



**Evan Vela, NAMB
GenSend**



**Levi Skipper, GBMB
Church Strengthening**

EQUIP 2023

September 8-10

For \$25 you get 3 days of intentional large group discipleship, small group break out sessions, fun games, team building activities, teen approved food & everyone gets a T-shirt!

This 3-day equipping conference is designed to help the local church provide solid opportunities for spiritual growth for students grades 6-12. Each student will hear the Word of God through worship, preaching, breakout discussions, and missionary testimonials. Our goal is to help students step into their God-given role as the Called and to equip them to share that Good News of Christ as Redeemer.

Youth leaders, the Equip Bible study is located at centennialbaptistassociation.com/equip-2023 along with a full schedule of events and registration form.

Hosted by FBC Barnesville in the new Students & Young Adult facility.

Centennial Baptist Association

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2023

5:00 Light meal in fellowship hall
5:30 Business meeting in fellowship hall
7:00 Worship in Sanctuary

Location:
East Thomaston BC
206 Patk Lane
Thomaston GA 30286



Make plans to attend the Annual Fall Meeting. **John and Cheryl Blackmon** will be with us in person sharing about life and ministry in one of the most populated places on the globe with the least percentage of professing Christians. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear from some of our own.

GEORGIA BAPTIST BIBLE INSTITUTE

Brewton-Parker College and Centennial Baptist Association are offering college level Biblical and Ministry Training for pastors and church members.

Faithfully Providing Ministry Training – committed to the BFM 2000 and providing practical ministry training.

Making Your Education Affordable and Flexible

- \$150 per course (\$35 one-time registration fee.)
- Courses are geared toward Ministry Training.
- Fully Accredited College Credit – up to 27 credit hours
- Semester length courses – Classes will be offered on Monday and Tuesday evenings (6:00-8:30).
- College credit through the GBBI can be applied toward an AA or BA degree at Brewton-Parker College.

Making Your Training Accessible

When: Classes begin January 8, 2024.

Where: First Baptist Church Barnesville

What: Courses being offered Spring 2024 -

CHR 100 Intro to Biblical Worldview

CHR 101 Intro to Old Testament

For more information about how to apply and register for classes, visit centennialbaptistassociation.com/GBBI.

Rev. Steve Laughman- Associational Mission Strategist
Rev. Eddie Johnson- Moderator
Rev. Mark Harris- Vice Moderator

Mrs. Marni Laughman- Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Joan German- Treasurer

A Word from Your Mission Strategist, Steve Laughman

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:8-11

The fourth commandment is one that sparked much debate between Jesus and the Pharisees. Their man-made fences around the law had become so legalistic that they prevented people from carrying out the true purpose of the commandment. Jesus summed up His position when He stated that “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:27-28)

The weekly Sabbath was not the only time of rest commanded by God. He prescribed a Sabbath rest for crops and fields every seven years. The Jubilee was a Sabbath of Sabbath years when debts would be forgiven, and land would be returned to original owners. Taking a break from the normal routine of life was rooted in creation. God knows the benefit of intentionally resting from our labors. The need for rest was not part of the fall, nor is it sinful. He designed us with this need and blessed us with His example and His commandment.



“The need for rest was not part of the fall, nor is it sinful. He [God] designed us with this need and blessed us with His example and His commandment...”

While each one of us should be more mindful to schedule intentional times of rest, pastors are especially susceptible to the tendency to neglect this basic need in their lives. After all, Sunday is one of the busiest days of their week. Even when they take time off, it is often interrupted by the needs of the church. Don't misunderstand me. Your pastor loves that he is called to serve the church. He sacrifices more than you know for the calling God has placed on his life. But he still needs to rest.

For the past year or so I have been gathering resources related to how churches can love their pastor and staff well by granting them intentional times of rest. I encourage you to consider creating a Ministry Renewal Leave (Sabbatical) policy for your church to allow your pastor and staff members time to refresh their spirits, renew their minds, and rest their bodies so that they may be the most effective they can be. You can find these resources on our website at centennialbaptistassociation.com/renewal.

