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RESTING IN THEIR CALLING to plant in NORTHEAST

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | Baptist Press

Kevin and Kristi Cabe don't believe God is done with them yet in the Northeast. About two years ago the couple uprooted from their life in Knoxville, Tenn., and moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., to help Cornerstone Church in Bay Ridge – the only Baptist church in a community of 70,000.

Since then, the couple's calling to the area has strengthened, but with that they have had to lean heavily on their faith while working in bivocational ministry.

The Cabes, who had the title of North American Mission Board Mission Service Corp missionaries at the time they arrived in the city, had raised enough support from churches to begin their work. But eventually that support began to dwindle with the expense of living in New York for nearly two years.

And the pressures of finding employment that didn't pull away from their ministry also proved to be more difficult than they initially expected. Last fall, the Cabes began to wonder if God was moving them in another direction.

"I think the role that we came up here to play was to really assist a church planter," said Cabe, who was associate pastor at the church.

"... We weren't the lead planter....We were more of the support role. So I feel like from that standpoint it was really tough [with] the fundraising."

Ministry in New York City is difficult enough, Cabe said, but the added pressure of raising enough support to pay the rent and buy groceries made their move to the city that much tougher.

"Everybody has financial stress, [but] ... I felt the pressure of 'I don't want to go home broke,'" he said. "We don't want to leave because we ran out of money. ... And I think that kind of magnified everything."

Still, the couple rested in their calling to help plant churches in the Northeast.

"We were like, 'Lord, you called us to this city to serve in this city,'" Kevin said.

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Tom Elliff: God leads departure from IMB

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

International Mission Board (IMB) president Tom Elliff asked the mission agency's trustees to begin searching for his successor because the Lord told him during prayer that it was the best way to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership, Elliff said in a teleconference with several state Baptist papers.

"[God's] telling me that this is the time to leave," he said Feb. 26, "and that if I will obey Him and ask the Board of Trustees to appoint a search team ... that is the surest way to ensure a smooth transition."

"Not every entity has gone through that kind of a process, and sometimes things go along with fits and starts. But we've got so many personnel on the field, they don't need that. They need a sure vision. They need sure communication. They don't need to feel at any moment that there's a lack of leadership."

Elliff has no timeline for his departure, but in speaking to the board at its Feb. 25-26 meeting in Austin, Texas, he asked that the search begin immediately.

The last search, he said during the

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Kevin and Kristi Cabe uprooted their life in Knoxville, Tenn., about two years ago to help a small church plant in Brooklyn. Today, they are working with Crossroads Church in Farmingdale on Long Island as church planter interns with the North American Mission Board. (BP photo by Shawn Hendricks)



Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board (IMB), recently announced he would be stepping down when the IMB finds a replacement. (IMB photo by Chris Carter)

Your 'information missionaries'

Information is power! Information can change the course of history. When the infantry marches into battle, one piece of intelligence information can make the difference between victory or defeat. When a squadron of fighter jets flies toward an assigned target, one piece of information can make the difference in life and death.

News and information have never been more important. We thrive on it and devour it like sharks in a feeding frenzy. Some of the information we absorb is social content – casual connections with people we know through social media tools like Facebook and Twitter.

Some of our information appetite is satisfied by reading news about national politics, cultural conflicts, weather patterns, international tensions, sports and entertainment.

This is the information age. Some call it the digital revolution or the new media explosion. Whatever the label, the conclusion is the same – the shape of our lives is heavily influenced by information.

Although Christians are not removed from this cultural phenomenon, the most important information we consume is the truth of scripture. Psalm 1:2 says the godly person will delight in God's Word and meditate on it "day and night." This is our indisputable beginning point. This must always be our information standard.

But we are also called to be alert to God's activities around us. Our eyes

must be open and our ears must be attentive to the news and information swirling around us.



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

This is why the *Biblical Recorder* exists. Our mission is to be your trusted information missionaries, keeping you informed about God's work among North Carolina Baptists and Southern Baptists worldwide. We also report on political and cultural trends that collide with our Christian worldview.

Our main assignment is to provide a free flow of accurate material that will encourage churches and church leaders, with emphasis on the Great Commission.

We publish stories about the ministries of local churches and their missions outreach. We believe people need to know. When people have the right information, they are better leaders, better church members, better missionaries, better givers, better witnesses and better disciple-makers.

You support more than 10,000 national and international missionaries through the Cooperative Program and special offerings.

No single church can keep up with all of them. But at the *Biblical Recorder* we work with your mission agencies to pull together some of the best reports about the work in various mission fields. Space and time do not allow us to tell everyone's stories. But we can tell many.

You can find a lot of information surfing the web. But your *Biblical Recorder* staff serves as information missionaries who do most of the groundwork for you.

We gather and assemble news and information that will strengthen your ministry. Our calling is to support God's primary instrument for the Great Commission – the local church.

One of the leaders at the International Mission Board (IMB) said to me, "The IMB needs our Baptist state papers to provide strong coverage of our work. Papers like the *Biblical Recorder* are some of the greatest information tools we have available."

He said the state papers are essential to our cooperative Great Commission work.

We exist to help local churches connect with a vast network of mission work.

Some of those missionaries are in training at one of our six seminaries, so we are delighted to report God's hand at work through these training centers.

I am sure you realize that newspapers everywhere are struggling to survive in the digital age. Fewer consumers are reading the printed page. More are getting their information through electronic/digital sources.

This is the reason we are not only a newspaper, but an electronic platform that engages Baptists and other Christians with six unique media tools: (1) the print format of the *Biblical Recorder*, (2) the online digital edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, (3) our *BRnow.org* website, (4) the free *BRweekly* e-newsletter, (5) the *BR* app for smartphones and (6) social media connections like Twitter (@biblicalrecorder), Facebook (facebook.com/biblicalrecorder) and YouTube (youtube.com/BRnowvideo).

There is something you need to know. All of these media tools are not the same. There is unique information in each tool that may not be in the others. So if you do not subscribe to the printed newspaper or the digital edition, you are missing some valuable information.

I encourage you to spend some time exploring our website. It has a wealth of information. Interact with us on Facebook and Twitter.

Please sign up to receive the very helpful *BRweekly*. This free e-newsletter will arrive in your inbox early every Wednesday morning. It will point out some of the week's important news items. You can sign up on our website at brnow.org/BRweekly.

Please take a few minutes to read Mike Creswell's column on page 12. He explains why your church needs the information services that we provide.

These are challenging days for newspapers. Some state papers have ceased publication. Some have gone to a monthly or quarterly publication, which cannot function as a vital news source. I don't believe North Carolina Baptists want your *Biblical Recorder* to diminish our work or to close up shop.

Secular media thrives on the sensational, even if it is not true. But we are committed to truth. Don't underestimate the power of the news and information you have available to you through your *Biblical Recorder*.

I hope you will encourage your church family to get connected to the information we provide. Visit Brnow.org/promote-BR to learn many ways you can help your church family be informed. **BR**

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Northeast

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Kevin, who grew up in Canton, N.C., ended up finding a full-time job working in development at a faith-based homeless shelter to help pay bills. But the hours often pulled him away from his ministry time with Cornerstone.

On many days, Kevin would leave the Cables' apartment at 7:30 a.m. and wouldn't return home until 9 p.m. The daily grind often conflicted with the weekly Bible studies they hosted in their apartment.

"At the time it was the easiest place for people to come and so I would let all of the men in and I would leave and [Kevin] would not be there," said Kristi, who led women's ministry at the church. "Or, he would get there at the end or midway through.

"That's how the Lord chose to provide at the time," she added, "but it was just one of those things where at a certain point we kind of sat down and we were just like 'This isn't why we're here.'"

Last July, after a month of prayer, Kevin decided "in faith" to step away from his full-time job.

"We had about 15 people back home praying with us ... and whether we should make the decision to do that because we're leaving a salary," he said.

"We're leaving health insurance ... benefits."

In the fall, the Cables wondered if God wanted to move them to another part of the city. Cornerstone Church continued developing more leaders in the church and showing signs of sustainable growth.

"We felt a sense that God was closing the door of ministry where we were.... We saw that church go from seven people to as many as 60," Cabe said. "Again our desire was to always come in and help a church plant set up for success."

The couple soon connected with Sterling Edwards, a church planter and lead pastor of another congregation called Crossroads Church in Farmingdale on Long Island. Edwards also leads a second campus in East Islip.

Edwards is in the middle of leading his church to help start 20 churches in the next 20 years in the area – a daunting challenge in Long Island. He offered the Cables an opportunity to help the church make that vision a reality.

The Cables are now leading a small group for the church. Kevin is pastor of adult ministries; Kristi is director of women's ministry. The North American Mission Board also has offered the Cables a church planter internship that will

help sustain them financially for at least another year.

The new opportunity for the Cables not only provided a new start but also free housing. Crossroads has offered the couple a parsonage for housing while they are working with the church.

Edwards expressed his appreciation for the Cables to provide help in a "highly unevangelized" area where he said only 2.7 percent of the population is evangelical.

"Our research from the area, [shows] 94 percent of our community that's 27 years of age and younger do not plan to attend a worship service of any kind over the next year," Edwards said, citing research gathered from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that has an ongoing church planting partnership with New York.

He added that 86 percent of the

37-and-younger population has no plans to attend a worship service of any kind in the next year.

