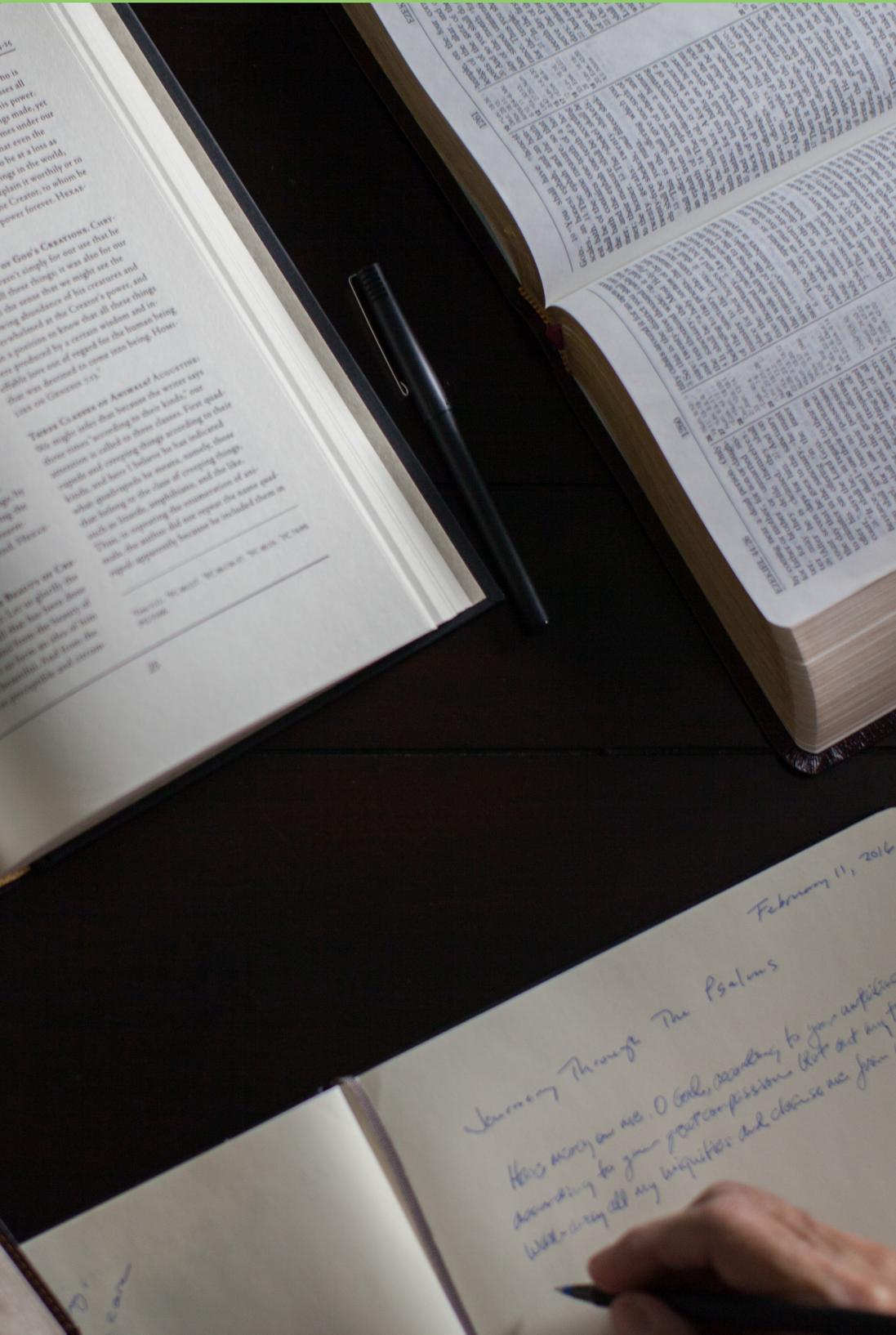


# RENEWING PASTORS, *Transforming Congregations*

MM QUARTERLY

MOVING  
MINISTRIES  
FORWARD

JUNE 2016



MACEDONIAN  
MINISTRY

*Gray Norsworthy is the Senior Pastor of Johns Creek Presbyterian Church north of Atlanta, Georgia. He was invited to be part of the Atlanta Cohort of Macedonian Ministry around the same time that he was called to serve in this role. Gray offers some insights and reflections on his experience with Macedonian Ministry and its impact on his congregation.*

*Relationships, Resources, and Renewal*—that is how I would sum up the positive impact the Macedonian Ministry had on Johns Creek Presbyterian Church and my ministry.

#### *Relationships*

Simply gathering with other pastors on a regular basis to share ideas and experiences may have been the best part of Macedonian Ministry. Over the three years we met together, I became genuine friends with pastors I had met before, but did not have a chance to get to know. In some ways, Macedonian Ministry feels like what our presbytery should be about. The connection is real and enriching. Hearing the successes and struggles of others encouraged me in my own ministry. I still miss

those regular meetings and the relationships that were formed there.

#### *Resources*

The presentations were outstanding and the quality of speakers was top-notch. Whether it was someone like Tom Long speaking on recent trends in preaching, or Tom Tewell sharing from his many years as a pastor, it was always worthwhile and had an immediate positive effect on how I led my church. Our leaders could always tell when I had attended a Macedonian Ministry meeting because I would share some new insight with them.

#### *Renewal*

The combination of relationships and the resources resulted in spiritual renewal that was both personal and communal. I always left our meetings with a better sense of my calling as a pastor. I felt encouraged that I was not alone in this important task. My own spiritual renewal helped me lead the spiritual renewal in our church.



*“I felt encouraged that I was not alone in this important task. My own spiritual renewal helped me lead the spiritual renewal in our church.”*

**—GRAY NORSWORTHY, SENIOR PASTOR,  
JOHNS CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PTC**

## *Our Mission*

*The mission of Macedonian Ministry is to serve the church of Jesus Christ by (1) renewing pastors, (2) transforming congregations, and (3) impacting communities with the gospel.*

### Remarkable Growth

Since my time with Macedonian Ministry, Johns Creek Presbyterian Church has become one of the faster-growing churches in our presbytery. We have over 750 adult members and another 250 children. During this period of time we have added over 300 adults, youth, and children to our church family. Whenever I attended a Macedonian Ministry meeting, I always walked away with numerous insights and ideas for how to help our church grow. I believe our numerical and spiritual growth is due, in part, to using those insights from our monthly meetings.

### Shared Experiences

The recent Macedonian Ministry National Conference provided some especially important insights in trying to understand the unprecedented changes we see in our world and the church. One workshop emphasized that no one is an “expert” today because no one has faced the unique challenges of our time. As a pastor, I have sensed these changes, but to have someone name these changes helped me come to terms with how to lead and find God’s order in the midst of life’s chaos.

One important highlight of my Cohort experience was the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I took over 1,700 pictures and was able to come back and lead a Sunday Class called “A Virtual Tour of the Holy Land.” I believe it made the Bible come alive for some of our members who had

never been to the Holy Land and probably would never get to go there. For a few who had been there before, it brought back memories of their own life-changing visits there.

Simply put, my life, our church, and the work of God’s kingdom have all been changed for the better because of the Macedonian Ministry!

*“The connection is real and enriching. Hearing the successes and struggles of others encouraged me in my own ministry.”*

**—GRAY NORSWORTHY,  
SENIOR PASTOR, JOHNS CREEK  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



### Further Reading

[WWW.JCPCUSA.ORG](http://WWW.JCPCUSA.ORG)



### Connect With Us



MACEDONIANMINISTRY



MACEDONIANMINISTRY



MACEDONMINISTRY