I will be speaking on this in more detail during my report at the Annual Fall Meeting, Sunday October 22 at East Thomaston Baptist Church. We have a great many things to celebrate that evening, so I hope you will join us. If you are a pastor, bring people from your church who can advocate on your behalf. If you are a leader in your church who loves your pastor, come hear how we can help you support your pastor.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKING DINNER

VALLEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
1372 ATWATER ROAD • THOMASTON • 30286

Sept 5th
@
6:30PM

Membership: “The Executive committee shall be composed of the pastor of each church, one lay member from each church elected by the church, the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, members of the Steering Committee, all Directors and Committee Chairmen, Associational Missionary, and all full-time staff of member churches.”

Make sure your church has reserved the trailer for any fall activities where you expect a crowd!

This resource is filled with everything necessary to make sure your next event is a success. The inflatables do require some muscle, but everything else is a quick set up for any size church. A \$100 deposit reserves your date on the calendar, and comes with enough popcorn and snow-cone syrup to entertain 100 people. Fill out [THIS](#) quick form soon while the calendar still has dates!

Or visit

www.centennialbaptistassociation.com/outreachtrailer



We can officially announce that **THE BLACKMONS WILL BE AT OUR FALL MEETING!** Do not miss hearing first hand how life and ministry are in Thailand. John, Cheryl, Lillie Jo and Josiah will be sharing updates and prayer requests at East Thomaston on October 22 during the worship portion of our Annual Fall Meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! We want to make sure they see and feel our support while they are visiting Georgia.

If you want to stay in touch, see current photos, and pray specifically, subscribe to their newsletter by simply emailing bangkokblackmons@gmail.com or by following John on at [facebook.com/john.blackmon.39](https://www.facebook.com/john.blackmon.39) Please clearly mark all financial support sent to, PO BOX 210, Thomaston, GA 30286 for “Thailand Missions”. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Centennial's partnership with the Blackmons.





WHERE IRON SHARPENS IRON

MINISTER ROUNDTABLES

Upson-Pike
October 5 · 10 AM
Country Cupboard

Monroe-Lamar
October 3 · 10 AM
New Providence BC

No one knows what it is like to pastor a church but a pastor. Each of us comes to the table with different perspectives, levels of experience, and personal challenges. We all leave the table encouraged and knowing that we are not alone.

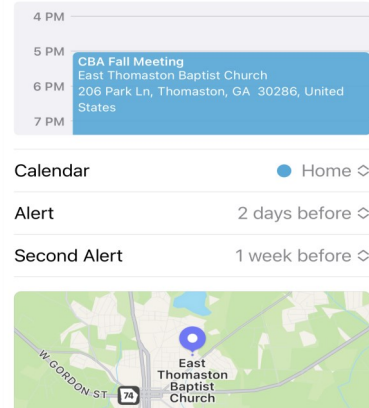
www.centennialbaptistassociation.com/minister-roundtables

If you haven't already done so, scroll over to your calendar, open it, and create an event on October 22nd from 5:00 PM–8:30 PM. Label it Centennial Annual Fall Meeting. Set the location for East Thomaston Baptist Church in Thomaston, GA 30286. Set a reminder alert 1 week out and then again 2 days before. We really do not want you to miss out on seeing John, Cheryl, Lillie Jo and Josiah Blackmon as they share about life in Thailand. See you soon at the CBA Annual Fall Meeting!

< October Event Details Edit

CBA Fall Meeting
East Thomaston Baptist Church
206 Park Ln, Thomaston, GA 30286, United States

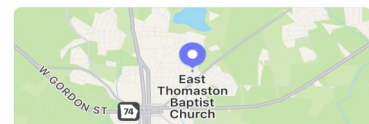
Sunday, Oct 22, 2023
from 5 PM to 8:30 PM



Calendar Home

Alert 2 days before

Second Alert 1 week before



Called Cohort

Do you know a young person whom God is calling to vocational ministry?

Are you willing to mentor young people as they pursue God's call?