"What Kevin and Kristi really do for us is they're just an extension of allowing us to build more relationships," Edwards said. "That's evidenced by them building relationships within the church but also outside of the church."

"It's never easy to transition a move from one place to another," said Edwards, who experienced the challenge of moving his family from Texas to New York more than seven years ago.

"Ultimately following Jesus requires some determination and definitely some resolve to say that when we say we'll go, we're gonna go," he said. "Transition isn't easy but it is just a privilege to respond to the One who [has] called us."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Shawn Hendricks is managing editor of Baptist Press.) **BP**

Clint Pressley is nominee for VP slot in Baltimore

By K. ALLAN BLUME | *BR* Editor

Clint Pressley, senior pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., will be nominated for the office of first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) when Baptists meet in Baltimore, Md., June 10-11. Ted Traylor, senior pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla. announced that he will nominate Pressley.

"Clint is a gracious role model in many areas," Traylor said. "He is a pastor/preacher that expounds the scripture week by week to his people. He leads his church to be generous in Great Commission giving and going, and he leads Hickory Grove in numerous compassion ministries in the Charlotte area."

Pressley currently serves as vice-president of the SBC Pastor's Conference and is a former vice-chairman of the trustees for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He is a graduate of Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La. Pressley is currently completing the doctor of ministry program at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He has also served churches in Alabama and Mississippi.

Traylor said, "It has been my joy to get to know Clint and Connie Pressley in the

past several years. I am convinced he will serve Southern Baptists in a Christ-honoring fashion. It will be my joy and honor to nominate him in June."

Hickory Grove is one of the largest churches in North Carolina with more than 17,000 members. They have five worship services weekly on two campuses plus two Hispanic services. The church operates a Christian school with more than 940 students on the main campus.

Twenty-one of their members are now serving overseas through the International Mission Board (IMB), and they have sent out four North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries. The church is a partner with Toronto, Canada, through SEND North America, and they have partnerships with church plants in Providence, R.I., and Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I love the Southern Baptist Convention," Pressley said.

"I'm thankful for the work of NAMB and IMB, and I want to keep supporting the convention. I want to see more younger guys getting excited about the work of our convention and how we do missions – whether it's in North America or around the world. I think we do it as good as anyone."

Traylor's announcement comes a week after Albert Mohler announced his intention to nominate Ronnie Floyd of Springdale, Ark., as the next president of the SBC. **BP**



CLINT PRESSLEY

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Evangelism Conference: ‘Effective disciple-making’

BR staff

The State Evangelism Conference on Feb. 24 was aligned with the Baptist State Convention's (BSC) five-year strategy, "Impacting Lostness through Disciple-Making."

Held at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, speakers Bruce Ashford, Steve Corts, Derwin Gray and James Emery White addressed the identity of a disciple of Jesus, the quality and passion of a disciple and the love a disciple is to have.

Lynn Sasser, the BSC's executive leader for evangelism and discipleship set the stage for the conference theme.

He said baptisms in North Carolina have been "pretty stable" in the last decade. But the overall trend line shows that while we have baptized about the same number of people in the last 10 years, the population of the state has grown by 22 percent.

"We are losing the battle for the souls of men, women and children in North Carolina," Sasser said.

"The time is right for God to raise up N.C. Baptists with a heart and a passion for impacting the lostness that surrounds us."

Ashford, provost and dean of faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, "The tide of public opinion has turned against Christianity. For the first time in the history of our country, historic Christianity is viewed as morally inferior and even as morally despicable. We are becoming more like the early church."

He recalled the strong childhood influence he received from a newsletter that regularly came to his home from the underground church in Romania and Russia. It described believers who were persecuted, "ripped from their home and thrown in prison where they would soon die."

For him it was "the first time I had been confronted with people for whom the cost was so high that they might die for the sake of being a disciple of Christ."

The life and writings of Romanian pastor Richard Wurmbrand made a strong impact on the young Ashford.

He used stories from Wurmbrand's 14 years in prison to illustrate both the cost and the impact of biblical disciple-making.

Ashford said, "As disciples we [must] proclaim him with our lips and promote him with our lives so that when we call people to salvation ... they will have a very clear picture of what we are inviting them to."

Corts, lead pastor of Center Grove Baptist Church near Winston-Salem,



Stephen Wagoner, left, and his father Tom, center, were part of the State Evangelism Conference. Here, Brian Upshaw, right, disciple-making team leader for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, leads a dialogue about generational ministry differences. (BR photo by Michael McEwen)

challenged the conference audience to examine Jesus' discipleship plan.

"One of the reasons we've not been very effective when it comes to evangelism is that we haven't had the passion that the Father has; we haven't had the passion that the Son has," he said.

"We don't see broken people the way God sees broken people."

"We see broken people as problems to be fixed, ... as projects to be undertaken, so we are always trying to fix people."

One of the ways to be effective in evangelism, said Gray, pastor of Transformation Church in Indian Land, S.C., is to love God and love all kinds of people. Teaching from Revelation 7:9, he said the church is to love all people, no matter one's ethnic or cultural group.

"To make disciples," Gray said, "Christians need to look and love more like Christ."

Senior pastor and founder of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, N.C., White brought the conference attendees' attention to a growing affiliation in the United States: the "Nones."

These are individuals who have "no religious affiliation."

This category of people comprises the second largest "religious group" in the U.S. behind Roman Catholics.

Because the people we are trying to reach aren't they same as they were four decades ago, White said, "it will be harder to reach people than ever before. ... So, we must rethink our paradigms of event-evangelism, very common decades ago."

"We must recapture evangelism by utilizing a process-and-event evangelism. This requires long investment in the lives of these 'Nones.'"

Father and son, Tom and Stephen Wagoner, discussed the issues related to generational differences in pastoral

our church through the preaching of His Word. Our focus is to get people in the presence of the Lord, and if He shows up in His glory people will follow Him. Ultimately, we are a glory-seeking church."

"Making disciples is not what we do at the Church in the Triad, but it is who we are," said Stephen.

"With Acts 2 as our biblical foundation, we are trying to live our lives day-to-day on mission for Christ."

The two talked transparently about some methodological differences when Stephen was first called to pastoral ministry. Tom said it was a great thing until he noticed that Stephen was being influenced by the Acts 29 network and popular young leaders who were outside of the more conservative traditions in which Stephen was raised.

"Now I get to watch these [younger] men," Tom said, "who I have had a little influence in their lives plant churches and breathe new life into places."

"They do it way different from our generation."

"But I see the merit and value in what they're doing. We [Stephen and I] joke about our [different] methods, but we are not making those a line in the sand, ever again." **BR**

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Ukraine-Russia tensions expand ministry

By ERICH BRIDGES | IMB/Baptist Press

Tensions rose to dangerous levels as Russian forces occupied Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in late February, but Ukrainian Baptists aren't slowing down their ministry to a nation battered by months of internal crisis.

In fact, they're picking up the pace.

The response from the churches has been fantastic," said International Mission Board (IMB) worker Shannon Ford, who lives in Ukraine's capital city of Kiev, during a March 4 interview. "It really has been a time for prayer – not simply saying we're going to pray, but actually going and being seen and guiding other people to pray," even in the far east near the Russian border.

IMB personnel are serving right beside them.

"We're able to do our ministry," Ford insisted. "We have a family in [a Crimean city] right where the Russian fleet is parked. I talked to them this morning, and they were telling me all the different ministry things they did last week and what they're planning this week. So despite all the uneasiness and the frightening pictures from the zoom lens of the

media, our personnel and our national brothers and sisters are still doing their job, still having outreach groups, still holding services, still doing the things they do."

Ford doesn't downplay the dangers facing Ukraine from both inside and out – or the agony the nation has experienced in recent months as protesters battled police and blood flowed before the government changed hands. He has served there for more than 15 years and feels the pain of Ukrainians more than most foreigners.

"The last couple of weeks in Kiev have been really tense," he said, reflecting on the violent clashes in Kiev's Independence Square. "The loss of life was just very hard to accept. The days after that turned into something more like an extended funeral period. I don't know that I've seen a more grieving or sorrowful time in Ukraine."

But Christians came alongside Ukrainians in the midst of their suffering and struggle, setting up tents in Independence Square to pray for people, provide medical aid, serve food and tea, distribute Bibles and share the gospel. In Ford's view, it's an outward sign of the maturing of evangelical work since Ukraine gained



Interim president Oleksandr Turchynov, a Baptist pastor, interacts with supporters in Kiev, Ukraine. (Photo by Olek Serge Lomtev)

independence from the dissolving Soviet Union.

"For us it's become a wonderful place for ministry because of our excellent partners, the Ukrainian Baptist Union," he said. "Evangelistic efforts and church planting have borne lots of fruit. We've turned a page now from the pioneer work in the early '90s to looking toward missionary-sending from this country."

At the moment, however, the crisis at home demands the full attention of Ukrainian Baptists. One of them is Oleksandr Turchynov, who was voted interim national president by the Ukrainian Parliament until new elections take place in May. He took office after President Viktor Yanukovich was removed Feb. 23 and later fled to Russia (Russia's incursion into Crimea followed within a week).

Turchynov "has been a lay preacher in one of our Baptist churches, and he has brought a demeanor of trust and respect to the acting government," Ford said. "So it's really been a great time for the churches to be doing what we ought to be doing. They've not hidden. They've actually activated and gotten more visible during this time of stress and tension."

