



South home to most
'Bible-minded' cities



Bible Oasis

A ministry in the Charlotte area offers Bibles to those who want one, receives Bibles from those who have one to give. Page 2

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

MARCH 2, 2013 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 179 NO. 5 • BRnow.org

UNABLE TO LOOK AWAY

Human trafficking issue captures N.C. missionary's heart

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

Sandra Johnson refuses to turn her back on the problem. And she believes North Carolina Baptists shouldn't turn away either.

For Johnson, a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary based in N.C., the issue of human trafficking is personal, and it's a problem that is right in our "own backyard." With human trafficking being the fastest-growing crime in the world, Johnson said it is an issue that every Christian should be involved in stopping. Right now there are believed to be around 27 million people living in slavery. And many of those victims are in N.C., which is among the top 10 states where human trafficking is an issue.

Children as young as 6 years old are being sold on the streets and on the Internet, she said.

"I can't turn my back on that ... it could

easily be my grandchildren," said Johnson, a member of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point and president and founder of Triad Ladder of Hope, a non-profit organization that helps human trafficking victims escape from bondage, rebuild their lives and shares the love of Jesus with them in the process.

"There are more people enslaved today than in any other time in history. ... This is 'free America,' but it's not."

Johnson was commissioned by NAMB during the Baptist State Convention of N.C.'s annual meeting in Greensboro last November as a Mission Service Corps (MSC) missionary. While helping people – most of whom are immigrants from all over the world –

See Look away page 7



1% Challenge a surprising success, Page says

By ERIN ROACH | Baptist Press

The 1% Challenge for increased Cooperative Program (CP) giving has been a surprising success, Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Executive Committee (EC), said Feb. 18.

Page had asked the convention's 45,000 churches to consider a 1 percent-of-budget increase in Cooperative Program giving, which would add \$100 million to the funding stream for Southern Baptist missions and ministries.

"The 1% Challenge began almost two years ago and has received a great deal of positive attention. Honestly, more than I

thought it would," Page told EC members in Nashville. "I thought ... it might have some traction until we got a more comprehensive strategy in place."

But the challenge has caught on, Page said, and at least 15 percent of Southern Baptist churches either have adopted the challenge or are seriously considering it. "It's making a difference," he said. Also in his report to trustees, Page previewed a sweeping initiative still in the planning stages: Great Commission Advance.

"We will present the bare bones of this at the Houston convention [in June], but it will be developed much, much more over the next year and then pre-

sented in fullness in 2014," Page said. Great Commission Advance, Page said, is an aggressive global vision – reaching the world for Christ – based on a strong home base, fueled by the Cooperative Program. The initiative will start in 2014 and go through 2020, Page said, and it will begin with a massive emphasis on stewardship.

Among the goals of Great Commission Advance are 7,000 international missionaries, 10,000 new churches in North America in the next 10 years and reduced seminary education costs for students. State conventions can add their own specific goals, Page said.

See Challenge page 11



Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, said the 1% Challenge to increase Cooperative Program giving has received more positive attention than he expected. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Bible Oasis ministry spreads God's Word, impacts lives

By **SHAWN HENDRICKS** | BR Managing Editor

There's something special about putting a Bible into the hands of someone who doesn't have a copy of their own, says Scott Whitehead.

It's Whitehead's desire to share God's Word with others that inspired him to start a ministry called "Bible Oasis" that provides free Bibles at some of the Christian-owned businesses in the Charlotte area.

"If you can give someone a Bible, you can really make a difference to them," said Whitehead, a member of Hartis Grove Baptist Church in Indian Trail, N.C.

The ministry consists of about 30 "Bible Oasis" displays set up at Christian-owned businesses – stores, doctor's offices, homeless shelters and mechanic shops. Each display is made up of a couple bookends, several Bibles and a sign that invites people to take a Bible if they don't own one or leave one if they have a spare copy.

Since beginning the ministry last year, hundreds of Bibles have been given away.

"What [Bible Oasis is] doing is ... making [scripture] available to the people who would not normally have any interest," Whitehead said. "Hopefully the Holy Spirit can work on them."

A spiritual journey

For Whitehead, a former atheist, the path to starting the Bible Oasis ministry has been a "spiritual journey of growth."

About two years ago, Whitehead's life seemed to be unraveling.

He was unable to find full-time employment. He was going through a divorce. He lost his home. His 6-year-old daughter was unable to stay with him because he didn't have a place to live.

To top it off, he suffered a traumatic brain injury when a canoe fell on his head while lifting it off a rack at his part-time job in a sporting goods store.

The accident caused Whitehead months of severe headaches, nausea and short-term memory loss before therapy and prayer helped him recover.

"It's like 'OK, what else is going to go wrong?'" he said.

For a couple months, Whitehead ended up living out of his car. The cold winter weather and sleepless nights eventually led him to a homeless shelter in Monroe.

But it was during that difficult season in his life that Whitehead prayed "No matter what, Lord, I am just going to put you first," he said.

It was that prayer that Whitehead believes helped him begin to turn his life around.

"But I'm just here to tell you ... I'm not complaining about anything because of the peace and joy in my life," he said. "God is so awesome."

While staying at the homeless shelter in Monroe, Whitehead met a man with a pick-up truck full of books from the local library. The man asked Whitehead and others at the shelter to take what they wanted, and he would throw away the rest. Among the stack of books, Whitehead found two Bibles.

"As a Christian I couldn't let those be dumped," he said. "I had to give these away."

Whitehead decided to give them to two women sitting at the back of the shelter, and both of them accepted the Bibles.

"Within a few days, one of them ... comes up and gives me a great big hug," Whitehead said.

"She almost kind of lunged at me. She said, 'Scott, I just want to thank you for that Bible. ... I take it and put my granddaughter's picture in it. I read it at night and put it under the pillow and I sleep on it.'"

After that encounter, Whitehead started collecting Bibles wherever he could find them and give them away. He'd occasionally purchase one or two with the little money he had through his part-time job at the sporting goods store.

"Whenever I'd buy these [Bibles], I'd always find that the Lord would provide a place for them to go," he said.

One day while waiting on his car at a mechanic shop, he noticed a small bookcase full of paperback books. On top of the bookcase was a note with the words "Leave one. Take one."

"The Holy Spirit started working on me there," Whitehead said.

"I went and got [some Bibles] and I came back ... I could just see the excitement and the sparkle in these people's eyes that work there. Within a few days of that the Lord took that concept and turned it into a ministry."

Since then, many have offered to help Whitehead collect Bibles.

Hartis Grove Baptist Church donated 100 Bibles and one woman contributed about 600 New Testaments.

And the Lord was blessing Whitehead in other ways, too.



Scott Whitehead, once homeless, started a ministry called "Bible Oasis," where Christian business owners set aside space for a Bible oasis, a place to give or receive a Bible. (Contributed photo)

Around Christmas 2011, Hartis Grove Baptist Church invited Whitehead to stay in the church parsonage so he and his daughter could spend more time together. Eventually, Whitehead befriended Joel Lickliter, who co-owns a business in the area and is a member of Indian Trail Baptist Church's east campus. In addition to helping support the Bible Oasis ministry, Lickliter and his business partner hired Whitehead to distribute flyers for their business. They also helped him transition from the parsonage to an affordable place to live.

"We're committed to Scott, making sure that he gets on his feet," Lickliter said. "Whatever God has in store we're completely happy with supporting Scott through it."

"[Scott is] one of these guys who literally lives on the promise of 'My grace is sufficient,'" he said.

"No matter where he is at, no matter what he does, he's living in the complete

reliance on God. There's very few people [who] live like that. And that's what makes Scott unique."

Both Whitehead and Lickliter said their main desire for the Bible Oasis ministry is that other churches will start similar projects through their communities.

"We don't want donations," Lickliter said. "We want churches to do it themselves."

"It's a matter of can we get a hundred counties in North Carolina to put out five stations ... and really get it growing. That would be awesome."

Whitehead still marvels at how the Lord has blessed his life and ministry.

"It's just amazing how the God of this world ... would take some guy, who with a brain not working well and not two cents to his name, ... to see his Word shared with somebody else. ... I can't tell you how much peace and joy that brings to my life." **BR**

Kivett's - Your Source for Renewal

Complete Renovations • Refinish
New Pews • Steeples • Stained Glass
Steeple Cleaning • Baptistries

www.kivetts.com
KIVETT'S INC.
The Largest Family Owned
Church Furniture Manufacturer in the US

1-800-334-1139 • Clinton, NC

**5-YEAR/60,000-MILE
BODY & CHASSIS WARRANTY**
STANDARD WITH EVERY NEW BUS PURCHASE

Carpenter Bus Sales has gone the extra mile again in providing a unique 5-year/60,000-mile body & chassis warranty* with every new bus they sell!

An option like this would normally add \$3,000 to the price of a bus. With Carpenter Bus, it comes standard.

LifeWay
CHRISTIAN STORES

Call 866-750-5658
or visit us online at
CarpenterBus.com

*Details of this Limited Warranty at www.carpenterbus.com/5-60

Carpenter
BUS SALES

CHURCH NEWS



Memorial Baptist Church, Norwood

On Jan. 6 Memorial Baptist Church, Norwood, burned the note for its fellowship hall and education building. The original note was for \$870,000 with a loan term of 15 years. The congregation paid the loan off in 10 years. About 235 people celebrated with the note burning and a catered meal. Above, conducting the note burning are Tom Gray, left, Daniel Flynn, pastor, and Kibbee Curlee.

Morningside Baptist Church, Asheville

On Jan. 27, several churches in the Asheville area came together for a choir sing. Morningside Baptist Church, Asheville, hosted the evening service that included traditional and contemporary selections. Participating churches included: Starnes Cove Baptist Church, Asheville; East Asheville United Methodist; and Little Mount Zion Baptist Church. At least 11 area churches were represented at the event.

East Bend Baptist Church, East Bend

Each year for the last three years East Bend Baptist Church has been awarded a certificate from the International Mission Board for being in the top four percent per capita giving churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. For the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering last year, the church set a goal of \$1,500. With Wanda Hall, Women on Mission director, and Louis Lyon, mission coordinator, leading the way, church members exceeded their goal by \$11,776. The total was \$13,276. The average Sunday School attendance is 53 while worship attendance averages about 70 each week. Interim pastor is Richard H. Capps.



Roma Bible Institute

A class of 27 men (10 from Romania, 10 from Hungary, and seven from Ukraine) raised their arms during Old Testament 101 class in Seregelyes, Hungary, in January. Fairview Baptist Church, Apex, took a team of pastors and leaders to train these men during the first semester of Roma Bible Institute (RBI). David Ethridge taught the Old Testament class using the Walk Through the Bible's 77 word signs to help people tell the Old Testament story. Craig Hamlin, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, and Lawrence Clapp, pastor of South Elm Street Baptist Church, Greensboro, taught pastoral ministry. Joel Stephens, pastor of Westfield Baptist Church, Westfield, served as the school's pastor, preaching Monday night and each morning of school (Tuesday through Friday). The next weeklong training is set for April. Old Testament 201, as well as biblical interpretation or hermeneutics, will be taught. RBI serves pastoral leaders of Roma churches in Hungary, Romania and Ukraine, in cooperation with Hungarian Baptist Aid, North Carolina Baptist Men and pastors/professors from the United States. For more about this ministry, visit romabibleinstitute.org.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance. All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

Deadline extended to receive BSC nominations

BSC

The Committee on Nominations of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) has extended its deadline to receive recommendations for the Board of Directors and Convention committees until March 13, 2013.