Called Cohorts are monthly Zoom calls designed to give young people the skills needed to follow God's call on their lives. God is calling middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, and young adults to serve Him, and we want to help. Leaders are needed to guide students through the process. We also need your help connecting us to students who want to be a part of a Called Cohort.

Contact **Steve** at cbaamsteve@gmail.com or **770-314-6107** for more information.

DISCIPLESHIP LEARNING COMMUNITIES

With Matthew Gibbs

Georgia Baptist Mission Board

LEARN MORE

SEPTEMBER 19TH
12-1 PM OR 6-7 PM
FBC BARNESVILLE
RSVP • MEAL PROVIDED



One of the most asked questions we get as an association is “How can I help my church grow?”

Although there are several ways to measure growth, most would agree that making more disciples and helping them grow in their personal walk with the Lord is a key part of any healthy church growth. The purpose of a Discipleship Learning Community is to work through specific principles related to discipleship in order to implement them in your church.

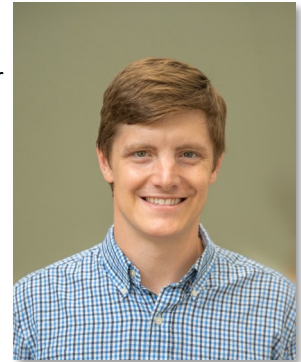
Centennial Baptist Family,

It's hard to imagine how our semester could be off to a better start. It all started with Move in Day on August 12th. We had eight churches and almost 40 volunteers that showed up to help us welcome students to campus. We were able to greet almost 400 students as they made their arrival to Gordon State. Thank you to everyone that showed up in the August heat to help us. We could not have done it without you.

Since Move In Day we have had several opportunities to be on campus. We have continued to make connections with new students. If you want to see what all is going on at Gordon State BCM, please give us a follow on social media. We post regularly about what is going on on both Facebook and Instagram. The members of our leadership team, who are doing a fantastic job, felt strongly about making Monday night the BCM night. This past Monday night we had a game night outside the dorms. This coming Monday night, we will have our first on campus worship service, The Gathering, at 7:00 in the student center auditorium. The Gathering will happen every other Monday. On other Monday nights we will have activity nights where we do things such as trivia or other activities. For all Monday nights we are in need of churches that can provide some type of food for students. If your church is able to help, please reach out to me.

Gabe Thomas

Campus Minister for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Gordon State College
cbaacollegiateministry@gmail.com



CBA Financials for July 2023

	July 23	Jan - July 23
Checking Interest	3.46	28.74
Antioch	546.72	3,502.56
Bethany	666.66	1,999.98
Beulah	310.00	1,714.00
Calvary	166.40	1,683.20
Clark's Chapel	100.00	700.00
Concord	150.00	1,050.00
Culloden	0.00	450.00
East Thomaston	276.48	2,128.34
Elkins Creek	0.00	0.00
Emory's Chapel	0.00	0.00
FBC Barnesville	6,584.09	16,095.89
FBC Forsyth	100.00	700.00
FBC of High Falls	1,230.58	3,212.45
FBC Thomaston	0.00	6,881.75
Fellowship	694.48	2,037.92
Garden Hill	0.00	0.00
Grace Community	0.00	0.00
GracePoint	0.00	0.00
Hendricks	0.00	1,988.00
Jeff Davis	0.00	50.00
King's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Macedonia	150.00	1,050.00
Maynard	720.76	5,728.78
Meansville	250.00	1,750.00
Milner	349.38	2,952.27
Mount Olive	0.00	11,497.29
Mountain View	1,985.00	15,857.00
Mt. Pleasant	0.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	0.00	0.00
Neal	50.00	350.00
New Bethel	50.00	350.00
New Harmony	22.44	188.43
New Hope Zebulon	385.40	2,537.06
Pritchett Memorial	0.00	1,088.11
Russellville	77.87	484.80
Shiloh Lamar	300.00	1,750.00
Shiloh Upton	50.00	350.00
Silvertown	0.00	808.44
The Rock	398.62	1,151.96
Trinity	300.00	2100.00
Valley Grove	0.00	2,796.35
Yatesville	175.00	1,225.00
Total Receipts	16,093.34	98,238.32