Now, as divisions increase between ethnic Ukrainians in the western part of the country and ethnic Russians in the east, Christians are focusing on bringing people together.

"Unity" is the word that keeps being used," Ford reported. "The [Baptist] brothers and sisters in eastern Ukraine mostly use Russian. Many of them have Russian heritage. But they are the first ones to speak up and say, 'There's no tension between us and the Ukrainian

speakers.' Those in western Ukraine, even in a city that is very nationalistic and Ukrainian in language and culture, declared a 'Russian language only' day. They actually took to the streets and used Russian to show we're one country. Language is not the thing that divides us."

Unless circumstances force a change in plans, Baptists and mission workers anticipate a full schedule of summer camps, evangelistic outreach events and other ministries this year. In fact, Ford hopes Southern Baptist volunteers come to work alongside them.

"It may sound like a fool's errand, but we still think you can come and serve, because we're still here and we'd like you to come and join us," he said. He also challenged Southern Baptists to use the current situation as a way to reach out to ethnic Ukrainians and Russians in American communities.

Ford said he and other IMB workers have been overwhelmed and greatly encouraged by the many emails and social media posts from Southern Baptists expressing concern and promising prayer.

"It's kind of strange. We're in a sense of alert, but we're also very much at ease," he said. "Our No. 1 prayer is not necessarily for our safety, even though we of course want that for ourselves and for our people. Our No. 1 prayer is that we make use of this opportunity to be purveyors of the gospel light. There's just a lot of opportunity, and I'd hate for us to miss it."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Erich Bridges is an International Mission Board global correspondent.) **BR**

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‘God’s Not Dead’: The movie pastors asked for

Pure Flix Entertainment is renewing interest in God and asking its viewers to consider one of the most important questions of our day, “Does God exist?” through the release of “God’s Not Dead,” March 21 in more than 600 theaters nationwide. The film features a star-studded cast, an appearance by “Duck Dynasty’s” Willie and Korie Robertson and special performance by Newsboys and their hit song “God’s Not Dead.”

Pure Flix Entertainment, the number one faith-producing film company, is known for producing and distributing Christ-centered movies for the purpose of changing our culture for Christ and being salt and light in a media-driven culture.

This feature film is certain to ruffle feathers and stimulate intelligent conversations just as the Ken Ham-Bill Nye Debate on Creation/Evolution did on Feb. 4.

In “God’s Not Dead,” college freshman, Josh Wheaton (Shane Harper of “Flipped”), finds his faith challenged by an arrogant philosophy professor (Kevin Sorbo of “Soul Surfer”) who requires his students to deny the existence of God or face a failing grade.

Josh, whose dream is to attend law school, finds himself having to choose between his faith and his future without the support of his parents, classmates, or girlfriend.

He seeks the advice of a minister (David A.R. White of “Revelation Road”) who points him to Matthew 10:32-33 and confronts him with these words, “Your acceptance of this challenge may be the only meaningful exposure to Jesus that some in his class will ever have.” Risking his future, he steps out to prove the existence of God.

He puts God on trial with the professor as the prosecutor, himself as the defense attorney and the students as the jury.

Before landing this role, Shane Harper prayed diligently for the opportunity to play Josh Wheaton as his passion is apologetics.



Kevin Sorbo, right, plays a professor in “God’s Not Dead,” a film that debuts March 21. Here, Sorbo’s character talks with Josh Wheaton, played by Shane Harper. Wheaton’s faith is tested when his professor requires him to deny the existence of God or face failure in a class at his university. (*godsnotdeadthemovie.com* photos)

Also starring Dean Cain (“Superman”) as a self-absorbed executive, every character in this film must deal with the ultimate question, “Does God exist?” The film is rated PG and is Dove approved for ages 12 and above. It is a must see for all youth groups and a powerful lesson that when one stands for one’s faith, it gives others the courage to stand and believe.

This film is from today’s headlines as college students step into the shoes of Josh Wheaton every day when they leave home only to find their faith challenged in the halls of academia.

Many of us can remember the days we encountered professors who took pride in destroying our beliefs. We are living in a day when the very institutions such as Harvard, which was founded to promote “Truth for Christ and for the Church,” are now doing the opposite.

My own struggle in this area caused me to search and learn how to stand for my faith. But for many, the alluring rhetoric of all-knowing professors can wash away the foundations of their faith, leaving them feeling hopeless and confused.

This film is inspired by Newsboy’s 2011 hit song, “God’s Not Dead,” and the book by Dr. Rice Brooks, *God’s Not Dead: Evidence for God in an Age of Uncertainty*. In this book, Dr. Brooks explains the differences in two mindsets:

“The naturalist asserts that the universe came into being from nothing, by nothing, for nothing.

“The theist believes the universe came from nothing, by Something, for something.”

The late Chuck Colson warned us that our culture will be changed through colleges and universities:

“We must train the mind by inculcating truth and developing graduates who will go out and infiltrate the world with the love of Christ.

“A society without a foundation of moral absolutes cannot long survive.”

When we send our young people out into the world of higher education, we must send them with the full armor of God, knowing that their faith will be challenged.

We expect professors at secular universities to deny the existence of God, but many students have faced the same challenge as Josh Wheaton in institutions that bear the name of Christ.

Whatever the circumstances, this movie is a powerful reminder that those who follow Christ must be prepared to defend their faith in an increasingly godless society. And when we take that stand, we may never know the ripple effect and the lives impacted by those who are watching.

As William J. Federer has stated, “Whoever controls the media and education, controls the country.”

This film has it all – inspiring music, great acting, and a well-written screenplay.

One of the producers, David A.R. White, revealed Pure Flix made the movie after getting feedback from pastors who said they needed a movie about apologetics and defending the faith. And this movie does that while entertaining.

White said, “The addition of the Robertsons and their own stand for their faith has only mirrored the message in the movie.”

For more info click on this link <http://godsnotdead-themovie.com> and see where it will be playing and how you can plan to bring the movie to your city. The trailer alone is a conversation starter and something that can be shared through social media.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Ginny Dent Brant is an author, speaker, counselor and soloist. She is editor-at-large for Sonoma Christian Home Magazine. Visit www.ginnybrant.com.) **BR**

NEWS IN BRIEF

ERLC: Criminalizing homosexuals unjust

(Baptist Press) A government that criminalizes homosexual behavior “has overstepped its bounds drastically and unjustly,” say two leading Southern Baptist ethicists. Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), and Andrew Walker, director of policy studies for the same entity, wrote in a March 3 essay they remain aligned with the Bible’s view of sexuality while also contending homosexuals should not be targeted by the law.

Uganda enacted a law Feb. 24 that includes life sentences for people convicted of repeated homosexual activity and imprisonment for “aiding and abetting” homosexuality, according to a March 7 article by *The Christian Science Monitor*. In January, Nigeria approved a similar measure that authorizes 10-year prison sentences for same-sex couples observed kissing publicly and people visiting a gay club, the newspaper reported. The essay by Moore and Walker is available at canonandculture.com/what-should-christians-think-of-governments-that-criminalize-homosexuality/.

BSA closer to gay leadership

(Baptist Press) The Walt Disney Company is playing into the hands of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) by cutting donations to BSA, giving the Scouts greater public leverage to accept gay leaders, Atlanta area pastor Ernest Easley said March 7. Disney in February joined a growing list of companies who have cut BSA financial support because of the Scouts’ ban on openly gay leaders. Such pressure will make it easier for BSA to open Scout leadership to gay men, said Easley, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church and chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. “They’ve done them a favor in putting more pressure out there for the Scouts to come back later on and say, ‘We have no choice than to let the [gay] men be part of this,’” Easley told Baptist Press.

Want worship renewal in your church? It starts here

Many church leaders contact me about helping their churches encounter worship renewal.

While there are many things we can do to set an environment conducive to great times of worship, we cannot manufacture renewal.

As Betty Grit of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship said so well: “Worship renewal cannot be produced or engineered by human ingenuity, but is a gift of God’s Spirit.”

Often, church leaders feel that changing the form or style of worship is the answer to bringing worship renewal to the church.

Graham Kendrick said, “It is impossible to draw rich worship from poverty-stricken hearts.

“Worship should develop alongside spiritual growth ... but if we merely impose new styles and methods on top of a dead situation, we will end up with nothing better than

a beautifully decorated coffin.”

In my teaching around the state, I lift up the importance of personal worship – spending time worshipping God on a daily basis.

Corporate worship is an outgrowth of personal worship.

When the people of our churches come to church hungry to be in God’s presence and when they have experienced revival in their lives, our times of corporate worship will become truly magnificent.

If you want to experience great times of corporate worship in your church, the answer is not in the style of music or selection of songs, it is in the condition of the hearts of the people.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Kenny Lamm is consultant for worship and music with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Contact him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5638, or klamm@ncbaptist.org. Visit his blog at renewingworshipnc.org.)



KENNY LAMM

engaging NC Baptists in worship
renewingworship

David Dockery announced as TIU’s 15th president

By MICHAEL MCEWEN | BR Content Editor

Trinity International University (TIU) announced Feb. 28 David Dockery as the institution’s 15th president. Former president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn. for 18 years, Dockery was unanimously selected by TIU’s Board of Regents.

Robert Kleinschmidt, chairman of the TIU Board of Regents, said, “Dr. Dockery brings a great wealth of experience and knowledge about higher education from his years at Union University.

