

# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

MARCH 11, 2017 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 183 NO. 5 • [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org)



Micah Fries, left, and D.A. Horton led North Carolina Baptists during the Feb. 27 Disciple-Making Conference at Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons. (BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle)

## LOOKING VERTICALLY Speakers call pastors to equip the saints

By **DIANNA L. CAGLE** | BR Production Editor

Admitting to being “uber-cheap” when it comes to buying clothes, Micah Fries challenged a recent gathering to fight the American tendency to shop for a church.

“I look for the nicest looking store that offers me the most comfortable fit and asks of me the smallest price, which is precisely how most people view church,” said Fries, senior pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn. “The process of finding and aligning ourselves with covenant community that God, the Holy God of the universe, is going to use to shape us into the image of God, and we call that process church shopping.”

Fries was among the speakers addressing the 2017 Disciple-Making Conference Feb. 27 at Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons, N.C. He was joined by

D.A. Horton, pastor of Reach Fellowship in North Long Beach, Calif., and Ed Newton, lead pastor of Community Bible Church in San Antonio, Texas, on the main stage. There was also a question and answer panel with Fries and two North Carolina pastors – Steve Corts, Center Grove’s senior pastor, and Andrew Hopper, lead pastor of Mercy Hill Church in Greensboro – and a number of breakout sessions on various ways to disciple.

“When we look across the American evangelical landscape, we see enormous numbers of people who claim the name of Christ who are not growing in the image of Christ,” Fries said, stressing the importance of the local church in maturing believers. But the American view of worship is not costly, like that of the believers in Romans 12. People ask, “What did that do for you today? What did you get out of the sermon today?”

“When that’s our primary barometer for whether or not worship was successful, God has ceased being the center of our affections, and we have replaced Him with ourselves,” Fries said. “We’ve become the object of our worship.”

Americans need to think more of denying themselves, more of “self-crucifixion in a sense” because “the very entrance into gospel community is predicated on you dying,” Fries said.

He challenged more spiritually mature believers to sacrifice preferences for those who are less mature. “God has designed us, not to be an independent people, but to be an interdependent community,” Fries said. “God has made us for one another to the degree that we desperately need one another. Our spiritual growth is each other’s business.”

He urged leaders to look for transformation.

“We need to stop affirming people in their lostness,” he said. “The most loving thing we can do, is not to affirm them in their pseudo-religious lostness, but to tell them, ‘You don’t know Jesus, but He wants to love you, and in His grace He’ll forgive you and give you hope.’”

“We’ve got to stop playing around with this fake Christianity and recognize that the point of the gospel is not only to snatch us out of hell, to redeem us with God but to shape us into the image of Jesus. And if people are not being shaped into the image of Jesus, they don’t know Him.”

Admitting his proclivity toward pride, Fries said, “I am very concerned that the Southern Baptist Convention has a massive pride problem, that many of us within our denomination don’t understand the level of pride that we carry

[See View page 11](#)



# What does March Madness have to do with the gospel?

Anyone who is remotely familiar with college basketball knows that March Madness is not a movie about anger management. Neither is it the latest novel about a crazy scientist. It is a colloquial phrase for the series of collegiate basketball games during the month of March that will conclude with crowning a national championship team on April 3.

The most pronounced trait of all championship teams is teamwork. Some players will stand out as leaders, but even the best super-player will not win a national title alone. The best coach is skilled and strategic, but he will not win the game singlehandedly. The trophy will be won by a team of athletes and celebrated by the whole team.

This madness is driven by teamwork. Every coach on the team, every player on the team, and everyone who loves the winning school will celebrate as though the victory was theirs alone. But, the whole team won.

Often, I hear successful business leaders say, “The only way to build a company with great success is to build a great team.”

John Maxwell, a popular author and speaker, said, “Teamwork is at the heart of great achievement. The question isn’t whether teams have value. The question is whether we acknowledge that fact and become better team players.”

Automobile entrepreneur Henry Ford said, “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Others expand the principles of Ford’s statement with the truism, “The difference between success and failure is a great team.”

Teamwork is a biblical value. From Genesis to Revelation teamwork is on display. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to summarize God’s plan for teamwork in 1 Corinthians 12:14, “*For the body is not one member, but many.*” The entire chapter of that scripture text explains how God

accomplishes His will through the giftedness of everyone in the church body. Everyone is valuable to the team.

Teamwork is evident in nature. When you see a flock of geese flying across the sky in formation, you are looking at teamwork.



K. ALLAN BLUME  
Editor

The purpose of the formation is to reduce wind resistance so all of the geese are able to fly efficiently. The birds alternate positions in shifts so there is equal sharing of their physical energy. They know the value of teamwork.

Honeybees, moving from flower to flower, are part of a rotating system with other bees. Some stay in the hive, fanning their wings to keep the hive cool until the time their shift takes them to the flowers, and other bees resume the work of cooling the hive. That’s teamwork.

Music demonstrates the high value of teamwork. An orchestra produces a harmonious sound of great beauty, a grand symphony. Their incredible work is the result of many individuals who play their instrument to create a harmonious sound that cannot come from the work of one person or a single instrument.

The world of sports is replete with the value of teamwork. Can the world’s best baseball pitcher win a game if there are no players in the outfield or covering the bases? Of course not.

Can the world’s best football quarterback win a game if there is no one to hike the ball, block the opposing team or run for a pass? No way! Winning is teamwork.

Individuality undermines teamwork. It is self-focused. It breeds isolationism. It is naked pride. Individuality is the curse of the church body. It is the enemy of the Great Commission.

Ask a N.C. Baptist Men’s chainsaw crew member or a feeding unit volunteer if teamwork is important.

Ask the church music leader if teamwork is important. Whether a church has a choir and orchestra or uses a praise

team and a band, one person cannot match the potential of a team.

Local church leaders depend on teamwork. But, this is not the end of the story. We know that even the best, greatest, most generous, most talented, most committed church cannot win the world to Christ. They can’t even take the gospel to everyone in their own county.

In Baptist life, we build teamwork into all we do. The Cooperative Program is our statement on financial teamwork. Our associational meetings, state convention annual meetings and the Southern Baptist Convention’s annual sessions are expressions of our commitment to teamwork.

Everyone is invited to participate because everyone has an important responsibility.

In the process of working together, Baptists welcome “nominations.”

Church members are invited to participate in the mission of the state and national conventions through the process of submitting fellow Baptists to use their leadership skills on the team beyond the local church.

On page 16 of this issue of the *Biblical Recorder*, please notice an invitation from the Committee on Nominations of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to nominate fellow team members to serve in our state.

This is important to the whole team’s Great Commission goal.

Those who serve in “denomination ministry” are keenly aware of the high value of teamwork. Your international and North American missionaries need you on their team, and they want to be on your team. Associational missionaries and those who serve the local church through state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention strive for teamwork. We need each other.

Here’s the bottom line. Teamwork is necessary to meet our ultimate Kingdom goals. We have a lot to do if we are going to finish our Lord’s Great Commission assignment. As I understand it, every member of the team needs to agree on some basic truths.

First, everyone deserves to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ at least one time. God’s love demands it. End of discussion. The Great Commission cannot be ignored. It must not be disobeyed.

Second, it is a daunting task to reach the world with the gospel. When you look up the meaning of the word “daunting,” you will see words like, overwhelming, intimidating, formidable, disconcerting, unnerving, unsettling, ominous, awesome and challenging. Getting the gospel to the ends of the earth

is all of these and more.

The word “impossible” needs to be added to the mix. Without the power of God working in us and through us, it will not happen.

Third, the world will not be reached by one person, one local church or one denomination. This

is an absolute truth.

Again, the word “impossible” applies. God’s plan to reach the world is a team effort. Every believer is part of His dynamic strategy to love the world with the Good News that Jesus – God’s only Son – gave His life for every human being on the planet.

When we commit our time and resources to our Lord, we join the team of millions of other Southern Baptists in taking the Good News of Jesus to a dark world that desperately needs a Savior. Together, the possibilities are endless.

Our Baptist team’s version of March Madness could be reflected by sacrificial giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Why not? Let’s go for it, team! **BR**

**“Teamwork is at the heart of great achievement. The question isn’t whether teams have value. The question is whether we acknowledge that fact and become better team players.” – John Maxwell**

**BR BIBLICAL  
RECORDER**

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention  
of North Carolina  
Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

**Volume 183 No. 5**  
**(919) 847-2127**  
**Fax (919) 467-6180**  
**B3now.org**

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

**Seth Brown**, Content Editor  
seth@brnow.org

**Dianna L. Cagle**, Production Editor  
dianna@brnow.org

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

**Laura Crowther**  
Editorial Aide

**Liz Tablazon**  
Circulation Manager  
(919) 459-5693  
liz@brnow.org

**Kelly Hunter**  
Graphic Designer

**Board of Directors:** Lee Pigg, chair; Nate Jones, vice chair; Angela Brady, secretary; David Clary, treasurer; Kevin Atchley; Kelli Benfield; Christina Brown; Frankie Gordon; Lisa Harris; Gerald Hodges; Tony Honeycutt; Todd Houston; Dan Meyer; Jim Pennington Jr.; Michael Smith; Marilyn Thurman; Aaron Wallace; Tammy Weeks; Keith Whitfield and Ed Yount

#### Subscriptions

• Individual subscriptions, \$15.99 (one year); \$27.99 (two years); \$39.99 (three years)  
• Bulk Plan (10+) \$11.50  
• Family Plan, \$12.50  
• Club Plan, \$13.50  
• Single copies, .60 cents each  
Payable in advance. N.C. sales tax is included. Digital rates: \$5.99 (one year); \$10.99 (two years); \$15.99 (three years).

#### 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.

# North Carolina Baptists worship in 66 languages each week

If you're reading this, chances are, you probably attend a church. Come to think of it, many of you attend a Baptist church. Perhaps you've been a churchgoer all your life – or maybe attending a weekly church service is a recent development for you.

Whatever your circumstance may be, you have the opportunity to attend a place of worship where you can hear the Bible taught in your language. You can learn about the Lord, grow in your relationship with Him and fellowship with other believers who speak your language.

However, that's not the whole story. Many people living in North Carolina do not know of a church family that understands the language they speak. There are many unreached and unchurched people in our state – 5.8 million, to be exact. These people live all over North Carolina and come from diverse backgrounds and different language groups. The heartbreaking truth is that many of these people never hear the gospel in a language they understand.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has a strategy to impact lostness through disciple-making. As a large network of Baptist churches, we are working to

reach every language group in this state with the gospel. One of the most effective ways to locate, reach and disciple people who are spiritually lost is through the establishment of churches in communities that speak the language of people around them.

God has brought people from all over the world to live in North Carolina. Our public school system reports that children attending schools in this state come from homes where more than 300 different languages are spoken. Would you agree that everyone deserves to hear the gospel in their own language?

In fulfillment of our Lord's Great Commission, this state convention provides consultants to help our member churches and Baptist associations reach and disciple every people group in North Carolina through an Acts 1:8 model. In the past 10 years, North Carolina Baptists reported over 1,100 new church starts and affiliates. This includes an average of 100 churches a year among 66 different language groups. Although we give praise to God and celebrate this achievement, we need to start more churches that speak the language of newer residents in communities around them. This



**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**  
BSC executive  
director-treasurer



includes starting new churches that could meet in your church building, in homes, schools, storefronts, arenas and restaurants. Cooperating and working together will enable us to reach and disciple more North Carolina residents with the gospel. This will also help to reach the nations of the world with the gospel.

