



TRACK
STAR RUNS
'SPIRITUAL
RACE'
page 6



N.C. PASTORS' CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS, THEME
ANNOUNCED
page 4

BR BIBLICAL RECORORDER

MARCH 24, 2018 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 184 NO. 6 • **BRnow.org**



The worst thing we can do is ignore this place,” said Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville professor Andrew Theising. The quote comes from a discussion with St. Louis Public Radio about the East St. Louis riots that took place in July 1917. Lives and buildings were destroyed during the horrific events, and even now, 101 years later, the city is still trying to recover.

This is the home – and mission field – of Kempton and Caryn Turner.

A native of East St. Louis, Ill., Turner grew up on the streets where he now serves as a church planting missionary and pastor of City of Joy Fellowship.

The church was launched Sept. 18, 2016, with one mission: restoring hope to the city through Jesus

See Hope page 13

HOPE SHINES IN EAST ST. LOUIS

NAMB Communications

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering 2018 Week of Prayer missionary, Kempton Turner, left, moved from East St. Louis to Houston, Texas, to escape violence and gang threats; God brought him back to plant City of Joy Fellowship Church 25 years later. (North American Mission Board photo)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Allan Blume: Reflections on a visit to Israel	2
Milton Hollifield: Share the hope of the resurrection	3
Executive Committee approves scholarship funding	4
Gift of bldg sparks growth of Kentucky church plant ...	5
Danny Wood to be SBCPC nominee	7
Church security event teachers leaders	7
Calif. pastor A.B. Vines to be 1st VP nominee	8
Mike Cummings retires after 30 years	12
Women invited to 'embrace' NYC	15
Hemphill unveils campaign website	16
Two missionaries die in Congo	16
Pastors, planters and volunteers: Come to Vermont	19

How one mom's 'aha moment' became a multiplying outreach ministry

By **SETH BROWN** | *BR* Content Editor

What does it take to reach the nations with the gospel? Ashley Unzicker discovered that a sincere commitment to ethnic diversity and a little bit of everyday evangelism can go a long way.

On a warm day last year, a few dozen children from around the world played on the lawn of a Durham, N.C., apartment complex, tossing water balloons at one another and giggling with each splash. Their parents

watched in amusement. More kids hurried out to join the excitement. Many of those families came to the United States from nations torn by war, persecution or famine. They represent only a small fraction of more than 150,000 refugees in North Carolina's Triangle region from Somalia, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and other countries.

Unzicker saw the swelling crowd of migrants as an opportunity. "Oh my gosh," she thought, "we could share the gospel right now."

See Ministry page 3

Reflections on a visit to Israel

Through more than 40 years of ministry, I've heard the refrain from friends, "Every Christian should visit the Holy Land – especially pastors, teachers and church leaders." The Bible will come alive, they say. It's been on my wish list. At one time, my wife and I put it on our calendar, paid the deposit and prepared to go – until the tour company cancelled our plans due to intense political unrest at the time.

Last year I learned about a unique tour designed for pastors – abbreviated and reasonably priced. Steve Scoggins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, asked me to consider traveling with a group of mainly western North Carolina pastors that included some leaders of Fruitland

Baptist Bible College, two associational directors of missions and a few pastors outside our state.

In the third week of February, our group of 32 enjoyed a Holy Land trip together.

Everyone reading this who has toured the biblical locations in Israel knows very well the emotion and spiritual insight associated with this tour experience. It's hard to describe what it means to be on a boat on the Sea of Galilee or walk the streets of Capernaum, knowing that something recorded in scripture happened in this location nearly 2,000 years ago.

Our tour included Tiberias, Nazareth, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Qumran, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

At the top of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem stands the Church of the Pater Noster. The church is said to be built on the site of Jesus' teachings on the Lord's Prayer. On the grounds of the facility, the Lord's Prayer is displayed in more than 100 languages.

I thought about the nations for whom Jesus died – the peoples of the world – as I gazed on the many languages of the model prayer of our Lord: Cherokee, Welsh, Korean, Swaguku, Icelandic, Latvian, Spanish, Japanese and many languages I did not know existed.

We prayed at the Wailing Wall, saw the pool of Bethesda, walked inside the Garden Tomb and observed the Lord's Supper in the garden outside the tomb.

There is a lot of history to take in – not just biblical history, but the years since the early church, when different cultures and religious groups alternately took ownership of the region. Each left their mark on the region's varied architecture and valuable art. Some buildings were destroyed by conquerors but rebuilt in

a later period. Only a few have remained intact more than 1,000 years.