“I know he will be a great leader for Trinity and look forward to the tasks ahead.”

Located in Deerfield, Ill., TIU is a private Christian university comprised of four schools: Trinity College, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS), Trinity Graduate School and Trinity Law School. TIU has three academic centers: the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Theological Understanding, the Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity and the Jonathan Edwards Center at TEDS.

It also has regional centers in South Chicago, Florida and California.

Dockery said, “What a joy it will be to seek to reflect the influence and leadership of 20th century evangelical giants like Kenneth Kantzer and Carl Henry, who invested so much at Trinity.

“Their emphasis on serious and rigorous academics shaped and informed by the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the



David Dockery, seen here in 2012, is slated to become president of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill. (The Western Recorder photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

full truthfulness of Holy Scripture, international missions, cultural renewal and engagement, transdenominational and transcontinental evangelical cooperation and service to the global church will... continue to characterize all aspects of Trinity’s life and work.”

Prior to his position at Union – a Tennessee Baptist-related institution – Dockery served as the chief academic officer at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he also was professor of theology and New Testament.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., Dockery and his wife, Lanese, have been married for 38 years. They have three married sons and six grandchildren.

Dockery will begin serving as acting president on June 1. He will officially assume TIU presidency when affirmed by the conference of the Evangelical Free Church of America. **BR**

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Our Vision “By God’s grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Cooperative Program provides ‘synergy’ for impacting-lostness

by Mike Creswell



Can Baptists learn from mules? Yes, they can teach us much. Back in 1885, mules were important to transportation because of the loads they could pull. A competition was held in Chicago that year to see how much the strongest mules could pull.

The winning mule pulled an amazing 2,710 pounds. Next, organizers tested how much two mules could pull together, estimating they would pull a little over 5,000 pounds. They were stunned when the two mules together were able to pull 9,000 pounds.

Organizers then tried a team of four mules pulling together, estimating they might pull as much as 18,000 pounds. The crowd was stunned when those four mules pulled an incredible 30,000 pounds, 66 percent more than four mules pulling separately could pull.

When North Carolina Baptists pull together, a similar multiplication happens. Pastor Stan Welch calls it synergy. When Baptists work together, they can do more than the sum of what they could accomplish in working alone, says Welch, pastor of West Asheville Baptist Church in Asheville.

“There’s a synergy that happens and multiplies what we can do together. The collective power of us working together is greater than what anyone can do alone,” he said.

Welch says synergy is why he and his church’s 2,000+ members support the Cooperative Program. He likes how their dollars are multiplied when West Asheville’s budget joins the budgets of thousands of other churches.

Few small-to-medium churches can

afford extensive individual missions programs. But when the Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) more than 45,000 of mostly small churches put their money together through the Cooperative Program, they can do “big things” for the Kingdom.

Big things include supporting more than 10,000 missionaries around the world and across the country, one of the world’s largest evangelical missionary forces.

Big things include training more than 13,000 future pastors, missionaries and church leaders in six accredited and widely respected seminaries across the country, including Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

N.C. Baptists support the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina with a statewide ministry to children and families. Our Baptist Aging Ministry helps hundreds of senior adults each year. North Carolina Baptists operate nine group homes for developmentally handicapped men and women.

All these big things are the products of Cooperative Program synergy.

Together we support one of the state’s largest youth ministry programs, providing outreach and discipleship training to more than 12,000 young people annually. Hundreds of those students come to faith in Christ and hundreds more make life-changing spiritual decisions.

North Carolina Baptists help start more than 100 new churches each year, two-thirds of them reaching the many new language and culture groups now living in our state. Imagine: About every three days North Carolina Baptists launch a new church in their state. What a big thing!

Few groups in North Carolina can put

roughly \$1.5 million into planting new churches each year like North Carolina Baptists do.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will focus in coming months on equipping churches to impact lostness through disciple-making. The BSC is committing staff and budget to that goal, in order to reach our state’s 5.8 million lost people.

It will be the synergy of Cooperative Program dollars that enables the Convention to do this new big thing.

Synergy does not happen by posting a sign in front of a church or thinking positive thoughts.

Synergy happens best when Baptists cooperate financially, through committing a substantial portion of their church budgets to ministries they agree are mandated by scripture; and engaging in ministry together. The BSC can truly impact lostness through disciple-making if we engage in these essential ministry efforts cooperatively.

As churches commit dollars to partner in supporting missions and ministry through the Cooperative Program, every percentage point matters.

Consider that if all 45,000 SBC-affiliated churches increased their Cooperative Program giving by just one percent, it would produce an additional \$100 million a year, a huge increase that would send hundreds of new missionaries overseas and across the continent. Every other ministry would be similarly multiplied.

That’s the synergy of pulling together. That is how we must cooperate if we’re to reach our state’s 5.8 million lost people. Like those mules, we can do more when we pull together.

Connect *now*

WEBSITE:

News articles, first-person columns, resources and staff directory



 ncbaptist.org

VIDEOS:

Learn how North Carolina Baptists are taking the next step in reaching people with the gospel



 ncbaptist.org/nextstep

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 guidestone.org/compensationsurvey

Easter: A Time to Witness



Easter Evangelism Emphasis

ncbaptist.org/easter

When Jesus gave His disciples their final instructions, He told them to be faithful witnesses of His life, death and resurrection to a lost and dying world (Acts 1:8). As Easter draws near, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina encourages North Carolina Baptists to make the weeks leading up to Easter a time of intentional evangelistic outreach in fulfillment of the Great Commission.

There are a number of ways North Carolina Baptists can be intentional in their disciple-making efforts. For instance, believers can engage in fervent and intentional prayer for their lost

friends, family, neighbors and for specific unreached or unengaged people groups. They can invest in people relationally so that they see the message of the gospel lived before them. Easter is also a perfect opportunity for believers to share the gospel, invite people to worship, and for pastors to share an evangelistic sermon.

Visit ncbaptist.org/easter for church resources leading up to this holiday.



Collegiate Spring Leadership

April 4-6
ncbcm.org

Embrace Leadership Training

April 11-12
ncbaptist.org/elt

Worship Leader Boot Camp

April 25-26
ncbaptist.org/bootcamp

Operation Inasmuch/Rampin Up

April 26 & May 3
baptistsonmission.org

Foothills Prayer Conference

May 16-18
ncbaptist.org/foothillsprayer

Hispanic Young Adult Conference

May 30 - June 1
ncbaptist.org/hyac14

The Story Regional Training

Various dates March - October
ncbaptist.org/thestory

Upcoming Events



Impacting Lostness: Next Step

Next Step is an effort to help North Carolina Baptists be intentional in sharing the gospel with their lost family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Everyone deserves an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.

With more than 5.8 million people in North Carolina who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, we must commit to sharing our faith.

You can take the Next Step and impact lostness by inviting

neighbors into your home for a meal, or by starting a Bible study in your home, at work or on a nearby college campus. A number of video testimonies from North Carolina Baptists can be found at ncbaptist.org/nextstep that offer simple, practical suggestions for how you can take the Next Step. If you have a Next Step story to share, please let us know by contacting kcarson@ncbaptist.org.

Learn more at

ncbaptist.org/nextstep



Collegiate Ministry Conferences

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry annual Spring Leadership Conference will be held April 4-6 at Caraway Conference Center. The conference is designed for all college-age students from both church and campus groups in North Carolina with a focus on leadership development. This fun and educational weekend provides opportunities for learning through breakout sessions, fellowship with students from across the state, engage in praise and worship and just get away from the world for a few days.

Converge 2014, the Baptist Campus Ministry annual fall conference, will be held September 26-27 at Ridgecrest Conference Center. The conference will emphasize various approaches to collegiate ministry from the people on the ground, in the trenches of collegiate ministry. Students will have opportunities to pray for, encourage and connect with others who are striving to reach their campus for Christ.

Learn more at

ncbcm.org



The Story

New in 2014 is a series of training events to help Christians communicate the overarching biblical story of creation, fall, rescue and restoration. The Story is a conversational approach to witnessing that encourages believers to build relationships with unbelievers through everyday conversations that naturally point to the overall biblical story as the answer to life's most pressing questions.

Regional training events will be held March 25 at Oaklawn Baptist Church, Kernersville; April 10 at the Buncumbe Baptist

Resource Center, Asheville; June 24 at First Baptist Church Cornelius; September 16 at Wilmington Baptist Association; and October 28 at Green Pines Baptist Church, Knightdale. Each regional conference is from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and includes lunch and conference materials, including The Story Guide Leader Kit. This kit contains The Story Guide Primer Edition (Workbook), Leader Notes (Booklet), and additional resources.

Learn more at

ncbaptist.org/thestory

Relief granted to German homeschoolers

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

A German homeschooling couple and their children who are part of a Southern Baptist church received notice from the Obama administration they will not be deported only a day after their hopes appeared dashed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) announced March 4 it had been contacted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with news the federal entity would not deport Uwe and Hannelore Romeike and their seven children. DHS verbally informed HSLDA, which has represented the family in court, the Romeikes had been granted “indefinite deferred status,” which means they will be able to remain in the United States permanently unless they violate the terms of that status.

The surprising turn of events came only a day after the Supreme Court announced it would not accept an appeal by the Romeikes to review a lower court’s rejection of their request for asylum in this country. The Romeikes and their seven children had been seeking to stay in the United States and avoid a forced return to Germany, where homeschooling is illegal. The devout Christian couple fled Germany with their five children in 2008 in the face of increasing fines and the risk of losing custody of their children in their home country unless the children attended school. They have had two more children since arriving in the United States.