The Convention's Committee on Nominations seeks diversity among the recommendations that will represent churches of various sizes, various professional and educational backgrounds, ethnic and racial diversity, geographical areas, different age groups, and laypersons as well as ministers.

Input from N.C. Baptists regarding nominations of individuals to serve is essential for the ongoing missions, ministries and evangelistic endeavors of the Baptist State Convention of N.C.

BSC bylaws require the following of the Committee on Nominations:

- Recommend to the Convention nominees from both small and large

churches (under/over 400 members)

- Limit churches to no more than six individuals from a single church serving on all Convention boards and committees combined

- Limit BSC Board of Director membership so that no more than one member from a church may serve on the board at a time

An individual may only serve on a single committee or a single board at one time, whereas in the past individuals could serve in more than one place at one time.

Therefore, it is essential for North Carolina Baptists to recommend more individuals to serve on the Board of Directors and Convention committees.

To make a nomination, visit ncbaptist.org; on the lower left side click "Make a Recommendation" under "Resources & Information."

For questions related to the recommendation process, contact Cynthia King at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5501, or cking@ncbaptist.org.

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center launches FaithHealthNC

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

Gary Gunderson believes strongly in the power of the local church to affect the health of the individual. “Medical science has noticed that over a life span, people who have a faith community – not just a faith, but a faith community, a local congregation – it is as healthy for that person as smoking is unhealthy,” he said.

The leading cause of death in the U.S. is almost a tie between an unhealthy diet and smoking. But according to Gunderson, if you ask the opposite question, “What is the leading cause of life?” the data says the answer is “participation in a community of faith.”

Last July he became the head of the Division of Faith and Health Ministries at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, overseeing the division’s four departments: CareNet Counseling, the Department of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education, the Center for Congregational Health and the Department of Church and Community Relations. In this role he leads the spiritual care services to patients, families and medical center employees as well as the public relations services to more than 4,200 N.C. Baptist congregations.

“Gary’s work, particularly his ability to understand and meet the needs of patients in the community, has been recognized nationally and internationally,” said John D. McConnell, M.D., chief executive officer of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. “His natural ability to engage patients and community partners offers a new way of thinking about what it is to provide health care.”

Gunderson’s top priority is to develop a system of health care that connects the hospital with the local church congregation. He said, “My real heart has been for the relationship – not just between faith and health and not just between prayer and healing – but between a faith-based hospital and the true faith-based health systems, which are the congregations in the community.

“This really isn’t just a strategy where we talk about faith sort of like it is another kind of pill, where you take a medical problem and say ‘let’s put a little bit of spirituality on that.’ There’s a lot of research right now that thinks of spirituality sort of like something that you would add. That’s the opposite of the way I think.”

The facts show that most patients don’t come to the hospital just to get treatment for a disease or fixed because of an accident. “Most of what we see in a hospital today is some condition that has developed over a long period of time



Dr. Gary Gunderson is vice president of Faith and Health Ministries for Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. (Contributed photo)

... chronic diseases.” Since people come back to the hospital more often, the relationship between the hospital and the patient’s congregation is a long-term relationship.

Before accepting his present position at the Baptist hospital, Gunderson served in a similar role at the Methodist hospital in Memphis, Tenn., where he developed the model for a vital connection between the hospital and local churches. The Memphis model has been highly visible, leading to a White House conference last year and another one scheduled this year.

It centered around the development of a covenantal relationship with about 500 congregations in the Memphis area. About 90 percent of those were African-American fellowships. “These church leaders drafted a covenant, the pastors signed it, and church leaders were assigned to keep the ministry functional.” They trained 3,000 church members to provide spiritual guidance, or “accompaniment” for hospital patients.

In Memphis, over a period of 5 years he learned that, “... people who were connected to one of our covenantal congregations stayed out of the hospital 39 percent longer than people from other congregations.” There was something about this connection that improved the health of the patient. Governments and insurance companies do not collect this information. “No one has been asking about this aspect of health,” according to Gunderson. “That’s a stunning statistic.”

In Memphis, at the admission desk you are asked, “Are you a member of one

of our covenant congregations?” If the answer is yes, you will be asked, “Do you want your congregation to be part of your care?” Most say yes. That sends an alert to connect with that congregation. This is beyond “chaplaincy.”

The Baptist hospital almost invented the chaplaincy program. It was the first faith-based hospital in the southern United States to develop chaplaincy training. That was radical, according to Gunderson. Now almost every hospital has chaplains.

“We don’t want a patient handed off to us by their congregation. We want them to feel like they have never left their congregation. This requires us to build a whole different relationship with the congregation,” he explained.

“We are working with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), with associational missionaries, and with local churches to draft the covenant.”

The first network will be across the BSC. Then Gunderson will find ways to connect with congregations other than Baptists. He said, “We have reorganized the division with congregations at the center instead of adding on a new division in the hospital. We are renaming everything – the division is now called Faith and Health. We’ll have the new field network which is called FaithHealthNC.”

The new model draws on the strength of the 21 CareNet Counseling centers across the state, which is an existing network of a faith-health strategy; providing spiritually sensitive, Christian counseling, according to Gunderson.

While some hospitals are imposing greater restrictions on pastors and reducing the hospital chaplaincy ministry, the Baptist hospital is going in the opposite direction. Gunderson believes the restrictions imposed by some hospitals is the “... radical, unintended consequences of the focus on the privacy of the patient.

“We think the privacy of the patient is a really good thing, but it is not the only thing. Hospitals have drawn these lines to make the normal practice of spiritual accompaniment extremely difficult.” Gunderson has worked with lawyers to insure that privacy laws are honored, while recognizing that scientific evidence shows the health of the patient is directly related to the pastoral care provided by local congregations.

A significant portion of patients come from those Baptist congregations. “We want them to experience that when you’re in the Baptist hospital, you’re still part of the Baptist congregation.”

Baptist hospital already has connections with the BSC.

There is a governance relationship, a financial relationship, and a fellowship connection. “But up until now, we have not organizationally thought of ourselves as connected clinically to the congregations. Congregations are not just something that sends us money from time to time ...”

Speaking of the financial support Baptist hospital receives from N.C. Baptists, Gunderson said, “I don’t know of another faith-based hospital that receives a greater level of support from its birth mother congregations ... The N.C. convention’s relationship with Baptist Hospital is very unusual among faith-based hospitals. That money makes a huge difference.”

Gunderson added, “But I suspect that the money ... is dwarfed by the actual significance of what it already means in terms of providing a better journey for patients who come from our Baptist congregations to Baptist Hospital.” **BR**

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Awaken simulcast set for Charlotte church

On March 12, join First Baptist Church in Charlotte for Awaken: America’s Spiritual Town Hall Simulcast to the Nation at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. Alex McFarland, Ken Hemphill and North Greenville University, S.C., will present the program with music by Joyful Sound. The event seeks to inform people about the condition of our culture from a biblical perspective. Visit truthforanewgeneration.com for more information.

BR weekly
e-newsletter



brnow.org/Resources/eNewsletters

Hunger for gospel in NYC inspires; group prepares for Boston

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Although the team was briefed on Hinduism before entering the temple in Jackson Heights, Queens, Wendy Mitchell was surprised to see all the different gods lined up along the wall. Dressed in sequined outfits, she said the statues looked almost like giant dolls.

Mitchell visited the Hindu temple during a mission trip to New York City last year with Embrace Women's Missions and Ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). Mitchell, whose husband pastors La-Grange Missionary Baptist Church, was one of eight women to participate.

"I can't go back to the city and look at it the same way," Mitchell said. "I learned so much and saw so many different cultures. The people are hungry for the gospel."

The women met people from all over the world who represented different religions.

In Jackson Heights alone more than 130 languages are spoken and, in addition to Hindus, live Sikhs, Roman Catholics, Buddhists and Greek Orthodox.

The women served throughout the



city, from Manhattan and Brooklyn to different neighborhoods in Queens, and worked alongside pastors, church planters and the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

They helped with prayerwalking, English as a Second Language classes and women's conferences.

They also hosted a henna party for Indian, Bangladeshi, Nepalese and Pakistani women.

Team members had the Creation to Christ gospel story designed on their hands and forearms using henna, which is temporary body art unique to South Asia.

After the henna party the team still experienced opportunities to share the gospel on subway trains, on the street and while waiting in store lines.

Embrace, under the leadership of director Ashley Allen, has sponsored two mission trips to New York City and two international mission trips – one to Moldova and one to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"Any mission trip allows a woman to see God at work – both in those with whom she is sharing and herself," Allen said. "Jesus calls all believers – not just a select few – to be a part of taking the gospel to the nations. Obedience is necessary for any follower of Christ."

Headed to Boston

In September Allen will lead a team of women to serve throughout Boston, an area with a population of more than 4.5 million people, but an evangelical population of less than three percent. More than 1,000 towns in New England are without any evangelical witness.

"The time to reach Boston is now," Allen said.

"There are many church buildings in Boston that have been converted to high rises and businesses because the churches that once occupied the buildings shut their doors and had to sell their buildings. Yet, the population of the greater metro Boston area is growing rapidly."

Mitchell is already preparing her application for the Boston mission trip. New York was her first mission trip, and she is ready to go and serve again.

"The mission trip was an eye-opening and amazing experience," Mitchell said. "You just don't know until you go. I had never shared my testimony before, and I have a fear of speaking in groups. I had to face that. It was a big step out of my comfort zone. But I'm so glad I did," she said.

Since returning from New York, Mitchell has committed to learning more about other cultures and is already on her way to learning Spanish.

Shirley Sells, executive leader assistant

for the Church Planting and Missions Development Group at the BSC, also experienced life change as a result of participating in Embrace mission trips. Sells joined both the 2012 and 2011 New York mission teams.

The 2011 trip compelled her to return with Embrace last year, and to also join a New York City vision tour with the BSC Office of Great Commission Partnerships.

"Ministry is not a one-time trip; it's a lifestyle," Sells said. "God spoke to me clearly that this needs to be a lifestyle. There is so much work to be done and so many needs, but so few laborers."

With about 3.5 million people from unreached people groups, Sells saw firsthand the great need for the gospel to penetrate New York City.

"No matter where you are in New York – Starbucks, subways, cabs or McDonald's – there are opportunities to tell others about Christ," she said.

Sells and her husband are going to New York this summer to help lead a Vacation Bible School for First Haitian Baptist Church in Canarsie, Brooklyn, where Embrace served the past two years.