Disbursements for July 2023	
Total Budgeted Expenditures	11,754.76
Designated Accounts Expenses	741.56
Monthly Surplus/Shortfall	4,338.58

Opportunities & Church News (Full job descriptions and other positions are listed [HERE](#))
Bethany is seeking a **PT Children's Director**. For more information or to apply contact the church office at 478-974-0002.
Concord is seeking a full-time **Minister to Students and Family**. Send resumes to jeff.yearwood@fnf.com
FBC Forsyth is seeking both an **organist and pianist** to play for their traditional service. Contact jerryelder@fbcforsyth.com
FBC Thomaston is seeking paid Nursery workers for Sunday AM, Sunday PM & Wednesday PM services. Please contact Ted Kandler at FBC Thomaston, 706-647-7889.
Clark's Chapel is seeking a full-time **Youth Minister**. For more information, call 706-647-6169. Send resumes to clarkschapel@yahoo.com OR Clark's Chapel Baptist Church, 176 Mathis Lake Road, Thomaston, GA 30286.
Russellville is seeking a **Music Director & Pianist** Resumes can be sent to Russellville Baptist Church, P. O Box 6004, Forsyth, GA, 31029 or to Mary Ann Jarrell, Church Clerk, 1212 Abercrombie Road, Culloden, GA, 31016. For more information call 478-955-7375 or e-mail ma.jarrell@hotmail.com.

September 2023			
5	Gordon BCM- Club Day	Gordon College, Barnesville	10:00 AM
5	Executive Committee Meeting	Valley Grove, Thomaston	6:30 PM
8-10	EQUIP Student Discipleship Weekend	FBC Barnesville, Barnesville	Fri 6P-Sun 10A
11	Gordon BCM- The Gathering	Gordon College, Barnesville	6:30-8:30 PM
19	Discipleship Learning Community	FBC Barnesville, Barnesville	12 Noon & 6 PM
25	Gordon BCM- The Gathering	Gordon College, Barnesville	6:30- 8:30 PM
October 2023			
2	Gordon BCM- Midterm prayer w/ students	Gordon College, Barnesville	10 AM-2 PM
3	Monroe Lamar Roundtable	New Providence BC, Forsyth	10-11:30 AM
9	Gordon BCM- The Gathering	Gordon College, Barnesville	6:30-8:30 PM
15-22	Week of Prayer for Associational Missions	Churches all over the state of GA	All week
18	The Great Exchange	Gordon College, Barnesville	10 AM- 2 PM
22	CBA Annual Fall Meeting	East Thomaston BC, Thomaston	5 -8:30 PM
23	Gordon BCM- Dinner at American Pie	American Pie, Barnesville	6-8 PM
30	Gordon BCM- The Gathering	Gordon College, Barnesville	6:30- 8:30 PM
November 2023			
6	Gordon BCM- Dodgeball & Chili dogs	Gordon College, Barnesville	6-7 PM
7	Steering Committee Meeting	The Rock Church, The Rock	6:30- 7:30 PM
12-14	Georgia Baptist Convention	Church on the Main, Snellville	Sun PM-Tues PM
13	Gordon BCM- The Gathering	Gordon College, Barnesville	6:30-8:30 PM
21	Discipleship Learning Community	FBC Barnesville, Barnesville	6:30 PM
27	Gordon BCM- The Gathering	Gordon College, Barnesville	6:30- 8:30 PM



The Food Pantry, located at **FBC Thomaston**, is a project of the **Upton County Ministerial Association**. In the past, churches took turns manning the ministry, but in recent years due to Covid, etc. it has fallen primarily to a few people at FBC Thomaston. **Volunteers are needed**. We are asking **churches** to help in the month of September by **donating bars of soap**. Please bring them to FBC Thomaston or the Food Pantry. Your help is greatly appreciated.