The Romeike family (BP photo)

The parents and the five older Romeike children are members of First Baptist Church in Morristown, Tenn. Uwe serves as a deacon, as well as the church’s pianist. The Romeikes, who joined First Baptist Church in April 2012, have lived in east Tennessee while in this country. The Southern Baptist Convention’s leading spokesman on religious freedom issues expressed hopefulness about the Obama administration’s decision.

“I hope and pray that DHS will not deport this family and will stand for our long-held commitment to helping those oppressed for their religious convictions,” said Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Deporting the Romeikes would be “reprehensible,”

Moore said. “America has always sought to be a home for the oppressed around the world. Educating one’s children according to one’s religious convictions is a human right.”

Returning the family to Germany would be “the repudiation of a great American heritage,” he said. “This should remind us of how imperiled religious liberty is at home and around the world.”

In announcing the DHS decision, HSLDA Chairman Michael Farris described it as “an amazing turnaround – in just 24 hours” and “an incredible victory that I can only credit to Almighty God.”

Farris also commended the Americans who spoke out for the Romeikes. “We believe that the public outcry made a huge impact,” he said in a written statement.

Uwe Romeike said his family was glad to receive indefinite deferred status from DHS despite the inability to gain American citizenship soon.

“As long as we can live at peace here, we are happy,” he said in a HSLDA news release.

“We have always been ready to go wherever the Lord would lead us – and I know my citizenship isn’t really on earth. This has always been about our children. I wouldn’t have minded staying in Germany if the mistreatment targeted only me – but our whole family was targeted when German authorities would not tolerate our decision to teach our children – that is what brought us here.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Tom Strobe is Baptist Press’ Washington bureau chief.) **BR**

Elliff

Continued from page 1

teleconference, took about a year and a half.

“There’s not any reason for us to be without strong leadership all the way through,” he said.

“My intention is to serve, as I said, to run through the finish line, until such a successor is found. This seems to be the right way to do it.

“He [God] didn’t say resign and I’m definitely not going to retire, but I do believe that the board needs to be looking for the successor and the minute they find that man or when, I need to join the ranks of all the other people who are holding up his hand and praying for him.”

Elliff was 67 when he accepted the post in 2011, and marked his 70th birthday this February. He is hesitant to give advice to a successor, but said prayer should remain a priority for anyone who accepts the position.

“Every person follows the leadership of God and they don’t need someone standing over their shoulder saying, ‘If you’re not doing it my way, you’re doing it the wrong way,’” Elliff said.

“If I had one little bit of counsel ... I would say ... live in prayer.

“I don’t know how you could do it any other way. I don’t know how one person could move the organization forward if

he’s not hearing from God, and if God’s not hearing from him.”

Elliff said he’s concerned that the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), with a membership of 16 million, only has 4,816 missionaries deployed worldwide.

“People say we’re the largest evangelical missionary organization of its type in the nation, maybe in the world. People say, ‘Doesn’t it make you proud?’ Elliff said. “Actually it makes me ashamed.”

Less than 3/100 of 1 percent of the Southern Baptist population is on the mission field, Elliff said.

“One challenge is going to be finding out where Southern Baptists’ heart is in reaching the lost,” he said. “I think Southern Baptists are facing an opportunity to determine just where their heart is in terms of missions. With the Cooperative Program having declined for almost 30 years, although it leveled out the last couple of years, and with our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering being [at a plateau], although this year we’re praying for \$175 million, we only send people whom we support. We have right now about 4,816 people on the field, along with their 4,000 children, that’s about 9,000 people.”

The SBC faces opportunities that directly impact the International Mission Board, Elliff said. He said the SBC

needs to determine its identity, define its communication goals, study its missiology, determine whether its passion lines up with Christ’s, make sure members are participating in SBC stewardship, and ensure that Southern Baptists are accountable to one another.

“We have an entire generation of pastors and church people who in some fashion have not had a hand in creating who Southern Baptists are,” he said.

He cited progress in several mission initiatives, including Embrace, where churches commit to work among unengaged, unreached people groups; Ready Reserve, which allows former field personnel to volunteer for overseas missions; Marketplace Advance, a mechanism for the corporate world to use its resources in advancing the Great Commission; Global Connect, which allows churches to fully fund their own missionaries with guidance from IMB leadership, and the School of Prayer for All Nations, which mobilizes churches in prayer.

IMB trustee board chairman David Uth, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., appointed a 15-member committee to find Elliff’s replacement. Search committee members include: Uth, chairman; first vice-chair John Edie, retired, member of Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; Jay Collins,

civil engineer, member of First Baptist Church Houghton, La.; Jay Gross, pastor, West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas; Scott Harris, minister of missions, Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, Tenn.; Rick Lewis, pastor, Ken Caryl Baptist Church, Littleton, Colo.; Jaye Martin, ministry director, Houston’s First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas; Vickie Mascagni, a registered dietitian and member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss.; John Meador, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; Matt Pearson, pastor of First Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark.; Doyle Pryor, senior pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Norman, Okla.; Cindy Snead, a clinical laboratory scientist and member of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Matt Taylor, senior pastor, First Baptist Church Lebanon, Mo.; Kristen White, director of global mobilization for California Baptist University and a member of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif., and Jay Wolf, pastor, First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.

The search committee is receiving names for consideration at searchteam@imb.org. The next IMB trustee meeting is May 13-14 in Spartanburg, S.C.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Diana Chandler is Baptist Press’ general assignment writer/ editor.) **BR**

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Want a solid youth ministry?

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is offering a Student Ministry Lab for youth ministers and leaders on March 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Salisbury. Topics to be addressed include: the five purposes of the church, mentoring, enlisting and keeping volunteers, how to plan a mission trip, risk management in youth ministry and more. For payments submitted by March 21 the cost will be \$15 per person or \$75 per group of five. After March 21 the cost is \$25 per person or \$100 per group of five. Price includes lunch and training materials. For more information, contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5566, or Youth.Disciplemaking@ncbaptist.org. To register visit www.BeDoTell.com.

N.C. Baptists host library workshops

Training for church library ministry will take place at Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro on April 5, and at Fort Caswell in Oak Island on May 3. Workshops run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Fees for either workshop include lunch. Early registration (paid 10 days prior to event) is \$30 per person. Late registration and walk-ins cost \$35 per person. Come away refreshed, energized and equipped to carry on with the work and service the Lord has given to you. Visit this website for registration: <http://www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=142>; click on "Events."



Help BCH roundup food in April

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina does an annual Food Roundup in hopes to collect the \$350,000 in food and supplies that it takes to provide more than 700,000 thousand meals for the children and developmentally disabled individuals in all their N.C. homes. Churches, businesses and individuals are invited to take part in this years drive and help provide for the needs of BCH's residents in 2014. Start working now to collect non-perishable food items, supplies and gift

cards. For information, needed items list, ads and other downloads visit bchfamily.org/foodroundup. For more information about how you, your church or organization can be a part of Food Roundup, contact Alan Williams at (336) 474-1277, or email awilliams@bchfamily.org.

Pick-up dates for donations are April 21-May 2.

Whip your worship leaders into shape

The Worship Leader Boot Camp is great for all musicians involved in worship leadership in their churches. The time starts with the theology of worship and moves into subjects such as song selection, sensitivity to the congregation, worship styles, flow, common pitfalls and evaluation techniques. The time will be filled with worship, prayer and dependence upon God. Worship Leader Boot Camps are scheduled for April 25-26, and Sept. 19-20. Locations are still being determined.

If you have a church that would benefit from the Worship Leader Boot Camp but cannot make the above dates or locations, consider bringing your team to the Saturday-only session of the Worship Leader Boot Camp Special Edition events. For more information contact Sherry Thompson at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5634, or stompson@ncbaptist.org. Visit the following webpage <http://www.ncbaptist.org/bootcamp>.

Fellowship retreat planned for blind

The Blind Fellowship Retreat will be held April 25-27 at the 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 for blind and visually impaired people. The speaker this year is Andi Wilson and on Saturday there will be a concert by the Back Porch String Band. The cost is \$85 per person when two people share a room. Single occupancy is \$125 per person. For registration and further information visit the following link: <http://www.ncbaptist.org/blindretreat>. Contact Maria Luoni at mluoni@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5629.

Deaf, hearing come 'together' for conference

Together in Christ (TIC) is an adult training weekend for Deaf and hearing church leaders. It will be held May 2-3 in the Caraway Conference Center in Sophia. TIC is designed to meet the special needs of small groups of leaders working in Deaf churches and Deaf ministries. If you teach a Deaf Sunday

School class or would like to be trained in how to teach a Deaf class, the Deaf Sunday School Workshop is for you. This year's Sunday School workshop will be led by Tim Bender. The Church Interpreter Training Program workshop will be led by Joni Bice, who will teach "Best Practices in Interpreting." Prices vary according to accommodations. Visit <http://www.ncbaptist.org/togetherinchrist> for more details. Contact mluoni@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5629.

