



# BIBLICAL RECORDER

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BR photo by Norman Jameson

## Buckets of hope, dollars for building

### Baptist Men planning long term in Haiti

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

Three weeks into an intense and immediate response to Haitians injured and left homeless and hungry by the Jan. 12 earthquake, it still feels like the second day of a domestic disaster to Gaylon Moss, who is coordinating the North Carolina Baptist response.

The difficult maze of coordinating communications, transportation, facilities, supplies and volunteers that

normally begins to sort itself out a few days after a disaster still runs into bewildering dead ends in Haiti – a nation on life support even before the earthquake crumpled its capital.

Moss, disaster relief coordinator for North Carolina Baptist Men, said Haiti is fading from the public consciousness even as the extent of its rebuilding need starts to become clear.

While the public consciousness is only as long as the news cycle, Moss wants North Carolina Baptists to know they are in it for the long haul. He recognizes it is hard to maintain an edge of eagerness in volunteers who do not know when they will be loosed to serve.

But the only requests thus far and for the next month or so are for medical personnel to help in regional or make-shift hospitals. Early volunteers treated many broken bones, amputations and burns – often with no more anesthetic

than an aspirin. And often, after treatment patients could only hobble across the road and lay down in the grass and dirt.

Because of response through the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship, medical personnel from many states have traveled in the first five groups of medical volunteers from N.C. Baptist Men

Scott and Janet Daughtry of Selma left Feb. 1 for Haiti to be onsite coordinators. They will assess needs and search for the key to the labyrinth of Haitian regulations and reality. They performed a similar task in Sri Lanka following the tsunami.

Team 5 with 24 members left Feb. 4. “Our vision is to help rebuilding in Haiti,” said Moss, who has led disaster relief for Baptist Men for 12 years. He

(See Buckets of Hope Page 12)

## Board elects Blanton, approves Caraway expansion

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

obby Blanton will lead the North Carolina Board of Directors for the coming year after his election as president during the Jan. 25-26 board meeting at Caraway Conference Center.

The board also elected an executive committee; affirmed a partnership with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association; and approved a \$7.5 million fund raising effort to develop Caraway Conference Center.

Milton Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer, encouraged North Carolina Baptists to adopt the “Find it Here” evangelistic outreach around Easter, and to register their intent at [www.finditherenc.org](http://www.finditherenc.org).

At the time of the board meeting, just 337 churches had committed to the outreach, which emphasizes an evangelistic sermon and invitation at Easter, a service when many persons attend a service out of tradition or curiosity who have not made a Christian commitment, according to Don McCutcheon, BSC group leader for evangelization.

Blanton, pastor of Lake Norman Baptist Church for 13 years, succeeds Allan Blume as board president. Blume led the board for three years.

“My predecessor lifted the bar so high,” Blanton said when accepting the gavel. “I can’t tell you how much I respect and appreciate the work of brother Allan Blume.”

“With your prayerful support and patient encouragement we can proceed down the path that brother Allan and others like him have charted for us,” Blanton said.

Blanton also leads a BSC Executive Committee composed of Convention officers and the chairman of each board work committee. Additionally, the board elects four of its members at-large to serve on the Executive Committee.

Board Committee chairs are: David Richardson, First Creedmoor Church, Business Services; Todd



Blanton



BR photo by Norman Jameson

GROUP — Milton Hollifield, right, leads a commissioning prayer launching the partnership of North Carolina Baptists with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. State Convention leaders gather around MNYBA leader George Russ.

## Board affirms New York Partnership

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

The North Carolina Baptist board of directors affirmed a partnership with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA) during action Jan. 26. The partnership potential was initiated in December, with a visit by MNYBA representatives to Raleigh and a presentation by N.C. Baptist Men, which coordinates both their partnerships and collaborations with the Baptist State Convention (BSC).

The MNYBA covers parts of three states and includes 20 million people. New York City is the most intensely urban setting in America, in what many consider the world’s most important city.

Southern Baptists planted their first church in New York City in 1958. Currently 260 SBC related churches are at work to win their city to faith in Jesus Christ, including 200 ethnic churches.

Vision trips are planned in February and March by BSC and N.C. Baptist Men’s leadership to explore ways North Carolina Baptists can help in New York. Leaders emphasize this will be a true partnership as New York Baptists will come south to help North Carolinians become more effective in urban ministry.

“Probably the most important city in the world is New York City,” said Baptist Men’s Director Richard Brunson. “What happens in New York shapes so many things in the world.”

(See Board affirms Page 5)

(See Board elects Page 5)



# Wounded warriors focus of new ministry

By Melissa Lilley  
BSC Communications

FORT BRAGG — When Chris Carson served as an infantry battalion chaplain in Iraq he was familiar with less than ideal conditions. He went days without a shower and re-used paper plates. Carson jumped out of airplanes just like the other soldiers.

So, just over a year ago when Carson came to work with the Warrior Transition Battalion, a nondeployable unit in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, he expected life as a chaplain to settle down.

“Boy, was I wrong,” Carson said during an interview at his Fort Bragg office. The job is definitely not 9-5 and the reality of death and incredibly tough circumstances is as real here as it is overseas.

As one of two chaplains assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion, Carson works with about 500 sick and wounded soldiers. Some will heal and return to active duty, but most will be medically discharged. Some soldiers are from the Fort Bragg area but many are not.

Because injured soldiers are assigned to a hospital best suited to meet their needs, many with brain/head injuries come to Womack Army Medical Center in Fayetteville. For some that means they are nowhere close to home, family or friends.

A new outreach is underway that will give North Carolina Baptists the chance to join Carson in ministering to the soldiers of the Warrior Transition Battalion. The vision for the Wounded Warriors Ministry is to help match indi-



**MILITARY** — Chris Carson serves with the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Bragg. The Wounded Warriors Ministry is a way N.C. Baptists can help Carson minister to the lives of soldiers who have been injured and their families.

viduals, as well as local churches, with specific needs of soldiers.

The ministry is an outreach of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) Office of Military and Chaplaincy Ministries, led by Col. Larry Jones, BSC senior consultant for military and chaplaincy ministry. Jones has been a military chaplain for 29 years. As state chaplain for the North Carolina National Guard he manages chaplains, chaplain candidates and chaplain assistants in the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard.

Volunteers can contribute in various

ways: sitting in a hospital waiting room with a soldier's family or visiting the soldier in the hospital. They could bring meals to family waiting at the hospital, help with childcare or even visit at home the spouse of a hospitalized soldier. Sometimes a spouse needs help with chores around the house while the injured soldier recovers.

“Anything we can do to help them opens up a door for us to witness,” Jones said.

Last year Carson started an adopt-a-wounded-soldier ministry.

Jones is hopeful that churches will

consider making Fayetteville a unique kind of mission trip. Church groups would come and spend the week “on call” for the chaplains, ready to serve however needed. Since this may not be the type of mission trip churches are accustomed to, Jones will even help churches with training, such as how to do a hospital visit. A low-cost lodging option is the N.C. Baptist Men Missions Camp facility at Red Springs.

Although the Wounded Warriors Ministry is still in the infant stage, several soldiers already have been helped. Carson and Jones are working together to match up the gifts and skills of volunteers with the needs of soldiers.

“The needs are so complex,” Carson said.

In addition to ministering to the wounded, Carson preaches every Sunday, leads a weekly Bible study, holds counseling sessions and plans retreats. The chaplains can't do everything, and more people will be ministered to as a result of the Wounded Warrior Ministry. Carson has no doubt that volunteers will be greatly rewarded through involvement in this ministry.

Just seeing the look on someone's face when he comes to visit them in the hospital can be enough to remind him of the importance of this outreach. It doesn't take much to make a difference. “You can just listen,” he said. “Just be with the soldiers.”

To learn how your church can get involved in ministering to wounded warriors, or for more information about the Office of Military and Chaplaincy Ministries, e-mail Jones at [ljones@ncbaptist.org](mailto:ljones@ncbaptist.org).

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# Merger not among GCR recommendations

By James A. Smith  
*Florida Baptist Witness*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — After “great, great, great discussion” studying a possible merger of Southern Baptists’ two mission boards, the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force (GCRTF) has concluded it will not recommend a merger, Chairman Ronnie Floyd said Feb. 1 at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

Floyd spoke about the possible merger of the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board (NAMB) as part of a panel discussion with three other GCRTF members during the church’s annual pastors’ conference.

Responding to a question from a NAMB church planter in Cleveland, Ohio, Floyd said, “Our sights are set on having the North American Mission Board and our sights are set on having an International Mission Board. There was great, great, great discussion studying, planning and even to the point of having strategic formation of the possibility of the other. But we just really sensed in our heart that wasn’t right at this time.”

He added, “That doesn’t mean it’s not right for a later day — five years from now, ten years from now, you know, twenty. Who knows? Only God knows.”

The GCRTF’s consideration of a merger between Southern Baptists’ national and international missions

agencies makes at least the 11th time such a merger has been considered — and rejected.

Although not recommending a merger, Floyd said, “We’re going to find a way to do some things together, which I think that’s going to be revolutionary.”

Speculation has swirled among Southern Baptists about a possible merger of the mission boards since the earliest days of the GCR movement, starting with the April release of “Toward a Great Commission Resurgence” declaration — the manifesto that became the basis for the SBC’s creation of the GCRTF in June.