Will you join me in praying for our church planting team and the work that they do? We are woefully low in the number of individuals who commit to give prayer support to our church plants.

We need you! Will you commit to being a prayer partner as we seek to reach the lost in our state through church planting? We can enable you to become a prayer partner for one or more of these new churches if you will contact the church planting team here at your Baptist State Convention.

If you would like to learn more about the work of the convention's church planting team, you may visit <http://bit.ly/NCBaptistChurchPlanting>. **BR**

## Innovative ministry in rural Wadesboro

Like many NC Baptist churches, Brown Creek Baptist Church's building occupies a rural piece of land on the corner of a state highway and a country road bearing its name.

Rather than driving into a bustling new neighborhood of young families across the street, Pastor Curtis Williams walks across the street to the parsonage where he lives. But despite a lack of these alluring neighborhoods filled with prospective pew-fillers, Williams is leading Brown Creek to fill a mission field down the road at South Piedmont Community College with high school age students enrolled in early college.

South Piedmont is home of the Anson County Early College (ACEC), a school of about 200 high school students. Started in 2005, ACEC was part of the first wave of early college high schools to pop up across North Carolina.

Part of North Carolina's Innovative Education Act in 2003 that stemmed from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation one year earlier at Guilford College in Greensboro, early college high schools were created as part of our public education system to give an alternative educa-

tional experience to high school students who would be first-generation college students.

Targeting students who have the drive to succeed but lack the support systems they need – students who tend to find themselves marginalized in traditional high schools – the early college system places students on college campuses where they complete their entire high school experience. There are three primary differences in the traditional high school and the early college high school:

1. The early college high school meets entirely on a college campus;
2. The early college high school program is five years instead of four;
3. Graduates have the opportunity to earn an associate degree or equivalent vocational certificate by the time they graduate from high school.

This translates into the ability to earn two years of college credit by the time a student is 19 years old – at no cost to the student!

Because the early college movement is so new, it has gone nearly completely untouched by churches. Youth ministries overlook them because they are on college campuses; college ministries

overlook them because they are high school students. But thanks to innovative leaders like Williams and churches like Brown Creek who are intent on engaging their communities with the gospel, things are changing.

Brown Creek decided as a church to adopt ACEC. That means that Brown Creek sponsors events where they serve goodies like doughnuts, bagels or other pastries to teachers as an act of appreciation.

Church members help proctor tests for the school, celebrate students' achievements by sponsoring parties each semester and offer prayer partners for each of the faculty and staff and place the onus completely on those employees whether or not they take advantage of it. They have done the legwork of working through the administration offices so trust has been built. They aren't seeking ways to break or bend rules; but instead value the administration, and the administration values them. They believe the best way they can saturate the campus with the gospel is by keeping their focus on the long game.

More focused on creating a stable ministry that will last, the church members have eschewed the temptation to go after more flashy, quick wins that are

sure to raise eyebrows and strain the trust they have built. In addition, Williams is actively discipling students so those students can have the opportunity to organize under the banner of a recognized student group on campus to make more disciples. He understands these students can have a far more profound impact on the campus than he can, but he also understands that for them to be able to make disciples, they first need to be disciples themselves, connected to and under the authority of the local church. Williams is making disciples so they can make more disciples, and he is doing this in an environment that many perceive to be hostile to the church. During the process, he is taking radical steps to build trust and credibility.

Undoubtedly, Williams and Brown Creek will make some mistakes along the way. This is bound to happen because they are blazing a new trail into a new frontier. In the end, however, churches and early college high schools all over North Carolina will be able to look at a few pioneers like Brown Creek Baptist Church in Wadesboro for a roadmap to healthy and effective bridges between churches and some of the most innovative education programs in the United States. It may look like Williams has built the bridge, but he would say instead that it's a bridge constructed right from the heart of the gospel.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Jonathan Yarboro is collegiate partnerships team leader for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Contact him at [jyarboro@ncbaptist.org](mailto:jyarboro@ncbaptist.org) or (828) 406-3202.) **BR**



**JONATHAN YARBORO**  
Guest Column

### Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to [editor@BRnow.org](mailto:editor@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period.

All submissions will be edited by *Recorder* style guidelines. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.



# How N.C. churches can fight the opioid epidemic

**P**rescription (opioid) drug abuse is skyrocketing in North Carolina. People in overwhelming numbers are becoming addicted to and overdosing on doctor-prescribed painkillers.

The results are frightening. Wilmington is now America’s worst city for opioid abuse. Hickory comes in at No. 5; Jacksonville ranks 12th, and Fayetteville is 18th.

One out of every three opioid prescriptions in the state is being abused. In 2015, 738 North Carolinians died from prescription opioid abuse.

## What are opioids?

Opioids are a type of narcotic pain medication for use with doctor supervision. They can have serious side effects if misused.

When someone takes an opioid, the drug binds to receptors in brain cells, on the spinal cord and throughout the body, dulling the perception of pain. If the person is suffering from a serious injury or recovering from major surgery, he or she can find needed pain relief.

After continued use, however, progressively more medication is needed to achieve the same pain-reducing effect. The body becomes tolerant of the drug.

When someone develops a dependence on opioids, a doctor may gradually wean him or her off the drug. Otherwise, a sudden halt in medication could cause withdrawal symptoms, including diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, anxiety, irritability and other symptoms.

## Why are opioids so misused?

Not only do opioids help relieve physical pain, they also affect the brain’s reward-pleasure system, creating a euphoric feeling.

When a person continues to take painkillers after

injury or surgical pain subsides, hoping to continue to experience the “high,” the drug is being abused and can be fatal.

Each year in the U.S., nearly 16,000 people die from prescription drug overdose.

## Heroin: cheap and available

When prescription opioids become too hard to find or too expensive, addicts sometimes turn to heroin (also an opioid) to get a similar high.

Unlike prescription painkillers, heroin is cheap and readily available.

“We’ve had a 565 percent increase in heroin deaths since 2010,” said Alan Delapenna, head of the Division of Public Health’s Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, according to North Carolina Health News.

“We’ve had 20 years of prescription pain medications, combined with an unprecedented availability of easy-to-find heroin and fentanyl.”

North Carolina had 364 deaths from heroin in 2015, nearly one a day.



DENISE GEORGE  
Guest Column

## Churches can fight drug abuse

Church members aren’t immune to North Carolina’s rising prescription drug abuse.

How can pastors and church leaders in North Carolina Baptist churches help prevent drug abuse and overdose deaths in their congregations and communities?

- Here are some suggestions:
- Learn about prescription opioid drug abuse and heroin. (See Which drugs are opioids?)
  - Learn to identify drug abuse and addiction symptoms. Keep a close eye on church members, always ready to identify and respond to drug abuse. (See How to recognize drug abuse and addiction.)

## Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday

Pastors are encouraged to preach about the topic on Sun., March 19 or invite a special speaker to share information with church members about substance abuse.

- Educate and train church leadership to respond to an emergency overdose situation.
- Make and keep current a list of emergency phone numbers, substance abuse treatment agencies and drug abuse counselors in your community. Always be prepared to respond to an emergency situation or refer help. (See Helpful resources.)
- Preach about the dangers of opioid abuse from the pulpit.
- Promote Southern Baptist Sunday emphases, such as Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday on March 19. Plan a special service, talk about the problem, invite a guest speaker to give information, ask a former abuser to give a testimony or something similar.
- Plan separate church events/programs and classes/seminars for youth and parents that expose the dangers of opioid prescription drugs and heroin, and offer insights into understanding the dependencies and addictions that can result from abuse.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Denise George, author of 30 books, is co-author of the new Penguin Random House book: *The Lost Eleven: The Forgotten Story of Black American Soldiers Brutally Massacred in World War II*. She is married to Timothy George, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School, Samford University.) **BR**



## How to recognize drug abuse and addiction

- Common physical and behavioral signs:
- anxiety
  - irritability
  - hyperactivity
  - lethargy
  - unpredictable mood swings
  - tremors
  - shakiness
  - red eyes
  - runny nose
  - problems with coordination
  - a constant need for money
  - poor work or school performance
  - unexplained confusion
  - unusual weight gain or loss
  - physical withdrawal symptoms when not taking the drug
  - changes in attitude or friends for no reason.

## Which drugs are opioids?

- **Examples of opioids:** Painkillers such as codeine, fentanyl, hydromorphone, meperidine, morphine, methadone, buprenorphine, hydrocodone, oxycodone and acetaminophen, oxycodone and naloxone. Heroin is also an opioid and is illegal.
- **Opioid drugs sold under brand names:** Actiq, Duragesic, Fentora, Hysingla ER, Zohydro ER, Lorcet, Lortab, Norco, Vicodin, Dilaudid, Exalgo, Dolophine, Methadose, Astramorph, Avinza, Kadian, MS Contin, Ora-Morph SR, OxyContin, Percocet, Palladone (taken off the market in July 2005), Vicodin, Percodan, Tylox, Demerol and others.
- **Drugs that are not opioids:** Cocaine, methamphetamines, ecstasy, LSD, GHB, Ketamine, and other “club drugs” or steroids.

## Helpful resources

- The State of North Carolina has established a Drug Control Unit (NC-DCU) within the Division of Mental Health, in response to a need for improved regulation of prescription monitoring. The NC-DCU collects controlled substance prescriptions data within 72 hours of being dispensed and makes information available to prescribers and dispensers. To read more about how North Carolina legislators are combating prescription drug abuse, visit [ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/ncdcu](http://ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/ncdcu).
- To find substance abuse treatment centers in North Carolina, go to [treatment-centers.net/directory/north-carolina/page3.html](http://treatment-centers.net/directory/north-carolina/page3.html).
- For immediate treatment in North Carolina, call (888) 995-6273.
- To help someone with substance abuse or mental health issues, call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Helpline at (800) 622-4357 or visit their website: [samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline](http://samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline).
- For the Southern Baptist Convention’s website that recommends drug treatment programs for addiction and substance abuse by state, please visit [drugtreatmentprogram.net/tag/southern-baptist-convention](http://drugtreatmentprogram.net/tag/southern-baptist-convention).



## Southeastern begins Persian leadership program

SEBTS Communications

**S**outheastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) is creating a new program aimed at providing Persian church leaders with theological education in their own language. Through its Global Theological Initiatives, SEBTS plans to offer accredited theological training for Persian students at many levels.

Leading the program as the Coordinator for Persian Leadership Development is Kambiz Saghaey, a Persian church leader and master's student at SEBTS. Originally from the Middle East, Saghaey and his wife served in several churches and faced persecution for their faith. Now in the United States, the couple desires to continue to help the Persian church grow stronger and deeper.

Saghaey began taking SEBTS classes online while in the Middle East and continued later in Central Asia after fleeing persecution in his country. He dreamed of a program that would help more Persian church leaders receive sound theological training that would be readily accessible.

"For many years when I was pastor-

ing I was praying for God to please bring someone to SEBTS to make a program in Farsi. The English was very difficult for me," he explained. "Many pastors came to my mind, but I didn't know that God was going to answer my prayer with me."

Saghaey's role is to develop the initiative to train Farsi speakers who can then use the theological knowledge they gain to enrich Persian churches.

"It has been very exciting to work alongside Kambiz," said John Ewart, associate vice president for Global Theological Initiatives at SEBTS. "His experience and his relationships with those engaged in equipping Farsi-speaking church leaders will enable us to impact this significant language group."

According to Saghaey and Ewart, this type of program aimed at Farsi speakers is very unique.

Saghaey is excited about the possibilities that the program will bring for Persian churches. "I want to see Persians receive their degrees and teach others," he said.