Sells' husband serves as director of missions for the Randolph Baptist Association, and churches from the association are joining them this summer for the VBS.

"The children there haven't had a VBS in several years and they keep asking the pastor when they are going to be able to have VBS," Sells said.

"We are praying about how our association can partner long-term with ministries in New York City," she said.

"These mission trips changed me forever."

The Boston mission trip is Sept. 19-22. Cost is \$650 and includes airfare, missionary insurance, lodging, ministry expenses and ground transportation.

Deadline to apply is April 19. For an application and other trip details, visit embracenc.org, email aallen@ncbaptist.org or call (800) 395-5102 ext. 5561. **BR**

Caraway Conference Center and Camp's

Fall Festival of Fellowship

for Senior Adults

October 7 – 10, 2013

"Laughter is the Best Medicine"

Cost is \$230 per person (3 nights lodging, 9 meals)

Great Fellowship, Food, Activities and Worship

For Information call (336) 629-2374 or email rskipper@caraway.org

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

Enroll now for New Quarter on April 2, 2013

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Earn an associate's degree in Religion
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- "Evening Classes" now available – Tuesday & Thursday
- Courses offered for Spanish speaking students at several N.C. locations; call Robert Fernandez for details: (828) 399-0109
- For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write:

David Horton, President

Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792

Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Dudley Shoals ready to partner, reach Queens with gospel

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Receptivity to the gospel is low in the Forest Hills neighborhood of Queens, N.Y., where many people are disinterested or really do not want to talk at all about the gospel.

In Forest Hills, where Nathan Creitz is planning to start a church this year, the population is 110,000 for an area that is only about four square miles with few evangelical churches.

Creitz's vision extends beyond Forest Hills, as he prays that the new church plant will help start other churches throughout New York's most ethnically diverse borough. Queens residents represent dozens of people groups unreached with the gospel. People from all over the world call Queens home, with about 125 different languages spoken in the area. Nearly half the population was born outside the United States.

"Jesus Christ told us to make disciples of all nations. My heart is for the nations, and I can't think of a better place than Queens to pursue that mission," Creitz said. "The goal is to not only reach Queens, but for some of the people here to take the gospel back to wherever they are from."

Although receptivity is generally low, Creitz has met people open to the gospel, and that gives him hope.

"We want to spread the gospel as broadly as possible, and saturate the area with the good news," he said. "It takes an act of God to start churches. If anyone is going to break through, it will be God."

In 2004, after graduating from the University of Mobile in Alabama, Creitz moved to Boston to help a friend who was starting a new church.

After four years in Boston, Creitz began seminary at Gordon-Conwell. After graduation he served as interim pastor for a church in New England.

Creitz, his wife Kim and their two children live in east Queens and are preparing to move to Forest Hills early this year, with a goal of launching the church this summer.

Creitz is using the months leading up to the launch to begin laying the foundation for the church plant. He is making the two and a half hour round trip to Forest Hills several times a week to try and meet people and begin building relationships. He is also working to raise financial support and prayer support, and is forming new partnerships with churches such as Dudley Shoals Baptist Church.

Dudley Shoals, in Granite Falls near Hickory, N.C., is committed to a long-term partnership with Creitz.

"We wanted to partner with someone who is just getting started, so that our church could walk through the entire church planting process with them," said Randy Smith, ministries director at Dudley Shoals. "We made an immediate connection with Nathan and Kim. They have spent quite a bit of time trying to understand where they want to go with this new church."

Smith, having served as an International Mission Board missionary for 18 years, has been on the receiving end of mission teams and appreciates ongoing partnerships.

"Over time you become so much more effective. You don't have to take as much time learning the ropes or learning logistics. You are able to understand the target group and build relationships," he said.

"Church planting can be a long, hard struggle. You don't get that sense of how difficult it is when you pop

About the New York Partnership

With 8.5 million inhabitants who speak nearly 500 languages, New York City is one of the most diverse and influential cities in the world.

Metropolitan New York is larger than Dallas, San Francisco, Atlanta, Seattle, Boston, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Miami and Las Vegas combined. One out of every 16 people in the United States lives within a 75-mile radius of Times Square. All the nations of the world live in the neighborhoods of New York.

Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA) is about connecting local churches for global impact. MNYBA helps churches plant new churches, serve in their communities and advance the Kingdom of God throughout the world.

The churches of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) are partnering with MNYBA to help advance the gospel in an area where only 3 percent of the population has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

How to connect your church

- **Church Planting** – Existing churches are a vital resource in the strategic church planting efforts in New York City. The BSC's Office of Great Commission Partnerships can help your church or association work with the



MNYBA church planting team to help plant an effective New Testament church in New York City.

- **Kingdom Prayer** – Kingdom-focused prayer is the heartbeat of Great Commission Partnerships. They ask that your congregation consider adopting a church in prayer.

- **Assisting Churches** – MNYBA can help connect your church with an existing church in New York to assist the church with a mission project.

Contact the Office of Great Commission Partnerships to get connected today. Visit ncbaptist.org/gcp.

in for a week and you don't see them again."

Volunteers from Dudley Shoals are already involved in New York, as they spent several weeks last summer remodeling office space for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA). Through the Baptist State Convention's Office of Great Commission Partnerships, North Carolina Baptist churches across the state are forming partnerships with MNYBA churches and church planters.

Smith and Creitz expect their partnership to include opportunities for servant evangelism, such as cleaning up local parks and hosting cookouts, for the purpose of building relationships, making connections and sharing the gospel. "My wife and I can go deep in our relationships with our neighbors, but with 110,000 people in one neighborhood, we can't go wide. Mission teams can't go deep, but they can go wide. They will have the opportunity to meet people, pray for people and get the word out that there is a church that loves them," Creitz said. "Together, we can go wide and deep. Just because I am the church planter doesn't mean I'm the most im-

portant person in the process. We need each other."

Smith looks forward to Dudley Shoals becoming involved in missions in a context different than their familiar rural setting. From the much higher cost of living to ethnic and religious diversity, "New York is really different," he said. "Especially working with someone starting at the ground level. You don't have a single believer."

Creitz encouraged churches to not let New York's urban context or great spiritual needs overwhelm or intimidate and hinder them from developing partnerships.

"Anyone can show love to people," he said. Whenever Creitz experiences times of frustration he thinks back to how God called him to serve for Kingdom purposes.

"When the tough times come, we look back to our call and our burden and that has sustained us," he said. "From the beginning our calling was so clear. We've never doubted our calling to Queens."

To learn how to get involved with partnerships in New York City visit ncbaptist.org/gcp. **BR**

Celebrities recall brushes with Billy Graham

By ADELLE M. BANKS | Religion News Service

Evangelist Billy Graham has rubbed elbows with celebrities ranging from presidents to journalists to musicians. In *Billy Graham & Me*, a new book in the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" franchise that was released Feb. 12, 101 people who have met Graham on the public stage share their private memories of the 94-year-old preacher.

Here is an excerpt from one of them:

Former President George H.W. Bush

Billy came to stay with Barbara and me at the White House on the eve of the air war against Iraq. I told him what I was then having to do – our diplomacy and our

quest for a peaceful solution having failed. I told him when the first cruise missiles would hit Baghdad, and we watched in wonder as the war to liberate Kuwait began. Just the three of us were there.

Billy said a little prayer for our troops and for the innocents who might be killed. The next day we attended a church service at Fort Meade. His very presence brought great comfort to the people in uniform who were praying at that special service.

I cannot begin to tell what Billy's presence and his faith meant to me as President and as Commander in Chief. His own beliefs and abiding faith gave me great strength.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – A longer version of this story is available on BRnow.org.) **BR**

Look away

Continued from page 1

escape slavery through Triad Ladder of Hope, she also looks for opportunities to share her faith.

Johnson said she's always had a heart for international missions.

"[International missions] was my dream," she said. "I'm basically doing international missions here at home."

By giving through the Cooperative Program and to the Annie Armstrong

Easter Offering for North American Missions, Southern Baptists help provide training and ministry-related support for missionaries like Johnson.

As a MSC missionary, Johnson receives direct financial support through

donations and ministry partners, which include several N.C. Baptist churches like Green Street Baptist.

[See a story on one of this year's Week of Prayer missionaries on page 9. There are also more stories, photos and videos at BRnow.org.]

Kevin Ezell, president of NAMB, said during Johnson's commissioning service

that NAMB seeks to find more ways to fight issues like human trafficking throughout the U.S. and in Canada.

"When you hear about it for the very first time, you don't think ... that there is a need in North Carolina," Ezell said. "I did not realize North Carolina was in the [top 10], and Atlanta is [near] the top as far as the most challenging area."

"North Carolina Baptists ... you are one of the finest and one of the strongest conventions the Southern Baptist Convention has," Ezell said.

"You're one of the finest leaders. You're some of the finest pastors. That [puts] you in a very dangerous situation

because we can look at all that is going right and lose a sense of intensity and tenacity and urgency."

Missionaries like Johnson, Ezell said, are examples of those who are willing to step out and make a difference for Christ.

This past year, Triad Ladder of Hope has put an intense focus on helping victims find jobs through training oppor-

"If there is one thing that people need to know is that this is a problem [that] ... could be right in your neighborhood."
— Sandra Johnson



tunities. They seek out victims through visiting homeless and domestic violence shelters.

They also reach out to women who are vulnerable to human trafficking through working in strip clubs.

About once a month Johnson works with ministry volunteers who go into clubs to build relationships with the women there. While volunteers hand out gift bags they seek to find those who may not be there by choice.

"Many victims of sex trafficking can be found in strip clubs," Johnson said. "Sometimes it's a husband that is forcing them to be there, and he takes all of the money."

It's a ministry that takes time and patience.

"The first time it's kind of awkward," Johnson said.

"But you have to build that relationship as you go in. Once we've been in several times, they begin to trust you and start talking to you more. We care about them ... When God opens the door we will share Christ with them and let them know ... that Jesus loves them."

How many slaves do you use?

Creating awareness is the key to helping fight human trafficking.

Many Americans don't realize how the products they buy every day can have an impact on those working in some factories, where human trafficking runs rampant. "Some people use as many 150 slaves a day," Johnson said. "It's unreal."

Johnson encourages people to check

out the website <http://slaveryfootprint.org> to learn more.

"If there is one thing that people need to know is that this is a problem [that] ... could be right in your neighborhood. It's that bad in North Carolina.

"It can be someone who knocks on your door and is selling a product. ... It could be someone living next door to you. It could be somebody doing your nails. It could be somebody serving your food in a restaurant. It's right in your face, literally."

Johnson shared how she used to attend church with a woman who was being trafficked. She was a nanny, and the people she worked for didn't pay her, Johnson said. The woman said she felt trapped because she was living in the U.S. illegally and genuinely cared for the children in the home.

Triad Ladder of Hope has helped reunite trafficking victims with their families. They even provide simple things like a bag of groceries for victims who struggle to make a living.

In addition to financial support and awareness, prayer is the most critical thing the ministry needs.

"That's the very first thing I tell everybody," she said. "We need people to pray about this issue."