Retreat planned for Deaf youth

The Deaf Youth Retreat is an annual weekend camp for Deaf middle school and high school aged students. The camp meets May 2-4 at the Caraway Conference Center in Sophia. Deaf Youth will experience all the fun of Christian camp in an ASL language rich environment. The cost is \$105 for N.C. campers and \$115 for out-of-state campers. Some partial scholarships are available. Registration deadline is April 18. Visit <http://www.ncbaptist.org/deafyouthretreat>. Contact mluoni@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5629.

Cabarrus hosts church strategy events

Intentionally Evangelistic Church Strategy (IECS) is giving a five-part training seminar to be held at the Cabarrus Association building in Concord. IECS seeks to assist you in developing an individualized process for effective evangelism. The approach takes insights from more than 100 pastors who are effectively and consistently evangelistic. The five strategy components include evangelistic leadership, evangelistic prayer, assimilation, event evangelism and personal evangelism. The \$25 cost includes all three seminar days which will take place on May 8, July 10 and Sept. 11. Participants may register online at www.cabarrusbaptist.com or by contacting: Robert Leonard at rleonard@cabarrusbaptist.com or (704) 786-9171. Deadline to register is Apr. 27. More information is given at <http://www.ncbaptist.org/iecs>.

Draw Near to the Lord in prayer

N.C. Baptists are hosting a prayer conference on May 16-18 at First Baptist Church Icard in Connelly Springs. The conference is basing its theme on James 4:8 which says, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." The speakers will be Michael Par-due, Richard Owen Roberts, Chris Schofield, Marty Jacumin and Larry Steven McDonald. Cost is free and a love offering will be taken up. For further scheduling information visit <http://www.ncbaptist.org/index.php?id=1609>.



Hispanic young adults conference set

Hispanic youth are invited to a weekend gathering – Total Love – on the beach with music, prayer, fellowship, Bible studies, worship, testimonies, sports and praises. All single people ages 18-35 are invited to the Caswell Conference Center on May 30-June 1. Prices and registration can be found at the following webpage: ncbaptist.org/hispanic; click on "events." Contact gsoriano@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5564.

Caswell hosts summer Youth Weeks

The 2014 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina summer camps are quickly approaching, and leaders are excited about this years' theme, Tag! You're It. The camps take place at N.C. Baptist Assembly at Caswell, Oak Island. All youth going into 7th-12th grades are invited for a time of spiritual renewal. Cost is \$60 plus lodging and meals. Registration is open at fortcaswell.com/summer/yc_registration.

Camp dates are:

- June 9-14 (week 1)
- June 16-21 (week 2)
- June 23-28 (week 3)
- July 7-12 (week 4 – full)
- July 14-19 (week 5)
- July 21-26 (week 6)
- July 28-August 2 (week 7 – full)

Full weeks are often accessible through a wait list. For more information on housing, food, pricing or programming please visit bedotell.com/index.php?id=38.

Youth offered chance to make Deep Impact

Baptists on Mission (North Carolina Baptist Men) is providing Deep Impact Mission Weeks which are pre-packaged week-long mission experiences that provide middle (must have completed 6th grade) and high school students and their leaders with the opportunity to be involved in construction, VBS, sports evangelism, servant evangelism, prayer walks and more. Costs vary. Visit baptistsonmission.org/DeepImpact.

- June 16-21 – Sandhills
- June 23-28 – Washington
- June 23-28 – Wilkes County
- June 29-July 5 – Caswell (FULL)
- July 7-12 – Avery County
- July 14-19 – Richmond County
- July 14-19 – Charlotte
- July 21-26 – Red Springs
- July 21-26 – Shelby

There are a couple of mini-weeks scheduled at the end of July and early August at Shelby and Red Springs and three trips outside of North Carolina. Honduras and Cuba are full but New York still has available slots. Full weeks are often accessible through a wait list.

Why do Baptists need a newspaper?

Why is a newspaper in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) budget? Why should churches want to help fund the *Biblical Recorder*?

Most organizations have print and digital platforms to tell their message. But communications is especially important to Baptists, both for theological and practical reasons.

Communications and church polity

Baptists believe in the priesthood of believers. In other words, we believe every Christian is competent to deal directly with God on spiritual matters.

Some denominations have a hierarchy of leaders speaking to members for God and handing down instructions to local congregations.

But Baptists have autonomous churches that assign members to direct their associations and conventions, rather than the other way around. There is no such thing as “the Southern Baptist Church.” Rather, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is a partnership of autonomous congregations voluntarily cooperating in missions and other matters on which they agree.

When the BSC holds its annual meeting, messengers from the local churches vote on the annual budget and other important matters. Leaders, including convention officers and the board of directors, are elected by those local churches to carry out business for the convention between annual sessions, but major questions must be voted on during each annual meeting.

For Baptists, information replaces a hierarchy of leaders! To make the right decisions, members need to be informed.

But there’s much more to this than business meetings. In the Baptist view, being informed is an integral part of being a disciple of Christ.

Baptists need to know where God is at work in the world, so they can join Him there. They need to know of needs, so they can give, go and pray to have those needs

met. They need to know how their missionaries and the ministries they support financially are faring, so they can respond accordingly.

Since every Baptist has a say in what happens in Baptist life, we need to be well informed. Baptists never completely agree on every issue, but a majority will usually choose correctly when they have solid information in hand.

Communications, missions & discipleship

Baptists who are disciples of Jesus Christ must understand how they can partner with Him in the process of redeeming a lost world.

That’s why Bible teaching and current missions information go hand-in-hand. The New Testament was written as the core witness to God’s empowering of the church to partner with Him in global missions and is full of rich instructions on how to become better disciples and thereby, more productive partners.

Current reports on missions and ministry let us know how we’re doing in that process and where we need to get involved.

Communications: highly valued

Consider how much Paul valued having informed members behind him as he did his missionary work.

Paul likely wrote his letter to the Colossians while imprisoned in Rome.

Colossians 4 tells how he sent two men all the way from Rome to the church in Colossae just to report on missions work.

Tychicus, Paul wrote, “will tell you all the news about me.” Paul called this man “a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.”

He said, “I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.” Tychicus and Onesimus “will tell you everything that is happening here.” Think about how important this was in the first century.

Today, getting from present-day Honaz, Turkey, (ancient Colossae) to Rome, Italy, would take about 31 hours of non-stop driving to cover 1,400+ miles, and that’s not counting getting across the Aegean Sea. Of course an air trip would be quicker, but the point is that it’s a significant distance by land even today.

Paul was clearly setting a high importance on keeping church members informed!

Today the *Biblical Recorder*’s staff – Allan, Michael, Dianna and others – have taken the place of Tychicus and Onesimus. These contemporary communicators use different tools, but their purpose remains the same as it was for those first-century messengers.

Not much good news

These days Americans drown in information, yet you will rarely see news about missions or God at work on the secular six o’clock news shows, online services or blogs. Those editors are generally blind to spiritual events.

That’s why the *Biblical Recorder* is not just a nice option for North Carolina Baptists. It is an essential part of what they’re doing to impact the world.

Of course, the Internet allows web-savvy Baptists to access to vast numbers of Christian news sources, prayer guides newsletters and blogs. The *Recorder* highlights the best information available.

The prayer needs of missionaries, the progress on evangelizing an unreached people group, the needs in our county or state – this information and much more is just a few clicks away at BRnow.org.

God in the details

If you’re still just praying, “Lord, bless all the missionaries,” you can do better! By learning details about situations and circumstances in missions, your prayer life will be more personal and passionate.

When I learn that Christians in many countries around the world risk their lives to own and read the Bible but nevertheless are sure God’s Word is worth it, maybe I won’t leave my Bible on the shelf so much.

See Creswell page 13

Building unity and strengthening cooperation

Southern Baptists join hands and hearts together in our commitment to fulfill our Lord’s Great Commission. There is no limit to what we can accomplish if we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and living in obedience to His commands. Because we are imperfect people, we must find strength and unity within the body of Christ and cooperate together as a team if we are going to celebrate God-sized achievements.

We may not always move in unison because of our individuality and autonomy, but we can work in unity because of our mutual desire to reach the lost and disciple them. There will be occasions when we disagree with team members,

but we should not let those differences of opinion short-circuit cooperation or lead us to express critical comments about

our fellow workers in the Lord. If you are guilty of doing this, do you ever pause and consider your motive for sharing these condemnatory remarks with others? Surely, there are much better ways to work toward the resolution you are seeking.

Do you pray and ask God to intervene in situations that short-circuit cooperation and destroy synergy? It is amazing how the Holy Spirit will give wisdom and bring unity when individuals are willing to ask,

receptive to hear and willing to do what God is asking.

Cooperating in love with our team

members also plays an important part in protecting our Christian witness. I remember an occasion following a Baptist meeting when some individuals were telling me about their disagreement with a fellow ministry worker.

During this conversation, I became aware that an employee of the facility in which we were meeting was cleaning the room and could easily hear everything being said. I began to wonder if our Christian witness to this employee had been tarnished by the comments he had heard.

Hall of Fame college basketball coach John Wooden put together record-breaking teams at UCLA that not only won 10 national championships in a 12-year period, but also won 88 consecutive games and seven championships in a row. Wooden always taught his players

the meaning of teamwork and working together toward a common goal. Rather than accepting personal credit when the team won a game, he gave credit to the team because the players cooperated and helped each other achieve the victory. Wooden once said, “Much can be accomplished by teamwork when no one is concerned about who gets credit.”