"I believe Farsi-speakers can have a direct, very useful influence in many cultures around them. Education is a priority for this." **BR**



## 2017 N.C. Missions Offering theme: 'Eyes to see'

By WILL TAYLOR | BSC Communications

**J**esus told his first disciples to lift up their eyes to see the world as it really is: broken, hurting and lost.

This year, the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) will call Baptists across North Carolina to do the same – to see and respond to lostness and suffering through praying, giving and going.

The NCMO theme for 2017 is "Eyes to See" based on John 4:35b: "*Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest*" (NKJV).

"As North Carolina Baptists, we have to see opportunities and needs before us and respond accordingly," said Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptist Men, also known as Baptists on Mission. "But we can't do it alone. We need each other."

The theme "Eyes to See" is especially relevant because the NCMO supports a variety of ministries that respond to many needs in North Carolina, across the

country and around the world.

God has equipped each believer in unique talents and skills that can be utilized for missions and ministry thanks to the support of this offering. This theme and verse should give inspiration for North Carolina Baptists to think differently about lostness across the state.

"People see what they are prepared to see," said Mark Gray, team leader of church planting at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. "We will only reach the 5.8 million who are lost in North Carolina if we learn to see them like Jesus."

Received in September of each year, the NCMO supports the 17 different ministries of Baptists on Mission, along with church planting, mission camps, associational projects and missions mobilization projects. The goal for this year's offering is \$2.1 million. In 2016, gifts to NCMO totaled more than \$1.88 million.

Materials will be available soon at [ncmissionsoffering.org](http://ncmissionsoffering.org). **BR**

**joni and Friends**  
invites you to the  
**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN  
DISABILITY CONFERENCE**  
**March 24 - 25, 2017**  
**Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
**Asheville, N.C.**

Join us Friday evening, **March 24th**, as guest speaker, **Emily Colson**, shares her personal journey as a mom of a child with autism. On Saturday, **March 25th**, come learn how to serve families affected by disability within your local church

**Saturday Workshops include:** Start With Hello — Starting a Special Needs Ministry; Pathways to Belonging — Inclusive Ministry; Call Me Friend — Buddy Ministry; We've Got This — Providing Respite for Families; Game Changers — Recruiting, Training and Retaining Families; Q&A with Emily Colson — A Call to Action

For more information & to register: [www.joniandfriends.org/charlotte](http://www.joniandfriends.org/charlotte)  
For questions: [charlotte@joniandfriends.org](mailto:charlotte@joniandfriends.org) or 704-841-1177

**AAIM Annual Roundup**  
Aging Adults Innovating Ministry  
Join NCBAM at AAIM's Annual Roundup!  
An encouraging event equipping & strengthening leaders of aging/senior adults!

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm (early-bird sessions at 9:00 am)  
Rich Fork Baptist Church, Thomasville, NC  
Special speakers: Allan Blume & Beth Harris

For information or to register, call **North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry** at **877.506.2226**.



# New worship center honors Caraway founder Bill Jackson

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR Staff Writer

Caraway Conference Center and Camp honored its founder and first director, Bill Jackson, by naming a new worship center after him last September. Now called Jackson Hall, the old multipurpose gym was remodeled into a 300-seat worship center in June 2016 and includes a new stage and sound system. A new gym was built to replace the old one.

Since renovations were completed, churches and groups have used Jackson Hall for staff retreats, youth weeks and other gatherings. Jimmy Huffman, Caraway's current director, said a dedication service for Jackson Hall will likely be

held this summer, when former and current staff meet at Caraway for a reunion.

The worship center is not the first Caraway location to carry Jackson's name. A suite in the conference center and a small outdoor chapel near the lake are also named after him. Huffman, however, said he wanted to honor Jackson with a more significant building.

"We have retreat groups that come constantly, and we never really had a true worship area for groups to use," Huffman said. "Now Jackson Hall is something that really, truly bears his name in an honorable way."

Jackson served as Caraway's first director from 1963 to 1988 after serving with the Brotherhood Department of

the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

"When we originally bought it, it was just raw land. There were no buildings on the property," Huffman said about Caraway. "He [Jackson] was responsible for getting the conference center built. He really took it from Camp Caraway to Caraway Conference Center and Camp."

Jackson's children, Sybil Jackson Samaha and Craig Jackson, told the *Biblical Recorder* they were anxious to see the new center. The two have countless memories from years spent at the camp. Craig spent most of his summers and weekends at Caraway from the time he was 13 years old through his college years. As a student, he worked in the kitchen and with the construction crew, helping build the conference center.

"Dad's fingerprints and footprints remain all over Caraway," he said. "He knew and loved every square inch of the property. Placing his name on the

worship center and other spaces points to that presence for those who did not know him."

Samaha also grew up going to summer camps at Caraway and considers it a childhood home. She also worked in the kitchen and as a lifeguard in the summer. The staff became her family.

"He [Jackson] felt God's presence there daily, and he wanted others to feel the same," Samaha said in an email statement to the *Recorder*. "I believe he would be humbled to be honored in this way but ultimately would want the honor to go to God. My father truly believed in being able to feel God's presence in creation. Caraway is a special part of that creation."

Samaha has shared her love for Caraway with her own children. She hopes her grandchildren can also experience Caraway and sense Jackson's character through the place he was so instrumental in building. **BR**

## NOBTS 'looking forward' to hosting Graham, despite controversy

By SETH BROWN | BR Content Editor

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) welcomed Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, to speak in chapel March 7, less than two weeks after the church said it would temporarily withhold Cooperative Program (CP) money in order to evaluate future support of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities.

Mike Buster, Prestonwood's executive pastor, told the *Louisiana Baptist Magazine* their concerns were about "various significant positions taken by the leadership of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission," but Graham indicated the issues were broader.

"We're just concerned about the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention and feel the need to make some changes in the way we give," Graham told the *Message*, citing "uneasiness" about an alleged "disconnect between some of our denominational leaders and our churches."

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley told the *Biblical Recorder* that Graham had never expressed concerns to him about "our seminary or any other SBC seminaries." The seminary slated Graham to speak in the chapel service before news reports revealed Prestonwood's decision to escrow CP funds. Kelley said withdrawing Graham's invitation was never an option, emphasizing the need for "open dialogue during times of disagreement."

"What a better time to have him on our campus as an SBC entity than when they [Prestonwood] are evaluating their relationship with the SBC ... We are NOBTS. We do conversations," Kelley



JACK GRAHAM

said. "We do conversations with those with whom we disagree. This is a day when Southern Baptists need to do more talking and listening to one another and not less."

Kelley encouraged other SBC agencies to invite Graham and "address on site any questions he might have."

Graham declined to comment on the nature of his concerns with denominational leaders or the propriety of taking the stage at an institution from which his church has decided to temporarily withhold funds. A student group plans to voice opposition to Prestonwood's decision to temporarily withhold CP money when Graham visits the campus.

Graduate student Devin Haun told the *Recorder* that he and other students prepared an open letter to Graham and made T-shirts that express CP appreciation. They are also garnering signatures from the NOBTS community to include with the open letter.

The seminary scheduled a question-and-answer session with Graham to invite open dialogue. **BR**

## — Every piece in its place —

Recently friends helped me assemble a new table. The table is unique in that it is portable, has four drawers and folds up easily for storage. Each piece of the table, as well as the hardware, has a specific place and function in the assembly process.

A drawer cannot function as a table-top, and hinges cannot fulfill their role without the aid of screws that hold them in place. When every piece is assembled properly, I have a handy, functioning table.

God desires for the body of Christ to work in a similar fashion. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explains to the church at Corinth that God has placed members of the body of Christ exactly where He needs them to be in order for the body to function properly.

Often we can look at other members of the body of Christ and feel insignificant, or we can move in the opposite extreme and feel very significant compared to other members of the body. However, neither is the position we are to have.

In God's eyes, not one role is more important than another because "*the body is not one member, but many*" (1 Corinthians 12:14). Paul continues by encouraging believers to remember, "*If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body*" (1 Corinthians 12:19-20).

When comparing 1 Corinthians 12 to Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus, we glean a better picture of why God de-

signed the body this way. Ephesians 4 shows that God gives spiritual gifts, talents and abilities for equipping saints for service (v. 12) and building up the body of Christ until we attain the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God (v. 13).

Paul continues by explaining, "*We are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies*" (Ephesians 4:15-16).

My gifts are not for my benefit, but instead are given for the other members of the body of Christ.

Your gifts are not for your benefit either, but are for the body of Christ. Paul told the Church at Ephesus the body is held together by what every joint supplies.

My new table works because every piece – from the smallest unseen pieces to larger more visible elements – all function together as one unit. In a similar manner, God desires for every

member of the body of Christ to play a role so the body works as He designed. Only when there is "*proper working of each individual part*" will there be "*growth of the body for the building up of itself in love*" (Ephesians 4:16).

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Ashley Allen is consultant for Embrace Women's Ministry for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach her at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5559. Read her blog at [worthyofthecalling.com](http://worthyofthecalling.com).)



ASHLEY ALLEN



# Women's academic society forms at Southeastern

By HARPER MCKAY | SEBTS Communications

**W**omen at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) and The College at Southeastern have a new opportunity for encouragement and collaboration in their academic work through the Society for Women in Scholarship.

Created by SEBTS students, the society's goal is to provide a gathering place for ideas, networking, learning and leadership development among women at Southeastern who desire to be part of theological scholarship.

It was just over a year ago when Bekah Stoneking, a doctor of education student, and Amber Bowen, a master of arts in philosophy of religion student, first met to discuss their scholarly ambitions. The encouragement they received from one another led them to invite more women to informal coffee outings, eventually sparking the idea for a society for Southeastern's students.

"We found great benefit from having each other to converse with, to encourage, to collaborate with and to come alongside," Stoneking and Bowen wrote in describing the society's start. "We began to think about what it would be like on a larger scale."

As part of Southeastern's Kingdom Diversity Initiative, the Society for Women in Scholarship provides greater opportunities for a minority population on Southeastern's campus to contribute to the academy.

"Women are our largest and most diverse minority group on campus,"



The new Society for Women in Scholarship at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is a gathering place for ideas, networking, learning and leadership development among women at Southeastern who desire to be part of theological scholarship. The society holds monthly meetings on the seminary campus. (SEBTS photo by Maria Estes)

said Walter Strickland, special adviser to the president for the Kingdom Diversity Initiative.

"I'm convinced that the fruit of the society will extend beyond the confines of the group by emboldening women to contribute more readily in the classroom discussion, providing opportunities to publish written work and by sponsoring events for both genders to think deeply about the Christian faith."

Denise O'Donoghue, SEBTS director of women's life and assistant professor of ministry to women, noted, "One benefit is it offers a means for women to discuss academic thoughts and ideas outside the classroom with other like-minded women."

SEBTS Provost Bruce Ashford called

the society "one of the most exciting developments" in the seminary's recent history.

"It is composed of a number of very sharp women who are committed not only to maintaining high standards of scholarship but to handing down the faith once for all delivered to the saints," Ashford said.

The society meets on the first Wednesday of every month to discuss topics relevant to women in theological scholarship. February's meeting focused on time management, with members offering advice to one another about juggling the

responsibilities of academic writing, publishing, ministry and more. Among future topics: fears common to women in the academy and how to overcome them.

Adrienne Miles, assistant professor of English and linguistics who serves on the leadership team, said the Society for Women in Scholarship has already boosted the confidence of women at Southeastern. "Our members are saying, 'Thank you so much for this.' It's what they've been wanting."

Many women who once felt isolated now have a greater sense of belonging through the society. "They have a place where they can see other women [involved in scholarship] and not feel like they are the only one or one of two students," Miles added.

As part of its mission to promote good scholarship, the society plans to sponsor academic events on campus for the entire student body, creating a space for men and women to interact as academic peers and be iron sharpening iron.

The society is open to women at Southeastern from sophomore undergraduate students through master's- and doctoral-level students.

Women interested in membership do not have to already have a specific research focus, only the desire to grow in scholarship and contribute to academic life on campus.

For more information, visit Kingdom Diversity at Southeastern or contact *the society@sebts.edu*. **BR**

## North Greenville names new president

North Greenville University

**T**he Board of Trustees of North Greenville University (NGU) in Tigerville, S.C., has elected Gene C. Fant Jr. to serve as its next president.

Fant, 53, has a long record of leadership in Christian higher education, most recently at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"Lisa and I are profoundly humbled," Fant said, "to be invited by the Board of

Trustees to serve alongside this marvelous faculty and staff in this Kingdom work."

Fant will complete the spring semester in his current role as the provost and chief academic officer at Palm Beach Atlantic University, assuming his duties at NGU on June 1.

Fant holds five earned academic degrees, including a doctorate in English and master of divinity in biblical languages. **BR**

## Family Christian announces liquidation plan

Globe Newswire

**F**amily Christian announced Feb. 23 that it will close its doors – after 85 years in business. Changing consumer behavior and declining sales led the world's largest retailer of Christian themed merchandise to make the difficult decision to close. Family Christian is a not-for-profit business that employs more than 3,000 people and operates over 240 retail locations in 36 states, nationwide. Family Christian Ministries has provided humanitarian aid for more than 14 million

orphans, widows and oppressed people across the globe.

"We had two very difficult years post-bankruptcy," said Chuck Bengochea, president. "Despite improvements in product assortment and the store experience, sales continued to decline. In addition, we were not able to get the pricing and terms we needed from our vendors to successfully compete in the market. We have prayerfully looked at all possible options, trusting God's plan for our organization, and the difficult decision to liquidate is our only recourse." **BR**

### Kivett's - Your Source for Renewal

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

www.kivetts.com  
**KIVETT'S INC.**  
The Largest Family Owned  
Church Furniture Manufacturer in the US  
1-800-334-1139 • Clinton, NC

**PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING**  
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS  
NEW PEWS CARPETING  
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS  
1-800-289-7397  
**Church Interiors Inc.**  
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialists  
High Point, North Carolina  
www.churchinteriors.com

**FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**  
ENROLL NOW FOR NEW QUARTER ON APRIL 4, 2017

- Preparing the "God Called" to minister since 1946
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- Earn an Associates Degree in Religion (choose from Christian Ministry, Church Planting, and Christian Worldview tracks)
- Our Associate degree is now fully available online
- Courses offered for Spanish speaking students at several N.C. locations (Call Robert Fernandez at 828-399-0109)

For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write: David Horton, President  
Fruitland Baptist Bible College, 1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792  
Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina



# Refugees find a safe place to learn

By JIM BURTON | North American Mission Board

**W**hile sitting with her daughter at a mall food court, Kim Carr noticed internationals in exotic clothing surrounded them.

“When did they all get here? Where are they from? Who is reaching them?” Carr asked her daughter.

Armed with the new sensitivity, and prompted by the Holy Spirit, Carr felt led to learn more. She visited a local fitness center where staff immediately took her to an office. There, she met a former International Mission Board Journeyman who had been praying less than 12 hours before for someone to help with international refugees.

Two days after completing her English as a Second Language (ESL) certification on a Saturday, Carr wanted students. As one of America’s 30 refugee intake centers, surely Jacksonville would have people needing to learn English. And she felt God leading her to help unreached, unengaged people groups (UUPG).

Nearly 20 years later, the International Learning Center (ILC) of Jacksonville, Fla., Inc., has taught English and citizenship to more than 6,000 people from 108 countries. More than 1,500 students have made professions of faith while establishing more than 94 house groups.

And God has done this through a woman who hated English as a subject in school. With a bachelor of science in nursing, Carr’s professional expertise was starting and running medical businesses. “I kept trying to talk God into a clinic and he kept saying English,” Carr said. “That was a huge surprise for me.”

After receiving her ESL certification, Carr started teaching classes at Chinese restaurants until the YMCA had a plan for what would become a growing project. Now, the ILC has its own 10,000 square-foot building and a thorough curriculum that the North American Mission Board (NAMB) hopes to see implemented in cities throughout North America.

## The world comes to Jacksonville

Jacksonville is one of America’s smallest intake centers, but the flow of refugees into the city is diverse. New refugees face many obstacles once they arrive. Most don’t know English or America’s culture, and many left their homeland penniless. Though they may be lacking physical baggage, emotional and political baggage often weighs them down. Many flee to America because of threats on their lives, mostly coming from UUPG countries where they are leery of western religion and slow to trust.

“They will trust an American over



Kim Carr, far left, and husband, Ron, far right, meet with Matt and Usha Reifsnider before a worship service at Mandarin Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. The Carrs are North American Mission Board 2017 Week of Prayer missionaries. Below, Kim Carr, left, and Elham Taylor prepare to host visitors at Taylor’s home in Jacksonville, Fla. (NAMB photos by John Swain)

almost anyone,” Carr said. “They just don’t trust people from their own community because too many have been killed trusting.”

Through the ILC, Carr and her volunteers focus on teaching English and citizenship skills. As relationships develop, she is able to refer students to planters from their language and culture. Those planters become advocates for the immigrants to help them navigate a new and confusing culture.

Many eventually join a house group after having a dream or a vision of the Lord.

“They bring trusted family and friends into their group,” Carr said. “They don’t casually bring somebody who just decided to become a believer. They are careful to vet those they bring in.”

The ILC model of partnering a compassion-based program with indigenous planters is the most natural outcome one could hope for, Carr said.

“When you meet peoples needs with excellence, establishing an authentic relationship with them, you are so different than anything they have seen, Carr said. “And they will listen to why you are different.”

Jacksonville’s indigenous planters help immigrants understand that following the Lord isn’t just a western religion.

“We don’t want to introduce individuals to a western



religion,” Carr said. “We want them to enter into authentic relationship and worship in a way that is expressed by believers from their nation.”

Usha Reifsnider has a Hindu background and serves on the ILC executive team. She’s doing graduate studies at Cambridge University in England on the modern Diaspora, the dispersion of people groups from their native lands to live as minorities in new homelands.

Reifsnider leads cultural sensitivity training for volunteers.

“I have learned that simply the way we position our bodies and speak to people can cause such lasting damage that you can never share the good news,” Carr said.

## Multiplication through NAMB

When NAMB leaders discovered Carr and the ILC, they realized that the 32 Send North America cities

need the Jacksonville model. So NAMB’s Send Relief focus has developed an ILC initiative and made Carr the national director and mobilizer. Now, she’s working to establish new ILCs across the United States and Canada.

“I am feeling the weight of it,” Carr said.

She continues to work out of Jacksonville but travels frequently to other cities to implement the ILC template with its proven teaching curriculum.

Carr is a member of Mandarin Baptist Church and receives Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) funds from NAMB for her work. Likewise, AAEO contributions are funding the template replication. A key component will be a partnership with local indigenous planters who start house groups in each Send City.

“At ILC 25-50 may make a profession,” Carr said. “However, the UUPG planters are reaching an additional 200 per year. They take the living water to them and enter into the people’s ‘mess.’”

And when they do, Carr calls that, “A beautiful thing.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Kim and Ron Carr are NAMB Mission Service Corps missionaries. Half of the funding NAMB receives to support, train and resource North American workers comes through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Learn more about the Carrs at [AnnieArmstrong.com](http://AnnieArmstrong.com). Jim Burton is a photojournalist and writer based in Atlanta. He formerly served Southern Baptists as the director of Volunteer Mobilization and Mission Education with the North American Mission Board.) **BR**





# Marty Dupree leaves BSC, leads new ministry

By K. ALLAN BLUME | BR Editor

For nearly 18 years, Marty Dupree served on the evangelism staff of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). That changed Oct. 31, 2016, when he turned in his keys and left a job he loved.

When asked to describe his job, Dupree typically said, “I tell people about Jesus, and I train others to tell people about Jesus.” That will not change with his new calling.

“For about the last three years, I’ve really been praying and wondering if there is something else I’m supposed to do, or if there’s some other way I’m supposed to do this,” Dupree said in an interview with the *Biblical Recorder*. “The challenge for me was that I really love what I am doing. As long as I am out in the field doing ministry with churches, pastors and associations, I absolutely love it.”

From April through July of 2016, Dupree said he was looking for direction from God and considering options that fit his calling. During a three-hour drive to the coast last July 28, he found himself saying, “OK Lord, what is it You want me to do?”

With profound clarity, he felt God say, “Marty, you like to jump out of airplanes, don’t you?”

“Yes, I love skydiving,” Dupree responded. “Then God said, ‘I’m getting ready to ask you to jump out of an airplane without a parachute, but I’m your parachute.’ I was overwhelmed by God’s presence at that moment.”

The experience reminded him of another time when he was searching for divine direction. As the pastor of Central Baptist Church near Hickory, Dupree said he was sitting in his study when he received a call ‘out of the blue’ from Milton Hollifield, who asked him to consider joining the convention’s staff. At the time, Hollifield was BSC’s evangelism director.

A few weeks later on July 3, 1998, he was relaxing on a porch overlooking the Albemarle Sound making a “pro-con list.”

“I’ll never forget that day,” Dupree recalled. “Should I go to the convention or should I stay [at Central]? It was like the Lord overwhelmed me. He said, ‘Marty, you don’t need that list. Just look backward at how I have prepared you. This is what I have prepared you to do.’ So, I told Milton that God made it very clear. He has called me to work on the staff of the convention.”

“On July 28, 2016, God was speaking to me again. When I accepted this call, I said, ‘OK, what do you want me to do?’ He said, ‘I want you to start the Jasper Foundation.’”

The Jasper Foundation has been on Dupree’s mind for more than 20 years. He thought he would establish the organization when he retired. “God made it clear He wants me to do it now,” he said. “I wondered, ‘How will I fund it?’ Again, God said, ‘You don’t worry about that. You just get it set up; I’ll take care of the funding.’”

It was clear that Dupree would keep doing the same ministry, but he would do it without the benefit of a salary from BSC.

“God said to me, ‘You’ve seen Me do miracles before, and that was nothing for Me. You’ve just got to trust Me,’” said Dupree. “I had many questions for God, but every answer He gave me was, ‘I’ve got that.’”

The next day Dupree met with Hollifield and began to talk about a transition process. Hollifield is now the executive director-treasurer of BSC. They agreed that Oct. 31 would be his last day on BSC’s staff.



Since beginning his new ministry, Marty Dupree has found that he has more opportunities to minister with his wife, Angela, and their children. (Contributed photo)

“I’m still doing the things I love to do, and it’s actually broadening,” he told the *Recorder*.

Dupree sees many practical advantages with his new place of ministry. His parents are in declining health, requiring more time to assist them. In addition, he is free to be involved in more mission trips like the one in Haiti where he and his 12-year-old daughter, Harper, served together in January.

“All of our children have been on many overseas mission trips to about 15 different countries, but this was Harper’s first international mission trip,” he said. “She’s hooked. We had a great experience.”

The Duprees have taken their five children on international mission projects through N.C. Baptist Men, the International Mission Board, Hands On Missions and their church. First Baptist Church in Garner, where the Duprees are members, asked him to lead some mission trips. “So, this opens up an opportunity for me to do some other things that I like to do, I’m called to do and I’m gifted to do,” he said.

Dupree continues to preach, teach and lead training sessions in churches across the state. He leads lifestyle evangelism training, speaks at summer camps and wild game dinners. “Other than not going to the office regularly, nothing has really changed for me,” he added. “I’m still meeting with pastors and associational leaders just about every day. I’m still consulting. I’m still preaching somewhere every Sunday and many Wednesdays. I’ve joked that I’m not sure how I’m going to make a living doing this, but I sure am busy.”

## New ministry

A new branch of ministry has emerged out of Dupree’s new calling. “Milton said something to me in October that ended up being a prophetic statement,” he explained. “He said, one thing that will happen when you’re on your own is that your wife will be able to do more with you, and you’ll be able to do more family conferences and parenting conferences. I have not advertised that at all, and we already have three conferences scheduled together.”

The conferences focus on how to disciple your children and involve them in missions. “That’s just natural for us because we’re getting to live out something that we have a passion for and we have been intentional about doing,” he said.

Hollifield believes Dupree is “well suited” for his new ministry. “Marty has always excelled at being out there in the field with the churches. He is an effective motivator to help people do the kinds of things God is calling them to do,” he said.

“I appreciate the role models that Marty and Angela

have been to their children in keeping them involved in Kingdom work and creating in them such a heart for missions,” Hollifield continued. “Marty and Angela can speak from life experiences of helping other parents and grandparents to intentionally grow and develop their children for God’s leadership in their lives.”

A North Carolina native, Dupree was born in Raleigh, but grew up Waynesville. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a business degree and worked in commercial banking for three years. A call to ministry led him to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in New England. After graduation, he returned to his home church at First Baptist Church in Waynesville, where he served as the associate pastor of church ministries for two-and-a-half years until he became the pastor of Central Baptist Church.

## What is the Jasper Foundation?

The concept of the Jasper Foundation was born more than 20 years ago. Looking to the future, he and his wife, Angela, thought about the life insurance they owned, the children God gave to them and their passion to take the gospel around the world.

He said to Angela, “If something happened to us, we need a plan. So I set up the Jasper Foundation in my will to be funded by life insurance. ... If something happened to all of us, I wanted our estate to support ministries and missionaries through an endowment. Angela and I met at a missions conference, so this has been on our hearts for a long time.”

The name ‘Jasper’ has two origins, according to Dupree. It was his great-grandfather’s first name, and it is a precious stone mentioned in the Bible.

Jasper Barbour was a farmer near Benson, N.C. “He had a love for the Bible, and he wanted people to know the Bible,” Dupree said. “Back in the 20s and 30s he organized a number of Sunday School classes in the Benson/Dunn area. When he died, the local newspapers published a story about his life because he had such an impact on people and churches.”

“The article told how he left his Bible at the head of the family’s large wooden dinner table where he read daily to his wife and 11 children. He spent so much time in his Bible that he had worn grooves in the table with his elbows.”

The biblical reference to Jasper is in the 21st chapter of the Book of Revelation. Verse 11 says the New Jerusalem looks like the brilliance of jasper. Verse 18 says the material of the wall around the city was jasper, and verse 19 says the first foundation stone of the wall was made of jasper.

Dupree believes his three years as a commercial banker and two years as an intern in financial planning will help him manage the foundation. The organization’s tagline is “Helping the church reach the world.”

He said it was “a privilege” to work at BSC. “I got to do as a vocation what I have as an avocation. I got to live out and do my passion.”

Dupree said he fully supports Hollifield’s “heart for missions and evangelism. I support that vision and mission. I’m all in. That’s been true for the 18 years I’ve served on the convention staff. I’m still passionately committed to what we are doing.”

North Carolina’s vocational evangelists honored Dupree with a plaque at their annual retreat at Caraway in January. Information about his new ministry is at [martydupree.org](http://martydupree.org). Contact him at [martydupree7@gmail.com](mailto:martydupree7@gmail.com). **BR**



# Miracles result in new Hispanic church building

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

Over in Jackson County, drive out from Glenville a few miles through the wooded hills that wrinkle the land, and you'll come to a Baptist church building under construction.

That's not an unusual thing in North Carolina, but this particular building has an interesting story.

It is being built by a Hispanic Baptist congregation with just 25 members and one determined pastor, Felix Villarreal, who says miracles have been required for the construction to have happened at all.

The church is called La Primera Iglesia Bautista del Amor – the First Baptist Church of Love.

Villarreal, 63, still talks with a soft South Texas twang he brought from the McAllen area where he was born and raised. His Mexico-born father was crew chief for migrant farm workers, and as a boy, Villarreal moved with his family as they followed crops back and forth across the country.

After his father died, though, his family faced harsh living conditions in migrant camps, and at age 15, Villarreal decided he had enough. He pursued his natural gifts of working with his hands and being able to figure out how things worked to become a cabinet maker. Like many Hispanic and Anglo pastors, Villarreal is bivocational.

He met Pat, his future wife, in Florida; 43 years of married life and two sons followed. Almost all that time, they have lived in western North Carolina.

"I love it here," he said with a glance toward the surrounding mountains that dominate the Glenville-Cashiers area.

Starting some 15 years ago, Villarreal was one of the first Hispanic Baptist pastors in western North Carolina to partner with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in church planting and other ministries. He is still much involved with convention life.

A turn at teaching Sunday School years ago led him into ministry, and he eventually became a pastor. His never-ending hunger to be a missionary and evangelist eventually led him to start taking mission trips.

That also led to a lesson in God's faithfulness. Once, he turned down an invitation to go on a mission trip because he had no money. But when those who did go returned and talked so excitedly about what they had seen God do, he cried like a baby because he had missed it.

The next time a mission trip came along, he still had no money but committed to go. God provided the cash he



Pastor Felix Villarreal and his wife, Pat, hope to hold the first services at La Primera Iglesia Bautista del Amor – the First Baptist Church of Love – sometime this spring. Like the church's name, the efforts to finance and build the church have been an effort of love. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

needed. He still averages two trips a year to Mexico, areas as diverse as mid-country Veracruz or Tabasco to the south. He still trusts God to cover his expenses.

Over the years, as he pastored in and around Jackson County, he noticed that several times he got a group assembled as a church while they met in borrowed or rented buildings. But growth repeatedly stalled because they had no permanent meeting place. God told him to build a church building.

Years ago, he tried to buy a particular piece of property out from Glenville, but it was tied to a luxurious and expensive house he could not dream of buying. A bank he applied to would not even return his phone calls.

But more recently, he was called to build cabinets for the new owner of that same house. In casual conversation, Villarreal told the owner he had once wanted to buy the land beside the house to build a church on, but couldn't come near affording it.

"Well," the man said, "I will sell it to you." He even agreed to finance the transaction for 2.6 acres of prime land located between two expensive, gated communities.

A deal soon followed and, now a landowner, Villarreal set about getting a church building constructed.

"I told God, 'If you want me to do this, I have no money,'" he recalled. "We didn't have a cent," he specified.

But an appeal to area churches, where Villarreal's long years of faithful service

were well known, brought in \$34,000, and soon they were ready to break ground.

It actually started with digging ground, as Villarreal and volunteers dug footers for the foundations and did the basic block work. "We have several members who are experienced block layers," he said.

A group called Builders for Christ brought in several dozen workers from North Carolina and several other states. In a week, they were able to build the floors, walls, trusses and roof. An architect who drew plans for the building was amazed at how quickly the new building took shape.

Windows that had been replaced in a house remodeling project were given to him. Local merchants donated or provided equipment at low cost.

After such a promising start, though, they ran out of money. Construction stopped. "Lord, what are You going to do?" Villarreal asked.

The answer came from the architect. An anonymous donor had committed to finance the rest of the building.

"The Lord has been a blessing, an encourager. He has been my shield and my strength," Villarreal says, blinking back tears of joy. Several potential barriers that would have stopped construction melted away, again to the amazement of the architect.

He points out to visitors to the sanctuary how the ceiling will have offset lighting and seating at first for 78. "If we fill it

up, wonderful! We'll go to two services," Villarreal said.

The basement will include a kitchen and fellowship area, along with space for a pantry to stockpile food and clothing for the needy.

Now that most of the basic construction has been done, the project now is within Villarreal's cabinet and carpentry skill level. He and other volunteers are steadily working on the new building.

By February, the wiring and ductwork for heating and air conditioning were in. Two door sets, one front door and one interior entryway, are inside and waiting to be installed. A sign with the name will be installed out front. A bank along the road was used to fill in for a level parking area.

Villarreal anticipates holding the first service in the new building by late spring. He is pretty sure it will be a big event. It may be later as he plans another mission trip into Mexico around Easter.

People routinely stop him and Pat as they walk around Glenville and Cashiers, asking how the building is going. "There's a lot of excitement about it. It's an unusual thing for us Hispanics," he said.

For Villarreal, the construction has just shown him again how faithful God is and how readily He creates the miracles needed to accomplish His purposes.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Mike Creswell serves as the senior consultant for Cooperative Program development with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.) **BR**



# View Continued from page 1

about from day to day; we do not reek of gospel grace and humility.”

The grace extending to yourself is not extended to others, Fries said, and “you judge yourself based on your motives and you judge others based on actions.”

Referring to Isaiah 6:1-8, Fries said God did not call Isaiah by name. He asked who would go.

“It’s people who have been saturated with grace who readily and happily say ‘God, here am I, send me,’” Fries said. “It’s not that we debase ourselves. It’s that we finally see ourselves for who exactly we are. When we constantly just look horizontally at everybody else we can feel pretty good about ourselves until we look vertically and we see the face of God, and the glory of God and the holiness of God, and then, we can’t help but notice how far we pale in comparison.”

If churches do not reflect diversity, Fries said, “our churches are saying something untrue about the gospel. If you’re not intentional about diversity, it won’t happen.”

Even small churches have access to some amazing gifts. “If your church is 25 people and your pastor makes \$100 a week, you’re packed with ... people who have a diverse lineup of gifts, talents, history and ability that God wants to use to do ministry in your community. If God can turn the world upside down with 11 or 12 disciples in the Book of Acts, He can do it with your 25 or 26 in your community.”

A pastor’s vocational responsibility is to equip the saints, Fries said. “The problem is, we are handcuffing ourselves by taking these communities of ministers, and

we’re stripping away their responsibility to minister. We’re telling them that it’s OK to sit around and be lazy when it comes to their faith, and we’re putting all of their responsibility on one paid professional’s shoulders, and we’re short circuiting the way that God wants to build the church.”

Instead, pastors and other church leaders should be using the diverse gifts in their congregation to minister to the whole community.

D.A. Horton spent time unpacking the term “Son of Man” for participants. “The content of our discipleship must focus on the recognition, the ransom and the rule of the Son of Man,” Horton said. “To simplify, we must make our discipleship efforts rooted in the beautiful work of Jesus Christ.”

He encouraged modeling life, revealing hypocrisy and pride as you go, and running to the cross in repentance.

“The scandal of God’s grace includes the incarnation of our Savior, His perfect life, His substitutionary death, His literal burial, His physical resurrection, His ascension and His literal, visible and physical return,” Horton said. “All of this ... was necessary so that dominion, glory and a kingdom would be necessary.”

Horton said Jesus loved the “term ‘Son of Man’ because He knew there was no shortcut to glory.”

Jesus came to serve, not to be served.

“He knew Judas was going to betray [Him], and He still washed his feet,” Horton said. “Pastor, people will ‘amen’ you all day until you start dealing with their sin, and then they question your interpretation of the Word. Then they say, ‘Well, you’re not the only one that has

the Holy Spirit;’ then, they begin to question your tactics; then they begin the smear campaign. What makes us uniquely different in our methodology is the content of our discipleship rhythm which is exalting the Son of Man.”

Newton asserted the importance of not separating discipleship from evangelism. He encouraged churches to get “back to the basics. The gospel is powerful. When it comes to the Kingdom of God, either we are building His Kingdom or we’re using God to build our kingdom.”

He highlighted the need for diversity within the churches. “[God’s] bringing the ends of the earth to us,” Newton said. “Are we going to see people of different skin tones, colors and religious backgrounds as the enemy or will we see them as the lamb’s reward?”

Videos of the main sessions are available online at [disciplenc.org](http://disciplenc.org). **BR**

Ed Newton, lead pastor of Community Bible Church in San Antonio, Texas, encourages churches to get “back to the basics.” (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)



## It’s very simple!

- Someone joined your church from a non-Baptist background.
- They’re not familiar with Baptist life – how we work together in missions, how we train seminary students, how we plant churches, how we reach students, how we equip leaders.
- The *Biblical Recorder* can help.
- A **free 1-year subscription** is available to each new church member who came to Christ or joined a N.C. Baptist church in the past two years.

Isn’t that simple? Send us your list. Contact our circulation manager, Liz, at (919) 459-5693 or [Liz@BRnow.org](mailto:Liz@BRnow.org).

**BR** BIBLICAL  
RECORDER



# Former Golden Gate Seminary president dies at 81

By **KATHERINE CHUTE** | Gateway Seminary

**W**illiam O. Crews, 81, president emeritus of the former Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, now Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, passed away March 1 after a brief illness.

“William O. Crews was a Baptist statesman, who profoundly impacted our work in the western United States,” said Jeff Iorg, president of Gateway Seminary. “He was a friend and mentor to many, who will miss him deeply. His impact at Gateway Seminary lives on through our emphasis on shaping leaders – Bill’s passion and legacy.”

Crews became the sixth president of Golden Gate Seminary in December 1986. He transitioned to the role of chancellor in 2003 and retired in 2005. He subsequently was elected by the Northwest Baptist Convention (NWBC) as executive director-treasurer in 2007, serving until his second retirement at the end of 2012. During the late 1970s, Crews served as the convention’s director of communications and editor of the *Northwest Baptist Witness*.

Crews was pastor of eight churches over a span of 32 years, including the 2,300-member Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif., for eight years and churches in Washington, Oregon and Texas.

He was elected as president of the California Southern Baptist Convention and, earlier, the NWBC. During his 18-year tenure as Gateway president, the seminary established new campuses in Phoenix in 1995 and Denver in 1996. The seminary also achieved accreditation approval to offer full master’s degrees at all five of its campuses.



**BILL CREWS**

As president emeritus, Crews taught at the seminary’s campus in Vancouver, Wash., until his death. A native of Houston who grew up in San Angelo, Texas, and preached his first sermon at age 15, Crews held a doctor of ministry degree from Gateway Seminary; a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas; and a bachelor of arts

degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Texas. He received Southwestern’s distinguished alumni award in 1994 and was awarded two honorary degrees in 1987 – the doctor of humanities degree from Hardin-Simmons and the doctor of divinity degree from California Baptist University.

Crews is survived by his wife, the former Jo Ann Cunningham.

A memorial service for Crews will be at 1 p.m. Fri., March 10, at Pathway Church (formerly Greater Gresham Baptist Church) in Gresham, Ore. At Gateway Seminary, a memorial service is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thurs., March 9, at the Ontario, Calif., campus. **BR**

## Former SEBTS professor dies

SEBTS Communications

**M**ichael Travers, who served Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) as associate provost, associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, chair of the Division of Language and Literature and professor of English, died March 2.

Travers was a vital part of Southeastern’s community where he served for several years as professor of English and associate vice president for institutional effectiveness. He received the Excellence in Teaching Award from Southeastern in 2013.

In a statement given to OBU as part of their tribute to Travers, Southeastern President Danny Akin reflected on the impact that Travers made.

“Michael Travers was my colleague for many years at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. More than that, he is my brother and friend,” said Akin.

“He was the quintessential Christian gentleman and scholar who pursued excellence in everything that he did. I will miss him greatly, but I rejoice in the hope that is ours in Christ that I will see him again.”

Provost Bruce Ashford said Travers was known as “an extraordinary classroom instructor, noted mentor of students, [and] an impeccable and conscientious administrator.”

Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee, Okla., will host a memorial service March 6, at 10 a.m.

The family requests donations to the Gideons International. To give, visit [www2.gideons.org/donate](http://www2.gideons.org/donate). **BR**



**MICHAEL TRAVERS**

## AROUND THE STATE

### Obituaries

**KATHRYN MARIE HARDY**, 34, died Feb. 16. An Oklahoma native, Hardy was involved at Exchange Church, Rolesville with her husband, Chip Hardy, who is assistant professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Southeastern Seminary.

She is survived by her husband, Chip Hardy; her mother, Stefanie Schopp; father, John Ketchum; sister, Patricia Wassall; brother, Jonathan Schopp; and grandfathers, R.G. Ketchum and Johnny Hereden.

Memorials to: Katy Hardy Memorial Scholarship Fund (<http://iamgoi.ng/katy>) that will support women and international students in higher education at The College at Southeastern.

**DENNY LEE TURNER**, 76, of Concord, died Feb. 19. A Winston-Salem native, he received his bachelor’s degree from Wake Forest University and his divinity degree from The Southern Seminary.

He spent 37 years as minister of music at Becks Baptist Church, Winston-Salem; Walnut Street Baptist Church, Winter Park, Fla.; Grace Baptist Church, Durham; and Oakhurst Baptist Church, Charlotte.

He is survived by two sons, Jonathan of Concord and Joel of Monroe, Ga.; five grandchildren; and sister, Glenda Turner of Gastonia.

Memorials to: Mission:Dignity, Guidestone Financial Resources SBC, 2401 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75201-1498; [missiondignity.org](http://missiondignity.org).

**LELAND LESLIE BINGHAM**, 85, of Williamston and Asheboro, died Jan. 21.

He retired in 1992 from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina after serving 14 years as resident manager of Woman’s Missionary Union of N.C.’s Camp Mundo Vista near Asheboro.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia; daughters, Heather Shimp and Elizabeth Rhodes; four grandchildren; sisters, Lois Poynter and Georgie Hodge, both of Kentucky; and brother, Arthur Bingham Jr. of Ohio.

Memorials to: Hospice of Randolph County, 416 Vision Dr., Asheboro, NC 27203, or Camp Mundo Vista, 3140 Camp Mundo Vista Trail, Sophia, NC 27350.

### Staff changes

**MATT WILSON** has been called to College Park Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, as minister of senior adults and family recreation. Wilson previously served at Princeton Baptist Church, Princeton, as associate pastor and minister of youth.

Temple Baptist Church, Fayetteville, has called **TRENT HAYWOOD** as pastor of children and families. Haywood previously served as associate pastor at Green Springs Baptist Church, Parkton, for two years.

**JIMMY PARKER** has been called as associate pastor/youth pastor at Three Forks Baptist Church, Taylorsville. Parker previously served as associate pastor for students at Gateway Baptist Church, Timberlake, for three years.

**AUSTIN BRIGMON** was called as a bi-vocational pastor for Long Branch Baptist Church, Marshall, and will also continue working at MB Haynes Electric. This is his first pastorate.

**KRISTEN J. SETZER** has been hired as vice president of enrollment management by Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs. She previously was vice president for higher education consulting at Clark Communications in Asheville.



**KRISTEN J. SETZER**

### Retirement

**STEVE WALSH** retired as senior pastor from Providence Baptist Church, Hickory, after 44 years in the ministry. He has served as pastor at Mulvale Baptist Church, Lenoir; Cross Memorial Baptist Church, Morganton; East Valdese Baptist Church, Valdese; Southside Baptist Church, Greensboro; and Miller Hill Baptist Church, Lenoir. Walsh also served for four years as chairman of the board of directors at Fruitland Baptist Bible College and eight years on the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee. He and his wife Sharon have relocated to Greensboro to be closer to their two daughters, Stephanie and Holly, along with three granddaughters. Walsh is available for pulpit supply, interim work and revivals. Contact him at (336) 254-8711.

**RICK COCKERHAM** retired Jan. 29 from Calvary Baptist Church, Salisbury, after 20 years of serving as pastor. Cockerham served at four other churches as pastor throughout his ministry: Fairview Baptist Church, Statesville; Maranatha Baptist Church, Statesville; Cool Springs Baptist Church, Elkin; and Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Durham. Cockerham and his wife, Jackie, live in Salisbury. He is available for interim work and pulpit supply. Contact him at (704) 433-3854.



## OPPORTUNITY CORNER



Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) is hosting Food Roundup 2017 during the month of April.

The goal this year is to collect \$350,000 in non-perishable food, sup-

plies and gift cards for BCH. Food pickup from collection points begins April 24. For a list of food and supplies needed and a list of collection points, visit [bch-family.org/involved/food\\_roundup](http://bch-family.org/involved/food_roundup).

### Blind Fellowship Retreat

The Blind Baptist Fellowship Retreat will be held April 21-23 at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia.

It is an annual retreat for people who are blind and visually impaired and their sighted guides. The retreat provides a weekend of fellowship, fun and spiritual

growth designed by blind and visually impaired people. Caraway is fully accessible for blind and visually impaired people. Cost is \$90 per person for a double occupancy room or \$125 for a single room.

Visit [ncbaptist.org/blindretreat](http://ncbaptist.org/blindretreat).



Fort Caswell is hosting "Come to the Water," Spring Coastal Adult Retreats. The retreats are three-day, two-night programs designed to bring groups of retired and semi-retired adults together for fun, worship, personal growth and a relaxing

change of scenery. There are three dates to choose from: April 24-26, May 1-3 or May 8-10. Cost ranges from \$149-155 per person, depending on lodging options. Meals are also included. Visit [fortcaswell.com/projects/come-to-the-water/](http://fortcaswell.com/projects/come-to-the-water/).



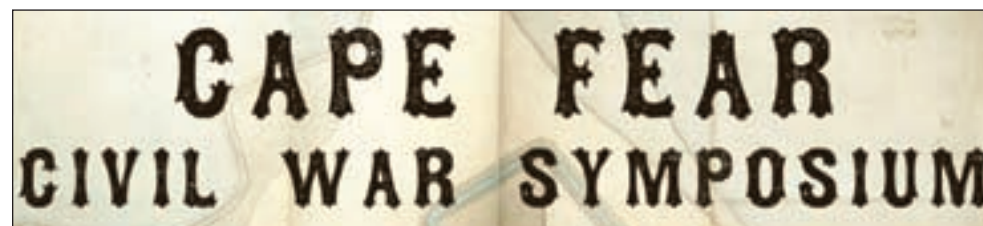
The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is hosting a free Faith at Home Network Pre-Conference Tour. When it comes to family discipleship, God has designed the church and home to come together as a team.

Participants will hear Mark Holmen as he leads the discussion to help pastors, staff and leaders implement new ways to challenge parents and grandparents to be disciple-makers of their children

and grandchildren. The tour will include six stops: April 24, West Chowan Baptist Association in Ahoskie; April 25, Pleasant Garden Baptist Church in Pleasant Garden; April 26, Dublin First Baptist Church near Elizabethtown; April 27, Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte; April 28, Parkwood Baptist Church in Concord; April 29, Lakeview Baptist Church in Hickory.

Visit [ncbaptist.org/faithathometour](http://ncbaptist.org/faithathometour).

Fort Caswell is hosting the Caswell Spring Conference 2017: A youth retreat with a focus on missions. The conference, held April 28-30, is designed to refuel youth, teach them what it means to live their lives on mission and send them out with training in the local mission field at Caswell and around Brunswick County. Stephen Zarrilli will be the speaker for the weekend, and Austin and Lindsey Ademec will provide the music. Cost is \$151 per person and includes meals and lodging. Visit [fortcaswell.com/projects/caswell-spring-conference/](http://fortcaswell.com/projects/caswell-spring-conference/).



Fort Caswell is hosting Cape Fear Civil War Symposium May 5-7. The conference theme is "War on the Carolina Coast" and will include lectures from Robert M. Browning Jr., Stephen Wise, Christ Fonvielle, Wade Sokolosky and Jim McKee.

In addition to lectures, participants will also experience interactive learning through short breakout sessions on subjects such as war era photography, infantry formations and artillery 101 with

live cannon fire.

A tour of Fort Caswell and optional private tours of Fort Anderson round out the event and provide participants with a unique perspective on the area's most unique historic sites.

Cost is \$171 per person for commuters or \$246-276 depending on double or single occupancy rooms.

All fees include programs and meals. Visit [fortcaswell.com/projects/symposium17/](http://fortcaswell.com/projects/symposium17/).



Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) is hosting its Saturday Friends of Children Workdays at its statewide locations this spring. Participants of all ages are invited to paint, plant and care for the campuses. Participants are also encouraged to prayer walk the campuses and pray for the children and staff throughout the day. It is an excellent

opportunity to see the ministry firsthand and to introduce others to the work going on at BCH. Tours are available, and lunch is free. Upcoming workdays include: May 6 at Kennedy Home in Kinston; Oak Ranch in Broadway; Odum Home in Pembroke; and May 13 at Camp Duncan for Girls in Aberdeen.

Visit [bchfamily.org](http://bchfamily.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. Send to [dianna@BRnow.org](mailto:dianna@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

## Submissions for Tar Heel Voices

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to [editor@BRnow.org](mailto:editor@BRnow.org) or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. One one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period. Have questions? Call (919) 847-2127.



March 19

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

March 26

## Victory Over Sin

**Focal Passage: Romans 6:4-14**

**B**aptism is one of my favorite things in ministry. Having the privilege of baptizing believers as a testimony of their faith in Jesus is a true joy.

From baptizing my son to baptizing in a frigid baptistry in South Africa, I've had some truly memorable baptism experiences.

But what I love most about baptism is what it illustrates.

In Romans 6, Paul describes our salvation experience using baptism. We were "baptized" with Christ in his death. Jesus took our sins on the cross.

When he died, our sins died with him. When he was buried, we were buried with him. When he rose, we rose with him.

The observance of baptism, being buried under the water and raised out of the water is an outward illustration of an inward reality.

Baptism pictures outwardly the victory received inwardly through our faith in Christ's death and resurrection.

Our salvation then is an identity

change. We are no longer mastered by sin's power. Rather, we've received the new life, the life of the resurrected Christ.

Paul's point in this text is that we have victory over sin precisely because Christ won the victory over sin.

Because we identify with him, we experience victory with him. Paul challenged his readers to consider themselves dead to sin and to present themselves to Christ for righteousness.

We consider ourselves dead to sin and walk in righteousness not to earn our salvation, but rather because we have been saved.

Our identity is now found in Jesus. Our sin died with Jesus on the cross. Our old life was buried with Christ in the tomb.

Our new life is now the resurrected life of Jesus. Our daily challenge is to live in the victory of our present position in Christ rather than live in the defeat of the sins of our past.



**CHRIS HEFNER**  
Pastor,  
Wilkesboro Baptist Church

**Focal Passage: Hebrews 11:1-6**

**I**magine that you decided to take a fishing trip on the ocean.

Suddenly a terrible storm came up and capsized your vessel, leaving you stranded and clinging desperately to the ship's driftwood.

Finally, after several hours holding onto the driftwood, the Coast Guard arrives and casts you a life preserver.

What you do is obvious. You take hold of the life preserver and receive the rescue you've been offered.

You would be ludicrous to cling to your driftwood in rejection of the life preserver that represents safety.

Saving faith parallels this story. In your past and mine, we held on desperately to some form of self-righteousness or blatantly sinful driftwood. But when we realized that permanent rescue from our sin was only available through Jesus, we received His offer of salvation.

We put our faith in the cross as our

rescue from death to life. Saving faith is victorious not because it is great faith, but because the object of saving faith (Jesus) is never failing.

The book of Hebrews details the uniqueness of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law and the substitute/redeemer of mankind. Jesus is victorious.

Our part in experiencing the victory of Jesus is faith. Like we did when we trusted in Jesus as our Savior, we need to continue in faith.

Initial saving faith is permanent and eternal. Losing faith or walking in fear and doubt do not mean we lose our salvation.

However, many of us fail to experience daily the victory Jesus has already won because we don't walk in faith.

Are you experiencing victory in your Christian life today? If not, examine whether or not you are holding on to some form of self-righteousness or sin (like the driftwood) that is taking the place of expressing continual faith in Jesus.

Victorious living is possible if we will only trust in the victorious Christ.

March 19

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

March 26

## What Is Required?

**Focal passage: Matthew 19:16-26**

**N**athan Schaeffer once wrote, "At the close of life, the question will not be, 'How much have you gotten?' but 'How much have you given?' Not 'How much have you won?' but 'How much have you done?' Not 'How much have you saved?' but 'How much have you sacrificed?'"

"It will be 'How much have you loved and served,' not 'How much were you honored?'"

When I think of Schaeffer's words, I am reminded of Jesus' conversation with a wealthy young man in Matthew 19:16-30.

The young man asked Jesus how he could have eternal life. It was a great question, but Jesus knew there was something that captured the man's heart more than following him, namely, his wealth.

Of course, money is neither good nor evil. It is a tool that can be used to glorify Christ, or it can lead you farther away from God.

Tragically, the young man had allowed his wealth to capture his heart and was not willing to give it up to follow Jesus.

I am afraid there are a lot of people like the young ruler that have mistakenly substituted outward performance as a means of salvation instead of a heart sold out to God.

They will have climbed the ladder of life only to realize it was leaning on the wrong wall.

They will gather worldly treasures only to lose them when they stand before God.

Where is your heart?

Where is your treasure?

Are you asking, "How much have you gotten?" or "How much have you given?"

God offers eternal life to every person, but you must be willing to deny yourself and follow Him.

Jesus' words remind us that eternal life is free, but it may be costly.

Are you willing to give up all your worldly possessions in order to gain eternal life?

As you consider that question I can personally express that Christ's rewards are far greater than anything we could ever give up in this world.



**BARTLEY WOOTEN**  
Pastor, Beulaville Baptist Church

**Focal passage: Matthew 21:1-11**

**W**hen most people think of a donkey, it is not normally accompanied with thoughts of awe and wonder.

In fact, for those growing up in urban areas, they may consider the donkey to be an unimportant or insignificant animal.

Yet, it should be noted that donkeys have played an important part in society for thousands of years.

They have been used to protect goats and sheep, carry heavy loads, clear land, pull carts and breed mules. In

modern day, they have also been used for backpacking trips, handicap riding programs and petting zoos.

Given all that donkeys have done over the years, there is one event that surpasses them all.

A little less than 2,000 years ago a donkey had the privilege to escort the God of the universe into Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:1-11 describes the triumphal entry of Jesus fulfilling Zechariah

## More Than A Prophet

9:9 pointing to the reality that He is King. Could you imagine what the donkey would have said to his fellow burros if he could talk?

"Hey fellows, you will not believe what happened to me today. You remember how for over 500 years our ancestors have passed down the prophecy that a Messiah would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey?"

"Well guess what - today it happened! It is still hard for me to believe."

"I was standing there minding my own business when two men took me outside of the city."

"At first, I was a little concerned, but my master didn't seem concerned so I went with them."

"Before I knew it, a man sat on my back. We started into the city and then I realized who I was carrying."

"People were crying out 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' It hit me!"

"Out of all the donkeys in the world, God chose me to carry the Savior of world into Jerusalem. I cannot believe it. I am the most blessed donkey ever to have lived!"

If donkeys could talk - he would be correct!



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

Southside Baptist Church, Lincolnton, NC, a conservative mission-minded congregation seeks **full-time Pastor**. We adhere to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and prefer traditional and blended worship services. We support both the SBC, BSCNC and our local association. Applicants should have five-10 years ministry experience, minimum of four-year degree from an accredited Bible college/seminary, strong preaching and teaching skills, and willingness to visit sick, bereaved and shut-in members. Send resume and sermon video to Pastor Search Committee, 204 Labans Lane, Lincolnton, NC 28092, or [nursechapman1@charter.net](mailto:nursechapman1@charter.net).

Immanuel Baptist Church, Greenville, NC, is seeking a **Senior Pastor** to lead us as we begin our second 100 years. We are a diversified church that supports both CBF and SBC ministries, and we have a rich history of mission outreach to the Greenville community. Our church is located within walking distance of a growing East Carolina University, with approximately 28,000 students, where we have a strong outreach ministry, including international students. Our worship services include a blend of both contemporary and traditional music. We affirm both men and women in ministry and leadership roles. The successful candidate will possess a strong calling to the pastoral ministry and hold a degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 1101 S. Elm Street, Greenville, NC 27858, or electronically to [pastorsearch@ibcg.org](mailto:pastorsearch@ibcg.org). We will begin reviewing resumes on April 1, 2017, and will continue until position is filled.

Rocky Face Baptist Church, Taylorsville, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor** with a minimum of a bachelor's degree. A man of God with a passion to work with our multi-generational congregation and our community. Must be vision minded and driven to preach God's Word and to reach the lost. We are a mission-minded SBC affiliated rural congregation. We have traditional Sunday School and worship services. Send resume with testimony and statement of faith to: [rockyfacebaptistchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:rockyfacebaptistchurch@yahoo.com), or P.O. Box 397, Taylorsville, NC 28681.

**SENIOR PASTOR.** Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church in North Augusta, SC, seeks a full-time pastor prepared to lead a mission-minded and disciple-oriented congregation. We prefer a candidate with a minimum of 10 years experience as a senior pastor and a master of divinity or equivalent from an SBC accredited school. Please send resume c/o Pastor Search Committee to [debbie358@comcast.net](mailto:debbie358@comcast.net) or mail to 1850 West Martintown Road, North Augusta, SC 29860.

Antioch Baptist Church, Mamers, NC, seeks Holy Spirit led, **full-time Pastor**. We're a multi-generational Southern Baptist fellowship, devoted to worshipping God, growing disciples and serving through missions. We desire a pastor who proclaims God's Word through preaching and teaching; seeks to win the lost to Christ and disciples the congregation to do the same; a caregiver with a servant's heart; a skilled leader in guiding the church spiritually and administratively. Successful candidate must possess a strong calling to the pastoral ministry, hold a ministerial degree from an accredited institution and possess some years of experience in congregational ministry. We affirm both men and women as deacons. Submit resume to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 525, Mamers, NC 27552, or [antioch421@gmail.com](mailto:antioch421@gmail.com).