The GCRTF was charged to study how Southern Baptists can work “more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission.”

NAMB trustee chairman Tim Patterson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, was the first to publicly call for such a merger, telling the *Florida Baptist Witness* in May he signed the declaration with the belief that it was time for a “singular world mission agency.”

Although NAMB trustees later unanimously affirmed the “crucial” role of the agency, talk about a possible merger continued, with retiring IMB president Jerry Rankin telling reporters in September that he was open to the idea of an entirely new missions board that would replace the IMB and NAMB.

In an October interview with the *Witness*, Floyd urged the IMB and NAMB

presidential search committees to be “very prayerful and watchful” of the GCRTF’s work, causing further speculation of a possible significant denominational re-structuring.

In a brief interview with the *Witness* following the panel discussion, Floyd elaborated on the task force’s serious consideration of a merger.

“We were passionate about the possibility of that. We dreamed about it. We strategically tried to even consider formulating that,” Floyd said, adding later, “And a lot of things pointed to it.”

In the end, the task force concluded it was not the “will of God for us” at this time, he said.

Joining Floyd in the panel discussion was SBC President Johnny Hunt, seminary presidents Al Mohler and Danny Akin, all part of the 23-member GCRTF.

Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the task force has studied the SBC “with a fine-tooth comb” and said the group has “great passion” for two things — reaching the “massive lostness” in the nations where the gospel has not been heard and reaching “massive unreached areas

of North America.”

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said although greater effectiveness in fulfilling the Great Commission among Southern Baptists is not an issue about money, “money points to the issue.”

Saying the problem of “localism” must be faced, Mohler said the average Southern Baptist only gives two percent of net income “to any of God’s causes,” and the average SBC church retains 94 percent of the money given.

Seemingly reflecting on discussions about Cooperative Program distribution between state conventions and the SBC, Mohler said, “We’ve got a localism that is not starting with the SBC and not starting with the state conventions; it’s not even starting with the local churches. It starts with Southern Baptist individuals.”

Mohler added: “It’s going to take a whole lot more than doing a little better. ... It’s going to take Southern Baptists reevaluating everything we are and everything we do, starting at home long before it gets to anything like the structure of the Southern Baptist Convention.”

### Next *Biblical Recorder* on later print schedule

The Great Commission Task Force is scheduled to present a report Feb. 22 to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn. In order to include a report from that event, The *Biblical Recorder* will be printing Tuesday, Feb. 23 and mailing to our readers Wednesday, Feb. 24, a day later than our normal schedule. We regret any inconvenience.

## Weather woes keep members home

By Dianna Cagle  
*BR Assistant Managing Editor*

Inclement weather. It takes a lot to keep a Baptist church closed on Sunday, and on the rare occasion it happens, snow and ice usually are the main culprits.

“If it looks like it is bad, we cancel,” said Michael Townsend, pastor of Meat Camp Baptist Church in rural Boone.

“I talk with the deacons of the church, get road conditions” and make the decision.

Since Dec. 18, Townsend said the church has cancelled services three Sundays and a Wednesday night.

“One Sunday 20 inches of snow, the next Sunday we had ice,” he said, sharing that at another church that met on a day Meat Camp cancelled, a member slipped and broke her leg.

“This is winter like 25-30 years ago,” Townsend said. “The last 10-15 years has spoiled us.”

Meat Camp members and others in western North Carolina use Ray’s Weather web site ([www.raysweather.com](http://www.raysweather.com)) and local radio stations to learn conditions in the area and to get the word out about church closings.

For Truett Baptist Association, with headquarters

in Marble, the closings don’t “last very long,” said Mitchell Shields, director of missions. Most churches in the association take the safest route: “If it looks like or is icy, they will cancel services. That’s almost automatic.”

There are three churches where the church always meets but they encourage their members to play it safe.

“Our folks are used to that,” Shields said. “Most of our congregations are older people. They play it very safe. They just close the doors and don’t do anything on those Sundays.”

First Baptist Church in Murphy shows its service on cable television and four or five have radio programs. Those churches encourage people to participate through those mediums.

While individual churches might have big events during December through February, Shields said the association tries to steer clear of those months when planning events.

The hardest part for most churches when not meeting is the missed offerings.

Pastors and associational leaders encourage members to give regularly and not forget about the church just because services aren’t held.

## Western ice relief efforts on hold

Ice storm recovery work in western North Carolina has been on hold since early January.

Gaylon Moss, disaster relief director for North Carolina Baptist Men, sent out a mass e-mail Jan. 5 alerting workers of the halt in work in Watauga County. The e-mail credited inclement weather with the work stoppage.

Volunteers faced tough conditions with 30 mph winds and cold temperatures, making it dangerous to do the chainsaw work they had been assigned, said Tom Stroud, coordinator for Region 7 and member of Sandy Springs Baptist Church in Harmony.

Then, an earthquake struck in Haiti Jan. 12 diverting attention further away from problems at home. And more inclement weather in North Carolina has not helped. A recent front shut down central North Carolina for several days. Stroud is waiting for the go-

ahead from Moss to tackle the approximately 400 job requests waiting for teams in the Boone area.

“I’ve been expecting it at any time,” Stroud said, indicating jobs include mainly chainsaw work and clearing brush. “A lot of limbs were broken due to ice.”

Stroud said 127 volunteers worked during six days and completed 28 jobs in “miserable” conditions. He said he tried to warn volunteers before they came to bundle up to fight the cold and winds.

“It was a slow go,” Stroud said, with winds blowing up to 35 mph. “Snow was hitting you in the face.”

Baptist Men was working out of the Samaritan’s Purse office in Boone, and volunteers stayed at Greenway Baptist Church in Boone.

To volunteer, call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5599, or visit [www.ncmissions.org](http://www.ncmissions.org).

## Southeastern academic dean resigns abruptly

David Nelson, dean of the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, resigned Feb. 3, effective immediately.

In an email to the seminary family, he cited both health reasons and a realization that “my gifts and interests may best suit me for another environment.”

He said several health issues, none of them life threatening, “have nagged me over the last 18 months.” He said their persistence caused him “to consider quality of life, and the relationship of my job to my health.”

Relief from responsibilities at Southeastern, he said, “will help me to address these issues directly.”

Preferring “another environment” in which to continue his career, following the sabbatical he began with his announcement, he said he may pursue “a university setting, where there is a community of scholars from widely-varied disciplines in the arts and sciences. What comes next for me remains unknown at this point, but I am confident of God’s leadership through all this.”

A staff source at the seminary said Nelson’s sudden departure should “in no way” be considered a firing.

“Dr. Nelson’s resignation is a great loss to me personally,” said Southeastern President Daniel Akin in a press release from the seminary. “His contributions to Southeastern on so many levels are immeasurable. We share a close and blessed friendship and a like-mindedness that is truly a gift from the Lord.”

Nelson, who also held the title of senior vice president of academic administration, was on the faculty for more than a decade and was the dean for the past four years. According to the press release, Nelson coined the phrase, “every classroom a Great Commission classroom.” Under his leadership Southeastern developed close working relationships with Southern Baptist mission agencies and launched the L. Russ Bush Center for Faith and Culture.

Ken Keathley, dean of graduate studies, will be interim senior vice president and dean of the faculty until Akin has completed a search for a new dean.



## Around the state

### Obituaries

**WILLIAM PRESSLEY "W.P." LIPPARD**, 94, of Rockwell, died Jan. 21.

A Gardner-Webb College graduate, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was a member of American Legion Post 401 in Troutman. He was a pastor for more than 40 years in the Piedmont area of the Carolinas, serving in many churches.

He is survived by a son, Jerry Lippard of China Grove; three daughters, Peggy Bradshaw of Salisbury, Brenda Berry of Jamestown, and Kathy Phillips of Taylorsville; two stepchildren; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; a brother, Grady Lippard; and four sisters, Blanche Bovender, Alta Pernel, Ruby Long and Evelyn Overcash. Memorials to Hospice of Rowan Regional Center or to The Meadows of Rockwell Activity Fund.

**LEWIS FRANKLIN MCLEAN**, 79, died Feb. 1.

McLean went to Southeastern Seminary and was in the United States Army, 82 Airborne Division. He was a pastor for more than 56 years, including 26 at Stewartville Baptist Church where he was most recently senior adult pastor. He also held positions in the local association as well as the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Peggie Wiggins McLean; son, Lewis Lynwood McLean of Laurinburg; brother, Robert Fletcher McLean of Florence, S.C.; two sisters, Monte Adcock and Helen Walters both of Rockingham; and a grandson.

Memorials to: Stewartville Baptist Church, 10401 McColl Road, Laurinburg, NC 28352.

### Staff changes

**WILLIAM DAVID BENTON** has been called as associational missionary for the Pee Dee Baptist Association, Rockingham. He was pastor of Advance First Baptist Church, Advance.

Franklinton Baptist Church, Franklinton, has called **AARON DAUGHERTY** as minister of Christian education. He recently graduated from Southeastern Seminary.

**BILL MORRIS** has been called as pastor of Gilbert Street Baptist Church, Raleigh. He was associate pastor at the church.

