered for these weekend sessions. They are:

- Lay Renewal “Awakening” Weekend
- Lay Ministry “Equipping” Weekend
- Marketplace Evangelism “Commissioning” Weekend
- Prayer “Empowering” Weekend; and The Acts 1:8 “Sending” Weekend

▶ Building a Strong Ministry for Men, Young Men and Boys – First Baptist Church, Ty Ty, Jan. 26, 2013. This conference is for all men and will help them find their place of service within the church. This conference covers the following and can be scheduled at your church:

- Developing a comprehensive team-led approach to your men’s ministry
- Developing leadership for missions and ministry through your men, young men, and boys (Baptist Men, Challengers, and Royal Ambassadors).

▶ Built For Significance Men’s Retreat/Royal Racers Derby – Camp Kaleo, Feb. 15-16, 2013. This can be scheduled at a local church.

▶ Marriage Makers Conference with Paul and Sandra Freed – South Central Georgia, Feb. 15-16, 2013 (location TBA).

▶ Legacy Builders Retreat for Associations or Churches – Schedule one to fit your calendar and location. It’s a great way to refocus and revitalize your church as men make commitments to become Godly leaders in the home, the church and the community.

▶ On Mission Connection (OMC) – Schedule this event with the churches of your association. An OMC will revitalize the spirit of missions as it will connect churches with NAMB, IMB, and State Missions.

▶ Camp Kaleo in Forsyth is a great environment for men's events, church wide events, or for children and youth camps and conferences.

**Visit [www.mens.gabaptist.org](http://www.mens.gabaptist.org), or email Glen McCall, State Missionary in Men's Ministries at [gmccall@gabaptist.org](mailto:gmccall@gabaptist.org), or Mike Flowers at [mflowers@gabaptist.org](mailto:mflowers@gabaptist.org), or call 1.800.746.4422, ext. 256 or Camp Kaleo at 478.994.5333.**

## Church Revitalization – Men's Retreats

Leadership for men is not an option. It's what they were created for and called to do. The Psalmist prayed in Psalm 85:6, "Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?" Consider conducting a men's retreat in your church to revitalize and encourage them to take leadership roles. Plan some dates on your calendar and call Men's Ministries to schedule the following:

▶ **Legacy Builders Men's Retreat:** Equips men to be Godly leaders in the home, church, workplace, and community – Meetings are typically held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, although they can be customized to meet individual church needs.

▶ **Pastor's Patriots: Mission Possible Men's Retreat:** Designed to help your men come alongside the pastor and leaders to fulfill God's vision and goals for the church. Session titles include: "Leaders Lead," "Successful Servant Leadership," "Mountain Movers - Men of Faith," and "As For Me and My House." This could be scheduled on a weekend or a Saturday.

**For further assistance, contact Glen McCall in Men's Ministries at 770.936.5257, or email [gmccall@gtabaptist.org](mailto:gmccall@gtabaptist.org).**

## Church Revitalization – Leadership

The purpose of Church Revitalization and Leadership Ministries is “to equip key leaders to follow Jesus in leadership, proclamation, and intentionally creating life-transforming communities.” This is done through four primary areas:

- ▶ **Leader Development:** Leadership must combine the twin components of spiritual content and the proper skill set. Psalm 78:72 speaks of David leading with a pure heart and skillful hands. Leadership Ministries has resources to help in both areas. This growth should occur with vocational ministers and other key leaders.
- ▶ **Strategy Planning:** Change occurs rapidly in the 21st Century. No longer can the conversation be about long-range planning. There can be a definite plan to bring all of a church’s resources into the most favorable position to do the most good for the Kingdom. Leadership Ministries has tools available to help churches discover their values, purpose, and vision.
- ▶ **Proclamation:** Leadership Ministries provides materials and hands-on workshops to develop and enhance the skills of proclamation. An annual Priority of Preaching workshop and several specific presentations about preaching are available. The sermon website, [www.PastorLife.com](http://www.PastorLife.com), is also administered through this ministry area.
- ▶ **Life Transforming Communities:** The end result of leadership efforts is a revitalized community of Christ followers – the church. Again, materials, consultation, and an on-going process of leadership development seek to increase the possibility of Christ-honoring communities.

**For further information, contact Benny Pate, State Missionary at 770.936.5278 or email him at [bpate@gabaptist.org](mailto:bpate@gabaptist.org).**



## Church Planting

With the rapidly growing diverse population of Georgia, new churches are an invaluable tool to reach our state with the Gospel.

