

January 2020 Newsletter

Title: Three Areas of Focus

Cheek's Challenge

As we enter a new decade of service to our Lord and His Church, I want to share with you three areas that we your Association of Churches will be giving focus to in 2020 in keeping with our Mission Statement, adopted at our 2019 Annual Meeting.

"SMBAC strengthens churches to start churches and mobilize laity in partnership to ignite a spiritual awakening."

Our calendar of activities has been intentionally designed to address these three areas of focus:

Focus # 1: Strengthen Churches: As your staff we are committed to strengthen our churches so that they will grow and multiply disciples and other churches. In 2020 we have already calendared several events:

Early Bird Vacation Bible School Clinic: In cooperation with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board a VBS Conference will be held January 30th, 7 pm – 8:30 pm at Annistown Road Baptist Church in Snellville, GA. You can register by following the link <https://gabaptist.org/event/jumpstarts-snellville/>.

I want to encourage every church to conduct some type of VBS in 2020! The methodology varies from a weeklong event, to a weekend event or even on Wednesday nights during the summer or during the school breaks. You choose what fits your context. Enlist a Director and join them at the clinic! NOTE: One third of the baptisms reported by our churches occur during VBS! It's that important!

Leadership Conference with Hal Seed: Thursday, January 23 at 6:30 pm Hal Seed, Pastor of New Song Church outside of San Diego will be our guest to address, "How to Align Your Church with God's Sunday Promise". Hal will teach us how to lead our churches and our lives around the "Rhythm of Sundays". Register here and bring your key lay leaders with you.

Real Momentum Men's Luncheon: Thursday, January 16, 11 am at Emmanuel Community Church in Conyers. Keith Boggs, founder of Real Momentum and a member of First Baptist Woodstock will share with us the importance of raising up Godly men in our churches. Enlist some men to help you launch or enhance your men's ministry and join us! Register here!

Focus # 2: Start Churches

Healthy organisms reproduce, so should churches! In 2020 we will be conducting 3 church planting schools. The first one comes up at the end of January. This school will not only teach you the fundamentals of planting a church but the basic principles of a healthy church. Many of our existing churches have benefitted from attendance at this school.

Church Planting Journey School : Hosted by First Baptist Lithonia on January 31 and February 1 and ending on February 8. You will learn from local practitioners on the basics of how to start a church. Register here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/84620970601>

Exponential Conference in Orlando March 2-5. We have 20 tickets to the world's largest church planting conference. Space is limited. Call me today if you are interested in attending!

Focus # 3: Mobilize Laity in Partnership

We want to see churches and people work together!

Student Serve Day! Saturday, April 25th. Our Student Leader Roundtable is planning a Day of Service to our church communities. The goal is to get our students deployed into the communities around them serving in some capacity. Mark this date on your calendar, you will hear more about this soon!

New Work Foundation Annual Banquet, March 26th. Our Foundation leadership is planning our Annual Banquet where we celebrate our partnership together in church planting. Look for more details to follow.

Return to Me! A new book by Claude King is an opportunity to ignite a spiritual awakening in our area! I have limited copies of this book being shipped to our Association of Churches for our Pastor's and staff. Contact our office today or email Selina at snichols@stonemountainbaptistassociation.org to reserve a copy for yourself if you are truly interested in leading this type of effort in your church. I would like as many churches as possible to call the people of God to return to Him!

As you can see, we have big plans for 2020! I encourage you to lead your church to get involved and let's partner together to see God ignite a spiritual awakening in our area!