### Retirement

**OLIVER "WINT" HALE JR.** retired from Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Ahoskie, where he had been pastor for 21 years. He has been in ministry for 45 years. He and his wife, Phyllis, reside in Murfreesboro. He is available for supply, revival and interim work. Contact (252) 398-3266.

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**BIBLICAL  
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## Many in N.C. may 'Find it Here' at Easter

Tradition and curiosity draw more non-Christians to church on Easter Sunday than on any other day of the year, with the possible exception of Christmas.

This Easter North Carolina Baptists join many other Baptist state conventions in cooperation with the North American Mission Board to sponsor "Find it Here," to encourage churches to be intentionally evangelistic in their Easter service.

"Find it Here" asks pastors to involve their church in four activities between now and Easter Sunday, April 4:

Pray for the salvation of family, friends and neighbors;

Invite non-Christian family, friends and neighbors to Easter services;

Preach an evangelistic sermon and extend an evangelistic invitation on Easter Sunday;

Baptize new converts either Easter or the Sunday following.

Don McCutcheon, executive leader for the evangelization group at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) would like to know which churches are committed to the "Find It Here" effort. To sign up, visit [www.finditherenc.org](http://www.finditherenc.org). For more information call (800) 395-5102 ext. 5557 or e-mail [jlancaster@ncbaptist.org](mailto:jlancaster@ncbaptist.org).

During the January meeting of the BSC Board of Directors, Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr., challenged every Board member to involve his or her church with "Find it Here."

It is neither a program nor curriculum, Hollifield said. "Find it Here" is an emphasis that allows each church to design an intentionally evangelistic approach that best suits its community.

While the four components of "Find it Here" may seem "elementary and



BR photo by Norman Jameson

**UNFURLING** — Milton Hollifield, executive director/treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), left, and Don McCutcheon, executive leader for the BSC evangelization group, prepare to hang a banner for "Find It Here," a promotion to encourage churches to be intentionally evangelistic. Banners are available free to churches that sign up.

even unnecessary," Hollifield said they represent the "foundational commitments that the churches of this Convention are failing."

"I am calling on the churches of this Convention to join together in the "Find it Here" emphasis," said Hollifield, adding an estimate that 5.5 million in North Carolina do not know Christ.

"It is the core value of the churches comprising this Convention to present the gospel to the lost and invite them to surrender their lives to Christ, but we are not accomplishing this most

foundational command of our Master," Hollifield said. The web site [www.finditherenc.org](http://www.finditherenc.org) features resources to help pastors carry out the "Find it Here" emphasis. The site includes prayer resources, sermon outlines, an evangelism crash course video, and resources for discipling new believers. After April 4, pastors are asked to report the results of their outreach efforts.

North Carolina Baptist pastors will be mailed information about "Find it Here" which includes a DVD and promotional resources.

### Opportunity Corner

#### Conference focuses on marriage

Dublin First Baptist Church will host "The Marriage You've Always Wanted" Feb. 20 with Gary Chapman.

Registration is \$35. The optional lunch is \$5. Call (910) 862-2277.

An item in the last *Biblical Recorder* listed an incorrect date for this event.

#### Women's conference set in Pleasant Garden

"Women in Worship" is set March 26-27 at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church in Pleasant Garden.

The Friday night and Saturday conference will feature Alicia Williamson Garcia, a recording artist as well as

worship leader and conference speaker. Cost (includes Saturday lunch) is \$30 prior to March 8. Cost rises to \$40 after March 8. No childcare is offered.

Visit [www.pgbc.com](http://www.pgbc.com) or call (336) 674-5382.

#### Volunteers needed for Mundo Vista work day

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is looking for volunteers for its Camp Mundo Vista workday Saturday, March 20 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Lunch is provided. Work will include yard work, tree cutting, minor repairs, painting, window washing and cleaning.

Volunteers should bring gloves, rakes, leaf blowers, chainsaws or other personal tools.

Call (336) 625-4828 by March 13. Please share number of volunteers plus if there are professional landscapers, electricians, etc. in the group.

The camp and its new Wyrick-Parker Lodge also is seeking donations of supplies and furnishings.

Contact Bob Navey at the number above or e-mail [bnavey@wmunc.org](mailto:bnavey@wmunc.org) for a complete list of needed items.

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# Board elects Blanton, approves Caraway expansion

(Continued from Page 1)

Marlow, Westmoreland Baptist Church, Church Planting and Missions Development; James Horton, Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Communications; Scott Faw, Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, Congregational Services; Aaron Wallace, Hephzibah Baptist Church, Evangelization; Joel Stephens, Westfield Baptist Church, Christian Higher Education; Cameron McGill, First Baptist Church Dublin, Christian Social Services; Mark Blair, Welcome First Baptist Church, Christian Life and Public Affairs.

At-large members elected are: Shannon Scott, Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Raleigh, nominated by Joel Stephens; Ann Beck, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, nominated by Ray Talley; Jonathan Hall, Oak Grove Baptist Church, nominated by Joe Denson and Joe Denson, Southview Baptist Church in Charlotte, nominated by Todd Marlow.

Convention officers Ed Yount, Mark

Harris and CJ Bordeaux also serve on the Executive Committee.

The board invoked its emergency privileges to establish Nov. 8-10 as the dates for the 2010 annual meeting at the Koury Center in Greensboro. Those were the dates originally established by contract with Koury five years ago before current staff discovered the dates called for in constitutional terminology would be Nov. 15-17. Those dates are not available at Koury.

Dale Duncan, N.C. Baptist Men's president, said N.C. Baptist Men is registering those interested in participating in short-term Haiti recovery missions at [www.ncmissions.org](http://www.ncmissions.org). He said participants need a current passport to travel to Haiti.

In what may be a surprise, board member Steve Hardy said the series of immunizations needed for safe travel to Haiti could cost as

much as \$700. They cannot all be taken at once, so planning is recommended. He recommended going to the Center for Disease Control website to learn what immunizations are recommended.

Duncan said the primary building at the Shelby work camp is "almost up" and will be ready to operate by summer.

## Salary work

Following a request by the Executive Committee in November 2009 to review salaries and upgrade those that are below standard, Business Services

Group Leader John Butler presented a plan to reset the salaries of several BSC employees.

The Executive Committee, which functions as the personnel committee

of the board, approved \$3,400 to be allocated immediately to address "severe deficiencies in pay structure."

BSC staff salaries are established on a framework built by consultants Blount and Associates, who work with many non-profits and other Baptist state conventions.

Blount established national low, mid and maximum ranges of salaries for organizations in similar work and based on the position's responsibility, location and cost of living.

BSC salaries are targeted at 85 percent of the mid-range.

The 121 positions under consideration include nine at the camps and conference centers, and 94 in the five Convention groups.

Several positions were "below the minimum in pay scale," Butler said. The immediate allocation will come from the \$63,000 income over expenses in 2009. If 2010 income warrants, an additional \$21,000 will be allocated to the salaries of the individuals affected "to get them all to 85 percent of mid-point, as performance indicates," Butler said.

Although 2009 income from Cooperative Program gifts from churches was 5.4 percent below the previous year, Hollifield said he "rejoices in people placing great faith in God rather than going into a mode of fear and holding back on their giving to God."

He reiterated that 2009 "will be remembered as one of the most difficult times economically in our state, as well as the nation."

He said the Convention adjusted spending to finish the year \$63,000 in the black. He said he appreciated the "gracious spirit" various BSC agencies have had as they have worked together with budget shortfalls.

"I wish we had more income but I thank God He has blessed us and given us what He has," Hollifield said.

*"I wish we had more income but I thank God He has blessed us and given us what He has."*  
— Milton A. Hollifield

## Caraway one step from expansion

With approval Jan. 26 to name a campaign planning committee, the two-year effort of Caraway Conference Center and Camp Director Jimmy Huffman took a giant step forward.

The Baptist State Convention board of directors authorized board President Bobby Blanton, pastor of Lake Norman Baptist Church, to name a seven-member committee to lead a \$7.5 million campaign to accomplish the first phase of a significant upgrade to Caraway's facilities.

With nearly 20,000 guests a year, consultants say Caraway operates in a "gray zone" of being too small for some of the larger groups that often inquire about its availability, but too large to operate without the minimum staffing it employs.

Huffman said 51 percent of the guests are North Carolina Baptists.

Purchased originally as a site for youth summer camps — the first of which was held in 1963 — North Carolina Baptists quickly saw that the 1,100 acre forested tract in mid-state held wider potential and built a conference center.

The current hotel was built in 1975, and expanded in 1985.

Current plans call for a 20-room expansion with a new hotel wing; a 250-seat auditorium; expanded kitchen and dining area and new office and parking space. The new wing will require a complete reconfiguration of parking.

At the boy's camp the basketball court will be enclosed for all-season use. A bath house and new outpost camping area will be added.

For expanded utilization by churches, a new mini lodge, youth lodge and pastor's retreat cabin will be constructed in more remote areas of the property.

Huffman said he has studied every angle historically, ministerially, practically and realistically.

Ultimately, Huffman's guiding principle is, "What can we do to reach people for Christ through Caraway," he said.

Then, very transparently, he said that after hearing reports about needs in Haiti and in metropolitan New York, he thought, "We don't need anything."

But he knows Caraway is the place where many people have come to Christ, where individuals and churches have found renewal and where much business of churches and of the State Convention has been accomplished.