### Church Staff

Bethlehem Baptist Church of Jacksonville, NC, is currently seeking a **full-time minister of music**. Located in a suburban setting two miles outside the city limits, Bethlehem is a growing Southern Baptist church located in a community that includes both military and civilian personnel. We currently average 200 in Sunday School and 400 in our Sunday morning worship service. All resumes should be submitted to the following address: Bethlehem Baptist Church, 100 Half Moon Church Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546. Email: [bethlehembaptistsearch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembaptistsearch@gmail.com).

Southside Baptist Church, Elm City, NC, is seeking 2 part-time positions: 1st position – **Worship Leader/Choir Director** who can teach and direct choir, Praise Team and our Children's Choir. Worship service is a blend of traditional and contemporary music; 2nd position – **Pianist**; Email resume to: [sbc@sbcsc.org](mailto:sbc@sbcsc.org).

Grove Park Baptist Church in Clinton, NC, is seeking a **full-time Minister of Music**. This person will provide leadership for the entire music program of the church including a multi-generational, blended worship service and promoting/developing a music program for all age levels. A minimum of three years' experience in Christian music ministry is preferred. A bachelor's degree in a musical discipline is required; seminary or graduate study is preferred. Candidate must be cooperative, enthusiastic, conscientious and display authentic Christian conduct in both private and public life. Compensation will be commensurate with experience. Email resume and cover letter to [ghthreatt@groveparkbaptist.com](mailto:ghthreatt@groveparkbaptist.com) or mail to church at: 609 Northeast Boulevard, Clinton, NC 28328.

Wassamassaw Baptist Church, Moncks Corner, SC, seeks a **full-time Associate Pastor of Worship and Music**. The ideal candidate should be an ordained Southern Baptist minister or seeking ordination, Bible college or Southern Baptist seminary degree with three years' experience leading worship in a small to midsize church (preferred). Responsibilities include leading a blended music worship service (hymns and contemporary), directing a comprehensive worship program (leading choir, multi-media team and education program for all ages), participating in general pastoral care and performing other duties assigned by the Pastor. Candidates should review the Profile for a full description at [www.wassamassawbaptist.org](http://www.wassamassawbaptist.org). Email resume and cover letter to [wassamassawbc@gmail.com](mailto:wassamassawbc@gmail.com) by March 31.

Second Baptist Church in Washington, North Carolina, is seeking an **interim music director**. We are also looking for occasional help in the planning and leading the musical aspects of our Sunday morning worship service. Please send resume to Second Baptist Church – attention pastor, 2516 W 5th Street, Washington, NC 27889, or email to [secondbaptist2@embarqmail.com](mailto:secondbaptist2@embarqmail.com) and address to the pastor.

Rosemary Baptist Church is seeking a **Director of Children's and Youth Ministries** to expand its children's and youth programs. The Director of Children's and Youth Ministries will partner with an existing core of volunteers, and focus primarily on Children's Ministry. Part-time. Rosemary Baptist Church, 936 Jackson Street, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870.

Zoar Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is seeking **PT Worship Leader/Minister of Music**. Blended worship; avg attendance 100-125. Choir, organ/piano, congregational worship tracks. For full job description/details, contact Alex Carroll. Send resume to Zoar Baptist Church, Attn. Alex Carroll, 1740 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152, or [arcarroll92@gmail.com](mailto:arcarroll92@gmail.com).

First Baptist Church, Spruce Pine, NC, is prayerfully seeking a candidate to serve as **full-time minister of music and education**. This person must be a born again child of God, demonstrate Christian character, be called to head music ministry and provide testimony of faith. A bachelor's degree in music and education from a Baptist seminary is preferred. Responsibilities included teaching and directing a full music program. Worship services are a blend of traditional and contemporary music. Please submit resume to First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 125 Tappan St., Spruce Pine, NC 28777, or email to [doctorrock1@yahoo.com](mailto:doctorrock1@yahoo.com).

White Level Baptist Church, Louisburg, NC, is in search of an **Associate Pastor/Youth Minister** to serve our youth and our body. You must be ordained and we prefer that it not be the first youth group that you have led. This is a part-time position with plenty of opportunity to deliver Sunday morning sermons when Pastor is absent or on occasional special event Sunday mornings but most importantly a huge opportunity to impact youth at a critical point in their lives. Please email resume to [sjjgharrison@gmail.com](mailto:sjjgharrison@gmail.com).

### Miscellaneous

**CISM Training for Chaplains.** Group Crisis Intervention (2 day class): March 24-25. Training through Emergency Chaplains, Durham, NC. More info at [www.echap.org](http://www.echap.org). Cost: \$100. 25% Discount for Chaplains and Pastors.

**New ebooklet.** Blasphemy of the Holy Ghost. What exactly is it? Bold new ebooklet tells all. Visit: [www.goodbooklets.net](http://www.goodbooklets.net).

**Senior adult leaders from around the state will meet** in Thomasville on May 2 for the 3rd annual AAIM roundup! Call NCBAM at 877.506.2226 to learn how you can be involved with AAIM (Aging Adults Innovating Ministry).

**MOVED?** Don't forget to change your address with the *Biblical Recorder*. Contact Liz Tablazon at (919) 459-5693 or [liz@BRnow.org](mailto:liz@BRnow.org).

**Do you have staff changes at your church or association?** Or special news you would like to share (significant church or church staff anniversaries or a mission effort to reach your community)? Let the *Biblical Recorder* know by calling (919) 847-2127 or email [editor@BRnow.org](mailto:editor@BRnow.org).

**Share the Biblical Recorder – FREE.** Order three months free. Contact [liz@BRnow.org](mailto:liz@BRnow.org).

### Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

#### Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: [alison@BRnow.org](mailto:alison@BRnow.org).
- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org).
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

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.

**ADVERTISE  
(919) 459-5691**

**Visit BRnow.org** BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE





# Committee on Nominations extends deadline for recommendations

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

**T**he Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) Committee on Nominations has extended the deadline for North Carolina Baptists to make recommendations for individuals to serve in a variety of capacities with the convention.

Individuals now have until Thurs., March 30 to submit recommendations for people to serve on the BSC's Board of Directors, various committees and boards of the convention's agencies and institutions.

Recommendations may be made by visiting [ncbaptist.org/recommend](http://ncbaptist.org/recommend). Individuals recommended will be considered for terms of service that will begin during the 2018 calendar year.

Nomination submissions are typically due Jan. 31, but the committee extended the nomination deadline at its meeting

held Feb. 16 at the BSC offices in Cary.

Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer for the BSC, noted the following vacancies exist on convention committees:

- Committee on Convention Meetings – 6 vacancies
- Committee on Resolutions and Memorials – 3 vacancies
- Historical Committee – 5 vacancies

Davis noted that the data provided by churches through the Annual Church Profile (ACP) is used to determine the number of representatives needed from each of the 10 regions for service on the BSC Board of Directors.

"As reports from churches in a particular region show an increase or decrease in membership, the number of representatives on the board for that region may increase or decrease," Davis said.

This means that there are regions that have no vacancies for 2017. The vacancies

on the board for 2017 are in the following regions:

- Region 3 – 5 vacancies.
- Region 4 – 1 vacancy.
- Region 5 – 2 vacancies.
- Region 6 – 1 vacancy.
- Region 7 – 3 vacancies.
- Region 10 – 1 vacancy.

Charles Brust, pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Lumberton and chairman of the Committee on Nominations, said the committee extended the recommendation deadline in hopes of giving more people from across North Carolina a chance to get involved with the convention and its numerous ministries.

"We really want to give additional time for any member of any North Carolina Baptist church of any size or background to have an opportunity to recommend someone to serve," Brust said.

A common misconception, Brust said, is that only pastors or individuals serving in vocational ministry are eligible to serve with the convention or make recommendations.

Brust said the committee seeks recommendations that include both ministers and laity who represent churches of various sizes and geographic locations. The committee also seeks recommendations of individuals of various ages, ethnic and

cultural backgrounds and educational and professional backgrounds.

Any member of a North Carolina Baptist church in cooperation with the state convention is eligible to make recommendations.

"Our desire is to get as many people involved in the life of the convention as possible and ensure that the convention is healthy," Brust said.

Brust said serving with the convention has opened new doors of ministry for him and his congregation, and he's also seen the same happen for other pastors and lay leaders, as well.

Brust said he hopes that directors of missions across the state will encourage the pastors in their associations to promote the need for recommendations, and that pastors, in turn, would encourage their congregations to nominate individuals to serve.

"We want anybody to feel free to make recommendations for individuals to serve with the convention," Brust said.

For more information on the recommendation process, or to make a recommendation, visit [ncbaptist.org/recommend](http://ncbaptist.org/recommend). Questions may be directed to the BSC's Cynthia King by emailing [cking@ncbaptist.org](mailto:cking@ncbaptist.org) or calling (800) 395-5102, ext. 5501.

**BR**

## Exec. Committee looks at CP controversy, SBC headquarters

Baptist Press

**A**mid continuing discussion of churches' escrowing or withholding Cooperative Program (CP) funds, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) launched two efforts to study the issue at its Feb. 20-21 meeting in Nashville. The EC's actions came less than a week after it was reported that Dallas-area Prestonwood Baptist Church would escrow CP funds over "various significant positions taken by the leadership of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission." Other churches have taken or are considering similar action over concerns related to multiple SBC entities, according to reports received by the EC.

The EC's CP Committee unanimously adopted a motion "that the chairman of the Cooperative Program Committee form a subcommittee ... to study and recommend redemptive solutions to

the current reality in Southern Baptist life of churches' either escrowing or discontinuing Cooperative Program funds, with the report being brought back to the September 2017 Executive Committee meeting."

The EC also authorized its officers to study the feasibility of selling the SBC Building in downtown Nashville. While any sale of the SBC Building must be approved by both the EC and the SBC, the EC authorized its officers "to study the advisability and feasibility" of a sale "in light of interests being expressed in developing the area of Nashville, Tennessee, that includes the SBC Building."

Financially, the convention does not need to sell the building, according to a report received by the EC's Bylaws Workgroup. But multiple offers on the property are anticipated, and EC leaders want to be prepared to field them adequately.

Read the full story at [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org). **BR**

## EC, NAMB announce young leader initiative

North American Mission Board

**T**he Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) are launching a young leader initiative to better engage pastors between the ages of 25-45.

The network's goal will be to provide a sense of brotherhood for those already participating in Southern Baptist life and find ways to engage those who are disconnected or minimally involved.

"A look at the research and a look around the room at most SBC meetings tells you we must do a better job at engaging and including young leaders," Kevin Ezell, NAMB's president, said.

The Executive Committee has hosted or sponsored several events and efforts under Frank S. Page, EC president, to connect with young leaders.

Jonathan Akin will join NAMB's staff to lead the joint effort. He is transitioning from his role as pastor of Fairview Church in Lebanon, Tenn. **BR**

**REVITALIZE 2017**

Renewing Churches • Changing Lives

**April 8, 2017**  
Crosspointe Baptist Church  
Concord, NC

**HOSTED BY**  
Operation Transformation and  
Crosspointe Baptist Church

**Registration fee is \$35.00**  
(Includes all conference materials and lunch)

**For more information:**  
[jstevensells@gmail.com](mailto:jstevensells@gmail.com)

**Website to register:**  
<http://operation-transformation.com/revitalize>

**STEVE SELLS**  
Operation Transformation

**TOM CHEYNEY**  
Renovate

**CHUCK LAWLESS**  
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**CHRIS SCHOFIELD**  
NC Baptist State Convention

**DOUG SMALL**  
Project Pray