**Acts 2:46-47** | And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

[5smoothstones.gabaptist.org](http://5smoothstones.gabaptist.org)

**Reducing** Lostness in Georgia **Together**

# Church Planting

With the rapidly growing diverse population of Georgia, new churches are an invaluable tool to reach our state with the Gospel. The Georgia Baptist Convention realizes how important it is that as an organization of churches we make the following resolutions:

- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to establish a church planting network to intentionally plant churches that will in turn plant other churches.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to broaden the strategies and opportunities for effective church planting in Georgia, including calling upon existing churches to become involved in church planting.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to equip and structure its state missions staff to focus on church planting.

***For further assistance with the stone of church planting, contact Butch Butcher in Church Planting Ministries at 770.936.5227 or email [bbutcher@gabaptist.org](mailto:bbutcher@gabaptist.org); or call Jerry Baker in Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries, at 770.936.5217, or email [jbaker@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbaker@gabaptist.org).***

## Acts 2:46-47

***And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.***



## Church Planting – Reaching Communities

Ways to be involved in Church Planting in Georgia:

- ▶ Provide prayer support:
  - Engage in strategic intercessory prayer.
  - Become a part of a church plant prayer team.
  - Go to [gatracking.org](http://gatracking.org) for monthly prayer requests.
- ▶ Provide resources: people, places, material, equipment.
- ▶ Conduct evangelistic or mission oriented projects.
- ▶ Have a leader and wife provide pastoral care for a church planter family.
- ▶ Send a church planter couple to a marriage enrichment retreat once each year – provide expenses and childcare.
- ▶ Provide childcare once monthly for a church planter couple to go out on a date.
- ▶ Regularly and intentionally call out church planters from within your congregation.
- ▶ Invite a few interested families to be a part of a church planting effort in your community/area. They can go temporarily or permanently.
- ▶ Invite a church planter to preach or give a testimony in a church service.
- ▶ Provide financial assistance on a monthly basis for a church plant.
- ▶ Help locate or provide jobs for church planters, families, and team members.
- ▶ Provide medical insurance for a church planter family or liability insurance for a church plant.

For further assistance, contact Butch Butcher, State Missionary in Church Planting Ministries at [bbutcher@gabaptist.org](mailto:bbutcher@gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5227, or Jerry Baker, State Missionary in Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries at [jbaker@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbaker@gabaptist.org) or call 770.936.5217. Visit the Church Planting Ministries web site at [cpm.gabaptist.org](http://cpm.gabaptist.org). Visit the Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries web site at [icp.gabaptist.org](http://icp.gabaptist.org).

## Church Planting – Reaching Communities

### ► Ways to Be Involved in Church Planting in Georgia:

- Provide office space for a church planter.
- Seek homes from within your congregation for the church planter to conduct evangelistic small group Bible studies.
- Businesses owned by church families could offer space for church planting, small groups, or team meetings.

### ► Youth, college students, or adults can assist a church plant by going on a church planting mission trip which could include:

- Vacation Bible School
- Backyard Bible Club
- Sports camp
- Block party
- Surveys
- Scripture distribution
- Evangelistic visitation

### ► Other Ways to reach communities:

- Include a church planter couple in your staff Christmas party.
- Actively look for unreached people or affinity groups in your community that need to be engaged through a new church plant.
- Have your church provide a “baby shower” for the new church plant nursery.
- Share reusable Vacation Bible School materials and props with a local church plant.
- Lead your church to partner with other churches and associations to plant a new church.
- Start an outreach Bible study to become a new church.
- Give a church planter a gift card for his family.

For further assistance, contact Butch Butcher, State Missionary in Church Planting Ministries at [bbutcher@gabaptist.org](mailto:bbutcher@gabaptist.org), or 770.936.5227, or Jerry Baker, State Missionary in Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries at [jbaker@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbaker@gabaptist.org) or 770.936.5217. Visit the Church Planting Ministries web site at [cpm.gabaptist.org](http://cpm.gabaptist.org). Visit the Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries web site at [icp.gabaptist.org](http://icp.gabaptist.org).



## Church Planting – Involve College Students

Wherever you are in Georgia, you are not far from a college campus. If you are not far from a campus, you are also not far from a Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) and one of your State Missionaries who serves as a Campus Minister. Here are some ways college students and Campus Ministers can assist you in planting a new church:

Students are a never-ending source of energy. Add a college student to one of your survey or visitation teams and you will add freshness and a young perspective to the task at hand. It is important to NOT send out college students into your community by themselves if they are not familiar with the area. It will not give prospective church members confidence in your church if the students' only response to a question is, "I don't know – I don't live here."

Students bring passion to a new church setting. Students love to be part of something new AND something they think is going to "make a difference." Students are natural pioneers – they start all over every semester. Starting something new and the dynamics of change don't inhibit them at all. They want to know that their contributions are needed and appreciated.

Students bring giftedness to a new church setting. It is amazing the gifts students possess. Students have musical talent and don't always have a place to develop it. Students love children but don't often have an opportunity to be near them. Students also love senior adults but are rarely in the same place together. Almost anything you can think of as a need in your new church setting can be met by a collegian who is interested in helping.

▶ Contact your nearest Baptist Campus Minister. He or she can help match up your needs and prayer concerns with students who need, and are praying for, places of service.

**To learn more about Collegiate Ministries, contact Joe Graham, State Missionary, at 770.936.5250, email [jgraham@gabaptist.org](mailto:jgraham@gabaptist.org), or visit [www.gabcm.org](http://www.gabcm.org).**

# Church Planting – Goal: Your Church Involved

**A Supporting Church:** Praying, participating and/or providing – alone or with multiple churches

**A Sending Church:** Taking the initiative to plant a new church in an area of need

**A Multiplying Church:** Playing a mentoring role in the church planting process – developing planters and starting multiple new churches

## How to Begin:

▶ Contact the GBC Research Office: Bryan Nowak – [bnowak@gabaptist.org](mailto:bnowak@gabaptist.org) or 770.936.5286

▶ Request up-to-date demographics in your community

▶ Take advantage of the Mapping Center for evangelism: names, addresses for zip codes, city, or ethnic group

▶ Contact Intercultural Church Planting or Church Planting Ministries to request a PROBE or LASER event in a community

PROBE: A half day of discovery of who is in a community and the need for a church plant

LASER: A one or two day discovery led by an ethnic missionary

▶ Attend a one day orientation in 2013 to discover more information about church planting – 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM at the Missions and Ministry Center in Duluth.

January 9

July 10

March 13

September 11

May 8

November 13

**Contact: Jerry Baker, State Missionary, Intercultural Church Planting and Missions Ministries – [jbaker@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbaker@gabaptist.org) or call 770.936.5217**

**Butch Butcher, State Missionary, Church Planting – [bbutcher@gabaptist.org](mailto:bbutcher@gabaptist.org) or call 770.396.5227**



## **Authentic Evangelism**

The highest privilege we have as Christ followers is to make His name known throughout the world.

Colossians 1:27 | To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

[5smoothstones.gabaptist.org](http://5smoothstones.gabaptist.org)  
**Reducing** Lostness in Georgia **Together**

# Authentic Evangelism

The highest privilege we have as Christ followers is to make His name known throughout the world. The Georgia Baptist Convention realizes how important it is that as an organization of churches we make the following resolutions:

- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to establish a commitment to prayer by our members and churches for the salvation of the more than 7 million people in Georgia who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to encourage our members and churches to engage in spiritual conversations with those who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ▶ The Georgia Baptist Convention resolves to equip and structure its state missions staff to focus on authentic evangelism.

***For further assistance with the stone of authentic evangelism, contact Steve Parr at 770.936.5285, or email [sparr@gabaptist.org](mailto:sparr@gabaptist.org).***

## Colossians 1:27

***To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***



5 smooth  
5 LIVE  
stones

# Authentic Evangelism

## – Sunday School/Open Groups

Authentic Evangelism occurs when individual Christians share the message of Jesus with non-Christians. One of the best resources available for pastors and churches to encourage authentic evangelism is Sunday School classes and/or small group Bible studies.

Sunday School classes and small groups involve more people than any other organization in the church. In order for Sunday School classes or small groups to accomplish authentic evangelism they must:

- ▶ Identify those who need to be reached.
- ▶ Develop a system of tracking actions and results.
- ▶ Pray for them by name.
- ▶ Train the members of the class/group to share their faith.
- ▶ Plan for guests on Sunday.
- ▶ Plan special events for those who are hesitant to attend a church service.
- ▶ Enroll lost people in a Sunday School class or small group.
- ▶ Start new classes/groups to reach new people.

The state missionaries of Sunday School/Open Groups Ministries (SSOGM) can assist with resources as well as conferences and consultations to aid in developing an authentic evangelism strategy.

- ▶ *The POWER of 10* is a great way to identify, pray for and reach the lost through classes/groups. Visit [ssog.gabaptist.org](http://ssog.gabaptist.org) and download *The POWER of 10*.
- ▶ An additional free resource on the website is the *5 W's and an H of Evangelism*. These five-week Sunday School lessons/Bible studies will train class members to share their faith.
- ▶ Every August the SSOGM staff conducts numerous training events throughout the state. For more information and to register for these Sunday School training workshops, visit the website at [ssog.gabaptist.org](http://ssog.gabaptist.org).

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# Authentic Evangelism

## – Sunday School/Open Groups

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- ▶ Creating new classes and groups is one of the most effective ways to reach non-Christians. SSOGM has a mentoring process that establishes a relationship with a group of churches for three years. A result of this process is the creation of new classes and groups. For more information about the Sunday School Mentoring process contact the SSOGM office or speak with your local associational missionary.

For further assistance, contact Tim Smith, State Missionary in Sunday School/Open Group Ministries, at [tsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:tsmith@gabaptist.org), visit the web site at [ssog.gabaptist.org](http://ssog.gabaptist.org), or call 770.936.5287.

## Authentic Evangelism – Equipping Church Leaders

Your GBC Evangelism Ministries team is available to come to your church or association for the purpose of equipping church leaders to be effective in the following areas:

- ▶ Praying for the lost – Our research has proven that Georgia’s top evangelistic churches pray for the lost in their respective communities by name. We can provide resources to help you be effective in prayer outreach.
- ▶ Personal Evangelism Training – We can come to your church, or provide you with the tools to teach “iShare” or “The Three Minute Testimony.” This is vital because our recent research points out that Georgia Baptist churches that provided personal evangelism training baptized 20.6% more than those that did not provide the training.
- ▶ Event Evangelism - Our event evangelism strategist can work with your church to develop a systematic crowd-gathering strategy. Inviting community members to block/barn parties, car shows, musicals, wild game dinners, women’s banquets, Vacation Bible School, seasonal events, and hundreds of other possible activities can set the stage for an unchurched person to hear the Gospel. The North American Mission Board’s research on this topic revealed “significantly more highly effective churches sponsor evangelistic events than the lesser effective churches.”
- ▶ Service/Ministry Evangelism – Research has found that the GBC’s most effective churches provide community ministries with the goal of sharing the Gospel. We can assist you in getting started.
- ▶ Revival Preparation – The most recent research tells us that churches which have revival services baptized 27 percent more than those who did not. The key to success is in the preparation. We can provide churches (free of charge) with a revival preparation manual, or come to you and conduct a revival preparation seminar.
- ▶ Proclamation of the Gospel message – Preaching the Gospel remains the most important part of the local church’s mission. We can assist the pastor in such areas as giving an invitation and training altar counselors.

Reducing Lostness in Georgia Together

▶ Sunday School/Small Group Evangelism – Using The Power of Ten and other related materials, our team can assist your small groups to be more evangelistic. Our research proves that the most effective GBC churches connect small groups to evangelism. The groups are purposefully utilized as a source of outreach and assimilation as well as Bible study.

▶ Utilizing Social Media in Evangelism – We can assist you with the use of social media and the internet to connect and share the gospel with unbelievers in your community. Whether you realize it or not, your website has become the front door to your church.

These are just a few ways that you can be more intentionally evangelistic. Additionally, there are evangelism coaching sessions, webinars, and a daily evangelism oriented radio broadcast called NetWork (heard daily at 10 a.m. on [www.gbcradio.net](http://www.gbcradio.net)).

**For further assistance, contact Joel Southerland, State Missionary in Evangelism Ministries at 770.936.5236, or visit [evan.gabaptist.org](http://evan.gabaptist.org).**



## Authentic Evangelism – Involve Your Youth

One of the greatest evangelistic privileges and opportunities that Christians have in the world is sharing the gospel with teenagers. Studies have shown how effective evangelism can be with a person before the age of 18. It is vital for churches to have a burden for young people as they engage in evangelistic efforts.

► In order for Christians to develop this burden, they must:

- Pray for an evangelistic heart for teenagers in the community.
- Find accountability in other Christians (adults and other teenagers) who share this burden.
- Train individuals to effectively share the Gospel and their personal testimony.
- Commit to a specific day and time each week to engage in evangelism.
- Develop a list of people who need to hear the Gospel.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts and provide guidance.
- Act in obedience! Go and share the Gospel with the lost.

The State Missionaries in Youth Ministries can assist your church in developing an effective evangelistic strategy for reaching teenagers in your community.

► Several resources are available:

- Training for effective evangelism to teenagers.
- Peer mentoring from other Youth Ministers in the Student Ministry Network who have developed effective evangelism strategies.
- Evangelistic summer camps (Superwow, Impact, and Merge) that offer exciting environments for students to hear the Gospel and learn about sharing with others.
- Evangelistic winter conference (Move Conference) where students can hear the Gospel in the midst of incredible concerts and activities.
- Youth Ministry training conference (Southeast Conclave) to sharpen the ministry effectiveness and focus of your youth ministry team.

**Visit our website at [www.superwow.com](http://www.superwow.com) for more information on each of these resources and events, or contact Doug Couch, State Missionary, at 770.936.5235 or email [dcouch@gabaptist.org](mailto:dcouch@gabaptist.org).**

## Authentic Evangelism – Sunday School/Small Groups

If the 3,567 churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention are going to make an impact on the lostness in Georgia, then the 37,722 Sunday School classes must be involved! The best resources available to reach the lost in Georgia are the 132,027 Sunday School teachers/leaders and the 711,742 members of the Sunday School classes in Georgia.

One of the best ways to make disciples is through the Sunday School. If we are going to make disciples and reduce lostness in Georgia, it's going to take you, your class, and your church.

### What can YOU do?

- ▶ The *first* challenge is to ask every member to read the Bible every day. Nothing produces spiritual renewal like the discipline of daily Bible reading.
- ▶ The *second* challenge is for every Christian to share their faith every week. In order to reach the lost, we must begin having conversations with them about Jesus. Authentic evangelism occurs when we share the Good News of Jesus with the lost.

### What can YOUR CLASS do?

- ▶ The *third* challenge is for every class to conduct a fellowship activity every month for the purpose of fostering genuine friendships. Healthy classes are reaching and teaching, but they are also connecting with members and non-members. Church revitalization will take place when people are loved and are expressing love to others.
- ▶ The *fourth* challenge asks every class to do some type of mission project every quarter. Nothing expresses kingdom generosity more than giving of our time and our resources in order to reach others, whether it is locally or globally.

### What can YOUR CHURCH do?

- ▶ The *fifth* challenge is for every church to start one new class every year. If

every church would do this, there would be at least 300,000 new believers in GBC churches by 2020. The incubator for church planting is starting new classes.

▶ The *sixth* challenge is for every church to provide training for all leaders/teachers at least once during the year. The number one factor in determining the health and growth of a church is whether training is provided for leadership.

The Sunday School/Small Group staff is praying that between now and 2020, you, your class, and your church, will focus all your resources on accomplishing the goal of making disciples and reducing the lostness in Georgia.

**Contact Tim Smith, State Missionary, at 770.936.5287 or email [tsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:tsmith@gabaptist.org).**

## Authentic Evangelism

Authentic Evangelism can only be accomplished by being intentional. The number one key for any church's evangelistic success is that they must be evangelistic on purpose – Intentional Evangelism. In order to reach the lost, church members must always be sharing the Gospel.

Evangelism Ministries has discovered there are at least six essential strategies that will help your church be intentional about evangelism:

### **Pray for the lost:**

- ▶ Proclaim the Gospel from the pulpit
- ▶ Schedule evangelistic events, such as revivals
- ▶ Train the congregation in personal evangelism
- ▶ Use a team approach to evangelism, such as Sunday School
- ▶ Engage the community in evangelistic ministry and service

To find out more about the six essentials and to get ideas on evangelism leadership, visit our equipping site at [www.evangelismGA.com](http://www.evangelismGA.com).

The 2013 State Evangelism Conference is February 25-26 at First Baptist Church in Douglasville. At this conference, you will be informed and inspired to reach the lost in your community. Visit [www.evangelismGA.com](http://www.evangelismGA.com) for more details.

A new book titled, *Evangelistic Effectiveness: Difference Makers in Mindsets and Methods*, is available by contacting Evangelism Ministries at 770.936.5232. The book was written by Dr. Steve Parr and Dr. Thomas Crites. It is also available for download at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).