Board member Wayne Key asked if all possibilities for resources within the Baptist State Convention have been examined.

He even asked if Hollifield Leadership Center in Conover is a "viable property that we need to keep?"

He said he was on the board when the BSC purchased the facility in year 2000, but every priority needs to be examined in these times.

"This is a God sized task," Huffman told the board. He anticipates a final preparation report to the board in May, with the three-year campaign to launch in June.

## Board affirms N.Y. Partnership

(Continued from Page 1)

Brunson said with 500 people groups identified in New York, Baptists there "have a vision for reaching not only New York City but the world for Christ." New York Baptists have been doing urban ministry for 50 years and with North Carolina rapidly becoming an urban state, the opportunity for learning "is a great opportunity that God has laid before us," Brunson said.

MNYBA Director of Missions George Russ is a missions product. A native New Yorker, he greeted the board in Spanish. Then he told a true, but atypical story of what it is like to minister in the city.

Years ago after teaching a class late at night he went out to his car to find the battery had been stolen. He sought help from a nearby pastor on the 25th floor of an apartment building. The pastor loaned Russ the battery from his church van. Russ went back upstairs to call his wife, since it was now 1 a.m., and he asked the pastor to wait for him in his car.

While the pastor waited in the car, a man tapped on the window and offered to sell him a battery!

## Primary initiatives

Russ, who has been led the MNYBA since September 2009, said the association has three primary initiatives the North Carolina partnership can enhance.

**1. Brand new churches.** "We need churches in New York City," Russ said. The newest church in the association constituted Dec. 27, 2009, as the New Revival Church. Members speak four

languages and the pastor drives a cab during the day.

## 2. Community transformation.

Russ wants New York Baptists and their partners to share the gospel on the streets in practical ways, conduct servant evangelism and "least of these" ministries. Cultural centers reaching out to language groups offer a great venue in which to teach English as a Second Language classes.

**3. Work within the context toward worldwide impact.** Just as cities were New Testament centers of evangelism, "we feel we can be too," Russ said. He said the biblical strategy was to reach the cities and then "everyone in the whole region" became a Christ follower.

Russ emphasized that participating North Carolina churches would reap tangible benefit.

"You're going to meet family members you haven't met before," he said. "There is a big family waiting for you in New York and you will be encouraged about what God is doing."

He said N.C. Baptists would be able to worship with the world as one in the body of Christ. The 12-member worship team of Ebenezer Baptist Church, he said, represents every continent.

Additionally, those who work in New York "will have the world on your heart all the time" and the partnerships churches establish "will be long lasting."

"You'll be humbled, stretched and broken," Russ said. "You'll pray more and deeper and your witness will be improved and your desire to be like Jesus and take up your cross and follow Him will be enhanced."

Mike Sowers of N.C. Baptist Men will be primary contact for the partnership. Contact him at [msowers@ncbaptist.org](mailto:msowers@ncbaptist.org). Already specific needs are being posted at [www.ncmissions.org](http://www.ncmissions.org) for teams as early as this summer.

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# Statewide tour exposes women to Embrace

By Norman Jameson  
BR Editor

With “Embrace” still a new arrow in the Baptist State Convention (BSC) ministry quiver, its director Ashley Allen undertook a 10-stop February tour targeting each region to explain its purpose and to connect with churches interested in starting a chapter.

After her first couple of stops Allen, Embrace’s initial director and on the job since August 2009, said the level of interest has been “amazing.”

To a couple dozen Region 4 ladies at Lawrence Road Baptist Church in Hillsborough Feb. 4, she outlined the purposes and practicalities of Embrace in a two-hour presentation.

Emphasizing that Embrace’s three intents of evangelism, discipleship and missions are all scripturally based, she explained how the scriptures compel the ministry.

Allen, 30, expressed particular interest in Embrace becoming a vehicle in which older women connect with younger women in the church to share their life experiences as Christians, helping to guide, nurture and encourage each other.

Allen says that is the Titus 2 model, in which Paul says older women should “encourage the young women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, pure, good homemakers, and submissive to their husbands, so that God’s message will not be slandered” (HCSB).

She listed passages testifying that God has “qualified and called” women to minister.

For those not sure yet what the role of Embrace is in women’s ministry, the official definition is: Embrace is a ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that seeks to encourage women to walk humbly with Christ in their world and build

strong families capable of creating a legacy of faithfulness.

With an estimated 5.5 million of North Carolina’s population unsaved, according to BSC estimates, the three intents of Embrace, evangelism, discipleship and missions, “should be our lives,” Allen said.

While more intensive training will be offered in April and October, this tour offered initial handles for women wanting to get started, and Allen offered some first steps.

First, she said, “pray for the Lord’s direction,” about starting a new ministry in the church.

Then she said women should seek the support of their pastor. If he is not willing to inaugurate Embrace in the church, they should “be willing to accept that decision” and assure the pastor they trust his vision for the church.

Ladies considering launching Embrace must ask themselves hard questions, Allen said. Who are they trying to reach? Who is absent and why? How has the audience changed? What are the audience’s greatest needs? What are barriers to ministry and how can they be removed?

Women of the church should be surveyed, and Allen offered a sample vehicle.

When “determining who God is calling into leadership” Allen said it is very important to discern leader-



BR photo by Norman Jameson

**SHARING** — Ashley Allen, left, discusses starting an Embrace chapter with Doris Sharper, center, and Margaret Dillon of Swan Station Baptist Church in Sanford.



ship gifts as evidenced in service.

Ministry descriptions are important to provide an avenue for accountability.

She said women should “set the POG” which is defining the purpose, objectives and goals of their ministry. She emphasized these elements should be compatible with the church’s mission statement.

“Start with what you have and undergird the ministry of the entire church,” Allen said.

Two events remain, which were postponed due to weather. They are at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 and at Rocky Hock Baptist Church in Edenton Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.

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# Volunteers lift new wilderness camp

By J. Blake Ragsdale  
BCH Communications

Paul Daley, director of the Camp Duncan wilderness camp for girls under construction, appreciates the constant and faithful stream of N.C. Baptist Men’s volunteers that are building an important wilderness camp for girls. Modeled after the effective Cameron Boys Camp which he directed for nearly 30 years, Daley dreamed for at least half that time of a similar camp for girls. A gift of land to Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina and volunteer labor from N.C. Baptist Men is making it possible on 476 acres near Aberdeen. “This is the first day in a long time we haven’t had volunteers working,” Daley said during a recent federal holiday. “Every day, there are several people out here helping.” The help has come primarily from N.C. Baptist Men who often travel a great distance to help build Camp Duncan. Churches mobilized groups to tackle a variety of projects that includes clearing wooded trails, building a shower house, and completing renovations to the home on the property that serves as the administration building. In a difficult economy, the time and talents given by volunteers have made possible the impossible. “In-kind contributions, especially the volunteer labor, have been essential,” said BCH Executive Vice President of Programs and Services Keith Henry. “We would not have had the resources to undertake such a project without it.” With only a couple of exceptions, the majority of Camp Duncan has been



BCH photo

*CUTTING — Baptist Men from Willomore Baptist Church in Greensboro help construct a shower house at Camp Duncan in Aberdeen. The wilderness camp for at-risk girls has been almost completely constructed by volunteers.*

created through volunteer efforts. It is a project that became very important to N.C. Baptist Men the day leaders Richard Brunson and Gaylon Moss first surveyed the property. Brunson directs N.C. Baptist Men and Moss is the disaster relief and volunteerism coordinator. “I immediately saw the potential,” Brunson said. “With the lake and the woods it seemed like an ideal place for a therapeutic wilderness camp.” Since April 2009, approximately

1,060 volunteers have helped make the camp a reality. Brunson believes the project’s purpose makes a strong connection with volunteers. “It’s the kind of project volunteers want to invest their time and talent,” he explains. “They know it will make a difference in the lives of girls, and that they will come to know Christ.” N.C. Baptist Men organized a work “blitz” from Dec. 28, 2009, to Jan. 2, 2010, encouraging groups to spend the final holiday week pushing essential Camp Duncan projects forward. More than 140 volunteers participated. “A whole lot was accomplished,” Daley says. “We poured concrete and finished the foundations around the main building as well as additional framing. There were also teams who cut trails. We made a big step.” Daley said it’s been inspirational for him to work alongside the volunteers. “It was very apparent that every group that came out was dedicated to Christ,” he explains. “They shared that spirit as they worked as well as their desire to be a part of this ministry that will help meet the needs of young girls.” Major projects remain to complete before Camp Duncan’s dedication ceremony May 22. If your group would like to help, contact N.C. Baptist Men site coordinator David Seymour at (704) 221-4281.

# Cale names new director

HERTFORD (ABP) — Chowan Baptist Association has hired an interim replacement for a camp director arrested last summer on molestation charges. Chowan Baptist Association has employed Matt Thomas, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Elizabeth City, as interim director of Cale Retreat & Conference Center. The job is scheduled to last through August. The camp’s permanent director, Steve Carter, is on administrative leave since his arrest July 1 on charges of taking indecent liberties with a child and first-degree sex offense involving a child. A grand jury later added four more felony charges. Thomas earned the bachelor’s, master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Campbell University Divinity School. “I believe that God has brought Matt to us for this time in the ministry of Cale,” Associational Missionary Rob Roberts wrote in the association’s February 2010 newsletter. “We look forward to what the Lord has in store for the Cale ministry as we seek to touch the lives of children, youth, and adults for Christ.” Roberts asked Baptists in the association to pray both for Thomas and for Carter and his family. Carter has quoted denied the allegations against him. If convicted of the most serious offenses, he could receive up to life in prison. Roberts said in an e-mail to ABP that no trial date has been set.