"When [volunteers go into a strip club] we have someone sitting in the parking lot praying for them," she said, "We cover everything with prayer. We are firm believers [in prayer]."

Occasionally Johnson will receive a phone call from a former victim who has rebuilt her life through the ministry.

"It's so sweet to get those phone calls," she said. "You do get attached to them ... They're survivors."

For more information go to triadladderofhope.org/. To report a human trafficking case, contact the National Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at (888) 373-7888. **BR**



SATURDAY - APRIL 13, 2013

8:30 am - 2:30 pm (lunch provided)

First Baptist Church Indian Trail (southern outskirts of Charlotte)
732 Indian Trail Fairview Road • Indian Trail, NC 28079

INFO & REGISTRATION

This conference is specifically geared to teachers with breakout groups for all age leaders. Teachers will spend the whole day learning how to teach their specific age group. Conference breakouts are also planned for pastors, ministers of education, and Sunday School directors. The goal is to equip every Bible study leader to teach God's Word in a way that brings transformation to their members' lives.

www.lifeway.com/transform

Cost: \$29.00; \$750 max per church

(plus \$5 meal fee per person for groups larger than 25)

BSCNC Sunday School Ministry Resources • www.ncbaptist.org/sundayschool



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield, Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive • Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptist.org
The mission and ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Mission Offering.



WHAT EVER IT TAKES

REACHING THE ONE

March 3-10 Week of Prayer missionaries

Scott & Ashley VENABLE
Church Planting Missionaries

Mosaic Church
1658 North Milwaukee #179
Chicago, IL 60647

@scottvenable
mosaicchicago.org

Pray that God will send short & long-term co-laborers to Chicago to help Mosaic as it penetrates business in the city.

MEET THE **MIDWEST**
Population: 68,014,199
SBC Congregations: 1,419
SBC Church to Population Ratio: 1 to 12,734



Lorna BIUS
LOVELOUD Missionary

West Region, Catalyst
P.O. Box 471477
Aurora, CO 80047

@lomabius
namb.net/loveloud

Pray that I will find many new friends in all 13 states of the West Region and will stay healthy and see God's provision each day staying close to Jesus as I serve His Church.

MEET THE **WEST**
Population: 73,327,003
SBC Congregations: 4,616
SBC Church to Population Ratio: 1 to 15,869



Peter & Irene YANES
Church Planting Missionaries

Strategist for Ethnic Churches
1137 Myrtlewood Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083

@peteryanes
pennjerseycp.com

Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send us more church planters, partners and prayer warriors to reach "all nations" in Greater Philadelphia.

MEET THE **NORTHEAST**
Population: 66,666,963
SBC Congregations: 1,824
SBC Church to Population Ratio: 1 to 36,561



Kay BENNETT
LOVELOUD Missionary

Baptist Friendship House
813 Elysian Fields Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70117

@bfh_nola
baptistfriendshiphouse.org

Pray for the fight against human trafficking and the safety of those who are rescuing and those who are victims.

MEET THE **SOUTH**
Population: 106,837,912
SBC Congregations: 38,734
SBC Church to Population Ratio: 1 to 2,758



Ben & Shauna PILGREEN
Church Planting Missionaries

Epic Church
524 Day Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

@benpilgreen
epicsf.com

Pray for leadership development at Epic, as we expand our reach in San Francisco, and for the process of our adopting a girl from India.

MEET THE **WEST**
Population: 73,327,003
SBC Congregations: 4,616
SBC Church to Population Ratio: 1 to 15,869



Victor & Candice THOMAS
Church Planters

The Point Community Church
9339 University Crescent, Apt. 304
Burnaby, BC V5A 4Y1

@victorforthomas
pointchurch.ca

Pray for our family, that God will give us great wisdom, energy and joy to serve in Vancouver, and that God will send leaders and resources as we plant more churches.

MEET **CANADA**
Population: 33,476,688
Canadian National Baptist Convention Congregations: 291
CNBC Church to Population Ratio: 1 to 115,040



Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering®

National Goal:
\$70 Million

anniearmstrong.com

When the world comes to Wicker Park

By **TOBIN PERRY** | North American Mission Board

Look around Chicago's Wicker Park and you'll find just about every kind of person you can imagine. You may meet 44-year-old Maurice Burr, the one-time high school football star who spends his days in a wheelchair because of gang violence.

You may meet Charlie the drifter, the homeless man who wanders through the neighborhood warning people of government conspiracies. You could run into the young highly educated, well-dressed couple who come to the park to walk their dog and let their young son play. There's also the senior citizen couple that sit at the park to get some fresh air before heading back to the nearby assisted living center.

And thanks to the generosity of Southern Baptists, there's a North American Mission Board church planter there, too.

"It's the most eclectic place you can imagine," says NAMB church planter Scott Venable. "It has drug dealers and businesspeople. When we prayerwalked as we were looking for a place to start the church and we got to Wicker Park, we just knew it was it."

Wicker Park is both a large park off of Chicago's North Damen Ave. and one of the most famous neighborhoods in the Windy City. Called by Forbes the fourth coolest neighborhood in the United States, it's the kind of place where million dollar homes are just a few blocks down from government housing.

It's also a place that needs churches. Chicagoland – the 10 Illinois counties that surround the city – has one Southern Baptist church for every 31,791 people. Evangelicals make up just 10 percent of the population. The Wicker Park neighborhood itself had just four small evangelical churches for about 23,000 people before Venable's arrival.

And it was just the right place for him. The inner city had long been within his sights. He remembers serving in the Dallas inner city as a young person – and feeling a kinship to the culture, music and speed of urban life.

With a vision for starting a church that would change its city, Venable and his then fiancé, Ashley, began praying about where God might want to use them before they even married.

When the couple visited Chicago around Easter 2009 – and Wicker Park specifically – God spoke clearly to both of them. Before the two said "I do" that May, they decided Chicago would be their new home.

After arriving in Chicago, the Venables went first to a local school in the Wicker Park area and offered to serve. The offer first took the principal by surprise. She was accustomed to having church plants want to use their facility to host church services – not offer free help.

"We're a new church here and really small," Venable told the principal. "We want to help this school become what you want it to be. We want to invest in the community. I like your vision. I like your dream. We want to help pour into the life of these kids."

The flabbergasted principal took him up on the offer. Every day in the beginning, Venable showed up at the school to help – everything from tutoring to coaching sports to providing playground patrol.

Through its engagement with the school, Venable started a "Kidz Club" and "Friday Night Live" for children and youth on Friday evenings. Instead of roaming the streets, teens come for free food, basketball and a



Community outreach is a cornerstone for Mosaic Chicago. Church planter Scott Venable, right, connected with a Wicker Park school leading the church to start Kidz Club and Friday Night Live as alternative activities for children and students in the area. Venable is a North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionary. (NAMB photo by Dale Stroud)

What does an Annie gift do?*

- \$1 – Pack of door hangers promoting new church start
 - \$4 – Hygiene kit for a homeless person
 - \$10 – One day of food and shelter for someone who has been rescued from human trafficking
 - \$15 – Bible for a new believer
 - \$20 – Backpack full of school supplies for an inner-city child
 - \$50 – Month of transportation for a church planter
 - \$75 – Weekly stipend for a summer missionary
 - \$100 – Facility cost for a month of worship services at a new church site
 - \$400 – Monthly stipend for a church planting intern
- * Representative of how funds may be used

About offering

The *Biblical Recorder* has set up a special page on its website about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions: brnow.org/Resources/2013-Annie-Armstrong-Easter-Offering. The page includes the Week of Prayer missionaries, links to their stories and videos, and a photo gallery. Has your church done something special to contribute or raise funds for this offering? Let us know. E-mail editor@brnow.org with details. Please be sure to send pictures if available.

short Bible story. On average 50 youth and 20 elementary students attend. And the community has taken notice. A local reporter discovered the young church plant was cleaning the toilets of businesses near Wicker Park. Soon Mosaic Chicago became known as "the toilet-cleaning church" – a nickname welcomed by Venable because it demonstrates the community involvement and ministry he desires.

"Our measurement – instead of asking how is our church doing – is how is our city doing?" Venable said.

Yet most important, Venable wants to see people come to faith in Christ. He points to one particular local grandma as an example. Venable first met her grandson – one of the most troublesome kids in school – in the principal's office. The boy started coming to Mosaic Chicago's Friday evening Kidz Club after seeing Venable carrying a stack of pizzas out of a carryout restaurant the day of the event. Through her grandson's involvement, the grandmother began attending regularly and has even gotten involved in a small group and mission projects through the church.

"That's what we want to see in all these people's lives – to go from not knowing Jesus to fully following Jesus and carrying out the kingdom-disciple-society DNA in their lives," Venable says.

Venable realizes that kind of ministry has only happened because of Southern Baptists' faithful giving through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) for North American Missions.

"During these first three years of our church plant, Annie has been the biggest part of our support," Venable says.

"It's allowed me to live here and support my family. Without NAMB and Annie, we wouldn't be here."

The annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10, 2013, and the AAEO, provide support for Venable and other missionaries like him who serve on behalf of Southern Baptists in North America. With a goal of \$70 million, this year's offering theme is "Whatever It Takes – Reaching the One."

For more information about Scott Venable and Mosaic Chicago, visit anniearmstrong.com/scottvenable or mosaicchicago.org. For more information about how you can get involved in reaching Chicago with the gospel, visit namb.net/Chicago. **BR**

Collegiate conference urges renewed focus on missions

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

Before knowing Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, C.J. Mahaney described his life as a “mad career” of sin. Mahaney, who now leads Sovereign Grace Ministries, was heavily involved in illicit drug use and headed on a path toward destruction.

“What should I have been if the Lord in His mercy had not stopped my mad career?” Mahaney asked. “It would be frightening to consider where I would be tonight if I would even still be alive.”

Mahaney’s life changed in an instant when a friend told him about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“In between tokes on a pipe, God acted on my dead soul and made me alive,” he said. “I responded to His invitation to turn from my sins and trust in the Savior for the forgiveness of sins.”

Mahaney shared his testimony during the 20/20 “Gospel and Missions” Collegiate Conference held Feb. 1-2 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS).

The conference included plenary sessions, panel discussions and breakout sessions. In addition to Mahaney, plenary speakers included Danny Akin, SEBTS president; Darrin Patrick, pastor of The Journey in Saint Louis, Mo.; and Bruce Ashford, SEBTS associate professor of theology and culture.

Speaking from Jude 1:1, Mahaney shared how the gospel includes God’s call of sinners to salvation, God’s love of sinners and God’s sustaining grace.

Mahaney said his testimony is no dif-



C.J. Mahaney shared his salvation story with students at the “Gospel and Missions” collegiate conference at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. (BSC photo by Buddy Overman)

ferent from anyone else who has come to saving faith in Christ, as God’s call and love of sinners is miraculous and awe-inspiring regardless of when or where it happens in a person’s life.

“There is no such thing as a boring testimony,” he said. “They are all dramatic and miraculous. Your conversion was a miracle initiated by God. The earlier you were converted, if anything, the more amazed you should be at the grace of God.”