I paid attention to the culture in Israel and the West Bank. The scenes of both poverty and wealth are striking. The aggressive agriculture in the countryside and modern amenities in the cities do not go unnoticed.

News media often highlight security concerns in the region, but we did not see or experience anything that threatened our sense of well-being.

The food was great. The tour guides were the best. The weather was cool, but pleasant.

As you might expect, tourism is important to the economy of Israel, the West Bank and surrounding areas. Tour

buses in Israel are almost as plentiful as olive trees in the land. Our bus was often behind a line of other buses on small streets that were constructed at least a thousand years before the first bus was ever conceived. But somehow the skillful drivers maneuvered the narrow streets, kept traffic moving and got us to our destination on time – most of the time.

This year my Easter celebration of our Lord's resurrection will be different. I will remember walking the Via Dolorosa, praying in the garden where Jesus prayed and walking inside the empty tomb.

I am thankful that Steve Scoggins invited me to join this great group of brothers. I appreciate the excellent planning and facilitating provided by Quest Travel Group of Atlanta, Ga.

In the four days we toured Israel, I encountered five other groups from North Carolina that included two associational missionaries, a retired seminary professor, several pastors and some lay leaders I knew. I also connected with a pastor at one of our Baptist churches in New England and his wife, whose wedding I conducted more than 30 years ago.

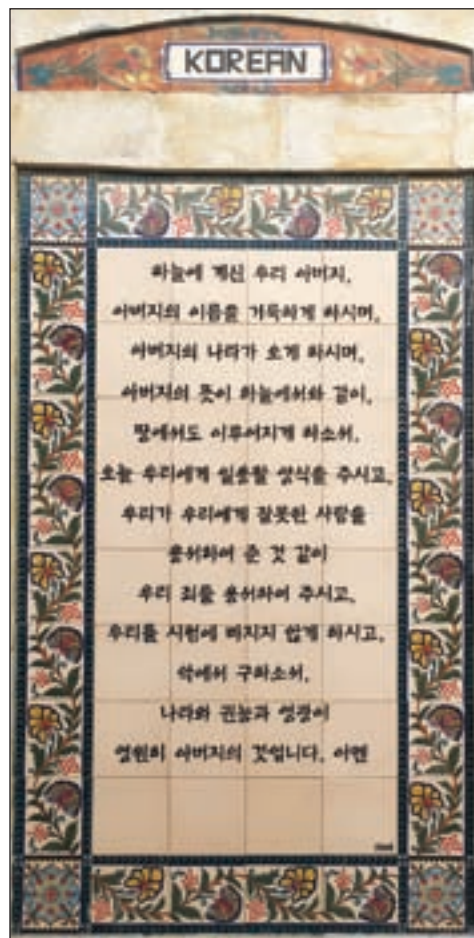
Obviously, the Holy Land is a very popular place to visit. That caused me to consider ways the *Biblical Recorder* might encourage church-sponsored tours to biblical sights.

Some pastors lead a tour group every year. Initially a strong sign-up is common, but a few seats may remain open for a long time. We would like to help fill those seats, and we want to encourage believers to put a Holy Land tour high on your priority list.

Given the spiritual value of such trips, in the next edition of the *Recorder* we will outline a plan to launch a special advertising section for tours organized by North Carolina Baptist churches,



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor



The Lord's Prayer is displayed in more than 100 languages in the Church of the Pater Noster on the Mount of Olives in Israel. (BR photos by K. Allan Blume)

Baptist church leaders or affiliated N.C. Baptist organizations. The tours must be for sights related to biblical locations or places of historical significance to the Christian faith.

These will include groups traveling to the Holy Land, the churches of Asia, Oberammergau and historical sights related to Christian trailblazers such as Luther, Zwingli or Knox.

The cost of advertising will be much lower than anything we have previously

offered. It will be a great value for tour groups. We understand that professional travel companies will be the primary organizers of most tour groups, but a N.C. Baptist connection is essential. The *Biblical Recorder* is supported by cooperating N.C. Baptist churches, so we want to help these churches and entities have a successful tour group.

The tomb is empty! He is not here, He is risen! Celebrate His victory – our victory. He is alive! **BR**

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina

Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

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

Seth Brown, Content Editor
(919) 459-5697; seth@brnow.org

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

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

Laura Crowther
Editorial Aide

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

Carly Conley
Graphic Designer

Volume 184 No. 6
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 467-6180
BRnow.org

Board of Directors: Nate Jones, chair; Tony Honeycutt, vice chair; Angela Brady, secretary; David Clary, treasurer; Kevin Atchley; Frankie Gordon; Lisa Harris; Gerald Hodges; Todd Houston; Cindy D. Jennings; Dan Meyer; Frank Norwood; Jim Pennington Jr.; Donna Robinson; Donnie Seagle; Meredith Snoddy; Marilyn Thurman; Aaron Wallace; Tammy Weeks; and Keith Whitfield

Subscriptions

- Individual subscriptions, \$15.99 (one year); \$27.99 (two years); \$39.99 (three years)
- Bulk Plan, \$11.50
- Club Plan, \$13.50
- Family Plan, \$12.50
- Single copies, .60 cents each

Payable in advance. N.C. sales tax is included.
Digital rates: \$5.99 (one year); \$10.99 (two years); \$15.99 (three years).

Publication

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

Postmaster

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

Share the hope of the resurrection

In the coming days, the world will recognize and celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. While Easter is a day of joy and celebration of Christ's victory over sin, death and hell for believers, for those who don't know Christ, it can be a season marked by questions or confusion about what it truly means to have a personal relationship with the risen Christ.

With more than 5.8 million lost people living in North Carolina, Easter provides a tremendous opportunity to proclaim what Christianity is all about both personally and corporately in our worship services leading up to Easter Sunday.

Many living among us right here in our state have little or no religious background, or they are from a different faith or religious background, or they may be indifferent toward the gospel and Christianity. However, during the Easter season people are generally more open and receptive to hearing and learning about Christ's life, death, burial and resurrection, and why we as followers of Him place so much emphasis on the resurrection.

I pray that we as North Carolina Baptists would be sensitive to those that God brings across our paths and sensitive to leading of the Holy Spirit in engaging them in gospel conversations.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Consider inviting friends, family members or coworkers to Easter services at your church. We know that during the Easter or Christmas season people who are unchurched are more open to attending church services than at any other time of the year. Simply inviting someone to attend an Easter service with you is a great start to beginning an ongoing dialogue about Christ.

Pastors and church leaders, pray that God would bring those who don't yet know Him to your church on Easter Sunday. Strongly encourage your congregation to invite their family, friends or neighbors to attend. Begin making plans now for an influx of guests, and encourage your members, volunteers and staff to do all they can to create a warm and welcoming environment to your church. And pastors, I will be asking God to help you present the gospel with clarity and conviction.



Petition the Holy Spirit to begin even now to work in the hearts of unbelievers and pray that they would respond to the proclamation of God's Word in faith and repentance.

I would enjoy reading an email from you telling me about the great things God did through your church family during this special season. My email address is mhollifield@ncbaptist.org.

As we look forward to Easter Sunday, remember and reflect on the glorious grace that we have been given and eternal life that we have been granted because of Christ's work on our behalf and in our place. To God be the glory!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy and has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"
— 1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV). **BR**

Ministry Continued from page 1

Unzicker called the group together and began to tell them about the Good News from a chapter in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, a book by Sally Lloyd-Jones.

Unzicker's aha moment – the sudden realization she could tell her foreign-born friends about Jesus on an average summer afternoon – was a turning point for her and the birth of a multiplying ministry.

What had begun as an attempt to increase the ethnic diversity of her friend group, eventually became a weekly outreach ministry to migrants called "The Yard."

It has grown to include more than 60 regular volunteers and even spun off a similar initiative at another apartment complex.

Ethnic diversity fuels missional outreach

Four years earlier, Unzicker had come away from a conference session on ethnic diversity with a clear conviction.

"Do all of your friends look like you?" the speaker, Trillia Newbell, had asked. "If so, you need to change something."

Over dinner that night, the answer became obvious to Unzicker. All of her friends were white women in the same stage of life.

"I knew something had to change," she said.

Her commitment to diversity was sharpened into a missional strategy the following year when she travelled to New York City's "Little Pakistan" with a church group. The neighborhood is known for its Muslim immigrant and refugee population.

The group's evangelistic method was simple, and Unzicker began to see how it could fit into everyday life.

"I'm just going to parks here and meeting refugees," she thought. "Why can't I do this at home?"

She contacted a local refugee aid agency when she returned to North Carolina.

"I have three kids," Unzicker told the aid workers. "I'm not able to do much, but I would love to be a friend to a migrant family."

They connected her with a family of Afghan refugees.

She spent more than a year getting to know the mother of the family, but they eventually moved to another part of the U.S.

Unzicker was saddened to see her friend relocate, but eager to continue reaching out to migrants.

Another friend introduced her to a former Muslim Egyptian woman who regularly visited Syrian refugees living in an apartment complex in Durham.

Unzicker asked if she and her kids could tag along. She wanted to learn more about Middle Eastern culture and make some new friends.

Communicating with Arabic speakers was difficult, but the presence of her children was a surprising benefit.

"My kids became friends with their kids," she said, "and their kids starting learning English."

The weekly playdates went so well that Unzicker wanted to have a larger get-together with several families from the apartment complex.

That is when she decided to prepare



Ashley Unzicker displays pictures from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* to children at a Durham apartment complex. She began by taking things she would do with her children and planning for them on a larger scale at the complex. Anything from story time to water balloons, Unzicker is using this ministry to reach refugees in her area. (Contributed photo)

more than 500 water balloons for an afternoon of fun.

Simple, reproducible ministry

The impromptu gospel-centered storytime that day was a hit, so Unzicker decided to make it a regular feature of their visits.

She also began to recruit volunteers for help with games and lessons. Leaders at The Summit Church lent support to the ministry by providing supplies and helping with volunteer coordination.

A Summit Church leader said they want to be "catalytic" for the ministry. The church dedicated one of its yearly "ServeRDU" projects to Unzicker's apartment initiative. More than 300 volunteers served immigrants and refugees that week.

The one-on-one connections made at those events foster close relationships between Summit members and migrants. Many migrants feel unwelcome and isolated until they learn the language and find work, according to refugee aid

agencies. One volunteer visits a specific family each week, helping them learn English and grow accustomed to life in America. She was also able to help the father secure a job.

"It has been great to see people in the homes of refugees," Unzicker said.

Another volunteer decided to replicate the outreach in a nearby neighborhood.

Unzicker is excited to see the ministry multiply, and she hopes other churches and Christian groups will think creatively about how to reach the international people groups living in U.S. cities.

It's doable, she said, even for a mom of three.

"It just takes relocating the everyday activities I already do with my kids, as simple as going to the park."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Seth Brown is content editor for the Biblical Recorder, news journal for North Carolina Baptists, and a member of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's 2018 Leadership Council. This article first appeared at ERLC.com. Used by permission.) **BR**

N.C. Pastors' Conference announces 2018 theme, speakers

BR staff

Matt Capps, president of the 2018 North Carolina Baptist Pastors' Conference (NCPC), has announced the "expositional theme" of this year's event: "7 Churches of Revelation." The conference will take place Nov. 4-5 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C., coinciding with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's annual meeting.

Seven speakers will preach from passages in Revelation 2-3 that correspond with Jesus' well-known "letters to the churches in Asia" in the ancient cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

In a statement on the conference website, Capps said God has issued a "clarion call to the entire church" in these passages, noting their relevance for the modern church.

"These letters are sober reminders of the importance of defending biblical doc-



trine and the impact of devoted doxological witness," said Capps, who serves as pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, N.C.

"[They] are both comforting and convicting. There is comfort in knowing that Christ walks among the seven churches and is intimately involved in

our fruitfulness. At the same time, there is a call to faithfulness that should bolster our desire to minister in a way that is aligned with God's call to all churches between the ascension and second coming," Capps said in an email to the *Biblical Recorder*.

The speaker lineup includes Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham and candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte; Thabiti Anyabwile,

pastor of Anacostia River Church in Washington, D.C.; Tony Merida, pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh; K. Marshall Williams, pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia; and Chris Griggs, pastor of Denver Baptist Church and NCPC vice president.

Visit ncpastorsconference.com to register for the event. The first 500 registrants will receive free books and other resources at event check-in, according to Capps. Registration is free.

"We are asking all the attendees to register this year so that we can communicate before and after the conference. Not only will the sponsors offer special deals on ministry resources, we will also make the conference sermon videos available online," he said.

Sponsors include Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, The Christian Standard Bible, The Gospel Project, The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, *Biblical Recorder* and more.

"I am thankful for our sponsors," said Capps.

"Because of their partnership, I am praying that the majority of the money taken up in our two offering times will go towards North Carolina Baptist missions efforts." **BR**

Executive Committee approves scholarship funding

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

The Executive Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) voted to transfer \$250,000 to the N.C. Baptist Foundation to support the Luther H. Butler Scholarship for N.C. Baptist Students during a meeting held Fri., March 2 at Caraway Conference Center.

The funds will come from a BSC reserve fund that receives payments from church loans that were previously managed by the state convention.