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## John Denver's opportunity lost?

FORT MYERS, Fla. (BP) — In the scripture, God says He is always at work, and He expects us to be about His work daily, too.

One day in a frequent flyer room, I looked over and saw John Denver. It was pretty obvious with his distinct features and signature guitar that it was him.

I went over and said, "John!"

He jumped up, stuck out his hand and said, "I haven't seen you in a while."

I said, "No sir, we've never met. But I am a man who's prayed for you for over five years, and I have a message for you from your dead father, Dutch."

You see, years earlier, in the height of my pagan lifestyle, John Denver's father was the co-pilot on the Learjet that used to fly me around the country to do my illegal mob business.

His father — whose hand I held when he surrendered his life to Jesus Christ — made me promise that one day I would share with his son. I said, "Dutch, if God provides the moment, the privilege is mine."

Now it looked like the moment was going to come.

I met with John in a private room in the Denver airport for the better part of two hours. I took him line by line through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There wasn't a single verse of scripture he did not understand — nor was there a single verse of scripture that he would accept. Finally, I said, "John, when did you make up your mind Jesus Christ would never become your Lord and your Savior?"

He could remember the date, the time and the

place. A godly Sunday School teacher, like some of you, said to him Jesus Christ was The Way, The Truth and The Life. I left with a saddened heart, tears in my eyes. I asked God, "Why did You go to all this trouble if John Denver was not going to accept You?"

And a verse of scripture came into my heart that took evangelism to another level for me. I hope it will for you. It comes out of 2 Corinthians 2:16, and it says, "To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life."

The word "death" in scripture means eternal separation from God.

Wherever you go, to whomever you speak, wherever you stand, you represent life and you represent death — for you and them

it will be either an opportunity, or an opportunity lost.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Fay is an evangelist and author of "Share Jesus without Fear." Visit [www.sharejesuswithoutfear.com](http://www.sharejesuswithoutfear.com).)

### GUEST COLUMN



Bill Fay

## Are you ready for Operation Inasmuch?

By David Crocker

Ex. Dir., Operation Inasmuch, Inc.

North Carolina Baptist Men and Operation Inasmuch, Inc. are again collaborating to conduct an Operation Inasmuch event all across North Carolina on April 24 and May 1, 2010. The *Biblical Recorder* will be providing articles leading up to the event to help with planning, project ideas and other helpful information.

### Where you should be in your planning as of Feb 13

- Planning Team set and working
- Goals set (number of volunteers, projects, impact on community)
- Half of projects and project leaders identified/recruited
- Announce to congregation: Save the date

- Team to promote your Inasmuch event to congregation and community in place

**Project Idea** — We'll Flip for You: flipping mattresses of residents of independent living facility

- Obtain approval ahead of time from management; have residents sign up
- During project offer to clean windows or move furniture as requested

- Pray with resident(s)

**Register your church's participation** — Go to: [www.ncoperationinasmuch.org](http://www.ncoperationinasmuch.org); click "Registration."

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Form.

If you have photos or information about your event to share, send to Dianna Cagle at [dianna@biblicalrecorder.org](mailto:dianna@biblicalrecorder.org). Call (919) 847-2127 if you have questions.

Operation  
inasmuch



## Tar Heel Voices

### Teach timeless truths

Jesus plus nothing equals everything. Jesus plus anything is a cult.

The article, "Survey: Nearly 1 in 4 Christians dabble in Eastern, New Age beliefs" (Dec. 19), is very disturbing and a condemnation of the current generation of preachers and leaders. What are they telling their people?

Why aren't they teaching them the timeless truths of the scriptures? Are they fearlessly proclaiming the fundamentals of the faith? Do they boldly emphasize the unchanging doctrines of the Bible? Like "El Shaddai" Himself ... they are enough!

It is dangerous to dabble in the occult, astrology and reincarnation while neglecting the demands of discipleship and ignoring the security of pure religion. The strongest Christians I know are the ones who know what they believe and why.

How long has it been since you heard an authoritative sermon on the "faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3)? Has your church held a study recently on "Basic Christian Doctrines" that defeat sin, defy evil, define death, and decide the destiny of men? Any New Age nonsense can never compete with the "old, old story." Salvation is found in the cross; not in crystals.

For any group of people to be the authentic body of Christ two principles must be constant: (1) doctrinal clarity (2) moral purity. Devoid of these we are only like the Moose Lodge, Red Hat society, or the local VFW. The Church is unique and loses its identity, integrity and witness when it tries to be like the world, and settles for anything less than the New Testament model.

There is still one way, period. Jesus plus nothing

equals everything. As the little boy said, "The Lord is my Shepherd ... He is all I need."

Gene S. Carnell  
Ridgecrest

### Church People

by Franko



But, preacher, if I give up all that stuff, what will I do for a hobby?

## When preaching is our passion

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

During the January meeting of the Executive Committee David Horton shared about the ministry of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute. I had invited David to share a testimony in order to help members of our Executive Committee learn how North Carolina Baptists make an eternal impact for the Kingdom through their support of the Cooperative Program.



David began as president of Fruitland in June of last year and has already witnessed God working mightily on the campus. He is having a wonderful influence with the faculty and staff at Fruitland, and I am also excited about the ministry of David's wife, Lisa, to the wives of our Fruitland students.

David shared with the Executive Committee about a student from Nicaragua who, shortly after receiving Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, enrolled in the Hispanic certificate program at Fruitland.

He earned his certificate, and two years later he completed the associates' degree program at Fruitland. This student is soon headed back to Nicaragua where he will apply the truths of the gospel he learned while at Fruitland.

Fruitland students are making a difference not only in our state, but also around the world. They are faithfully shepherding local churches and training believers in the teachings of scripture.

The Hispanic program continues to draw students to the campus and in the coming months even more ministry will begin among the international community. Fruitland is working to expand its educational services by offering online classes and developing satellite campuses.

Thirty-nine students graduated last year and 25 of those graduates now pastor Convention churches. By the time they graduate, Fruitland students have been trained in the areas of missions, pastoral theology, doctrine, historical studies, and Christian ministries.

The professors, many who are full-time pastors and hold at least a master's degree, are teaching, and share firsthand ministry experience with students.

When visitors arrive on the Fruitland campus, they find a sign that reads: "Where preaching is our passion."

During David's installation service he repeatedly stated the mission of this school is to train pastors in expository preaching. The foundation of this school is the teaching of God's inspired, inerrant Word.

I know this to be true, for I know many of the pastors who have come through the program at Fruitland, and I see what God is doing through their ministry. I have heard their sermons and I see the fruit of time they have invested in ministry preparation.

We do not all preach from a pulpit every week, but all of us who have been rescued from sin and spiritual death by Jesus Christ are commanded to make it our passion to tell the truth of the gospel with those who need to hear. May our lives reflect a passionate love for the One who died to set us free from sin's condemnation.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." 2 Corinthians 4:5

## REACT: Tar Heel Voices is your forum

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## God doesn't need your money

**S**now and ice closed lots of church buildings Jan. 31 and unless I miss my guess, it kept a lot of checks from being written, as well.

I could hear my pastor's denures hit the carpet a few years ago when I brought the "stewardship moment" during our church's annual campaign. I opened by saying, "Good news! God doesn't need your money! Nothing you give, nor anything you hoard, will make God love you or keep God from loving you or from lifting the sun to shine on your face tomorrow."

As the pastor surreptitiously retrieved his teeth from off the floor, and mopped his brow behind me, I continued.

"God doesn't need your money, but you need to give your money because of all the good things giving does for you. Every gift you make strikes a blow against greed and selfishness that lurk in our spirit. Every gift plants a seed of generosity."

Additionally, giving is commanded. God loves a generous giver and the Christian gives in recognition and appreciation of God's immeasurable love for us.

God may not need your money, but your church does.

Your church is made up of people like you, people who support ministries you initiated and believe in. Most pastors won't make a big deal about it, but too many of us members treat Sunday morning service like a football game...if we don't go, we don't pay.

Church is not a spectator sport; your gift is not an admission fee. I didn't say your "tithe" is not an entry fee because I'm not talking to tithers here. If you are tithing, you already understand everything I've said.

If snow and ice kept you from church Jan. 31, or any other day; or if you missed for any other reason, please remember to contribute as you would have were you there. And let that be the case this week and every week. The building might have been closed, but "church" goes on all the same.

The last thing your church needs is "fair weather givers." You need to give. It's good for you, and your church needs your gift. — NWJ

# Idaho volunteers fiasco in Haiti exemplifies need for sensitivity

**I**t may be resolved by the time you read this, but as I write 10 volunteers from a Southern Baptist church in Idaho are in jail in Haiti, accused of illegally trying to spirit 33 Haitian children across the border into Dominican Republic.