As we pray and labor together, giving God all the glory for what He chooses to accomplish, His Spirit can work through us, and the power of sin will not have dominion over the Church. Winston Churchill once said, “When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you.” We must put God and others ahead of self and refuse to focus on differences that could divide us.

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” Psalm 133:1 **BR**



MICHAEL CRESWELL
Guest Column



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes



JIMMY TANNER

JIMMY TANNER has been called as pastor of Murphy First Baptist Church. He previously served at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, Suches, Ga., as senior pastor.

Emmanuel Baptist Church in Indian Trail has called **BRIAN FAHRENKROG** as pastor. Fahrenkrog previously served as the associate pastor. Before his ministry in North Carolina he was youth pastor at First Baptist Church, Morrisonville, Ill.

By JENNIFER CARTER | Baptist Press

The 2014 edition of GuideStone's annual Tax Return Preparation and Federal Reporting Guide is now available.

The guide provides both active and retired ministers step-by-step help in understanding the latest tax laws, along with sample tax forms to assist them in preparing their 2013 federal tax returns.

This year's edition contains a special supplement addressing key points of the recent housing allowance ruling. Also, church treasurers and other church leaders can refer to the guide's special section about important federal requirements for churches. The guide was written once again by Richard Hammar, a noted CPA, attorney and widely published author who specializes in legal and tax issues for ministers. Additionally, the material is edited by GuideStone's compliance staff

GuideStone releases 2014 tax guide



O.S. HAWKINS

O.S. Hawkins said.

"From late changes to tax law to challenges to the housing allowance, ministerial tax issues grow more complicated each year."

Hawkins considers it a "joy and a privilege for GuideStone to stand alongside the ministers we represent and provide

to address the tax issues that affect the greatest number of Southern Baptist pastors.

"This year, it's particularly important for ministers to have access to this useful resource," GuideStone president



solid counsel from a trusted source.

"Each year so many pastors tell us how thankful they are for this guide and how much it helps them navigate the unique ministerial tax laws," Hawkins said.

The tax guide can be obtained in PDF format at www.GuideStone.org/TaxGuide.

GuideStone participants can order a free printed copy by calling (888) 98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CST Monday through Friday.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Jennifer Carter is manager of brand editorial at GuideStone Financial Resources.) **BR**

Submissions

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

Creswell

Continued from page 12

When I learn that half of our Southern Baptist missionaries overseas serve in places so dangerous they cannot even be named in public, I begin to understand why they are so persistent in asking for prayer support.

When I learn about our North American missionaries sharing the gospel with gun-toting, drug-addicted gang members in Los Angeles, I begin to actually see the need to pray for them.

When I learn that some of our North Carolina church planters are going into places I would be afraid to visit in our state's growing urban centers, I want to give more to support them. When I get a picture of what missions today really is, I have a greater appreciation for what those first-century Christians endured to share the faith we take for granted.

When being informed precedes our giving, going and praying, we will accomplish more.

Having both a biblical and global context gives us a spiritual GPS as we seek to live out our faith in ways that honor the Lord.

God's stuff is good

Being informed takes a little time and effort – maybe a few more clicks of the mouse – but there's another payoff. Stories about lives being redeemed and refashioned by God are some of the greatest, most exciting stories in the world.

A criminal commits a crime? That's old stuff. It happens all the time. But when a criminal enters into a relationship with Jesus Christ, transforms his life and becomes a meaningful part of society – that's real news.

If you don't believe God is active in

the world today, maybe you haven't heard what He did just this morning.

If you have trouble believing God is everywhere, maybe you have not tracked reports on what He's doing on every continent.

Secular news outlets will tell you about China.

They'll tell you about trade and tourism and problems. But they're not likely to tell you about the 10,000 Chinese who become Christians every month or that China is one of the greatest harvest fields for the Christian faith in history.

They won't tell you about the five house group church groups Southern Baptists relate to or how all five of these groups are already bigger than the entire SBC.

TV "reality" shows are shallow and empty when compared to inspiring stories of people risking their lives or public ridicule to follow Jesus. "Reality" without a spiritual dimension is not reality!

Get informed and you will pray with greater understanding, depth and intensity. You will go on mission assignments more often, with more commitment and a greater understanding of why.

Be an informed Baptist and you will give more sacrificially and understand that financing missions is an integral part of partnering with God.

So, Baptists, get busy! Subscribe to the *Biblical Recorder* and read all about it! Read the printed copy, the online digital copy and website *BRnow.org*.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Michael Creswell is the Cooperative Program consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.) **BR**



March 23

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

March 30

Put Your Money to Work

Focal Passages: 2 Corinthians 8:10-15; 9:1-5

In our last lesson we considered the importance of Kingdom giving. In this lesson we will develop a plan that will put us on course to make Kingdom giving a priority.

There are numerous ways to develop a plan for Kingdom giving; however, I would like to offer my personal approach to handling God's money. First, I take the sum total of my salary for the month, before taxes. From that amount I set aside 10 percent of the total to be given to my local church. I know we are no longer under the Old Testament law as it relates to tithing, but the 10 percent gives me a practical starting point for allocating funds to Kingdom giving. It is important to understand that God is more interested in your attitude about giving than He is your percentage of giving. The minute your giving becomes legalistic or even ritual it is time for a reevaluation of your heart.

After I set my tithe amount, I make sure I can pay my taxes. Once my taxes are funded I allocate the rest of my in-

come into different spending categories (food, housing, auto, etc.). Basically, it is the old envelope system, but I use an online version called Mvelopes.

Once everything is budgeted out I strive to underspend my budget category. If I have surplus at the end of the month I can use it for helping others in need as the Apostle Paul directed in 2 Corinthians 8:14. He writes, *"your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need."*

There are many times unexpected expenditures occur that bust my budget. When that occurs I don't give up on the process.

I continue to follow the steps of good biblical stewardship, and God always seems to provide. In fact, I am amazed at how generous God is to me on a daily basis. It is like the old farmer said, "I keep shoveling into God's bin, and God keeps shoveling back into mine, and God has the bigger shovel."

Focal Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:6-13

Do you want to make God happy? If you answered yes, listen to this verse: *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or*

under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7, ESV). It is evident that the implication for this verse is that a cheerful giver makes God happy. Have you ever considered why a cheerful giver makes God happy? I would like to suggest four reasons.

First, the attitude with which you give is an indicator of what is occurring in your heart. When a person gives with a cheerful heart it means they see giving as a privilege and not a burden. When a person gives begrudgingly it means he does not understand who his true source of income is.

Second, cheerful givers are a conduit of God's blessings, not a clog. When you give in God's name for God's pur-

poses you are the channel by which God impacts the lives of others. When you are stingy with God's resources you rob people of God's blessing.

Third, a cheerful giver reflects God's character better than someone who gives begrudgingly. When a believer gives cheerfully it provides a clearer picture of what God is like than someone who gives with a reluctant spirit. Throughout scripture God is extremely generous. When we ignore His Word and don't model God's nature through our giving we do God a disservice and detract from His true beauty.

Finally, God loves a cheerful giver because it gives Him cause to bless the giver. The Bible says, *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him..."* (2 Chronicles 16:9). I believe God is looking for people to bless, and when His people respond in obedience to His Word with a pure heart, He takes great joy in blessing them.

Will you join me in making God happy? I believe it is a decision you will never regret. Start this week by giving with a cheerful heart.



BARTLEY WOOTEN
Pastor, Beulaville Baptist Church, Beulaville

March 23

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

March 30

Guard Your Speech

Focal Passages: Proverbs 17:27-28; 21:23; 18:19-21; 11:13; 26:20-24; 10:18-19; 12:17-19; 25:11-13; 31:8-9

When I was a child one of the songs we sang in church warned, "Oh be careful little mouth what you speak." The tongue, because of the words it speaks, has the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). We could compare it to a large crane that can be equipped with a wrecking ball for destructive purposes or with a hook for constructive purposes. First Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to *"encourage one another and build each other up."* Unlike the three little pigs, we can't build with straw, sticks or bricks. Even kind thoughts and hugs won't truly build up fellow Christians; we must use carefully chosen words. Just as a reputable carpenter wouldn't nail up the first board he could find simply because it was on the top of the stack, we must sort through all the things we could say and build up the body of Christ with edifying words. Too often believers blurt out thoughtless words and try to justify them because they somehow delivered the truth. While

such words technically get the job done, they could be compared to tacks driven by a sledgehammer. The harm clearly outweighs the good.

Gossip, while usually is built on hearsay, can also be made up of truths that simply don't need to be repeated. Although Christians may be wrongly accused of gossip because they expose hidden sin, often they unwittingly contribute to gossip by not concealing a matter (Proverbs 11:13) that needs to die for the good of God's people. This error may involve private sins that don't need to be made public, or known matters than bring greater hurt and dissension when they are repeated. On the farm we learned a valuable lesson pertaining to all things rotten: the more you stir them, the more they stink!

As people redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we must remember that our new hearts should produce new, redemptive words that give grace to their hearers (Ephesians 4:29) and display the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 2:20).