Mahaney encouraged believers to recall daily the miraculous nature of their conversion as a way to remember God’s grace and love, which not only calls sinners to salvation, but also sustains believers in their spiritual walk with God.

“This was a kind and gracious call when we consider what we might have been [without Christ],” Mahaney said. “If there has been some time since you felt and stressed intense gratitude and

earnest love, then perhaps you need to remember your call.”

Law, gospel and missions

Focusing on Galatians 5:16-26, Patrick spoke about how people place themselves under the law when they try to gain acceptance from God that is based on religious performance, which leads to legalism. “The biggest enemy Jesus railed against is legalism, and it is the biggest issue we face,” he said. “Legalism causes us to focus on our behavior alone for our acceptability to God.”

By contrast, the heart of the gospel is that God accepts believers on the basis of what Christ has accomplished for them on the cross. When Christians have a proper understanding of the gospel they are empowered to obey God’s law without reverting to legalism.

“You don’t obey for your acceptance,” he said. “You obey from your acceptance. You don’t work for God’s favor. You work from God’s favor.”

When believers work for God’s acceptance they give in to the flesh, or the old sin nature that entices Christ-followers to seek acceptance and purpose apart from the finished work of Christ. Patrick said believers must kill the flesh every day by being aware of how they seek meaning, purpose, righteousness and significance

outside of Christ. “Your flesh will take every good thing in your life and try to make it the best thing,” he said. “Your flesh will take your identity apart from Christ. That’s what you have to kill. That’s how the gospel is turned loose on the inside.”

Speaking on the theme of missions, Akin stressed that a commitment to fulfill the Great Commission is an obedient response for believers who have been transformed by the power of the gospel. He spoke from Romans 15:14-24 and called the church to divert its resources away from inward focused ministries and channel them toward reaching the nations with the gospel.

“The nations are crying out for hope, and we have it. The nations are crying out for deliverance, and we have it,” Akin said. “Will we do something about it? Or

will we be content to sit back in our comfortable, convenient culture and turn a blind eye to the massive needs all around the world?”

Akin also reminded attendees of the Great Commission’s urgency, and encouraged them to consider committing to serve on the international mission

field. “The issue is not lostness,” he said. “The issue is access to the gospel. Why should any of us get to hear the gospel twice when so many will never hear it?”

Visit sebts.edu. **BR**

“The nations are crying out for hope, and we have it. The nations are crying out for deliverance, and we have it. Will we do something about it?”
— Danny Akin

Don Rutledge, global missions pioneer, dies

By **ERICH BRIDGES** | Baptist Press

Renowned photographer Don Rutledge, who told the story of missions through his camera lens for several generations of Southern Baptists, died at his home near Richmond, Va., Feb. 19. He was 82 and had been in declining health for some time.

Traveling throughout the United States and to more than 140 countries over 40-plus years, Rutledge captured quiet moments of humanity and mission ministry in hundreds of classic photographs taken for the Home (now North American) Mission Board and later for the Foreign (now International) Mission Board. His images helped millions to understand, pray for and participate in missions. “I love photojournalism and enjoy using it as a worldwide Christian ministry,” Rutledge once wrote.

Born on a farm in Depression-era Tennessee, Rutledge originally intended to be a pastor. He tried preaching for a time after studying theology in college and seminary. But he discovered an old box camera that belonged to his uncle – and the call to photograph the

world and the people in it proved far stronger.

Rutledge began to shoot photo stories as a freelancer and obsessively studied the work of great photographers. Some of his self-assigned stories in the 1950s and early ’60s required considerable physical courage, including coverage of the violence surrounding the growing civil rights movement in the South. As a raw rookie, he found a job at the New York-based Black Star, then the nation’s top photojournalism agency. He covered stories for the next 10 years in numerous countries for magazines such as *LIFE*, *LOOK* and *Paris Match*. He would disappear for months at a time into Latin America and other regions, armed with hundreds of rolls of film and a list of story assignments.

Rutledge’s reputation quickly grew – and he became internationally known when he shot the pictures for *Black Like Me*, John Howard Griffin’s 1961 book about



DON RUTLEDGE

his harsh experiences of racism in the last days of the segregation-era South, when Griffin darkened his skin to appear black.

At the height of his potential as a globe-trotting photographer, Rutledge left Black Star in 1966 to shoot pictures for the then-Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Several photographer colleagues told him he was crazy but they didn’t understand his deepest motivations. He’d been searching for creative ways to communicate the gospel since his youth in Tennessee.

In 1980, Rutledge joined the then-Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., as a special assignment photographer, continuing his photographic ministry worldwide for another 15 years, primarily for *The Commission* magazine. His photo coverages launched the “golden age” of that magazine, which regularly competed with the likes of *TIME* and *National Geographic* for top national photo awards each year.

“The coming of Don Rutledge to the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) was a key step in development of *The Commission* magazine,” said now-retired editor Leland

See Rutledge page 16

Scout leadership criticized by SBC's EC

By MICHAEL FOUST | Baptist Press

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee Tuesday (Feb. 19) unanimously passed a resolution that criticizes Boy Scouts leadership for trying to change the policy on homosexuality but also urges the Scouts' voting members to uphold the current policy in May.

The resolution also commends the Southern Baptists' Royal Ambassadors program "irrespective" of what the Scouts ultimately decide.

The Boy Scouts executive board appeared poised in early February to lift its prohibition on gay Scout leaders and members and replace it with a "local option," whereby each sponsoring organization would decide the policy. But facing pressure from its base, the board decided to put the matter before its 1,400 voting members at the national convention in May.

"We applaud the many Scouts, Scout families, Scouting leaders, host church leaders, and other interested individuals for raising their voices with courage by contacting the national leadership and national board of the Boy Scouts of America," the resolution states. "... [W]e call on and urge the representatives of the approximately 1,400 voting members of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America courageously to stand strong on their moral convictions and vote to reject the proposed

resolution from the national Scouting leaders, retaining the current policy of moral rectitude that has marked the Boy Scouts of America for more than one hundred years."

The resolution is critical of Boy Scouts leadership, noting that in January Executive Committee President Frank Page learned in a conference call with Boy Scouts leadership that they "had been working behind the scenes for many months to reverse this policy" while "keeping the more conservative majority of the scouting family in the dark concerning their initiative." That, the resolution states, amounted to "breaking trust with the very Scout Oath and Law they pledge to uphold."

The Executive Committee, the resolution says, expresses "its deep dismay and disappointment at the conduct of any Boy Scout leader who openly or surreptitiously built support for their proposal to reverse the Scouts historic position on this issue, thereby alienating conservative religious bodies that sponsor the vast majority of Boy Scout units."

Lifting the policy, the resolution says, would "increase legal exposure" for any "chartered or sponsoring organization" which decides to uphold the biblical view of sexuality. The resolution also says that "should this new policy be adopted, dues from all local Scout troops and chapters would flow upward to help fund a national organization that would no longer share the comple-

mentary values once espoused by all chartered groups within the Boy Scouts of America."

Further, if the Boy Scouts change their policy, it would place them "at odds with a consistent biblical worldview on matters of human sexuality, making it an organization that would no longer complement, but rather contradict, belief in God and His moral precepts that serve as the basis for our Christian faith."

The resolution also calls on "business and corporate leaders who believe in the values of sexual purity, human morality, and biblical righteousness to render financial support for the Boy Scouts of America." The resolution mentions the Royal Ambassadors, the Southern Baptist missions organization for boys in grades 1-6.

"[I]rrespective of the decision of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, we continue to lift up and commend Royal Ambassadors as a Christian values-based organization that, for 105 years, has taught Christian values to boys in Southern Baptist churches, educating at least two million boys in biblical missionary principles and winning tens of thousands to faith in Christ through chapter meetings, Royal Ambassador camps, and other Royal Ambassador activities," it says.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Michael Foust is associate editor of Baptist Press. The full story, including the resolution, is available online at BRnow.org.) **BR**

Challenge Continued from page 1

"Friends, I do believe we're in a new day where we have an opportunity to do some things together better than we've ever done before," Page said. "We've struggled with trust in the past. We've struggled with really respecting one another."

"I believe we're seeing a day and a time where we realize the enemy is so powerful and the world is going to hell so quickly we must work together," Page said. "We don't have an option anymore. This us/them mentality has got to go. So I'm begging you to come together so that we can work together to do the work of the Lord."

Also in his report, Page said an area he has worked hard on during the past year is ethnic relationships. Through the His-

panic Advisory Council and the African American Advisory Council, Page said, he has been working with ethnic brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage deeper involvement in the convention than ever before.

Soon Page expects to announce the members of an Asian Advisory Council. "That is such an important group of ethnics within our culture," he said.

"Of our 45,000 churches, almost one in four is ethnic in some fashion – almost 10,000," Page noted. "Our leadership in all of our convention needs to reflect that ethnic diversity. Let's work hard on that."

Page said he will be working with David Dockery, president of Union University, on an Educational Summit where

representatives from colleges, universities and seminaries will work specifically on "making education more accessible to our ethnic brothers and sisters."

Another area of concern during the past year, Page said, has been working toward unity on Calvinism. The advisory council he formed expects to deliver a report to the convention at the annual meeting in Houston, he said.

"While I'm a non-Calvinist, I'm not an anti-Calvinist," Page said. "Again, friends, if there was ever a day and time when we all need to be at the table together so that we can work together in missions and evangelism, it's today...."

"We've got a long way to go, but we're going to come to a new day of saying, 'We respect each other and we are going to work together to win this world for Christ,'" Page said.

On the Saturday before June's SBC annual meeting in Houston, Page said, he'll be in the "roughest, poorest" part of the city going door to door, sharing the gospel as part of the yearly Crossover evangelism initiative. He challenged SBC leaders and others to join him.

Also in his report, Page mentioned two particular issues that call for increased prayer in the coming days: the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decision on gay marriage and the Boy Scouts of America's vote on whether to allow homosexual troop leaders and members.

The Supreme Court's decision, Page said, could "affect our entire culture." He added, "We need to pray." Regarding the Boy Scouts, "God's people spoke up and spoke up loudly," he said. "Continue to do that, please."

Page recognized Jamie Jordan for 30 years of service as a convention attorney alongside Jim Guenther. The two serve as the Executive Committee's outside general counsel.

He also recapped the roles of each Executive Committee office: convention policy, convention communications and relations, convention finance and convention advancement.

At the close of the 2011-12 fiscal year, Page reported, revenues exceeded the Executive Committee budget by more than \$384,000, expenses were under budget by \$336,000, and an undesignated reserve fund reached more than \$5 million.

"Financially, the Executive Committee is in a very positive state of rebound, and we praise God for that," Page said. "I told you before that we will always be fiscally careful. I am frugal in my own personal life and I believe it is God's money and we must be good stewards. We have worked hard to do this."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Erin Roach is assistant editor of Baptist Press. For more from the recent Executive Committee meetings, visit BRnow.org.) **BR**

BRnow.org

BE SURE TO CHECK
OUT OUR WEBSITE

FOR THE LATEST N.C. BAPTIST
NEWS AND INFORMATION



‘Queen James Bible’ confuses, enslaves

Baptist Press

In 1631, something scandalous happened: Someone printed a Bible, soon called “The Wicked Bible,” that translated the seventh commandment of Exodus 20:14 as “Thou shalt commit adultery.” One can imagine the scandal this caused in 17th-century England. It resulted in huge fines, mortified archbishops, and whispered conversations. The loss of just one word from a careful biblical translation caused a national uproar.

The corruption of the biblical text continues apace in our day, albeit on a far more drastic scale. Recently, a group of homosexual activists released the “Queen James Bible,” a version of scripture that is “gay-friendly.” The translation philosophy is muddled in thought but clear in intent: As the editors plainly state, “We edited the Bible to prevent homophobic interpretations.” This is not an objective project; it is an exercise in theological airbrushing.

First, the editors assert that “The Bible says nothing about homosexuality. However, there might be no other argument in contemporary faith as heated as what the Bible is interpreted to say about homosexuality.” This is simply wrong; in Romans 1:26-28, the Apostle Paul declares in the original Greek that all who participate in homosexual activity face God’s condemnation for sin. Leviticus 20:13, furthermore, makes unmistakably clear that a man “lying with a man” will bring fearsome consequences.

But the confusion continues. According to the editors: “The Bible is the word of God translated by man. This (saying nothing of countless translations and the evolution of language itself) means the Bible can be interpreted in different ways, leading to what we call ‘interpretive ambiguity.’”

This is not nearly as clever as the editors think it is. In reality, biblical translation is a lot like any other kind of interpretation, though it is produced, ideally, with maximal reverence toward God and love for humanity. If you’re translating, say, Homer from the original Greek, you’ll likely have a few points of difference with fellow translators; perhaps there will be some touchy spots. But when translators seek a faithful, as-literal-as-is-possible translation, their work will likely have remarkable similarities.

This isn’t true only of sacred and classic texts, though. If you’re trying to translate instructions from Spanish to English for that shiny new iPhone you received for Christmas, won’t you naturally (without even thinking) try for as accurate a literal translation as you can get? Those who want to fry their poor iPhone: by all means, emphasize “interpretive ambiguity.”

I took 10 Greek and Hebrew classes in seminary, and I assure you, translation is far less ambiguous than the “Queen James Bible” (QJB) editors suggest. Most biblical texts in the original languages simply do not produce the kind of lurching uncertainty that some think they do. This is a common misconception that is easily dispelled in the opening weeks of a college or seminary class in the original languages.

In stating their translation philosophy, the editors assert that updates in language clear the way for unapologetic changes to the original text:

“Many versions of the Bible translated and published since the King James Bible have changed the language, so the precedent had been set for editing. Furthermore, both problems with editing are easily addressed by deciding to make the edits as simple as possible.”

Perhaps we’re expected to receive the matter of linguistic changes as a revelation (no pun intended). It

is of course true that we don’t speak today in “these” and “thous.” Different words in our Bibles have changed over the centuries (though many have stayed the same). Updating language to use modern pronouns is a far cry, however, from excising passages from the Bible, as has happened in the QJB.

But what about the central charge against the Bible in this document? Does scripture condone “homophobia?” No, it does not. God’s Word issues threats of judgment and promises of grace to sinners of all kinds: those who get angry at their sibling (Matthew 5:22), those who cheat on their taxes

and lie (Colossians 3:9), those who understand faith to mean doing good works to be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9), and many others. Every sinner – gay, straight, Republican, Democrat, Catholic, Baptist – must repent and be changed.

So the God of the Bible is not like the boyfriend in unnerving pop songs you hear on the radio; He is not “the one who would never ask you to change because you’re so unstoppably amazing.” The God of scripture offers us love, but it is costly love, for Him and for us. In order to save sinners like you and me, God must cleanse our sin. This meets the just demands of His holiness (Romans 4-5). He accomplished this through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 27). Our fundamental confession to God as a broken sinner is this: “You are right, and I am wrong.” God’s love cost Him His Son; God’s love costs us our sin.

For those drawn to a homosexual lifestyle, this means that repentance is necessary. God is not homophobic in calling gays and lesbians to repent; He is gracious in extending mercy to all of us, calling all of us to repent of our sins. We must not edit the Bible, as the editors of the QJB clearly say they have, to make it fit our lifestyle and excuse our sins. The scripture is a friend to any sinner who receives the gift of forgiveness in Christ.

Some have done so; some have seen this. As former lesbian (and activist academic) Rosaria Champagne Butterfield has shown in her spellbinding memoir, homosexual practice does not liberate – it enslaves. Our only hope as unrighteous people is to go to God’s good Word and embrace all of its wisdom, in order that all of us – and every aspect of our being – might know all of His grace.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Owen Strachan is assistant professor of Christian theology and church history at Boyce College and the co-author of The Essential Edwards Collection.) **BR**



OWEN STRACHAN
Guest Column

Are we ready to do ‘whatever it takes’?

In Acts 8:26-31 we read about a divine encounter that leads to a spiritual rebirth in Jesus Christ. In this text we read that God sent Philip to meet an Ethiopian eunuch. When Philip met the eunuch he was reading from the prophet Isaiah. He wanted to know more about God, but he needed someone to help him understand the truths of scripture.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

These verses are the theme scripture passage for the 2013 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This year’s offering theme is “Whatever it takes...Reaching the one.” The offering goal is \$70 million.

It was in May 1934 when a man in North Carolina prayed that God would raise up someone to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. God answered that prayer of Vernon Patterson during a crusade conducted on borrowed farmland in Charlotte.

A traveling evangelist named Mordecai Hamm shared the gospel and a young man who later became known as Evangelist Billy Graham accepted Christ as Savior. Who could have imagined the impact when someone prayed to reach one person for the Kingdom?

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) reports that about 260 million people in the United States and Canada do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We need Christians to stand up for Christ and be ready to go. We must be willing to do whatever it takes to reach people – even if just one – for the sake of the gospel.

Your giving to this offering helps support North American missionaries who are starting new churches, engaging students on college campuses, serving as church planting catalysts, and helping meet physical and spiritual needs through ministry evangelism.

Sunday, March 3, begins the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. I encourage you to visit anniearmstrong.com for resources that will help you and your church promote this offering.

Also available on the website is a prayer guide to help you pray specifically for our NAMB missionaries.

You can pray for missionaries serving from Chicago and Philadelphia to San Francisco and Vancouver, British Columbia. Our missionaries are serving in unchurched neighborhoods among homeless women and children, ethnic communities, and in many urban areas of great influence.

During our annual meeting last year, North Carolina Baptists were blessed to participate in a North American Mission Board commissioning service. I was encouraged by the testimonies of those committed to serve our Savior in some of the most unchurched areas of North America. They expressed their desire to do whatever it takes to reach even just one person for Christ. Are you willing?

As we approach the Easter season, please pray for God to work through these missionaries for His glory. Please also ask God what He wants you to give in support of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. See stories, pages 1, 7-9.

“I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” 1 Corinthians 9:22 **BR**

**Do you have a position to fill? Advertise
in the *Biblical Recorder* – (919) 459-5691**

A Baptist perspective on ‘re-baptism’

As both a pastor and a professor who teaches Baptist history and thought, hardly a month goes by that I do not have at least one person ask me if they need to be “re-baptized.” From time to time, this question comes from someone who was sprinkled as an infant and is now wrestling with the practice of exclusive believer’s baptism. My answer in this case is simple: infant baptism is a practice that is alien to the New Testament and absent from church history until likely the middle of the second century. Biblical baptism is the full immersion of a presumably regenerate individual following his or her conversion. Since infant baptism is not biblical baptism, one who was sprinkled in infancy needs to follow the Lord’s command by receiving believer’s baptism by immersion.

Far more often, however, the person asking the question grew up attending a Baptist (or at least baptistic) church and now, in adulthood, struggles with whether or not he or she was actually converted prior to his or her immersion. I am very sensitive to this question, since I was immersed at age nine in a mainline Disciples of Christ church following a confirmation class, but never heard the gospel clearly proclaimed until I was around fourteen. I was subsequently converted around the time I graduated from high school and later baptized at the age of twenty-four, after years of struggling with this very question. Many folks have a baptismal testimony similar to mine,

likely for a variety of reasons (that is a topic for another day). When I ask my Baptist History class how many of them have been dunked more than once, it is common for between one-third and half of them to raise their hands.

Bobby Jamieson of 9 Marks Ministries recently weighed in on this very issue in an article written for The Gospel Coalition’s website. I was pleased to see that Jamieson answers this question exactly like I do. If you are absolutely convinced that you were not a Christian when you were immersed, as with my own testimony, then you have never been baptized – you have merely been dunked. So you do need to be dunked again, but it is definitely not a “re-baptism,”

but rather your actual baptism, since this second dunking conforms to the biblical practice.

But if you simply struggle with the question of when you were converted, which is especially common among those who profess faith during childhood and/or in more revivalistic contexts, then you should not be immersed again. Baptism is not some repeatable sacrament that infuses sustaining grace into us or grants us ongoing assurance of salvation. As Jamieson argues in his fine essay, “It’s easy to mistake childlike faith for no faith at all, and to impose an adult standard of spiritual fruit on a child or even a teenager. In such cases, I’d encourage someone to get baptized only if she came to be absolutely convinced that she was not converted at the time of baptism.” Amen.



NATHAN A. FINN
Guest Column



A stained glass window depicts the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. (SXG photo by Stephen J. Sullivan)

If you know that you have never followed the Lord’s command to be baptized as a follower of Jesus Christ according to the New Testament pattern, then I would urge you to submit to biblical baptism. If you simply struggle a bit with certainty about the exact timing of your salvation, or if you are haunted by the guilt of a season of rebellion or staleness, then I would urge you not to rush back into the waters of baptism. Instead, look to Christ and remind yourself of the gospel. Jesus lived a perfect life, died a

sacrificial death, and was raised from the dead for you. Repent of any un-confessed sin, but be assured that as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you will forever belong to the living God who has adopted you as his spiritual child. Baptism testifies clearly to this gospel, but it is not a substitute for the good news.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Nathan A. Finn is associate professor of historical theology and Baptist studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. He serves on the Biblical Recorder’s Board of Directors.) **BR**

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina

Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

K. Allan Blume, Editor/President
editor@brnow.org

Shawn Hendricks, Managing Editor
(919) 459-5697; shawn@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Assistant Managing Editor
(919) 459-5698; dianna@brnow.org

Alison McKinney
Business and
Advertising Manager
(919) 459-5691
alison@brnow.org

Carly Conley
Graphic Designer

Daphne Woodall
Circulation Manager
(919) 459-5693
daphne@brnow.org

Laura Moore
Editorial Aide

Volume 179 No. 5
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 847-6939
BRnow.org

Board of Directors

Dennis Thurman, chair; Chris Byrne, vice chair; Robert Hefner, secretary; Jo Andrews; Kevin Atchley; Stephen Burrow; Kevin Clubb; Nathan Finn; Gene Fowler; Richard Hicks; Robert Ivey; Jerry Stephens; Cindi Stevens; Ed Trull; and Peggy Weiss

Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$15.99
 - Clubs, \$13.79
 - Every Home Plan, \$12.49
 - Church News Service, \$11.50
 - Bulk (10+) \$11.50
 - Single copies, .60 cents each.
- Payable in advance. North Carolina sales tax is included.

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

TAR HEEL VOICES

Movement goal is to silence believers

If any Christian pays close attention to what is really going on behind this “gay movement,” we can see the real motive behind what is happening. This is not just about the Boy Scouts being pressured to accept gays and lesbians as troop leaders.

Those who support and lobby for so called “gay rights” are really working to censor the rights of anyone or any organization that would chose to have a different view than they do. The issue at hand is not just equality or rights, but to silence anyone who would choose to live out their faith through their business, their club, or just in their local church. These proponents are not just seeking equality but seeking a government to force those who would disagree to accept and applaud their choice of lifestyle.

We can try to sugarcoat it all we like, but if things continue in the direction they are going, with the support of our governmental leaders, the conservative Christian church will not even be exempt from the far reaching effects of the gay movement. Every institution, club, organization, and even local churches will fall victim to lawsuits, to ridicule, the threat of legal actions, etc.

We are on a slippery slope, and if someone doesn’t dig in their heels against this, I am afraid that when all is said and done, it will be against the law for me to even preach what the Bible teaches! God help us and God forgive our nation!

Chris Rathbone, pastor
Bear Creek Baptist Church,
Bakersville

March 10

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

March 17

Half-Hearted Interest or Total Commitment?

Focal Passage: Luke 9:20-26, 57-62

C.T. Studd lived from 1860-1931. The majority of his life was spent on the mission field to China, India and Africa. He is perhaps most well-known for his life's motto, "If Jesus Christ be God, and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." As a young man, C.T. left England in February 1885 following Hudson Taylor into China.

Giving up the ease of his family's wealth, C.T. sought to comfort his mother as he left for the mission field. He wrote: "Mother dear, I do pray God to show you that it is such a privilege to give up a child to be used of God to saving poor sinners who have never even heard of the name of Jesus."

I believe in many ways C.T.'s life reflected the focal passage of our lesson. Jesus said, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses and forfeits himself?"

Can you imagine someday standing

before our Savior, having lived the bulk of our lives focused on our own material gain and comfort; wasting precious moments on temporal matters that will make no difference in eternity? Jesus' words are calling us to life that is fully committed to Him.

Are you taking up His cross daily and following Him? Reflect on the following quote from C.T. Studd and ask yourself. "Whose call am I following?"

C.T. writes: "Last June at the mouth of the Congo there awaited a thousand prospectors, traders, merchants and gold seekers, waiting to rush into these regions as soon as the government opened the door to them, for rumour declared that there is an abundance of gold.

If such men hear so loudly the call of gold and obey it, can it be that the ears of Christ's soldiers are deaf to the call of God? Are gamblers for gold so many, and gamblers for God so few?"



BARTLEY WOOTEN
Senior pastor, Beulaville Baptist Church, Beulaville

Indifference or Compassionate Action?

Focal Passage: Luke 10:25-37

Compassion should never be confused with irresponsible giving. Sometimes in our society it is difficult to know how to help those in need. Consequently, if we are not careful we can become indifferent trying to figure it out. For example, we see folks on the side of the road holding up signs asking for money. When our car gets close to them we pretend to be preoccupied or look the other way. Sometimes we get angry because we think they are playing on our emotions and trying to manipulate us to give. Or, perhaps you think they are just too lazy to get a real job. Regardless of how you feel I think this week's lesson can

give us some important insight in our decision-making next time we encounter a person in need.

Many of us know Luke 10:25-37 as the Parable of the Good Samaritan. There are at least three points about this parable that are applicable for us today. First, the

Samaritan recognized there was a legitimate need (Luke 10:30, 33). Secondly, he had compassion on the person in need (Luke 10:33). Thirdly, he was responsible in giving to the person in need (Luke 10:33-55).

In the first point it was evident to the Samaritan that the man desperately needed help. Sometimes for us it is not so evident if someone genuinely needs help. Therefore, the Christian has to go beyond simple observation and investigate the need more thoroughly. Secondly, the Samaritan had compassion on the man. Compassion is rooted in God and our love for God (Luke 10:27). Compassion for the Christian always moves the person in need closer to Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, the Samaritan gave responsibly as he helped the man. In essence, he had the man's well-being in mind. Helping someone requires great wisdom. Just giving someone money may enable that person to live a life of destruction. The Christian has to go further and help the person make the right decision that leads to a closer relationship with Jesus.

None of these suggestions are easy to fulfill, but with Christ, all things are possible.

March 10

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

March 17

Please God in Your Worship

Focal Passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Recently my plumber initiated a conversation with me about church life. He addressed the issue of generational worship, and I shared some observations. While the term "worship wars" is probably much overused, it describes the reality that the senior adult crowd and the 20-somethings (as well as other age-groups) probably have different expectations and desires for "worship." Because of this reality, we're seeing more and more churches employing multiple worship services scripted by markedly different styles, each seeking to reach a particular niche. It's a reality of the 21st century. The great danger is putting style over substance. If our worship becomes "us-focused," can we really say we've worshipped?

In this passage, we see the person of our worship: God, and Jesus His Son, the mediator between humanity and heaven. We also see God's purpose in worship; our experiencing salvation through knowing The Truth and all that is true in God. A third facet of pleasing worship is

praying in total surrender. Surrender of our will in favor of God's is symbolized by our uplifted hands.

In his day Paul and his ministry team also dealt with the issues of culture and style. The Gentile pagan culture of the Roman world was filled with cultic prostitution, institutional slavery, and an "anything goes" mentality. Therefore, Paul wanted females to dress modestly and men to live righteously. Exterior attitudes, appearance and behavior matter. Yet, Paul wanted his worship leaders to know that real change comes from the inside out. Radical transformation emanates from a relationship "in" Christ, a phrase Paul used more than 200 times. While clever marketing and production can aid our worship, authentic Christian faith and worship always places substance over style, and can best be described as what happens when we humble ourselves before the "worship" of God.



WAYNE PROCTOR
Pastor, Eure Baptist Church

Honor God in Your Service

Focal Passages: 1 Timothy 3:8-13; 4:6-16

The word "deacon" means "servant." In Acts 8 we have testimony to the life of a servant. His name was Philip. On the one hand he was a deacon based upon his selection by the leaders of the early church. On the other hand his life as a deacon was authenticated by a lifestyle of service and obedience to God. We are introduced to Philip as an evangelist in Samaria, deep in enemy territory. The Samaritans, however, appreciated the time and testimony Philip gave them, and great miracles occurred.

The "official" preachers, Peter and John, would show up later and verify Philip's service and ministry. Then God did an unusual thing with Philip. He sent the deacon out into the desert and told him to wait. Wait on what God would do next. Philip was obedient and God sent an African man to him who was hungry for the Truth. This royal official would

experience salvation, would be baptized by immersion, and would go home to Ethiopia with great joy in his heart. In the meantime, Philip would be whisked away by God to his next assignment. By all appearances, Philip was as faithful to God at home as he was on the mission field. His daughters were also recognized as women of great faith and teachers of God's truth.

The standard for church leadership is high. The bar for godly living is virtually the same for the deacon as it is for the pastor. Timothy was exhorted to "train" himself in godliness.

When we watch professional athletes in their prime, their bodies are chiseled and honed for excellence. Too many of them, however, quit their training before middle age and look pudgy in their later years. The spiritual plan advocated by Paul doesn't quit. It looks ahead to the life that is to come (4:8b) and sets a high bar or standard in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity (4:12). As part of the church leader's personal discipline, he should hunger for Bible study, preaching and teaching.

South home to most 'Bible-minded' cities

Baptist Press

The South is home to the top 10 most "Bible-minded" cities in the United States, according to new Barna Group research.

Defining Bible-minded as a person who reads the Bible in a typical week and strongly asserts the accuracy of its teaching, researchers determined that Knoxville, Tenn., is the most Bible-minded city in the United States, with 52 percent of the city's population fitting that category. Other cities in the top five are Shreveport, La., with 52 percent of its population deemed Bible-minded; Chattanooga, Tenn., 52 percent; Birmingham, Ala., 50 percent; and Jackson, Miss., 50 percent.

At the bottom of the scale are Providence R.I./Bedford, Mass., 9 percent; Albany/Schenectady/Troy, N.Y., 10 percent; Burlington, Vt./Plattsburgh, N.Y., 16 percent; Portland/Auburn, Maine, 16 percent; Hartford/New Ha-

ven, Conn., 16 percent; and Boston, Mass./Manchester, N.H., 16 percent.

Where does North Carolina rank? Charlotte comes in at No. 7 with Asheville tying with three S.C. cities for No. 11. Greensboro/High Point/Winston-Salem ranks No. 19 with Raleigh/Durham/Fayetteville at No. 22. Greenville/New Bern/Washington rank No. 31.

Researchers advised Christian leaders to view the news optimistically.

"In this analysis, 83 out of 96 cities in the U.S. have at least 20 percent of their residents qualifying as Bible-minded," Barna Group President David Kinnaman said. "Christian leaders should recognize that most of the major cities in the nation continue to have basis for biblical engagement among a significant share of the population."

Study results indicate a diversity of Bible-minded scores among population markets across the United

States, ranging from the high of 52 percent and the low of 9 percent, Barna reported.

"As ministry leaders in particular, it's important to keep both vantage points in tension," Kinnaman said. "Whether you live in a city ranked in the top half of Bible-minded cities or in the bottom half of Bible-minded cities, there are still tens of thousands of people to reach regarding both the message of the Scriptures and their importance. "The key is to not merely preach to those insiders," Kinnaman said, "but instead to equip and empower those who do believe with a strong and relevant message to take out into their communities, vocations and spheres of influence."

Researchers drew results from telephone and online interviews with random samples of 42,855 adults nationwide. Interviews were conducted over seven years, ending last May, according to Barna. Full results are available at barna.org. **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Warsaw Baptist Church, in rural Warsaw NC, seeks **full-time Pastor** to serve our congregation and community. Send resume to: Warsaw Baptist Church, 209 East College Street, Warsaw, NC 28398.

Conservative Baptist church located near Fort Bragg seeking a **Pastor** who is evangelistic minded, Bible believing and has a servant spirit to minister to a congregation with a vision toward the future. We are seeking Southern Baptist applicants who have ministry experience. Divinity Degree is required. Resumes may be submitted to: Pulpit Chairman, 4575 Ray Rd, Spring Lake, NC 28390. (Or PSCGS@yahoo.com.)

Cedar Lodge Baptist, Thomasville, seeks **Pastor** for SBC church. Attendance: Sunday school 45-50, worship 50-65. Send resume to larrygraham@northstate.net or 1305 Cedar Lodge Drive, Thomasville, NC 27360.

Church Staff

Concord Baptist Church, Anderson, South Carolina, is seeking a **Children's Pastor/Children's Ministry Director**. This person will develop and lead a comprehensive ministry to children, preschool- fifth grade. The candidate should have a minimum of three years church/children's ministry experience. Preferred candidates should hold a degree from an accredited seminary. Interested persons may submit resumes via e-mail to jjames@concordbaptist.com or by regular mail to Concord Baptist, 1012 Concord Road, Anderson, SC 29621. Attn: Dr. Don Cox.

Calvary Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is seeking an experienced **part-time music director**. Calvary has a blended worship style and many musically talented members. Resumes with references may be mailed to the church office at 320 Old Boiling Springs Road, Shelby, 28152, or emailed to tony@visitcalvaryonline.com. Inquiries may be directed to the church office at 704-482-8302.

Parkview Baptist Church in Morehead City, NC, is searching for a **full-time Associate Pastor for Worship**. This position will require an ability to transform an existing music ministry into a dynamic ministry that leads people to worship the God of the universe. We are looking for someone with a close relationship with God, strong leadership skills, a willingness to serve and a passion for worship and making disciples. Experience is not required, but will be looked upon favorably. Email resume to dmills@parkviewnow.com or upload online at www.parkviewnow.com.

Turner Memorial Baptist Church, Garner, NC, is seeking a **part-time Music Minister** to lead us in our blended/contemporary worship services. We are a growing church in Southern Wake Co. Send resumes to sean.mckenzie@tmbconline.org.

Bethany Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time Minister of Youth** to provide spiritual direction in developing, planning and leading our youth ministry. See website for more details: bethanybaptistws.com.

Calvary Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is searching for a **part-time youth director**. A job description is available upon request. Resumes with references can be submitted to Pastor Tony Sisk at 320 Boiling Springs Road, Shelby, NC 28152, or email to tony@visitcalvaryonline.com. Inquiries may be directed to the church office at 704-482-8302.

Part-time Director of Youth and Children.

First Baptist Church, South Boston, VA, (Baptist General Association of Virginia and the CBF) seeks an individual to plan and develop youth and children ministries. A minimum of a collegiate degree and some experience working with youth and/or children required. Submit resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Ted Bennett, 815 N. Main Street, South Boston, VA 24592, or email to: www.tedbennett@gmail.com by May 1, 2013.

First Baptist Church Rutherfordton, a 400-member congregation in the foothills of Western North Carolina, seeks a **full-time Minister for Youth and Outreach**. Ministry experience and strong relational skills are required. Masters degree from an ATS/SACS accredited seminary or divinity school preferred. This church values traditional worship, affiliates with CBF and SBC, and affirms women in ministry. Submit resumes by March 15, 2013, to Personnel Committee, PO Box 839, Rutherfordton, NC 28139, or office@firstbaptistrutherfordton.com.

Bethany Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music and Worship** to plan, direct and coordinate worship for both contemporary and traditional services. See website for more details: bethanybaptistws.com. Prior experience is desired.

Hillmon Grove Baptist Church, Cameron, NC, seeks **part-time worship leader/music director**. Blended worship service style with choir. Estimated 15 to 20 hours per week. Contact hgbsecretary@gmail.com, or 919-499-4913.

Miscellaneous

Looking for passionate College and/or Seminary students willing to serve at-risk teens during a summer internship. Boys and Girls Homes of NC has two paid internship opportunities available in our Chapel Ministry, June 1-July 30, 2013. For more information please contact our chaplain at john.cobb@bghnc.org or 910-625-7300.

DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? Try our piano CDs for churches to sing by! Hymns, Gospel, Christmas, Choruses. Call Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800. FREE DEMO! www.wsrpianocds.com.

Looking for used standing risers for childrens choir. Contact: Bill Cogley, Rocky Hock Baptist Church, (252) 221-4133.

Longview Baptist, Raleigh, **seeking gray Baptist Hymnals, 1991 edition**. Please call the church office: (919) 231-3747.

NCBAM needs grab bars and other fall-prevention devices funded and installed across the state. Keep aging adults on their feet and in their homes. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

Share the Biblical Recorder — FREE. Order a three-month free subscription. Contact Daphne Woodall at (919) 847-2127 or daphne@BRnow.org to make arrangements.

MOVED? Don't forget to change your address with the *Biblical Recorder*. Contact Daphne at (919) 459-5693 or daphne@BRnow.org.

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at BRnow.org
- Send a Fax to (919) 847-6939

For more information, call the office at (919) 459-5691.

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.20 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.42 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

Howard Hendricks, author & longtime 'prof,' dies

Baptist Press

When author and longtime Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) professor Howard Hendricks passed away Feb. 20 at the age of 88, Southern Baptist leaders, seminary professors and pastors took to Twitter to honor his life.

Hendricks served on the DTS faculty for 60 years and was founder and chairman of the seminary's Center for Christian Leadership. He authored or co-authored 16 books and taught more than 10,000 students. He even was chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys football team from 1976-1984.

Students and friends knew him simply as "Prof." He preached on the campuses of Southern Baptist seminaries and at the 2003 SBC Pastors Conference.

Following is a sampling of what Southern Baptists said on Twitter:

● Jack Graham (@JackNGraham), pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas: "Howard Hendricks was an incredible man teacher leader believer. He influenced a generation of pastors and churchmen. Now rewarded."

● Gregory Mathias (@GregMathias), associate director of international missions for the Center for Great Commission Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.: "The passing of Howard Hendricks is a true loss for us but complete gain for him. Thanks for your legacy."

● Terry L. Wilder (@TerryLWilder), professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas: "Never had 'Prof' Hendricks for class but did enjoy lunch w/him a couple of times. Listened closely to the wisdom he shared."



Howard Hendricks, seen in this 2004 photo from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, served on the Dallas Theological Seminary faculty for 60 years.

● Russell D. Moore, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., also sent out a Tweet, calling Hendricks a "titanic" professor.

Hendricks spoke at the Billy Graham conference center and at Promise Keepers rallies, and would tell those in attendance, "It's wonderful to be here with you, but I have a group of delicious students waiting for me back at the seminary."

Many of Hendricks' students went on to become even more well-known than he was. Among them: Tony Evans, David Jeremiah, Robert Jeffress, Erwin Lutzer and Chuck Swindoll.

Swindoll, who later became president and then chancellor of DTS, said Hendricks "is the one man who has had the greatest impact on my entire life. And there is no doubt in my mind that since the late 1950s to the present day, no other teacher at DTS has been more influential to more of our graduates, or more magnetic to more potential students than Dr. Hendricks."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Compiled by Michael Foust, associate editor of Baptist Press, with information from DTS.) **BP**

Rutledge

Continued from page 10

Webb. "Though soft-spoken, Don was strongly determined to get the right photos and to see them used properly."

Rutledge formally retired from IMB in 1996 but continued doing freelance assignments in the United States and overseas until he suffered a debilitating stroke in 2001. He received more than 300 awards for his work and inspired hundreds of young photographers, writers and mission communicators – many of whom he mentored personally – to follow in his footsteps. Even the writers, who were the frequent target of his collection of humorous travel stories and who always seemed to have to pick up

the tab when they went to lunch with him, loved him.

"Don Rutledge talked a lot about 'going beyond' in photography," said Mike Creswell, who works at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. "He was not looking to merely document an event, but rather by going beyond that to introduce a fourth-dimensional depth of relationships. ... Don focused his attention on capturing the instant in which relationships were revealed."

He is survived by his wife, Lucy, of Midlothian, Va.; two sons, Mark, an IMB missionary in Haiti, and Craig, of Albany, Ga.; and five grandchildren. **BP**

Gay marriage bills advance in 2 states

Baptist Press

Less than two months into the new year, legislative bodies in two states have passed bills that would legalize gay marriage, while a civil unions bill has made progress in a third state.

The Illinois Senate passed a bill Feb. 14 that would legalize gay marriage, three weeks after the Rhode Island House approved a gay marriage bill. The Colorado Senate passed a civil unions bill Feb. 11. Each bill still must pass the other chamber in each state, but significantly, the Democratic governors of each state support the respective bills. Democrats control the legislatures in all three states. Gay marriage is legal in nine states and the District of Columbia.

The Illinois bill passed by a vote of 34-21, with two members voting present. Illinois already has civil unions, which grant same-sex couples the benefits of marriage, minus the name.

"We are one step closer to marriage equality in Illinois," Illinois Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn said in a statement after the Senate vote. "Couples across Illinois have even more reason today to celebrate their love for each other, thanks to the hard work of committed advocates and lawmakers."

The bill's opponents, though, said the

bill would impact religious liberty and parental rights.

Gay marriage legalization, Laurie Higgins of the Illinois Family Institute wrote, will mean that "children will be taught that homosexuality is normative and good." Society, she said, would be declaring that "children do not have any inherent rights to know and be raised by a mother and a father."

State Rep. Greg Harris, a Democrat and the lead bill sponsor in the Illinois House, said he believed the bill will pass his chamber, although he declined to say if he has the necessary 60 votes, according to the Chicago Tribune.

"I think we are very close to that," Harris said.

In Rhode Island, a gay marriage bill passed the House 51-19 in late January, although it faces a more difficult road in the Senate, where Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed opposes it.

In Colorado, a civil unions bill passed the Senate, 21-14 and is favored to pass in the House.

The news wasn't all bad for traditionalists, though. In Hawaii, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee said in mid-February he would not schedule a hearing on a gay marriage bill, a move that apparently kills the bill for this session. **BP**

PRODUCING PEW POTATOES:

Creating a culture of spectators in the church

"Pew potato" is a term I use to refer to a person in the church that takes on the characteristics of a "couch potato." This is someone who sits on the pew in times of corporate worship and expects to be entertained without having to get involved in any way. Here is the sad truth: our churches, no matter the style of their worship, are often producing and encouraging spectators in worship.

The congregation should be active participants in worship, not passive observers. A congregational song is the most widely used tool of our worship expression that gets people participating.

Some churches get so involved in producing "special music" segments that they seem to have little time left for the congregation to sing. A stirring solo, choir special, or instrumental arrangement can certainly be worshipful. They can be a great sacrifice of praise for those presenting the music, and many times, the congregation can worship

vicariously through the song. But what I see time after time is an emphasis on non-congregational music while neglecting congregational involvement. And when it comes to congregational singing, we should spend as much time making sure that the arrangements we use to lead our congregation are as special and prepared as anything we do for "special" music.



Kenny Lamm

In upcoming articles, I will go through other pitfalls that produce pew potatoes. Many of these may be totally unexpected to you, and you may discover that your church is guilty of producing spectators without even realizing it.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Kenny Lamm is a senior worship & ministry team consultant. For more information you can reach him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5638, or klamm@ncbaptist.org. Visit his blog at blog.ncbaptist.org/renewingworship/

engaging NC Baptists in worship
renewing worship