The volunteers' stated intent was to provide these children, many of whom are orphans, with a stable and safe environment in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake that devastated the nation Jan. 12. Estimates now have risen to 200,000 dead and some say as many as a million children are orphaned or homeless.

Haiti was basically a refugee camp as a nation before the earthquake. Two thousand charitable organizations operated in the capital city to provide food, education, job training, small business incubators, education and orphanages to Haitians whose government apparently has been incapable of providing such basic services for its own citizens.

Add to that the chaos following the earthquake and it is little wonder that people with a heart to help feel they can just come and do; that paperwork, permission and process are pushed aside for the sake of expediency. Who wants to wait on a document when children are hungry and exposed to the elements?

Southern Baptist Convention leaders Morris Chapman, president of the Executive Committee; current SBC President Johnny Hunt and immediate past president Frank Page have asked President Obama to intervene on behalf of the jailed volunteers.

In some quarters, there is a feeling — or just hope — that their fate and freedom has already been assured and "we" are simply allowing the drama to play out to affirm Haiti's sovereignty.

But the scary truth is that these Baptist volunteers, if convicted of the crimes for which they are charged, could face 15 years in Haitian jail.

Baptist and government leaders are reluctant to express full support for the volunteers — please don't call them missionaries — because their true intent is unknown. And because the volunteers, no matter their intent, operated with a western brashness that implies we are the cavalry and everyone else is a horse thief.

In their letter to President Obama, Chapman, Hunt and Page said that although this group did not coordinate their effort with any Southern Baptist relief organization, "It is possible that the Baptist mission volunteers currently detained in Haiti have acted with the noblest of intentions in a desperate situation to meet an immediate need. We pray that is the case."

They called for diplomatic negotiations toward "a solution that respects the rule of law, honors international agreements and ensures the best possible care and full legal representation for these Baptist mission volunteers."

This dreadful case illustrates the need for awareness among volunteers that good intentions are not a passport to swoop into other cultures, scoop up children and carry them to another nation for care — temporary or otherwise. There already are rumors of homeless Haitian children being gathered under false pretenses and sold internationally as household servants or sex slaves.

That is the context that colors perceptions of the Idaho group's actions.

Their sad circumstance demonstrates the importance of coordinating volunteer efforts with people and organizations that have credibility, experience and efficiency operating in disasters — especially disasters in countries other than your own.

North Carolina Baptist Men coordinates disaster re-

sponse for North Carolina Baptists. Gaylon Moss has directed this effort for 12 years and a network of professionals and volunteers orbit around his office. He and N.C. Baptist Men Director Richard Brunson are wise enough to know that, even with their extensive experience, they would not drop kick volunteers into a disaster scene without an onsite connection familiar with the field.

That is why before N.C. Baptist Men sent its first volunteer into the Haitian mess, it found and connected with Global Outreach Haiti, a part of an international Global Outreach ministry in Mississippi that has been in Haiti since 1983. Global Outreach Haiti has provided a connecting point, a beachhead for our assessment teams and medical volunteers to land.

Had there been Southern Baptist missionaries in Haiti, we likely would have connected with them.

Mark Rutledge, an IMB missionary in Haiti for 26 years before the IMB team changed locations to Dominican Republic and Rutledge came stateside for a year, has been back in the area helping SBC and Florida Baptist Convention volunteers get a foothold. Florida Baptists have a long-term presence in Haiti.

While gladly acknowledging that hundreds of organizations small and large were present, selflessly serving Haitians before the earthquake, these are the conditions that spawn crooks, thieves and liars who make their living by taking advantage of the soft spots in Christian hearts for those who are hurting.

As you are prompted to give and support efforts of all kinds in Haiti, resist sending a dollar to any organization created to respond to the need there. Just as after Hurricane Katrina anybody with a pickup and a magnetic sign on the door was suddenly a contractor, unscrupulous people create organizations to siphon donated dollars during such times of generous outpouring.

As North Carolina Baptists marshal resources to respond as quickly, effectively and appropriately as we can, it is vital that we do it in a way that will empower Haitians long-term. How can your group embrace, include, educate and train Haitians to rebuild their nation while you are there helping them do it?

Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert wrote "When Helping Hurts" which shows how good intentions sometimes leave bad results. They want to "help churches help the poor to help themselves."

"When it comes to helping the poor, the natural reaction is to do for them rather than empowering them to do it for themselves," Corbett and Fikkert say. "In the past, relief beneficiaries were often seen as passive patients and victims who are totally dependent on external experts for help. The best relief programs engage and build upon the local knowledge, labor, networks, and all types of productive resources from the first day. Furthermore, the Haiti work will quickly shift to rehabilitation and development work, which demands even less 'doing for' the Haitian people."

Fifty Baptist associations are drop-off points for "Buckets of Hope" in which you can spend \$30 and fill a plastic bucket of food, tape a \$5 bill to it and ask Baptist Men to send it Haiti. That is a good thing.

But as a church project can you instead raise \$2,300 to buy the materials for a house that N.C. Baptist volunteers will come alongside a Haitian family to build? Or for larger churches, maybe you can raise \$12,000 for materials to rebuild a church in Haiti.

We are in Haiti for the long term. When we do it right, our gospel witness is more likely to fall on good soil.

### EDITORIAL



Norman Jameson



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# Missionary ministers to Winter Olympic athletes

By Mickey Noah

North American Mission Board

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — Since his teen years, North American Mission Board resort missionary Derek Spain has worked himself up from parking lot attendant, ticket taker and track sweeper at the winter Olympic Training Center at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Now he deals in cowbells, hand-warmers and Bibles — whatever it takes to share the gospel with — and minister to — the dozens of world-class Olympic athletes who either live in Lake Placid or pass through — plus the thousands of fans who come to see them compete.

Spain has not only served as a NAMB resort missionary since 2001, but is also special ministries consultant for the Baptist Convention of New York, pastor of Lake Placid Baptist Church and director of North Country Ministries, a ministry focused on the athletes in Lake Placid.

“Some of them live here year-round, either at the Olympic Training Center or in town,” says Spain. “Some of the athletes we only see for a few weeks a year. They could be in figure skating, hockey, ski jumping, snowboarding, ski racing or bobsledding.”

Spain said Olympic athletes are high achievers, set high personal goals, are dedicated to their sport, and disciplined in their workout, eating and sleeping regimens. They must be in order to compete at a world-class level.

“They do have struggles, though,” says Spain. “As they get older and into their 20s and

30s, they are traveling all over the world, living in an unsupervised environment. So there are the challenges and temptations of the world. Even Christian athletes struggle with the issue of pride as they compete for their nation. There’s a temptation to be prideful about

what they’re accomplishing personally.”

Spain heads up North Country Ministries, made up of members of his Lake Placid Baptist Church and Southern Baptist mission teams that travel to Lake Placid from other churches throughout North America. Through the ministry, Spain has opened doors to share Christ through serving and volunteering at winter sports events in the Lake Placid area.

“We take these opportunities to use creative evangelism tools to talk to others about God,” he said. It may be a “goodie bag” filled with candy, gum, Chapstick and maybe a gospel tract. It may be handing out free cowbells for spectators to clang when their team does well. (A long-time tradition in Europe, cowbells help make up for the fact that it’s tough for fans wearing gloves and mittens to make much noise at winter Olympic venues!)

As part of North Country Ministries, Spain conducts nightly Bible studies in Lake Placid, attended by Olympic athletes when they’re in town. That’s how

Spain got to know John Napier, a member of the U.S. bobsled team that will compete in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Feb. 12-28.

Spain first met Napier several years ago when Napier’s father, William, was dying of cancer and Spain ministered to the family in the hospital. Young Napier was a teenager but at eight years old, he

had inherited the love of bobsledding from his father and mother. He competed in his first international competition at 16, and raced in his first World Cup at 17.

“I later ran into John at the Olympic Training



Spain

Center and invited him to our Bible Study. Several weeks passed and he began to come regularly. About a year-and-a-half-ago, he started coming every week,” Spain recalls. Eventually, Spain led Napier, already a Christian, into a closer walk with Christ.

“Over the last couple of months, I’ve seen in John’s life a real hunger and desire to follow Christ. It’s become very personal to him, and he has seen the transforming power of God change his life from the inside out,” said Spain, who baptized 23-year-old Napier on a recent Sunday morning.

Napier says Spain has been an “awesome spiritual guide for us as athletes in Lake Placid Baptist Church. Derek is always at the top of the track volunteering his time and just showing you that Christ is everywhere. He’s always here to support the athletes and minister to us.”

Napier said it takes good hand-eye coordination and good reaction time to drive the sled: “Driving is not only seeing, but it’s about feeling what the sled is doing under you.”

After the Winter Olympics closes on Feb. 28, Napier will return to his “day” job as a soldier in the Army National Guard. Spain, who also will be in Vancouver for the Winter Olympics, will return after the close of the games to Lake Placid to resume his ministry as a NAMB resort missionary and a Baptist pastor.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Videos of Spain and Napier are at [www.youtube.com/biblicalrecorder](http://www.youtube.com/biblicalrecorder). The next issue will feature the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.)

## Corrections

A story in the Jan. 30 issue of the *Biblical Recorder* about a Haitian church planter listed Athens Drive Baptist Church as being in Garner. The church is located in Raleigh.

The story on the final 2009 Cooperative Program budget report, Plan A income for 2009 was erroneously listed as \$27,784,103. The correct amount received through Plan A was \$21,784,103.



## Classified Advertisements

### Pastor

**Senior Pastor** for a conservative, rural, Southern Baptist congregation. The pastor will be a spiritually mature man with at least 5 years of ministerial experience in an SBC church. He will show a willingness to work with both of the Virginia conventions, while supporting the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Candidate will possess strong preaching and leadership skills and will help to lovingly equip this congregation as a body to reach out to this community to win the lost. Please send resumes to: ATTN Pastor Search Committee, Oak Grove Baptist Church, 8096 Leedstown Rd., Oak Grove, VA 22443.

**Senior Pastor.** Temple Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, seeks a pastor to serve an in-town church surrounded by a diverse population. We have an active and vibrant music ministry and conduct traditional, blended, and contemporary worship services. Temple is mission-minded, active in the Raleigh Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention and support missions locally and globally. We are strong in our commitment to the priesthood of the believer, autonomy of the local congregation, separation of church and state, and soul competency. Our church ordains men and women as deacons, and both hold leadership positions. Average Sunday attendance is 225 in worship and 175 in Sunday School. The congregation desires a pastor specially gifted in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, with a passion for reaching the lost. Also, the successful candidate should relate well to all age groups. A seminary degree is required, with a minimum of five years in a successful pastorate preferred. Send letters of interest and resumes to: [info@templeraleigh.org](mailto:info@templeraleigh.org) or Chair, Pastor Search Committee, 5100 Hunter Hill Road, Raleigh, NC 27604 by March 1, 2010.

Central Baptist Church, Bearden ([cbcbearden.org](http://cbcbearden.org)), a large suburban Knoxville, TN, church with ties to both the SBC and the CBF, is seeking a **senior pastor**. Selection will be led by the Holy Spirit; however professional degrees, maturity and experience in related positions will be expected of any candidate. For more information about this position, to apply, or to recommend a candidate, please see the church website at [cbcbearden.org/pastorsearch.shtml](http://cbcbearden.org/pastorsearch.shtml).

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The First Baptist Church of Galax, Virginia, is seeking a full-time **senior pastor**. Located in southwestern Virginia, First Baptist Church has a long history of being related to the Virginia Baptist General Association. This 350-resident-member congregation is nearing the conclusion of an intentional interim process and is looking forward to innovative pastoral leadership that supports gifts-based Ministry Teams, Deacon Family Ministry (men and women may serve as deacons), world-wide missions, creative Bible study, life-oriented worship, vital children and youth ministries, our Hispanic Ministry, and warm Christian fellowship. The prospective pastor should have outstanding preaching abilities, be a skilled administrator, team builder with the staff, and one who relates well to all people. At a minimum, applicants should have an earned master of divinity from an accredited seminary, preferably a doctorate. If you feel that God is leading you to this calling, please send resume to: Pastor Search Team, First Baptist Church, 1024 East Stuart Drive, Galax, VA 24333. For more information about First Baptist Church, you may contact our website: [www.fbcgalax.org](http://www.fbcgalax.org).

**Pastor.** Hallsboro Baptist Church, Hallsboro, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a small, rural church with a diverse congregation. We support both CBF and SBC. Applicants should have a masters degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school. Please send resume and references to Search Committee, 3815 Sam Potts Hwy., Hallsboro, NC 28450.

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**Full-time Youth Minister.** Ideal candidate will have a degree in youth ministry, or its equivalent and have past experience in full-time youth related vocation. Send resume to: Bellview Baptist Church, 901 Bellview Road, Woodruff, SC 29388 or email: [msgrits@prtcnet.com](mailto:msgrits@prtcnet.com).

Mountain View Baptist Church of Hamptonville, NC, seeks an **Associate Pastor of Worship** to lead in sincere, heartfelt worship and be responsible for leading a comprehensive music ministry. Average worship attendance is 275. Our church is theologically conservative and actively involved in missions. E-mail resume to [mvc@yadtel.net](mailto:mvc@yadtel.net).

First Baptist Church of Reidsville, NC, a church of around 250 in regular Sunday attendance is in need of a **Minister of Music**. First Baptist Church is associated with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Candidates should have at least a bachelor’s degree in a music related field, experience in leading and directing choral groups and ensembles and adhere to the fundamental truths of the Christian faith. The successful candidate will be expected to lead in both traditional and contemporary worship styles. Candidate should submit resume to: Music Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 409 S. Main Street, Reidsville, NC 27320.

Polkville Baptist Church, located in the southern foothills of North Carolina, is seeking to fill a full-time position for Minister of Worship and Discipleship. We are a purpose driven church in a rural community averaging 250 during Sunday morning worship. Interested persons should have a degree in music with additional studies in Christian Education. For a full job description visit our website at [www.polkvillebaptist.com](http://www.polkvillebaptist.com). Please send your resume by March 1, 2010. Polkville Baptist Church, Attn. Personnel Committee, PO Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136

**Minister of Youth and Missions.** Wake Forest Baptist Church, a dynamic CBF affiliated church of over 900 members in Wake Forest, NC, is actively seeking a minister of youth and missions as part of a multi-staff team. This position will primarily oversee a vital, growing youth ministry averaging 50-60 weekly. This position also includes responsibilities of overseeing the church’s missions efforts. Seminary/divinity school degree and minimum of two years experience required. Submit resumes to: Wake Forest Baptist Church, 118 E. South Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587, Attn: Minister of Youth and Missions Committee.

**Full time director of child care center.** Daycare experience and education needed. Please submit resume to: Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 596 East Washington St. Ext. Rockingham, NC 28379. E-mail: [officemobc@yahoo.com](mailto:officemobc@yahoo.com).

### Denominational

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) is seeking a **Regional Elder Care Director (RECD)** for the Western Region of the state. The RECD is responsible for orchestrating ministry/services of NCBAM in their region as well as working with NCBAM. Master’s degree in gerontology, social work or related field; or bachelor’s degree in gerontology or social work plus two years experience in related field preferred. Visit [www.ncbam.org/about/employment](http://www.ncbam.org/about/employment) for more information. Interested individuals may apply by sending a resume, references and support material to NCBAM Elder Care Director Position, PO Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27360. Deadline March 2, 2010.

### Miscellaneous

**Europe and the 2010 Oberammergau Passion Play.** Experience the historic and world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play with Wayne and Joy Brown of DIVERSIFIED MINISTRIES, [www.diversifiedministries.org](http://www.diversifiedministries.org), based in Myrtle Beach, SC. Join them for the 2010 Passion Play including: Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, and England. June 23 - July 7, 2010 Please call 843-213-1894 or 843-796-0397.

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Cost for Baptist churches and organizations is \$1.20 per word, number and standalone initial (\$1.42 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds that run in the paper also are carried online.



## Lesson for February 21

## Formations

## Lesson for February 28

## A Question of Fellowship

**Focal Passage: Matthew 9:9-13**

I was a senior in high school applying for a scholarship to a liberal arts college. A letter of reference written by my pastor caused a member of the scholarship committee to identify me as a person who didn't "smoke, curse, or chew; or run around with those who do."

I was shocked to learn that he viewed this negatively. My parents had instilled in me the importance of good behavior and the need to be careful about the company I kept. I went to the college without the benefit of a scholarship!

Looking back on that experience, I realize he was condemning the arrogant attitude, not the attributes. Arrogance causes us to feel superior to others and to treat them as if they are inferior. Haughtiness is not a helpful attribute in God's Kingdom work. That is the lesson in today's Bible story.

Like most good stories, this one is driven by conflict between the protagonist (Jesus) and the antagonists (the Pharisees). It begins with Jesus' encounter with Matthew, a tax collector. Tax collectors were hated and despised in Jesus' day. The Jews hearing this story certainly would identify Matthew as the villain because he worked for the Roman government collecting taxes for a healthy commission.

The tax collectors were disbarred from attending the synagogue and were

considered unclean by Jewish law.

The shocking moment in the story is when Jesus approaches Matthew and, instead of condemning him, says, "Follow me." And Matthew does.

As the story continues, we see Jesus and Matthew dining with a group of tax collectors and others who are identified as sinners. Who invited these people to the dinner party? Apparently, Matthew invited them to come and meet Jesus. It reminds us of the story of the Samaritan woman at the well and her invitation for her friends to come and see Jesus.

In recent years, churches have gone to great effort and expense to make their facilities handicap accessible. We provide special parking, wheelchair ramps, handicap-approved restrooms, elevators, and special seating for those with physical needs.

We welcome people into our congregation with physical infirmities. But what happens when a spiritually handicapped person comes into our presence? Do we really welcome them, or do we separate them from the true fellowship by not including them in the church's ministry. Do we, like the Pharisees, leave those we consider to be spiritually inferior on the outside looking in? Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:13b).



**DuPre Sanders**  
pastor, Roxboro Baptist Church

## A Question of Authority

**Focal Passage: Mark 3:19b-30**

Have you ever been misunderstood or misrepresented? Has anyone ever twisted your words or motives and used them against you?

I remember a time in my ministry when I learned that some local ministers were listening to tapes of my sermons in an effort to discredit my ministry. I was shocked and hurt at the time, but it was a good lesson for me. It reminded me to think before I speak and to be ready to give an account for my words.

The earthly ministry of Jesus was surrounded by constant controversy. Many people misunderstood Him. The things He did and said in love were used to attack Him in hate!

As we saw in last week's lesson, the religious leaders had no use for Jesus (Matthew 9:9-13). Our passage for today shows Jesus being misunderstood not only by the religious leaders, but by His own family as well.

Jesus' family feared that He had lost his mind.

Although this part of the story is not developed, they probably "went to take charge of Him" in order to care for Him and possibly protect Him from being embarrassed.

The teachers of the law, however,

seemed to be more sinister in their response to Jesus.

They determined that He was possessed by Beelzebub. "Beelzebub" is a Hebrew word meaning "Lord of the flies." The Greek equivalent is "Beelzeboul" which means "dung god" or "god of the dung heaps."

I think you get the picture of how these people felt about Jesus and His ministry!

The religious folks accused Jesus of doing Satan's work. Jesus responded that Satan never drives demons out of people because he uses them to control their lives.

Jesus cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is why Jesus told the teachers of the law that they had blasphemed the Spirit of God by speaking irreverently about God's work and calling it evil.

As a pastor, I am often asked, "What is the unforgivable sin?"

The unforgivable sin, as I understand it based on this text, is not an act that is committed; it is a way of life that tells God He is not wanted in the person's life.

Hebrews 10:29 leaves us with this question, "How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

## Lesson for February 21

## Bible Studies for Life

## Lesson for February 28

## What's on Your Mind?

**Focal Passage: Colossians 3:1-14**

In 1972, the United Negro College Fund began an ad campaign that continues today. The slogan "A Mind is a Terrible Thing To Waste" has become a catch phrase used by parents and teachers alike to get students to sit up and pay attention; to value the learning process and material before them.

So, one could deduce, a wasted mind is one that isn't used beyond daily subconscious existence; one not stretched by education or challenged by opposing views but just existing in the matter surrounding it. A wasted mind does not control but rather is controlled. A wasted mind is, well, a waste.

But what about when it comes to our faith? What part does our mind play in our Christian walk? In Romans, Paul encourages us to "be transformed by the renewing of our minds."

He uses such eloquent words that we become dazzled by their rhythm while missing their point entirely. In our scripture focus today, he gets a little more pointed.

Paul says "set your mind on things above." Teachers say "focus," coaches say "get in the game," but it's all the same meaning.

Determine right now for yourself where your mind will be and put it there.

Notice that Paul doesn't say, "see how you feel and follow that path" or "tune into emotion and let it lead you" or even "let the things of Christ fall upon your heart and mind" but SET your mind ... it's a call for action, an intentionality on the part of the person to willfully and deliberately make their minds focus on things above.

It's as if Paul could hear generations to come ask the same question, "How can I do that?"

One can almost imagine Paul rolling his eyes as he spends the next few minutes going into great detail about how to "set your mind on things above."

He talks about the "old" things we need to avoid and the "new" things we need to focus on.

He talks about attitudes and actions to trash and virtues consistent with new life in Christ.

He speaks of how we are to treat each other (hopefully a product of our new-found focus of our minds) and how it all works together in love.

It's almost as if Paul is saying, "if you control your mind — focus — you will be transformed in all things."

## How Can You Keep from Losing Your Mind?

**Focal Passages: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-17**

With the state of health care in this country "in flux" at best, and with care for those with mental health difficulties not even at that nebulous position, how to keep from losing one's mind might be a better question to ask now than ever!

Of course, 2000 years ago it was spiritual health that had Paul's attention as he wrote to churches in Corinth and Ephesus.

In both cases of the focal passages, Paul uses a war analogy to make his point.

In the Corinthian passage he speaks of captives and strong holds. In the familiar Ephesians verses he talks of the "armor of God."

As relevant today as then, the question of how a Christian keeps his mind in a trying age is a good one.

The war, clearly, rages on. There are more things than ever that vie for our attention.

From multi-media outlets like the Internet and TV, to talk spheres like radio and instant messaging, our minds are a spiritual battlefield.

Keeping our focus and not letting our concentration stray from Christ is difficult.

But we are empowered with God's resources, as Paul points out.

I ran cross-country in high school for one season.

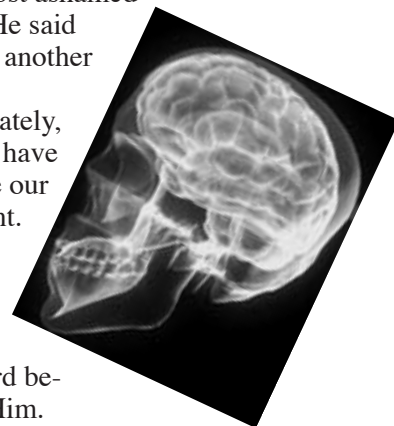
My coach is a legend in track/cross-country coaching circles and he taught me many wonderful things.

Maybe the best was a method to retain a mental edge.

He told me simply to run for a tree.

To be more precise, he told me to pick out a tree, somewhere in the distance, amidst all the other things I saw, and then, at all costs "run to the tree." Focus and just run to the tree. I asked what happened when I got "to the tree" and found I wasn't at the finish line. His answer was so predictable and obvious I am almost ashamed I asked. He said "pick out another tree."

Fortunately, we never have to change our focal point. We must simply focus on God and run toward being like Him.



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# Buckets of hope, dollars for building

(Continued from Page 1)

asks North Carolina Baptists to keep following updates in the *Biblical Recorder*, [www.biblicalrecorder.org](http://www.biblicalrecorder.org) and at [www.ncmissions.org](http://www.ncmissions.org) where volunteers should register their skills and availability.

Moss said there has been “tremendous response from the medical community,” to volunteer in Haiti, a response beyond what is typical. “North Carolina Baptists can be proud of that,” he said.

“Those doctors have made a difference in those people’s lives in the hospital, no doubt, hands down.”

## Four ways to help

N.C. Baptist Men is asking people to consider four ways to help in the short and long term.

First, Director Richard Brunson asks for prayer for the people of Haiti, to pray God will use this disaster to open doors for the gospel and for the safety and effectiveness of the medical teams.

N.C. Baptist Men is promoting an effort to collect “Buckets of Hope” in which N.C. Baptists fill a 5-gallon plastic bucket with food staples like beans, noodles, oil, sugar, flour and rice. Pick up points are at most associational offices Feb. 27.

The food buckets will be distributed in Haiti by responsible churches or established agencies.

N.C. Baptist Men has a reputation as builders.

Brunson has pegged costs at approximately \$2,300 for materials to build a house and \$12,000 for a church.

While “Buckets of Hope” is a great project for individuals, Brunson hopes churches will respond to the bigger challenge of raising money for building materials for houses and churches to make a long-term difference and to open doors to planting new churches in Haiti.

In Haiti, N.C. Baptist Men has been working with Global Outreach Haiti. Global Outreach is a Mississippi based world relief organization working in Haiti since 1983.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) has no career missionary presence in Haiti.

The IMB had a 30-year presence that ended last year.

Missionaries who had been in Haiti moved into the Dominican Republic, to minister among Haitians leaking across the border to find a better life, but who were running into significant difficulties.

Global Outreach Haiti’s operation site in Tintayen is about 8 miles from the airport.

One of the N.C. Baptist Men’s board members, Jack Hancox from Spruce Pine, was an IMB missionary to Haiti who suggested Global Outreach when Brunson asked who in Haiti he could trust to establish a working relationship.

N.C. Baptist Men medical teams have worked out of the “burn clinic” in Tintayen.

“Think in terms of a few rooms, not a hospital,” Moss said.

All N.C. Baptist Men teams started there, and some migrated to Petionville Community Hospital 12 miles and 90 minutes away, and others to Little

Brother Little Sister Children’s Hospital. As with any recovery effort, Moss said, “We stay until the money runs out, the people run out or the project is finished.”

Haiti will never be finished. Moss said Haiti is a “top tier” disaster, with a “protracted time frame” for aid.

“Within the next several weeks we should be able to solidify our plans for Haiti, which are constantly developing,” Moss said.

With so much need and so many international organizations flocking to help, Moss said N.C. Baptist Men will depend on “the Lord’s leading” to determine where best and most effectively to plug in.

“We will follow the open doors and opportunities God provides,” he said.

## Volunteers charged with kidnapping

PORT-AU-PRINCE (BP) — A Haitian prosecutor on Feb. 4 charged 10 members of a Baptist volunteer team with child kidnapping and criminal association for allegedly not following the law in attempting to transport 33 children into the Dominican Republic.

Haitian Deputy Prosecutor Jean Ferge Joseph then handed the case to an investigative judge, Reuters news service reported.

“That judge can free you but he can

also continue to hold you for further proceedings,” he told the group, comprised of five men and five women who were arrested Jan. 29.

The charges carry prison terms of up to 15 years, *The New York Times* reported.

The case has garnered national and international attention and has adoption and Christian aid agencies concerned it could tarnish their work. The 10 volunteers maintain they are innocent.

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June 23-26, 2010 | Charlotte, N.C.

**2010 Assembly theme: “And so we are ...” (1 John 3:1)**



**Bill Leonard**  
Thursday evening speaker



**Lauren Winner**  
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