Focal Passages: Proverbs 13:4; 14:23; 20:4; 24:30-34; 26:13-14; 28:19; 6:6-8; 10:5; 14:4; 21:20; 24:27; 27:23-27; 11:24-25; 19:17; 22:9; 28:27

A few years ago I noticed that the Bible has nothing good to say about laziness. As many people in my generation have demonstrated, laziness can become a lifestyle. Solomon reminds us that this problem is not new: *"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest, and your poverty will come like a robber, your need, like a bandit"* (Proverbs 24:33-34). A seminary professor once warned our class that people who seek to avoid one ditch often end up in the ditch on the opposite side of the road. For example,

Christians who want to avoid living like their works will earn them God's favor may be tempted to avoid work altogether. Similarly, Christians who embrace the "You can't take it with you!" approach to avoiding materialism, may neglect biblical stewardship of their money and pos-



TROY RUST
Pastor, Florence Avenue Baptist Church, Oxford

Don't Be a Slacker

sessions. We must faithfully manage even the temporary tools we will leave behind.

Solomon reminded the slacker that hard work is part of life, even for the ant. Ants not only work hard, they work wisely. I come from a line of ancestors who sometimes were known to work an hour to figure out how to save five minutes. While that choice probably seemed like a waste of 55 minutes to many people, they knew that five minutes saved on a process repeated hundreds of times would pay off quickly. Even though ants have no supervisors (as we think of them), they do the right work at the right time to prepare (Proverbs 6:6-8).

Financial author and radio host Dave Ramsey encourages his readers and listeners to "Live like no one else, so you can live like no one else." He frequently follows that statement with the explanation that people who work hard and work smart can get out of debt and give like never before. Christians who give generously will continue to give, and the ones who hoard will never have enough (Proverbs 11:24). God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), so let us not be slack in our generosity.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Denominational

Woman's Missionary Union of NC seeks an **Executive Director/Treasurer**. Must be mature in faith, experienced in WMU and an active member in a Christian church. Skills required; strong written and oral communication, ability to motivate and network, complex budget management, staff supervision, technology proficiency. Master's degree preferred. Send resume with cover letter: WMUNC.edt@gmail.com or mail to Kimberly Overton, WMU NC, PO Box 18309, Raleigh, NC 27619-8309. Deadline: March 31st.

Pastor

Senior Pastor. South Main Street Baptist Church, Greenwood, South Carolina, is prayerfully seeking our next senior pastor. We are excited to live life together as we let our light shine for His glory. South Main is a church committed to Christ, The Word of The Lord, His Great Commission and our community. Check us out: www.smsbc.org. Resumes: South Main Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1093, Greenwood, SC 29648, or smsbc.psc@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is April 15, 2014.

First Baptist Church of Whitnel, Lenoir, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor** for a mission-minded SBC church whose services are totally traditional with traditional music. Candidates should have five or more years of experience and Bible College or Seminary training. We are seeking a caring individual who is gifted in visitation to the sick and bereaved, strong in pastoral care and deeply concerned for the lost. Send resumes to First Baptist Church of Whitnel, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 2999, Lenoir, NC 28645, by April 10.

Nashville (NC) Baptist Church seeks energetic, ordained **Senior Pastor** with special skills in outreach and ongoing ministries for children. Must be seminary graduate with enthusiasm to build on current average attendance of 100. Please send resume to Nashville Baptist Church, 512 E. Washington St., Nashville, NC 27856 (Attn: Search Committee).

Conway Baptist Church, Conway, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We're a conservative mission's minded, SBC aligned church and member of the West Chowan Baptist Association. We're a small rural community church with an attendance of approximately 100-125 members and guests. Both men and women serve in leadership roles, including deacons. We have a strong children's and youth ministry. We're looking for a pastor who can communicate and foster relationships with all ages. We desire a pastor with vision; a great communicator and teacher, a leader who challenges comfort zones, who motivates and coaches believers to serve in different positions within the church, a catalyst for growth in our relationships with Christ. We've maintained close relationships with other local churches within and outside our denomination and share services with them during special holiday celebrations and we work closely together doing community missions work. The incoming pastor should be willing to maintain these relationships. We desire a pastor who loves his job and goes beyond just reaching the saved by reaching out to the unchurched and unsaved. It is preferred that the incoming pastor has five years successful pastorate experience and has a master of divinity degree. Send letters of interest and resumes to: Conway Baptist Church, (attn. Pastor Search Committee), P.O. BOX 160, Conway, NC 27820, or you can email us at cbc1905@yahoo.com.

Eastside Baptist Church, Shelby, N.C., is prayerfully seeking a **full-time pastor** that God has chosen to lead and shepherd our congregation of 250+ active members in blended worship. Eastside Baptist Church is a member of the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. We are seeking a pastor who believes in the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. Our church prefers a pastor with a minimum of five years pastoral experience and a Master's degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school. Send letter of interest and resume to Attn: Pastor Search Team at officeebc@carolina.rr.com or 1165 Wyke Rd., Shelby, NC 28150.

Church Staff

Student Ministry Leader Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC, is currently looking for a **part-time Student Ministry Leader** for the discipleship of our middle and high school age students. Resumes will be accepted through April 15, 2014, and may be sent to dbryant@sbcgreensboro.org.

Calvary Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC, has a **part-time Worship Leader/Choir Director** position currently available. Duties would include planning and leading blended worship services, directing choir and working with the praise band. Must have a strong commitment to serve our Lord through music. Experience preferred, but not required. For more information on Calvary go to www.calvarygastonia.com. Resumes can be sent to Calvary Baptist Church, 3001 South York Road, Gastonia, NC 28052, or emailed to cacalvarybaptist@carolina.rr.com.

Missions Mobilizer Intern (paid). First Baptist Church of Burlington, NC, a congregation in friendly cooperation with the SBC and the CBF, is seeking a mission mobilizer intern. We are seeking a student in his/her first or second year of divinity school/seminary education who has a clearly defined sense of calling to this area of ministry. This intern works under the supervision of the Senior Pastor. Resumes can be sent to Missions Mobilizer Intern Search Team, P.O. Box 2686, Burlington, NC 27216.

Associate Pastor of Worship and Music. Lawndale Baptist Church of Greensboro, N.C., is seeking an experienced and dynamic Associate Pastor of Worship and Music. This is a full-time position with salary, supporting staff and benefits. Lawndale Baptist Church is a growing 2,500 member Southern Baptist church located in the beautiful Piedmont area of NC. The campus includes a 2,300 seat worship center, a 150 seat Chapel, and a large multi-purpose Christian Life Center. Our worship services feature both Traditional and Contemporary. We welcome visits to our website @ www.lawndalebaptist.org. Send resumes or inquiries to: Lawndale Baptist Church, 3505 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27408, or email to jthomas@lawndalebaptist.org.

Spring Branch Baptist Church, Dunn NC, seeks (part-time with potential of full-time) **Youth and Children's Minister**. Must have passion for outreach, teaching, worship, be organized, communicate well with youth and children and have ability to work within a team structure. Send resume to: sbbc@intrstar.net.

Youth Ministry Intern (paid). First Baptist Church of Burlington, NC, a congregation in friendly cooperation with the SBC and the CBF, is seeking a youth ministry intern. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and also a strong sense of calling to youth ministry. Inquiries should be made to pastor@firstbaptistburlington.com. Resumes can be sent to Youth Ministry Intern Search Team, P.O. Box 2686, Burlington, NC 27216.

Mountain Grove Baptist (Hickory) seeks a **Minister of Education: Youth and Families**. The position is part-time, 30 hours/week. Send resume to seloftis@yahoo.com or 6156 Mountain Grove Road, Hickory, NC 28602.

Mintz BC and Mintz Christian Academy, Roseboro, N.C., seeking **full-time Minister of Youth and Minister of Music**, one or combined position. Will consider part-time. If interested, contact Pastor McBride (910) 564-2690 or 564-6500.

Small multiple sited church seeks an **administrator** to plan, develop and implement organizational systems. Responsibilities include management of finances, maintenance, communications, membership and procurement. Send resumes to Elders@nlacc.org.

Miscellaneous

BALTIMORE CONVENTION. Choice Hotel accommodations – Embassy Suites, Hampton Inner Harbor. Washington D.C. motorcoach tours: Sunday or Thursday \$99. Lancaster, Pennsylvania post-convention trip. CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS (800) 972-8952; Christiantravelers.net; email: charlescooper34@att.net.

NCBAM has just a few spaces left for Faith Quest – a conference developed for ministers 65 and over. Call (877) 506-2226 to register for the March 25 conference in Winston-Salem.

Church pews: \$50/pew, light oak, various lengths, Triad Baptist Church, Kernersville, NC. Contact: Norm Dudley, (336) 996-1373.

For Sale. 1992 MCI 44 passenger Diesel Bus. Contact: Fort Trial Baptist Church, Stanleytown, Va.; (276) 629-2964.

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- Submit the information via the *Recorder's* website at BRnow.org.
- Send a Fax to (919) 469-1674.

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.

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY



Preparing North Carolina's leaders of tomorrow

- “One of the best regional universities in the South,” according to U.S. News & World Report
- Liberal arts university with graduate and professional degree programs in education, business, divinity, law, pharmacy, physician assistant studies, physical therapy and medicine
- Undergraduate nursing program coming in Fall 2014
- Only four-year degree in homeland security in North Carolina
- One of only 20 PGA Golf Management programs in the U.S.
- Only undergraduate trust and wealth management program in the U.S.
- Full-time undergraduate students eligible for the North Carolina Baptist Scholarship

www.campbell.edu



Established in 1887, Campbell is a comprehensive university that offers over 100 undergraduate majors and concentrations as well as graduate and professional degree programs. The University is comprised of seven schools: the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, Divinity School, School of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine.