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EMBRACING CHRIST

Leaders want to make disciples, transform lives

By Melissa Lilley
BSC Communications

From research about why young adults are leaving the church to why so many churches are plateaued or declining, it's not hard to find evidence pointing out the desperate need for transformation in churches across the country.

The latest study from LifeWay research takes on a different approach.

Transformational Church focuses not so much on the negative trends as it does on what needs to happen in order to reverse those trends.

A major part of seeing transformation in the church comes when churches stop measuring success by the numbers and start measuring success by whether or not lives are being changed.

Find it Here 2011: Embracing Christ is an effort to help churches focus not on building a larger budget, or bigger buildings, or better attendance, but to focus on helping people obey the commands of Jesus Christ to follow Him and abide in Him.

This type of life transformation only comes when churches are committed to making disciples.

"Through a simple and intentional discipleship strategy, churches can decide how to customize the Find it Here emphasis to make disciples in their own context," said Lynn Sasser, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) executive leader for congregational services.

"Through Find it Here we pray that North Carolina

(See Leaders Page 5)



Photo by Laura Sikes

WEEK OF PRAYER — Vickie Stewart, center, a North American Mission Board missionary, connects with Morgan State University (MSU) students Stephon Walker, left, a junior, and Phillip Datcher, a senior. The 4'11" Stewart, a Baltimore native, came to MSU in 2008 as campus missionary. Stewart is one of eight missionaries featured in the Week of Prayer for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, March 6-13. A video about Stewart is available online at www.youtube.com/biblicalrecorder.

Missionary answers tall challenge

By Laura Sikes
NAMB Communications

College freshman Shemaiah Strickland suffered with horrible nightmares when she first came to Morgan State University (MSU) in Baltimore.

Adjusting to being away from her home in Atlanta for the first time, she said she just wanted to belong. Strickland attended a university organization fair and met North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary Vickie Stewart, who was

staffing a booth with fellow campus chaplains for The University Memorial Chapel. Strickland had prayed to God for help with her loneliness. "I asked God what to do, and He sent me to Vickie," she said.

Stewart gave Strickland her card and invited her to call whenever she wanted to talk. She made the call and Stewart later led her to Christ.

Though Strickland had attended church off and on, she says she never felt she had a personal relationship with Jesus. She started going to Stewart's weekly

(See Missionary Page 7)

N.C. Baptist nurses minister, fellowship, volunteer together

By Dianna L. Cagle
BR Assistant Managing Editor

Providing a caring touch in times of sickness. It's what nurses do.

But some nurses in North Carolina unite to help even more people and to administer the gospel into people's lives.

"It's kind of been my life, my niche to be able to be part of a fellowship of nurses," said Donna Rodgers, outgoing president of North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship (NCBNF).

While leaving her presidential role, Rodgers will continue to lead as health center director and contribute to the organization.

Built around Psalm 23 — "He Leads ... We Follow" — brought nurses from

across the state together for NCBNF's annual meeting. The event featured an indoor prayer walk with stations set up for each verse of Ps. 23:1-6. There was also a time of continuing education credits as the nurses studied about diabetes. The group met Feb. 5 at Caraway Conference Center. Some chose to come the night before to stay but others drove in for the day.

On mission

Nurses who had traveled to India and Honduras as well as ones who had served with World Changers and Victory Junction shared their experiences with the group.

Claudia Hayes, who has been a member of NCBNF for about 20 years was

(See N.C. Baptist Page 11)



BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle

LEARNING — North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship members gather at Caraway Conference Center Feb. 5 to gain some continuing education credits and hold their annual meeting.

NAMB trustees approve sweeping changes

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Trustees of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) approved sweeping changes Feb. 9 altering the focus, strategy, leadership and organizational structure of the Southern Baptist entity. The changes come almost five months to the day after trustees voted last Sept. 14 to approve Kevin Ezell as NAMB's president.

The package of changes approved by trustees involves four primary areas: NAMB's national strategy; a regional approach to how NAMB will do its work; an organizational restructuring that will align NAMB's staff chart with its new strategy; and four new vice presidents who will give leadership to key ministry areas.

"This is a massive overhaul," Ezell said. "We believe it's going to be a historic overhaul."

NAMB's national strategy — titled Send North America — will focus on mobilizing missionaries and churches for evangelistic church planting. Once churches or potential missionaries have connected with NAMB, after an assessment, NAMB will provide any needed equipping and training before the missionary or church enters the mission field.

Evangelism and leadership development will be integrated throughout the process.

"Sending" churches that partner with NAMB will have a broad range of participation options, up to and including starting a church themselves.

Smaller churches can participate in clusters with other churches.

All will be encouraged to send mission teams, volunteers and other resources to directly help and partner with church planters on the mission field.

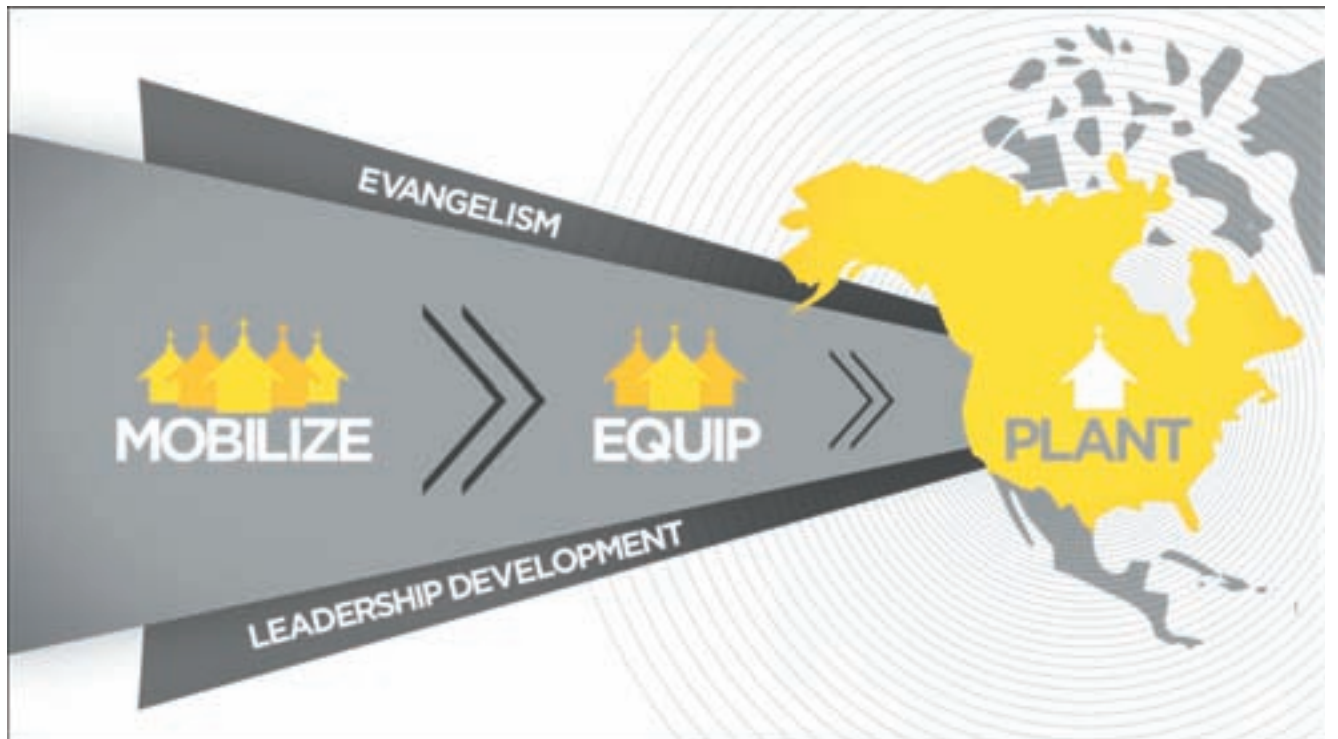
Both sending churches and new church plants will be expected to contribute to Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program and to minister in a manner consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

"This entire strategy points everything we do toward assisting churches in planting healthy Southern Baptist churches," Ezell said. "Our desire is to mobilize thousands of Southern Baptists to be engaged in church planting."

He added, "Right now there are four percent involved, our initial goal is to see 10 percent of churches involved in evangelistic church planting."

The Send North America strategy will take on a regional focus. NAMB trustees approved a new approach to the board's work that will divide North America into five regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, West and Canada. Each region will have its own vice president who reports directly to Ezell and will work closely with state Baptist convention leaders in that region.

Ezell said state leaders have been an integral part of



shaping the new direction for NAMB, and that he is thankful for the lengths state executives have gone to work with him.

"We relate with 42 state association executives. It's vital we work together — not because we have to but because we want to. They have been incredible. They, too, have a heart to reach North America and they all have a heart for reaching the underserved areas," he said.

Ezell noted that 80 percent of NAMB's funding to states already goes to unreached regions and when money starts shifting from Southern states to unreached areas, that percentage will go even higher.

As NAMB funding to Southern states is reduced, Ezell said state leaders will be able to direct that money to specific unreached regions of their choosing. NAMB activity in the South will continue, Ezell said, noting, "We'd be very remiss if we did not continue to invest in the South and plant churches in those areas."

Ezell indicated NAMB hopes to have new integrated strategic partnership agreements signed with each state convention by the end of March.

NAMB will prioritize its efforts in 50 population centers throughout North America. The initial 25 cities are New York, Washington/Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh in the Northeast; in the South, Atlanta, Miami and New Orleans; in the Midwest, Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul, St. Louis, Cleveland and Indianapolis; in the West, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, San Diego, Las Vegas,

Salt Lake City, Phoenix and Denver; and in Canada, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.

Trustees also approved four candidates for vice presidents Ezell presented for a vote: Jeff Christopherson, vice president, Canada region; Steve Davis, vice president, Midwest region; Larry Wynn, vice president, evangelism; and Aaron Coe, vice president, mobilization.

Ezell said he would cover the Northeast and West regions until vice presidents can be found. Richard Harris and Carlisle Driggers will be NAMB's ambassadors to the South region until a vice president can be named.

Harris is a retired NAMB vice president who served as NAMB's interim president in the year leading up to Ezell's election. Driggers is the retired executive leader of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Six work groups — all focused on the overarching goal of evangelistic church planting — will exist at NAMB's Alpharetta office: evangelism, mobilization, equipping, ministry controls, communications and missions support.

Other NAMB ministries such as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, mission education and social ministries remain but will be more specifically focused on supporting the evangelistic church planting process.

"To put \$9 million more dollars to missions on the field in just six months, that's much faster than the SBC directed."



News Briefs

GWU gets \$2M for student center

Frank Stewart, Gardner-Webb trustee and president and founder of Ultra Machine and Fabrication, Inc., has committed \$2 million toward the new Tucker Student Center. In recognition of this gift, the first floor main hall will be called "Stewart Hall" and the first floor banquet and conference room will be named for the Ultra Company.

Stewart's relationship with Gardner-Webb began nearly four years ago when the University approached his newly opened Ultra manufacturing plant in Shelby, N.C., offering credits for continuing higher education to Ultra's employees. Impressed by the University's generosity, Stewart became a trustee in 2009 and decided shortly thereafter to support the University financially.

"My family and I love Gardner-Webb," Stewart said. "It's a small Christian school that is graduating people with a first class education, but also with a high level of integrity and with very strong Christian values. Those fabulous men and women leave Gardner-Webb and go make a difference in

their jobs and communities. That's what a university should be all about."

The student center is set to open in 2012 and is just one initiative of Gardner-Webb's \$45 million Higher Ground Campaign.

B&H: Changes to strategy, staff

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Selma Wilson, vice president of B&H Publishing Group, has announced strategy and leadership changes to enhance the effectiveness and reach of the LifeWay Christian Resources division.

The changes are built around "a re-

solve toward missional engagement and ministry and business commitment," Wilson said in addressing B&H staff members Jan. 28 in conjunction with her first 90 days in her role.

John Thompson, B&H's vice president of marketing for more than a decade, will assume the role of vice president of acquisitions. Mary Katharine Hunt, formerly director of LifeWay Kids in LifeWay's church resources division, will be B&H's new vice

president of marketing. Wilson also announced the decision to discontinue the Fidelis imprint.

Thompson explained that "B&H launched Fidelis Books two years ago to produce quality books for patriotic consumers. We successfully published titles by individuals who shape national opinion. Despite that success, we feel the need to offer greater focus on our base as a distinctively Christian publisher."

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Egyptian crisis helps believers build bonds

By Don Graham
Baptist Press

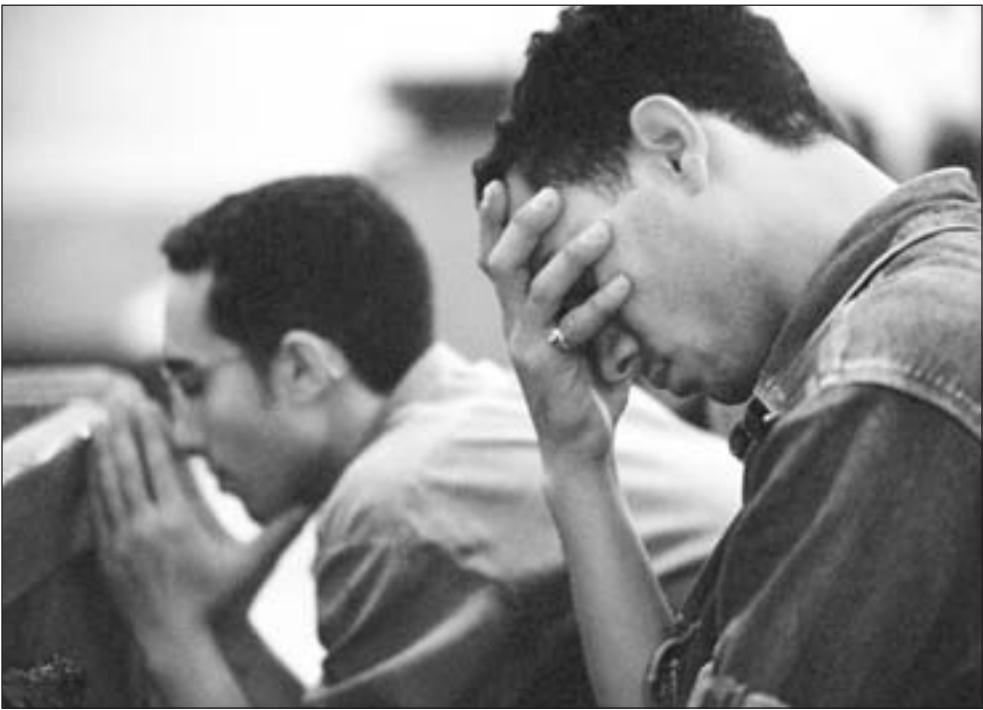
CAIRO — Two weeks ago, Mina Peter* didn't know a soul in his Cairo apartment building. Like many young Egyptians, the 22-year-old computer science major was simply too busy to make the effort. And as the only Christian in the building, Peter wasn't sure his neighbors cared to know him.

But that was before a massive revolt calling for the ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who stepped down Feb. 11, plunged the city into chaos. Demonstrations turned violent; police threw tear gas while protestors traded rocks and Molotov cocktails. Businesses were looted and vandalized. Tanks rolled down Cairo's streets.

Instead of turning on each other, the violence brought many Egyptian communities together. Neighbors improvised checkpoints at their apartment buildings to ensure safety. And in the process, Peter says, they inadvertently began to get to know one another.

"(I) have been building relationships with people who have been living in the same building with me for years and I haven't known them," he says. "Now I get to know them all, I get to speak to them, we drink tea with each other ... (and discuss) what's happening in the country. I believe that God has been opening doors for us in this time of trouble that we can have bridges with people — that we can build more relationships that can open doors and we can deliver the message of Jesus."

Peter adds that the crisis also is creating opportunities for sowing the gospel.



PRAYING — Egyptian believers worship at Kasr El-Dobara Evangelical Church near Cairo's Tahrir Square. The square has been the epicenter of recent protests calling for the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who stepped down Feb. 11.

On Feb. 6, a large evangelical church near Cairo's Tahrir Square — the epicenter of the protests — held an open-air worship service before thousands of protestors, many of them Muslim.

"(There were) a lot of people shouting, even if they didn't know the words for the songs ... but they were joining them," Peter says. "All the Muslims around them were listening ... they're seeing that Christians are loving the country, that they don't have any (intentions) except love and mercy for the Egyptian people."

Samir Abdou* is the pastor of the

evangelical church in Cairo that Peter attends.

Abdou is working to help his congregation navigate the crisis in light of their faith. Though no one in the church was physically harmed during the violence, a shop owned by two church members was looted and burned. Abdou doesn't think it's a coincidence that the theme he chose for the church in 2011 is "affliction and growth."

"Maybe this is what the church needed ... to regain our vision and stop being silent," he says. "If we want (Egyptians) to know the Lord we need to be close to

them. ... We are happy with the closeness (the crisis has brought) and we are seeking that the Lord might use it to serve and help our Muslim brothers."

Abdou believes prayer is critically important during this potential period of transition in Egypt's history. His church is holding daily prayer meetings, and he covets the prayers of Christians around the world — but not only on behalf of Egyptian believers.

"Pray for all Egyptians because at the moment we are all in the same boat and that's a positive thing," he said. "Pray that the change will bring more freedom for (Christians) to share our faith and to be able to build churches."

"We have been praying for years for revival in Egypt," he said.

"We have been praying for the church, especially for the young people to have a real revival. ... I believe that God is using (the crisis) for everybody to speak and maybe ... these relationships will be used for them to see how Christians live and how they love God and how they love nonbelievers."

Prayer requests

- Pray that the gospel spreads to millions of Egyptian families during this crisis.
- Ask God to inspire Egyptian believers with creative and appropriate ways to share God's Word. Pray they seize every opportunity, with wisdom, to tangibly love their neighbors and to share the hope that is within them.
- Pray that Egyptian believers will be filled with God's strength and be encouraged.

*Names changed

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Obituaries

DAN WALLACE, 69, died Jan. 25. A Gardner-Webb graduate, Wallace ministered at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, as well as Calvary Baptist Church, Shelby, for 29 years.

On Jan. 9, Wallace was recognized as pastor emeritus at Calvary. He was interim pastor at Eastside Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Jean Yeomans Wallace; two sons, Joe Wallace of Florida and Michael Wallace of Shelby; two daughters Debbie Hoyle and Sherry Champion, both of Shelby; mother, Ida "Big Momma" Wallace; four sisters, Patti Suddreth of Denver, Marlena Fuerstman of Jerusalem, Connie Wilson of Gaffney

Around the state

and Tonya Larnden of Columbus; two brothers, Earl Wallace of Oak Island, Dale Wallace of Iron Station; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: Calvary Baptist Church, 320 Old Boiling Springs Rd., Shelby, NC 28152.



Staff change

TED DUNCAN has been called as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Bryson City. He is a recent graduate of Gardner-Webb University.

New deadline for nominations

The Committee on Nominations of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) has extended its deadline to receive recommendations for the BSC Board of Directors and Convention committees until March 7.

BSC bylaws require the committee to: recommend to the Convention nominees from both small and large churches (over/under 400 members), limit churches to no more than six individuals from a single church serving on all Convention boards and committees, and limit BSC Board of Directors membership to one member from any church.

Vacancies for the Board of Directors are as follows: Region 1 (1 vacancy); Region 2 (4 vacancies); Region 3 (2 vacancies); Region 4 (1 vacancies); Region 6 (6 vacancies); Region 7 (1 vacancy); Region 8 (3 vacancies); Region 9 (5 vacancies).

The Committee on Convention

Meetings has six vacancies to fill. This committee is responsible for planning the annual meeting.

Three vacancies must be filled for the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials. This committee considers recommendations for resolutions and memorials and presents these recommendations at the annual meeting.

The Historical Committee has four vacancies to fill. The Historical Committee encourages churches to record their history, celebrate significant church anniversaries and preserve the history of the BSC.

Recommendations may be sent to Committee on Nominations, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107 or completed online at recommend.ncbaptist.org or faxed to (919) 460-7507.

Contact Cynthia King at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5501, or cking@ncbaptist.org.



Opportunity Corner

Food roundup set for April

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina serves close to 725,000 meals and snacks per year. Help meet this year's April goal to collect at least \$350,000 in food, supplies and gift cards.

For information about how you, your church or organization can be a part of Food Roundup, contact Alan Williams at (800) 476-3669, ext. 1277, or awilliams@bchfamily.org. Visit www.bchfamily.org/foodroundup.

Mundo hosts children for Missions in Asia

Girls in Action (GAs) and Children in Action (CiAs) will gather at Camp Mundo Vista to study Missions in Asia.

Missionaries will share with children about what goes on in their region or country. There will be crafts and recreation time as well. For GAs March 19

and April 30 have been set aside, and CiAs will meet April 2. There will be another CiA date in October.

The cost is \$15 for registration for each participant (including adults).

Contact (919) 882-2344 or visit www.wmunc.org.

People who sew can help mission team

This August a team from Euto Baptist Church in Marshville will travel to Tshaneni, Swaziland. In just one of the villages, there are 400 orphans.

The team is asking for people to make a rag or sock doll to give to the children. Pray for each doll and include

a scripture. Dolls will be collected through July 31.

Contact Lisa Warren at (704) 776-5590 or warrensinafrica@gmail.com.

Dolls may be sent to: Euto Baptist Church, 6019 Highway 205, Marshville, NC 28103.



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Church News



► **Meadow Ridge Baptist Church**, Maiden, retired its debt 10 years early in 2010 during a note burning/debt retirement service. Pastor Arlie Roten holds the note as John Moose looks on.

'Why is my church not here?'

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to print significant news from the churches, but our staff relies on our churches and associations to send us information. Accuracy and timeliness are enhanced if you send the information to the *Biblical Recorder* as soon as it is available (generally within two weeks after the event). **For e-mail submissions**, send announcements and digital pictures as an attachment to dianna@biblicalrecorder.org. Or, send to *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.



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Leaders want to make disciples, transform lives

(Continued from Page 1)

Baptist churches across this state will, by the power of the Holy Spirit, develop a disciple-making culture in the church that leads to radical lifestyle changes. We pray this will produce disciples who are ready to follow Christ no matter the cost."

Find it Here 2011 includes two emphases: Following Christ (spring 2011) and Abiding in Christ (fall 2011). With each emphasis churches are encouraged to commit to:

- Pray for disciples.
- Preach on discipleship.
- Teach discipleship in classrooms and in homes.
- Make disciples by participating in a 2011 Easter evangelism emphasis.
- Be disciples in the community by serving.

Free resources to help churches carry out the Find it Here emphasis are available for download at www.finditherenc.org.

org. This site features videos, sermon outlines, Bible study lessons and prayer/devotional guides. Churches can also sign up and pledge support to making this a year marked by intentional disciple-making.

Easter Evangelism

Find it Here 2011 is the second year in a three-year emphasis on evangelism, discipleship and missions. The first phase of Find it Here, evangelism, kicked off last year. Churches committed to intentional evangelism and to baptizing new believers.

Discipleship cannot happen without evangelism because discipleship cannot begin until a person has heard the gospel and received Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior.

Therefore, pastors and church leaders are asked this year, as they were last year, to lead their churches to do the following:

- Pray for non-believers (family

members, friends, neighbors and work associates) by name.

- Invite those non-believers to attend the Easter Sunday morning worship service.
- Preach an evangelistic sermon and extend an evangelistic invitation.
- Baptize new converts on Easter Sunday or the Sunday following.

Missions in 2012

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 does not end with baptism, nor does it end with making disciples. Believers are commanded to make disciples of all nations — which means believers are to take the gospel to those who have never heard, whether crossing the street to talk with a neighbor or crossing the ocean to share the gospel in a place void of any evangelical witness.

Missions is the focus of the final Find it Here phase. This phase will be introduced to North Carolina Baptists later this year so they will be ready to

launch a missions emphasis in 2012. Similar to last year's Find it Here evangelism focus and this year's discipleship focus, resources will be available to help North Carolina Baptists learn what it means to be on-mission. "The biblical command from the Lord is to live missional lives," said Chuck Register, BSC executive leader for church planting and missions development. "Missions involves a strategic, intentional, verbal communication of the gospel. We must develop a missions lifestyle."

When all three aspects of Find it Here — evangelism, discipleship and missions — work together to produce life transformation among believers, churches are changed, communities are changed, and more people hear about the salvation that only comes through Jesus Christ.

For more information about Find it Here visit www.finditherenc.org, e-mail findithere@ncbaptist.org or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5648.

Lake Norman: Discipline produces disciples

By Melissa Lilley
BSC Communications

The opening line from an article featured last year in *Christianity Today* read, "Americans love their Bibles. So much so that they keep them in pristine, unopened condition."

Perhaps harsh, yet according to research, perhaps quite true. The article

mentioned a *Time* magazine cover story reporting that only half of adults in the United States can name one of the four Gospels and fewer than half can identify Genesis as the first book in the Bible.

In a Barna research study, American Christians were asked to rate their spiritual maturity based on activities such as worship, service and evangelism. "Christians offered the harshest evaluation of their Bible knowledge, with 25 percent calling themselves not

too mature or not at all mature," noted *Christianity Today*. "Even weekly churchgoers who know the names and places struggle to put it all together and understand the Bible as a single story of redemption."

The issue at hand is more than biblical illiteracy: it's a lack of discipleship. Believers who have not been discipled may not understand the necessity of studying God's Word and applying the truths of scripture to their lives.

Pastor Bobby Blanton and the staff of Lake Norman Baptist Church in Huntersville recently decided it was time to get serious about really studying the Bible. Instead of just encouraging all the church members to read through the Bible, the staff made this a collective focus for the entire congregation for an entire year.

The Voyage

Last year members of Lake Norman were challenged to participate in The Voyage, a one-year read through the Bible in chronological order. Every member who committed to taking on the challenge received a one-year chronological Bible and journal. Lay leaders in the church were enlisted to write a curriculum to run parallel to the daily Bible readings. This curriculum was used in all the adult Sunday School classes for the entire year.

The idea to structure this process of reading through the Bible in the format that came to be known as The Voyage came from associate pastor Landon Horton.

"People were looking for an opportunity to read through the Bible and looking for the accountability they would get from the church and their Sunday School class as they did that together," Blanton said.

Blanton used the Wednesday evening services as a time to work through with the congregation key issues or themes from that week's reading. In addition, his sermons last year focused on scripture from the weekly reading.

This required Blanton to stay a good two months ahead of the congregation in his reading. "It was a daily discipline," he said. "I was able to work through things I knew the congregation would be going through. This brought a greater accountability to me as well."

Blanton first introduced the idea to his staff and then to Sunday School leaders. In early 2009, writers were enlisted to develop the curriculum. At the end of 2009, The Voyage was presented to the congregation and members were asked to consider participating.

"We wanted them to make the connection between what is in the scriptures and how it impacts their personal life," Blanton said. "The Word of God is very relevant to what we do every single day. No matter what profession you're in, what your walk with the Lord is, the Word of God can address your needs."

Acts 1:8

This year Lake Norman is "building on the foundation" established in 2010. Last year this time Blanton and his staff were already looking ahead as to how they would continue with The Voyage.

While the 2010 Bible reading plan maintained an intense pace, this year's approach will move more slowly, allowing more time for the texts. Following a similar format, the congregation is reading through three books of the Bible this year: Mark, Acts and Revelation.

The congregation is starting with Mark and reading one chapter in Mark each day of the week for an entire week. When Mark concludes at the end of April they will begin with Acts.

Blanton said these books were chosen because the 2011 voyage is a "missions-focused voyage" that will help the church learn from scripture how and why they need to step up their intensity and focus on missions. The Voyage is part of the church's 10-year, Acts 1:8 strategy for discipleship. Blanton hopes the church will see through their Bible reading this year that everything they read "relates to our going out and being faithful to take the gospel to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and uttermost ends of the earth."

Other churches are now using Lake Norman's curriculum. "God took this idea and helped to enrich not just the lives of people around Lake Norman, but throughout parts of the world," Blanton said.

For more information about The Voyage visit www.lakenormanbaptist.com or e-mail Landon@lakenormanbaptist.com.

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Women's ministry embraces precious girls

By Melissa Lilley
BSC Communications

From Ruth and Naomi to Lois and Eunice to Jesus and the Samaritan woman, scripture teaches that ministry to women is valuable and necessary. Ministry to girls is also important, and in order for girls to mature into godly women they need to be taught the truths of scripture and how to practically live out those truths.

This is why the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) recently launched GEM: Girls Embrace Ministry. GEM seeks to encourage seventh through 12th grade girls to walk with Jesus Christ every day and to begin now, at an early age, building a legacy of faithfulness.

Just as gems often experience a refining process before they become precious, valuable stones, so must all believers go through times of learning and growing as they seek to become devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. GEM desires to teach girls that they are precious in God's eyes and He wants to refine, mold and shape them into women who reflect His character and who are equipped to serve Him.

"As female leaders invest in the lives of teenage girls, they disciple the teenage girl and help her with life issues from a biblical perspective," said Ashley Allen, director of Embrace women's missions and ministries. "GEM recognizes that the girls of today's church are the women of tomorrow's church. There is an important responsibility for female leaders to teach and train the next generation."

GEM, like BSC's Embrace women's ministry, is based on three intents found in Matthew 28:19-20: evangelism, discipleship and missions.

"GEM, in working within the context of the larger youth ministry, needs to help young women not only foster a lifestyle of sharing Jesus Christ with the lost people they meet, but also help teenage girls come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ," Allen said.

Focusing on discipleship helps girls grow in their relationship with Christ and learn how to prayerfully study and then apply God's Word in their lives. As girls are disciplined and learn more about what it means to follow Christ, they will learn that scripture instructs them to tell others about Christ. "GEM desires for women to be equipped to do



Photos by Alexandra King



BEGINNING — Above, girls play a game during fellowship time at a Girls Embrace Ministry kickoff event. At left, Mrs. North Carolina 2009 Rachel Lee Carter talks with the girls about being "good" and her salvation experience.

Kingdom work through service locally and globally," Allen said.

The GEM kick off event was held Jan. 28-29 at Great Wolf Lodge in Concord. Girls and female youth leaders gathered for fellowship, worship and times of teaching. Merrie Johnson, BSC student ministry consultant, joined Allen in leading the event. Rachel Lee Carter, Mrs. North Carolina USA 2009 and founder of Modeling Christ, brought the keynote address.

Becoming women of purity

Carter shared with the girls and leaders gathered for the kick-off event that although she grew up in church, went to youth group and prided herself on being "good," she cared more about popularity than about influencing her friends with the gospel.

By the time Carter was 18 she was living in her own apartment in New York City, making \$150 an hour as a

professional model and, as she described, "having the time of my life." Yet, before long Carter was in trouble. She began listening to music she should not have listened to, her language turned filthy and she started practicing New Age religion. Her habits of staying out all night at clubs and not taking care of herself physically caused her career to suffer. "I felt helpless, hopeless and like a failure," said.

When Carter had nowhere else to turn she turned to Jesus. One night in her New York apartment, Carter "surrendered it all" to Jesus Christ.

Carter is still a professional model, but has turned her career into an opportunity to share the gospel and how Jesus changed her life. She teaches on what it means to be a woman who is not only pure with her body, but also in her heart and mind. Carter shared that in all things, just as taught in 1 Tim. 2:9, girls should regard the spiritual things and seek to honor Christ in all they say and do.

Start GEM in your church

Allen shared with the girls and their leaders that the intent of GEM "is not to have event, event, event. It's about starting from the foundation of scripture." As older women teach the girls

Regional training

Four one-day training events are being held to help equip women's ministry leaders to start GEM in the local church. Each event starts at 7 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. on a Friday evening. Cost is \$10. Girls and women's ministry leaders are invited to attend.

During the regional trainings Ashley Allen, director of Embrace, will meet with ministry leaders to discuss the how-to's of starting GEM, and Johnson and Carter will meet with the girls to talk about modesty and purity in Christ.

- **Feb. 18** — Apex Baptist Church
- **March 4** — First Baptist Church, Dublin
- **March 18** — Old Town Baptist Church, Winston-Salem
- **April 8** — West Asheville Baptist Church

For more information about GEM or Embrace, visit www.embracenc.org. To register for a regional training, call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5561.

how to walk with Christ, they do so in order that "the word of God will not be dishonored" (Titus 2:5).

GEM will look different in each church, just as Embrace looks different in each church. With that in mind, ministry leaders can follow seven steps to begin GEM:

- **Prayer** — Leaders should pray for God to reveal His purposes for GEM and for girls to put their trust in Him.
- **Connect** — Meet with the pastor and youth pastor. Ask about their direction and vision for the ministry. Do not go forward with this ministry unless the pastor and youth pastor agree that this is God's will for the church.
- **Network** — Talk to the girls who will be involved in GEM about what they would like to see included in the ministry.
- **Refine** — Create a GEM leadership team; one person cannot do all the work.
- **POG** — Determine the purpose, objectives and goals for GEM.
- **Engage** — Get the girls involved in GEM through Bible studies, events and mission projects.
- **Reflect** — What went well? What can be done differently? Always be looking for ways to make the ministry more effective.

'Russian' wrestler uses reputation to share Christ

By John Baker
Special to the Recorder

Ivan Koloff built part of his wrestling career on the rivalry between America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.).

In the 1960's, 70's, and 80's, the Soviet Union was the enemy of America. Cold war tensions kept folks on the edge of their seats, fearful of a nuclear barrage or an invasion.

Koloff donned outfits with the Soviet insignia and taunted Americans as soft, weak and spineless.

He was known as "The Russian Bear," but he grew up farming in Ontario, Canada.

In the Carolina's, he is best known as the mentor and uncle of Nikita Koloff.

Ivan used his shaved head to promote himself among the wrestling industry. He won many titles including the World Wide Wrestling Federation's title in 1971 in a match against Bruno Sammartino in Madison Square Garden. Sammartino held the title more than seven years, which is the longest continuous title reign in men's wrestling history, according to Wikipedia.

After years of traveling more than 300 days a year, Koloff found himself empty and discouraged and dependent on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco to get through every day. He remained close with Nikita, also not a Russian but a former football player from Minnesota.

"One afternoon Nikita called me and invited me to a service at his church. He said 'Uncle Ivan, I found Jesus!' I told him I know all about Jesus, having

been raised in a religious home. But Nikita insisted his encounter with Jesus was personal, real, and life-changing."

Ivan drove down to Nikita's church that evening. As the minister preached, Ivan found himself under great conviction. Before the invitation was even given, Ivan was walking the aisle, surrendering his heart and life to Christ.

"I was filled with great warmth and peace," Ivan said. "My life would never be the same."

Ivan, who lives near Greenville, now travels to share his conversion experience and to encourage Christians to surrender everything to Christ.

Contact ivan@ivankoloff.com or visit ivankoloff.com.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Baker is pastor at Green Hill Baptist Church, Rutherfordton.)



CHAMPION — Ivan Koloff learned that pursuing worldly titles in the wrestling world was an empty pursuit.



SINGING — George Beverly Shea, longtime soloist for Billy Graham crusades, received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2011 Grammy Awards.

Shea takes home award for lifetime achievement

Religion News Service

Prominent singer and longtime Billy Graham associate George Beverly Shea received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards Feb. 12 in Los Angeles.

Shea was honored along with Julie Andrews, Dolly Parton, the Ramones, Roy Haynes, the Juilliard String Quartet, and the Kingston Trio. At 102, Shea is one of the oldest living persons to be honored by The Recording Academy.

Being among the honorees, Shea said he “thought of the farmer who wanted to put his mule in the Kentucky derby,” Shea said.

When asked why, the farmer replied, “Well, look at the company he’s keeping.”

For more than 60 years, Shea was the signature soloist at Billy Graham crusades. He says he still sings as often as he can. Shea shared a favorite memory of Vietnam. In 1966, he and Graham were there. Christmas trees were strung up on wire and men were receiving haircuts. One of the men yelled out to sing “How Great Thou Art.” Shea said it moved him that in the midst of war, someone would request a song about God’s greatness.

“You know, you keep tuned up with the Lord when you love the songs that are written about him,” Shea told the PBS program “Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly.”

A Canadian pastor’s son, Shea says music was always a part of his life. He was working at a Christian radio station in Chicago in the 1940s, when his baritone voice caught Graham’s attention.

“Mr. Graham phoned me and then wrote me and asked me in 1947 to become a part of his team, (to) ‘sing a little quiet song before I speak,’” Shea recalled.

Shea sang at almost every Graham crusade, and according to Guinness World Records, he has sung before more people than anyone else — an estimated combined live audience of 220 million people.

“They didn’t come to hear me. They came to hear Billy Graham,” he said.

Shea said it was a privilege to be on the Graham team, adding that his favorite part of a crusade was watching the waves of people stream forward after Graham gave the altar call.

“Your head is supposed to be bowed in prayer, but I like to say I peeked a little bit,” he laughed.

During his 80-year career, Shea recorded more than 70 albums and wrote several popular worship songs. He was nominated 10 times for a Grammy and won in 1965.

“Someone said, ‘Why have you been doing this all these years?’ I put my thumb up to the air toward heaven, and I said I’ve been doing it for Him,” Shea said. Shea said his faith keeps him going at 102, and sees every day as a gift. “I don’t know when heaven will loom up for me, but we have to look forward to it,” he said. “I hope there will be an organ up there to play. Oh, boy, I love organ music.”

On the Grammy web site, singers Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith shared memories of Shea and their encounters with him over the years. To find other winners, visit www.grammy.com.

Missionary answers tall challenge

(Continued from Page 1)

on-campus Bible studies with other young women and says she was impressed right away with the teaching and was inspired with the seriousness of the students’ study of the scriptures.

Strickland remembers telling herself, “I don’t need church. I could just read the Bible. That was my thing. But then I came here and Vickie brought me to Christ with her teachings.”

At first, Strickland says she felt intimidated with how the girls could recall and apply Bible verses so readily during discussions.

“I’m thinking, I’ve got a relationship with God and I can’t even quote a scripture. All I know is ‘I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me.’ How can I get closer to God if I don’t read His word and if I don’t know the type of person that He is?”

Reaching students such as Strickland is what Vickie Stewart is passionate about. Simply known as “Miss Vickie,” Stewart energetically moves around campus on mission “to connect,” as she puts it, with students whenever she can. “Not preaching, but connecting and building relationships” with them is the key to her ministry, she says.

“I might say, ‘Hello, my name is Miss Vickie. How can I pray for you?’ They’ll say, ‘Oh, really, you want to pray for me?’ And I’ll say, yes, and I tell students, I am here to serve you. Here’s my number, if you need prayer or want to talk. I am available.”

Stewart is one of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) for North American Missions. She is among the NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 6-13, 2011. With a theme of “Start Here,” the 2011 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering’s goal is \$70 million, 100 percent of which benefits missionaries like Stewart.

The petite, 4 foot-11 inch, 48-year-old’s upbeat spirit seems to draw students and staff to her like a magnet at this Historic Black College and University. Founded in 1867, originally as a school to train pastors by the Methodist Episcopal Church, the college became a state university in 1975 and offers a wide variety of programs to its 7,500 students.

Doctoral student Katherine Lloyd meets weekly for lunch with “Miss Vickie” for fellowship and support. Lloyd says it was hard for her, too, coming to a new environment, leaving a rural area to attend school and live in an urban area the first time. But a mutual friend introduced her to Vickie via “Facebook” and she says, “We immediately connected.”

“Vickie is my only consistent Christian woman friend I have,” Lloyd says. “She’s the only person I know here that I can go to as a woman and talk about stuff and know that this is coming from someone who is like-minded in Christ. It’s a quick hour but it’s just good to know that once a week I have that fellowship.”

“When you see Miss Vickie, you feel better because she’s excited to see you, and she’ll give you a hug and she’ll talk and say, ‘I’m praying for you.’”

In 2008, when Stewart came to MSU as NAMB’s campus missionary, she says God brought her back home to her native Baltimore and gave her the desires of her heart. Since she first felt called to missions in 1981, Stewart had long wanted to work with college students.

But first God led her to work with the urban poor in Brazil as a missionary with the International Mission Board. When she was commissioned in 2000, she was hired to work with students but ended up serving as a church planter while there. Stewart said that she never intended to leave Brazil but she returned home after her father passed away to help care for her mother.

Soon after coming home in 2007, Stewart applied for the campus ministry position, which is supported

by NAMB and the Baptist State Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Stewart was a natural to continue the work begun a year earlier at Morgan State by Ryan Palmer, pastor of Seventh Metro Church in Baltimore. Palmer says his church and others within the state convention had been praying for three years for direction and for someone like Stewart to come along. He says it was “a step back, wow moment” when they found her.

She was the perfect fit, Palmer says, with all of her training and experience with the IMB. In addition, she was a native of Baltimore, young and an African-American.

“Vickie is an evangelist at heart and I don’t use that term loosely. She is sincerely concerned about lostness. That’s just a good fit for the work we’re doing at Morgan State. In addition to that, she follows up on lostness with her strong passion for discipleship,” said Palmer.

Together, Palmer and Stewart lead an off-campus, coed Bible study, called “The Point,” which targets unchurched students. Vickie also holds a weekly Bible study for young women on campus.

Upon leaving Brazil, an upset Stewart says she remembers being comforted by a pastor who told her that perhaps “God brought you to Brazil to show you that you’re unique and that you can do anything where He calls you. God is sending you home to work with women who are hurting.”

Today, those words seem prophetic as Stewart describes most of her students as hurting. The young women in her weekly Bible study have many emotional needs, she says. They are searching and figuring out what they want to do with their lives.

She says she prayed for God to send her students, much like Shemaiah Strickland, who have teachable spirits and for those who are not Christians and who are hungry for the Word.

Each Thursday night, Stewart’s Bible study begins with a boxed meal and a lively praise report, in which students share answered prayers and good things that are happening in their lives. Last spring the group studied from the book, *The Christian in a Post-Modern World*, which stimulated discussion.

“We talk about what it means to love God and what it means to be a Christian,” Stewart said. “Christianity is a way of life. It’s a relationship, not a religion.”

Her enthusiastic teaching style is both intimate and thought-

provoking and shows her love of apologetics, which she developed early on as a student at Lancaster Bible College. She often plays devil’s advocate with the students to teach them how to defend their faith.

“Don’t let philosophies determine how you think about God. Get in the Word,” she says while tapping on her Bible. “We have something good!”

Stewart gives them basic practical advice, reminding them they have everything when they trust God, and encourages them to memorize scripture verses that are significant to them.

“Trust yourselves. Not me. Not the preacher. Not anyone else. You should know whether or not you are a Christian. Because you can’t say you’re a Christian and live like the devil, right? You can’t say you’re a Christian and never open the Bible and read God’s Word. The Holy Spirit will convict you.”

Sophomore Charlene Thomas, 20, takes it all in and even carries flashcards with verses on them to memorize. She says she likes meeting with a group of young women who share questions and look for answers. And she values having access to Miss Vickie for godly advice.

“She’s so open, not only to us but to God and you can see God in her. That makes her trustworthy,” said Thomas.

“Her spirit, her smile and the way she talks to us makes us feel like family.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Sikes is a photojournalist living in Alexandria, Va.)



Vickie Stewart



Tar Heel Voices

Who doesn't want to hear good news all the time?

I couldn't agree more with Pastor Cameron McGill in his article "Freedom from the Press" in Tar Heel Voices, February 5, 2010. I prefer to hear nothing but good news also!

I want to hear only good news from my doctor, my children's teachers, my political leaders, and my pastor and church leadership. However, I wonder what happens when my doctor doesn't address my illness or my child's teacher doesn't share his misbehavior or lack of commitment? What would the result be if my pastor skipped the bad news about sin and its consequences?

What would happen if church leaders' reports carried no challenge about need of more willing servants or more finances? Indeed, don't we find that the Bible holds both the good and the bad news? God wants us to have the whole story so that we are able to be wise and make good choices to find the right path.

I worry what will happen to the BSC (Baptist State Convention) when our elected board members shut down the freedom of the press for freedom from the press. "Ministry" is not the primary mission of the *Biblical Recorder* — that is our task as Christians! The *Biblical Recorder* is a "news journal" of North Carolina Baptists — all North Carolina Baptists. If we are not going to allow it to function for that purpose why have it at all?

As a pastor and an Air Force chaplain for more than 42 years often serving in other states and countries, I subscribed to the *Biblical Recorder* to stay in touch with my beloved BSC. Over the years and up to now, I feel it represented all North Carolina Baptists fairly.

My prayer is that we don't give up Freedom of the Press for "a good news journal."

Clyde N. Kerley

Retired pastor and Air Force chaplain



Clarification

A *Biblical Recorder* story in the Feb. 5 issue reported that funds were being shifted from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to a Friends of Caswell endowment at the North Carolina Baptist Foundation. Those funds already belonged to Caswell and were not directly from the Convention budget.

Bloom where you are planted

By D.E. Parkerson

Guest Column

Martin Buber, in *Tales of the Hasidim: the Later Masters*, shares an old Hasidic story of Rabbi Eisik, son of Rabbi Yekel in Cracow, Poland. Eisik was a very pious rabbi. He was also a very poor man — so poor, in fact, that he lived in a one-room house with a dirt floor.

One night he dreamed that he was in the great city of Prague, many miles away. In the dream he walked throughout the streets of the city admiring the beautiful buildings. Eventually he came to the edge of the city where he saw a bridge, and beyond the bridge a great palace. He walked across the bridge and began to dig, whereupon he discovered a buried chest. He opened the chest, and it was filled with gold, diamonds and treasures of every sort!

After Eisik had dreamed the same dream three nights in a row, he was convinced that it was a sign from God. He grabbed a shovel and began the long journey to Prague. After many days of walking, he was very tired and his feet were sore. Finally, he reached the city.

Although he had never been in Prague before, he recognized many of the buildings from his dream. He also discovered the bridge, and beyond it, the palace. He crossed the bridge and began to dig. Soon his shovel struck something! It was the buried chest he had seen in his dreams! With trembling hands and pounding heart, he opened the chest ... and it was empty!

Eisik was brokenhearted and began to weep — and then to sob uncontrollably. Suddenly he felt a hand upon his shoulder; it was the hand of a young man wearing the suit of a palace guard. "What happened, old man," he asked, "why are you crying?" He recounted his story of his dreams.

Upon hearing the tale, the young man laughed with

Good, bad news part of Bible

For several days now I have pondered the letter of Mr. McGill concerning his wishes to have "Freedom from the Press" (Feb. 5). There are several of his assertions that have caused me much sadness. If you, my brother don't want to hear any "bad news" then I may conclude you do not read nor want to hear a great deal the scriptures have to say.

(A friend) suggested that he ought to go to countries where there is no freedom of the press and try living there a while. And, the very charter of the *BR* insists that the Editor-President be free to publish what news he/she perceives to be accurate and needed information for all Baptists far and near! This helps provide for the "Right to Know" we depend on for more effective ministry. For more than 46 years I have found such resources in the *BR* to assist my efforts in serving the Lord and people of N.C. I don't mean to say I liked all I read, but I needed to know it. However, sad to say, we have already had a taste of what may be to come. I would have preferred to place this comment on the *BR* site of the Internet which has been taken away from us who read the online version.

Nothing distresses me more that the news of broken relations and disrespect expressed among those who profess the Christian faith. The calling of demeaning names, the let's you and him fight attitudes must be answered with the good news of a merciful God who calls us to follow the path of His Son, Jesus. My appeal, Brother McGill, is (for you) to come out of your fantasy world and serve the people of God in humility and truth.

My intention was not to anger you or to claim I have all the answers, but to appeal to you, my brother, listen and read every bit of information you can find that would assist you to serve our Lord and His people. We don't have to like it but we need to know it from the best sources possible. And I have found the *BR* to be one of those sources and pray that it continues to be such.

Joe R. Babb

Arden

interim pastor,

Morningside Baptist Church, Asheville
former BR Board of Director

TAR HEEL VOICES: If you don't see your viewpoint in our paper, write us a letter and share what's on your mind. We prefer letters to be 300 words or less. E-mail editor@biblicalrecorder.org.

scorn. "You are a foolish old man to put such faith in foolish dreams. I myself have many foolish dreams, and I pay no heed to any of them. Why, just the other night I dreamed about a poor rabbi who was digging a hole in the middle of the dirt floor of his home, and there he found a buried chest filled with treasure. Doesn't that show you how foolish dreams can be?"

Immediately Eisik rose to his feet and commenced his long journey back home. And there he discovered the priceless treasure buried within the place where he had lived in poverty for most of his life.

It is a beautiful story, and it has a moral for every person. There is nothing wrong with dreaming dreams. Great things often happen in the lives of those who dare to dream. But no dream should cause persons to miss the treasures where they are.

Count your blessings every day — family members, church family, friends, your health, your work, and the opportunities that are available to you. To spend your time dreaming of treasure in faraway places will cause you to live in poverty where you are.

In other words, plant yourself where you are, and bloom where you are planted! You will discover the kind of treasure that only God can give. And no one will ever be able to take it from you.

(**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Parkerson is a native of Georgia, a graduate of Mercer University [B.A.], Southeastern Seminary [M. Div. and Th.M.], and Campbell University [D.D.]. He has served as pastor of one church in Georgia and five churches in North Carolina. Following retirement as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sanford on Sept. 30, 1996, he has served 10 North Carolina churches as interim pastor. His column, *The Paper Pulpit*, has appeared weekly in a few newspapers and other publications since 1958 as well as on the *Biblical Recorder* web site: www.biblicalrecorder.org. He and his wife, Jessie, live in Wilmington near their daughter and family.)

Caraway ready for new beginnings

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

Our North Carolina Baptist camps and conference centers are places where God has intersected the life of numerous people across this state. This is where many people heard God call them into full-time vocational ministry or where they rededicated their life to God. Some North Carolina Baptists will tell you how they received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior during a summer camp. Others will say they were first disciplined and taught God's Word during a special retreat. Still, others may say that they simply heard the Lord speak; they encountered God while visiting one of these special places.

Caraway Conference Center and Camp, settled in the beautiful Uwharrie Mountains near Asheboro, is a place where lives are truly changed. Each summer more than 1,000 campers attend the boy's camp and enjoy activities such as swimming, hiking, canoeing, ropes course challenges and, most importantly, teaching from God's Word. The conference center hosts guests year-round for conferences, training, retreats and times of fellowship. Caraway is where the Convention's Board of Directors convene in addition to many significant committees and lots of Convention training programs.

You may remember hearing from Caraway director Jimmy Huffman during our 2010 annual meeting in Greensboro about a \$7.5-million capital campaign. In order to continue providing excellent service and ministry opportunities Caraway must expand its current facilities. Funds from this capital campaign, scheduled to conclude in 2013 with Caraway's 50th anniversary, will go toward projects such as expanding the conference center, building an indoor multi-purpose recreational center, and building a 250-seat auditorium and 30-bed lodge.

Feb. 27 is being designated as a special Sunday for churches to receive an offering for the Caraway capital campaign. I hope you will consider receiving this offering on this Sunday and will encourage your church members to give generously.

You may be thinking to yourself, "Why a capital campaign now? Times are tough. Look at our economy. Is this the right time to be doing something like this?" I really do understand those concerns. Yet, I also know that when God gives a clear vision, our responsibility is to be obedient and trust Him to provide. He has already entrusted us with the financial resources. They are in our personal possession. Will you give what God asks you to give?

This campaign is being called "New Beginnings." When you think about all the lives that have been changed as a result of Caraway's ministry up to this point you cannot begin to imagine the powerful impact Caraway will have in the future for His kingdom.

As you give to support this expansion you are investing in something far greater than mere buildings and physical structures made by human hands. You are investing in a plan to create larger opportunities for ministry, which will in turn create more opportunities for the gospel of Jesus Christ to be shared and for His Word to be taught.

If you would like to learn more about Caraway and the capital campaign you can visit blog.caraway.org.



Now's your chance to share your opinion

It was at the 2010 Pastor's Conference of the SBC in Orlando where Andy Stanley struck a chord with many pastors and church leaders alike. In a unique message, Stanley discussed three principles of leadership that were illustrated by two business decisions and a challenge from Acts 15:19 in which James chastens the early church leaders for creating barriers for those coming to Christ.

James said, "Therefore, I judge that we should not trouble those from the Gentiles who are turning to God."

The principles of leadership for our day were so on point. While I do not have the space to adequately cover these principles in great detail, I do want to share them in light of this critical time in the life of North Carolina Baptists.

Stanley illustrated his first principle by relating a story from Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-Fil-A. During a very challenging time for their company, young executives were discussing the growing competition and wrestling with how to expand the corporation. Having heard enough, Truett Cathy spoke with a truth that shook the room. "The question is not how to get bigger, but how to get better ... You see, only if we get better will our customers demand that we get bigger."

Stanley challenged us through Truett Cathy's words to make sure that we are first of all asking the right question: "how do we get better?" Related to the question "how do we get better?" is the need for evaluation of what we do as churches.

This was Stanley's first principle: the most crucial component of getting better is evaluating our ministries honestly and accurately. This goes beyond mere experience or longevity with a program. In fact, Stanley pointed out that experience does not necessarily make one better, but can actually just create a rut. Honest evaluation is necessary to improving our ministries, or "getting better."

How do we evaluate ministry? What constitutes effective ministry? Stanley answered these questions with his second principle.

The second principle is also best understood by a story, specifically the story of Intel Corporation. Intel competes in the world of technology, a rapidly changing field in which fortunes can be both made and lost in quick succession. Intel was struggling with finding its competitive niche.

In essence, the corporate leaders were in a position in which they were forced to ask the question, "If we got kicked out and new leadership was brought in, what would they do?" This question then led them to the next question, "Then why don't we walk out the door, turn around, come back in, and make those decisions?" Andy Stanley then made a piercing statement that was challenging to my heart. He said, "There are times we know what we need to do, but we don't do it. Why? Because we fall in love with the way we do ministry, and long after it quits working, we still do it."

The follow-up question is equally piercing. "Do we fall in love with a model of ministry and abandon the Great Commission, or do we embrace the Great Commission whatever the costs?" The second principle tells us how to evaluate ministry, and it is very simple: embrace the mandate of Jesus.

As we evaluate ourselves honestly we can then ask, do our ministries fulfill the commandments of Jesus to His church? Do our ministries fulfill the Great Commission? Might we even find that certain ways of doing ministry, once effective at fulfilling the Great

Commission, have actually become barriers to those coming to Christ today?

The third and final principle, as I mentioned earlier, is found in Acts 15. It was here that the early church had to make some decisions. The plea from James is the principle Stanley emphasized: identify and remove any unnecessary obstacles.

Oftentimes in the life of our churches and even conventions, we have some good things we do, but if we are not careful we allow those things to become barriers to truly great things. Jim Collins, in his book, *Good to Great*, wrote an entire chapter around the premise that "good is the mortal enemy of great." We must guard ourselves and the ministries for which God has made us stewards from settling for less than what He desires to make us.

Though I heard that message nearly nine months ago, these principles have weighed heavy on my heart as a pastor, and as a leader in our Baptist State Convention. For me, many of these principles are at the heart of our Vision Fulfillment Committee. From its inception, there has been a sense that now is a great time to do some serious evaluation about the effectiveness of what we are doing, and how we are doing it. The resources that God is providing through the churches of the Baptist State Convention are a tool for impacting the world here at home, throughout our nation, and across the globe.

Is there anything that needs to be adjusted in the way we are carrying out the Great Commission? If there has been any great benefit to be found in the economic downturn of the last several years, I believe it has been in the forced consideration of priorities.

Whether it's a home budget, a church budget, or even convention budgets, most Americans have had to face the experience of how does one adjust when revenue is reduced? Where do you adjust downward? What is the top priority?

Maybe we need to step back and reexamine the purpose behind what we do. All of these questions and considerations have left us seeking to accomplish more than ever, but often with fewer resources than the previous year.

Our budget committee for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has faced that challenge, and through tremendous management of our convention leaders and staff, have navigated these stormy financial times, but not without pain in the process. As a family, my wife and I, along with our children, have at times had to share input, thoughts, ideas, and reasoning to make family decisions concerning some particular priorities.

This experience of the Vision Fulfillment Committee is a chance for the North Carolina Baptist family to get together and simply hear each other share perspectives about our priorities.

It is my hope that every single N.C. Baptist will get to a Vision Fulfillment meeting close to his or her home over the next six months so that individuals can be heard. As a member of this committee, I believe we all want to hear the hearts of men and women across North Carolina about how we can be the most effective state convention in the entire Southern Baptist Convention.

Five years ago, I had the privilege of attending the installation service and reception for Milton and Gloria Hollifield.

As Milton Hollifield stepped into his role as the new executive director/treasurer, he did so as a man of great vision. He has placed that vision consistently before North Carolina Baptists: "By God's grace, we

will become the strongest force in the history of the Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." In my opinion, I do not know when I have ever read a more clear and passionate vision for a cooperating body of churches.

In fact, I cannot imagine one of the 4,256 North Carolina Baptist churches or even one of the more than one million total members that make up our churches not buying into this powerful vision. In fact, one of the most powerful mentors of my life, Mark Corts, often reminded me that in any great movement of God, the vision comes from God to the leader. When God wanted to lead the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt, He did not call a committee to develop a vision.

He spoke vision into the life of a leader named Moses. When God was ready to give the Promised Land to the children of Israel, He did not call together a committee to develop a vision. He spoke the vision into the life of a leader named Joshua. So, it is critical to note that God has given us the vision through our leader, Milton Hollifield, and we are not looking to change vision.

We are, however, looking to determine if we are "fulfilling" this awesome vision in the most effective ways. This, again, is where you as a North Carolina Baptist need to help answer that question.

The answer may be yes! We may be doing everything in the most efficient and effective way possible. If so, please come to the meeting nearest you and express it. If there are any ideas, any thoughts, or any input into our direction you wish to express, please come to the meeting nearest you and express it. As a convention, we are blessed to have leaders who want to hear from the people with whom they serve together.

We are living in a rapidly changing society. We have all agreed for years that while our Christ-centered message must never change, our methodology for sharing the message must be constantly evaluated and adapted to engage the culture effectively. I believe there is a great deal at stake in the work of this committee.

At stake may very well be how we fund Cooperative Program and use the resources most effectively. At stake may very well be the support of the next generation of leaders in our state. We won't, however, just be meeting with "young leaders" or "older leaders," but all leaders. Everyone is in this together.

At stake is indeed whether giving everyone the opportunity to share is going to be worth the effort. It was impossible due to logistics for the Great Commission Task Force to hold "public hearings" with their full group. As a result, some felt slighted from being able to influence the outcome.

Let it be clear that the Vision Fulfillment Committee will travel hundreds of miles over the next six months to hear your heart. Please, take the opportunity to come and share in what may just be the most exciting days of the New Testament Church since the Book of Acts.


In the midst of that message that reached my world, Andy Stanley also said, "If you are not on a relentless pursuit to make your church better, you will criticize those who do."

God help us as the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to remain on a relentless pursuit to make our convention better and most effective in what we are called to do.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Harris is pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, first vice president of the Baptist State Convention, member of the Vision Fulfillment Committee, and a former Biblical Recorder board member.)



Mark Harris



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Lesson for February 27

Formations

Lesson for March 6

An Unexpected Prophecy

Focal Passage: Numbers 22:36-23:12

Israel had journeyed through the wilderness for 40 years. They had faced many dangers and challenges. The Lord has brought them through.

They had met and defeated various nations that had tried to obstruct their march through the presence and power of the Lord.

Now, they were on the verge of entering the promised land. The goal was within their reach.

Suddenly, a figure appeared on the horizon — a prophet or seer.

But this figure was more than a prophet; he was a prophet of the Lord, a non-Israelite follower of the Lord (Yahweh).

He was one who conversed intimately with the Lord daily. He was possibly the only true obstacle to the success of their journey.

His name was Balaam, son of Beor. In a rare instance, a non-Jew is presented as a formidable believer and servant of the Lord whose very words could bring down blessings or curses from the Lord.

The people of Israel had encamped on the east side of the Jordan “in the plains of Moab” (22:1). Rather than engage them in battle, Balak, whose name means “on who lays waste,” recognized the extreme danger that awaited his people.

He knew of all that Israel had accomplished from Egypt to the present and understood their powerlessness before them.

In an intriguing maneuver Balak sent for Balaam: “Come now, curse this

people for me, since they are too mighty for me...” (22:6).

In a series of encounters, Balaam and the Lord meet face to face, leading eventually to four oracles that bless rather than curse Israel.

As Balak’s anger intensifies Balaam can only respond, “Did I not tell you, ‘All that the Lord says that I must do?’”

In the context of a non-Israelite seer, the Lord’s sovereignty in revelation is presented and affirmed.

This “pagan” prophet not only served Yahweh, but he is possessed by the Spirit of God (24:2).

Once more in a rare moment of honesty, Balaam is presented in the text as being possessed by the Spirit “enabling him to prophesy like the prophets of Israel ... God has indeed blessed Israel” (Michael L. Barre).

When the first missionaries came to Rwanda, Africa, in the 19th century they found that according to the Rwandan ancient history there was one God who created all reality and lived in relationship with humanity. Then, in rebellion the first human couple tried to deceive God and that relationship was severed. Many years later, one came from heaven to mediate between humanity and God, giving his life for mankind by dying upon a tree (that annually bears red leaves reminding all of this blood sacrifice) providing salvation.

One can only imagine the joy those first missionaries felt when they discovered that God had provided an unexpected witness.



John Pond
associational
missionary, West
Chowan Baptist
Association

A Final Rebellion

Focal Passage: Numbers 25:1-13

Jacqueline Lapsley, associate professor of Old Testament, Princeton, tells of an incident described several years ago by the then general secretary, Setri Nyomi, at Princeton University. He spoke of a meeting of the World Alliance of Reformed

Churches that was held in a historic Reformed church in Ghana, Africa.

He and a group of church leaders were stunned to learn that for centuries this church had been the site of worship, yet had also been built directly over a holding pen where slaves were being held before their transport to the Americas. Nyomi asked what it was in these worshippers’ reading of scripture that “did not equip them to deal with the injustices taking place seven feet below them!”

Somehow, as in today’s passage, they had learned to compromise their faith and understanding of God’s Word, ignoring their responsibility in living it out. There is a very arduous path we as believers must walk in affirming the gracious love of God and yet recognizing the gravity of God’s holiness.

On the one hand we celebrate and declare God’s patience and love for all people and yet should not ignore His antipathy towards all that separates people from Him — i.e., their sin.

“So Israel aligned itself with Baal of Peor, and the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.”
— Numbers 25:3

Thus in light of this challenge of demonstrating God’s love and God’s “jealousy,” do we compromise the biblical truth when we encounter the world or do we lovingly confront the world with that truth?

Sadly, as a former international missionary and a director of missions, I have encountered those congregations who have lost sight of God’s calling upon them (His mission) and have stated to me that even though they know that they are wrong on a certain racial, moral or ethical issue (and disobedient to what scripture implores), they would not reconsider or respond positively to God’s leading.

They would gladly close the doors of the church, rather than open themselves to reaching and transforming their whole community for Christ.

In reality, God accomplishes his will regardless of whether we respond obediently or rebelliously.

In the midst of the compromise of the German Church in the time of Hitler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer challenged the believers with these words:

“Who stands fast? Only the man whose final standard is not his reason, his principles, his conscience, his free-

dom, or his virtue, but who is ready to sacrifice all this when he is called to obedience and responsible action and in exclusive al-

legiance to God — the responsible man, who tries to make his whole life an answer to the question and call of God.

“Where are those responsible people?”

Lesson for February 27

Bible Studies for Life

Lesson for March 6

God Loves to Welcome Us Home

Focal Passage: Hosea 14:1-9

Without question, he had hit bottom. Sickened by the fact that he would have gladly filled his stomach with swill, he came to his senses there in the pig pen. His own idiocy became crystal clear. No excuses. No victim mentality. Just sincere repentance.

But then something happens that we often overlook in the prodigal’s story. Now that he had hit bottom, he had to decide what to do next.

There were tons of options. He already had a job. Why not work hard and advance his career?

Maybe he could find a different job. Maybe he could become a financial consultant; he certainly knew what mistakes to avoid. Maybe he could ease his guilt by entering the ministry, and live the rest of his life for the good of others. Any of these options would have been an improvement. In some sense, once you really hit bottom, every option is up.

But the prodigal chose to go back to his father’s house! Can you believe that? He had insulted his father by demanding his inheritance early. He had disrespected his father by wasting his wealth. He had trashed the family name. Home would seem to be the last place he would go.

Furthermore, when you’ve hit bottom, you don’t need anyone telling you, “I told you so.”

So why did he choose to go home? Because when you hit bottom, you turn

to the option that presents the greatest hope of true help.

He knew his father; he knew his steadfast love and kindness. He must have witnessed his forgiving spirit during happier times at home. His father was his greatest hope.

Most dads would have laid him out, read him the riot act, and explained all the new rules and regulations that he was expected to tow the line on. But not his father; he could tell that the son was completely broken, and needed love more than a lecture.

The prodigal never even got to finish the speech he had prepared. He never got the chance to ask for a job as a hired servant. His dad simply forgave him, restored him, and welcomed him home as a son.

This beautiful parable pictures the forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation that your heavenly Father longs to give you.

No matter who you are, what you’ve done, or how far you’ve strayed, you can always go back to Him. If you’ve hit bottom, then remember that your heavenly Father is, and always will be your source of greatest hope. Look to Him.



Joel Stephens
pastor, Westfield
Baptist Church

Faith Under Fire

Focal Passage: 1 Peter 1:1-12

The story is told of a man in failing health that had been to the doctor, taken all the blood tests, and received the ominous callback for

a consultation with the doctor. Most in the family had suspicions. And sure enough, when the doctor came in the exam room, he looked at the aging patient and said, “I hate to be the one to break the news to you, but it’s cancer. With treatments, you may have six months.”

Nobody was really surprised, but all the family was stunned. Questions swirled in every mind. How bad will it be? How much time do we actually have? Can this really be happening? Shock, fear, and deep concern registered on every face except one.

After several minutes of awkward silence, the brave patriarch looked up from the examination table and started singing: “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.”

A deep, rich baritone voice carried the tune alone at first. “Because He lives, all fear is gone.”

Then the rest of the family joined in one by one. “Because I know He holds

the future. And life is worth the living just because He lives.” All their fear died because of their belief that Jesus lives.

What a perspective! What a testimony! What a glorious God we serve!

Have you paid attention to the truth in the words of that hymn lately? No matter what we face today, tomorrow, or forever; we can face it because Jesus lives.

We need not have any fear about what may come our way: disease, poverty, war, persecution, joblessness, family trouble, or whatever. Our life can be filled with a deep abiding joy that none of our circumstances can eclipse if our perspective is on Jesus. After all, if He’s conquered death on our behalf, can’t He handle anything else that might come along?

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39, HCSB). Our hope lives because Jesus lives!

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N.C. Baptist nurses minister, fellowship, volunteer together

(Continued from Page 1)

one of the nurses who went to India. Her group, which was traveling with the International Mission Board (IMB), served among victims of human exploitation. They treated and ministered to women and children in the slums and brothels. Human exploitation is a focus of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

"It was good for me ... to remind me prostitutes are people," Hayes said. "No one goes into this business happily. They want to get out."

A member at Hillmon Grove Baptist Church in Cameron, Hayes expressed a lifelong desire to go to India. It was while she was a GA (Girls in Action) that she first heard of a woman doctor who served in India. Learning that women there didn't always get the care they needed was "part of the reason I became a nurse," Hayes said.

One woman they met "wants to give her life to Jesus," but knows her life is not pleasing to God. Financially, these women do not have a lot of options, Hayes said.

Many of Hayes' recent mission trips — South Africa, Honduras, India, Camp Mundo Vista — were discovered through her involvement with NCBNF.

Rodgers sent Hayes and other e-mail recipients an IMB newsletter and pointed out there was a nursing opportunity. Hayes called the number to find out more information to let others know about the opportunity. The person at IMB asked what her interest was, and there was one spot left on the India trip.

"All these years India has become a focus for me," she said. "I have always felt that's where I wanted to go."

She and her husband have also adopted a village in India through North

Carolina Baptist Men. Hayes is the BNF consultant for Little River Baptist Association. Through Little River she was able to serve on a medical team that went to Armenia as a project for Baptist Men.

Reports, officers

Members reviewed materials including reports from each person serving in a leadership role as well as a budget and minutes from the 2010 annual meeting.

For 2011, Paula Louise Tutherow is president; Hayes is president elect; Sandra Blankenship is secretary/membership; and Jill Foster is treasurer. One change in leadership for 2011 is the combination of the program and professional development committee leaders into one position. This was already done on the national level.

Ruby Fulbright, executive director treasurer of WMU-NC, encouraged the ladies to draw parallels in their surroundings to share spiritual truths.

"A good shepherd knows where to find food and water," Fulbright said about the theme from Psalms. "He talks to his sheep. Christians are familiar with the voice of their Lord."

Fulbright shared about Lottie Moon who went to serve in China. At first

she continued to wear Western clothes keeping separate from the Chinese people she went to serve.

Later in life her letters to the U.S. reflected a change in heart. She wrote of self-consecration and living among the Chinese people in Chinese houses wearing Chinese clothes.

"Everyone of you in this room has at least one spiritual gift," Fulbright said.

She encouraged them to be leaders in the area of their spiritual gift.

BNF history

The national BNF was founded as a part of the national Woman's Missionary Union so when NCBNF was formed in 1983, it was sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC).

Rodgers said the one-day format that was used this year is already in the works for 2012 but they are planning to meet in March instead of February. They will use the feedback from the recent meeting to determine what continuing education credits to offer as well as weigh any changes that might need to be made.

Rodgers, who has been a member since the beginning of the group, works annually with Cabarrus Baptist Associa-

tion with fair workers. As health center director, Rodgers finds nurses who will volunteer at Camp Mundo Vista. Rodgers was hired as a nurse there but thought this would be a good ministry for the NCBNF. The volunteer nurses help to meet the camp's requirements and also save WMU-NC money.

Being part of the BNF "has provided a way to serve the Lord," Rodgers said.

The member of Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord gets excited about her work.

"I don't have to go to a job every day," she said. "I get to go to a ministry."

BNF members collected funds to donate toward a window at Camp Mundo Vista where Rodgers has spent much time over the years. So far 42 windows are in place. Rodgers said even those have made a big difference.

Membership in North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship costs \$20 for professionals. Students are allowed as members at no charge. Rodgers said there are local chapters in areas that have expressed interest. The BNF provides guidelines for forming those local chapters.

For more information, call (336) 349-2723 or e-mail ncbnf@wmunc.org.

Kentucky Baptist Convention reduces staff

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The Kentucky Baptist Convention's (KBC) Mission Board will eliminate five full-time and 19 part-time positions in its next budget in order to send a larger percentage of church gifts to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes.

The reductions are being made in response to a KBC Great Commission Task Force report approved by KBC messengers at the 2010 annual meeting in November. The report recommended changing the formula for allocating

Cooperative Program (CP) gifts to an even 50 percent-50 percent split between the state convention and SBC over 10 years with the bulk of that shift occurring in the 2011-12 fiscal year. Three of the five full-time positions being eliminated are already currently unfilled while the other two positions will become vacant due to retirements on Aug. 31. The 19 part-time positions are a mix of filled and unfilled contract positions. Seven other part-time contract positions will be reduced.



Classified Advertisements

Denominational

NCBAM Seeks Western Regional Elder Care Director. North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) seeks a Regional Elder Care Director (R.E.C.D.) to implement and manage day-to-day operations of the ministry for the western region of N.C. View the complete job description and apply at www.bchfamily.org or send resume to Dr. Sandy Gregory at scgregory@bchfamily.org.

Part-Time/Bi-vocational Director of Missions. The Yadkin Baptist Association in Yadkinville, NC, is currently seeking a part-time/bi-vocational director of missions. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 353, Yadkinville, NC 27055. Job description available upon request at yadkinbaptist@yadtel.net.

Seeking Editor/President

The *Biblical Recorder* Board of Directors is seeking an individual to serve as **Editor/President** of its 21,000 circulation paper and daily Internet news service. Submit your resume and cover letter by Feb. 28 to Editor Search Committee, c/o *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619-8808.

Pastor

Seeking Senior Pastor. Seeking senior pastor for a 240+ active member church, 6+ years experience preferred. Wilkies Grove Baptist Church. Send resume to: Senior Pastor Search Committee, 5780 Wilkies Grove Church Road, Hickory, NC 28602.

F/T SENIOR PASTOR. FBC ST. CHARLES seeking F/T senior pastor for large, multi-generational Southern Baptist church in suburban community. Send resume to Pastor Search Team, FBC St. Charles, 2701 Muegge Rd., St. Charles, MO 63303.

Church Staff

Oakdale Baptist Church in Statesville is currently seeking a **Bi-vocational Minister of Music** and a **Bi-Vocational Minister of Youth**. We are a conservative SBC congregation affiliated with the South Yadkin Baptist Association and the BSCNC. Resumes may be sent to Oakdale Baptist Church, 585 Mocksville Road, Statesville, NC 28625 or email to oakdalebaptist@bellsouth.net.

Children's/Youth/Associate Minister. Midway Baptist Church, is seeking a full-time minister to work with children & youth and assist with senior pastor duties as necessary. Requirements: bachelor degree preferred, doctrinally sound Southern Baptist. Send inquiries to P.O. Box 679, Columbus, NC 28722; Attn: Rhonda Rimer or email: rimercorp@gmail.com.

Part Time Minister of Music. Nashville Baptist Church, Nashville, NC, is seeking a part time minister of music for a traditional/blended setting. If interested please contact Ray Sykes, chair of search committee at 2529049148.

Music Minister. Kennebec Baptist Church is seeking a part time minister of music. Please send/email resume to Kennebec Baptist Church, PO Box 1690, Angier, NC 27501; larry@kennebecbaptist.org.

Warsaw Baptist Church seeks **Minister of Music** for traditional services. Send resume to Warsaw Baptist Church, 209 E. College Street, Warsaw, NC 28398 or email to warsawbc@embarqmail.com.

Seeking God's man as **Worship Pastor** for First Baptist Jensen Beach — a vibrant congregation ministering to 700 weekly attendees. The worship ministry's current structure is praise bands and teams with support choral offerings, and augments doctrinal expository preaching. For position details and how to apply, check www.fjb.com.

Minister of Youth & Children. The Bear Creek Baptist Church of Bakersville, NC, is seeking a full-time minister of youth and children. We are a conservative SBC church in a rural community in the WNC mountains. Minister would help assist the church in developing a comprehensive youth and children's program while working with existing volunteer workers and programs. For more info about our church visit our website at www.bearcreekbaptist.com or contact Rev. Chris Rathbone for a complete job description at rpreacherchris@aol.com.

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“By God’s Grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.” -Milton A. Hollifield, Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer

The Seven Pillars highlight seven biblical concepts of a Christ-centered vision for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina:

- 1 Fervent prayer
- 2 Evangelism and church growth
- 3 Strengthening existing churches
- 4 Planting new multiplication churches
- 5 Increasing work with the international community
- 6 Escalating the use of technology
- 7 Reclaiming the younger generation of church leaders

dates&locations

February 24
Old Town Baptist Church
4386 Shattalon Dr, Winston-Salem

March 10
Gorman Baptist Church
3315 East Geer St, Durham

March 17
Corinth Baptist Church
1035 US Highway 17 S, Elizabeth City

March 24
Holly Springs Baptist Church
366 Holly Springs Church Rd, Franklin

April 7
First Baptist Church
220 E Crossnore Dr, Crossnore

April 14
Arlington Baptist Church
1500 Bethlehem Rd, Rocky Mount

April 28
Ebenezer Baptist Church
2557 Chimney Rock Rd, Hendersonville

May 5
Lake Norman Baptist Church
7921 Sam Furr Rd, Huntersville

May 26
Highland Baptist Church
106 Highland Dr, New London

June 23
Elizabeth Baptist Church
301 N Post Rd, Shelby

June 30
Cape Carteret Baptist Church
101 Anita Forte Dr, Cape Carteret

July 14
Village Baptist Church
906 S McPherson Church Rd, Fayetteville

July 21
Lewis Fork Baptist Church
395 Lewis Fork Baptist Ch Rd, Wilkesboro

> regional forums
Time for all forums:
6:30-8 p.m.



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2011 find it here

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During our evangelism focus last year churches across the state participated in an intentional Easter evangelism emphasis. Please pray about joining us in an evangelism initiative again this year leading up to **Easter Sunday, April 24.**

For free discipleship and evangelism resources, to learn more about Find it Here, or to sign up to participate, visit

www.finditherenc.org



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“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

JOHN 15:8