In 2015, the BSC Board of Directors voted to transfer oversight of the convention's scholarship program to the N.C. Baptist Foundation, which resulted in the establishment of the Luther H. Butler scholarship program. The transfer in oversight meant that Cooperative Program funds would no longer be used to fund scholarships, so as part of the decision, the board agreed to provide funding as available from existing reserves to help grow the scholarship endowment.

The endowment provides funding for the Luther H. Butler Scholarship for N.C. Baptist Students, which offers merit and need-based scholarships to students of N.C. Baptist churches attending one of the universities historically affiliated with the convention, which include Campbell, Chowan, Gardner-Webb, Mars Hill and Wingate.

In other business, BSC Board President Marc Francis, pastor of Ridgecrest

Baptist Church in Durham, re-appointed board member John Compton as chairman of the Articles and Bylaws Committee and board member Jeff Isenhour as chairman of the Budget Committee.

Compton serves as pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Hickory, and Isenhour serves as pastor of Arran Lake Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

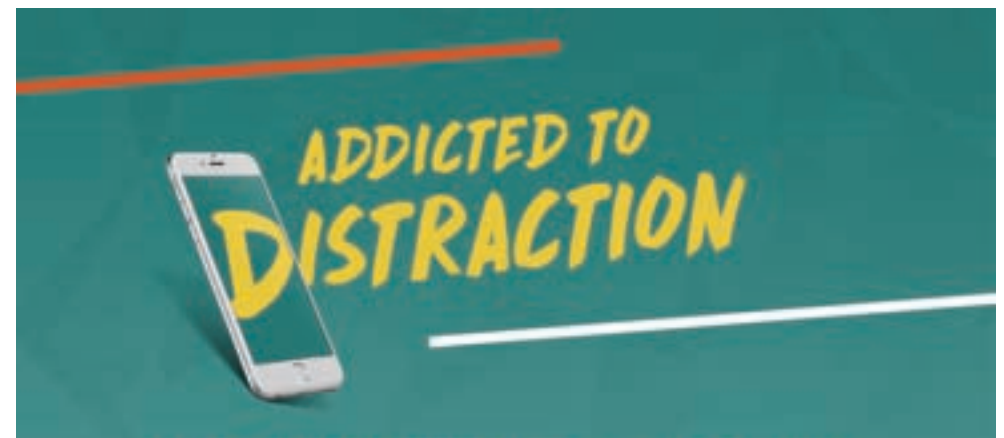
Francis also appointed Gregory Shaver, executive pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Monroe, to the Articles and Bylaws Committee, and board member Terry Stockman to the Budget Committee.

Stockman serves as director of missions in the West Chowan Baptist Association.

Convention bylaws allow the board president to appoint the chairmen of the Articles and Bylaws Committee, and the Budget Committee, respectively, as well as appoint one board member and one non-board member to each committee.

Beverly Volz, BSC director of accounting services, also provided a financial report to the Executive Committee.

Through the end of January, the convention had received slightly more than \$2 million in Cooperative Program (CP) receipts, which is about 16 percent behind the 2018 budget to date. Volz explained that CP giving totals are lower so far in 2018 because of how the convention bylaws stipulate that end-of-year funds must be received.



2018 FALL RETREAT AT CASWELL

October 19-21 | November 9-11

Today's generation is the first to be more connected yet growing more distant. Always online, yet complaining of constant boredom. How does this affect your spiritual walk? Join us as we discuss the things that pull us away from who we are really made to be.



Garrett Wagoner
Student Associate, Evangelism
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention



BE-DO-TELL



MORE INFO & REGISTRATION

CONTACT FORT CASWELL AT (910) 278-9501 TO REGISTER OR VISIT WWW.BEDOTELL.COM. \$155 PER PERSON, INCLUDES RETREAT MATERIALS, LODGING AND FOUR MEALS.

See Funding page 16

Gift of building sparks growth of Kentucky church plant

By TOBIN PERRY | NAMB

Most pastors wouldn't consider it a landmark day when a fire destroys a church's office space and future ministry hub.

But Kenny Rager does.

In May 2016, a fire ravaged the storefront offices that Life Community Church in Owensboro, Ky., had hoped to turn into a space for local student ministry efforts. Although the five-year-old church plant met at a local community college for worship services, the loss of office space could have been devastating.

"It felt like our future was taken from us," Rager said. "Little did we know that God was going to use a fire not to take away our future but to give us a future."

Churches throughout Owensboro contacted Life Community to see how they could help the four-year-old church plant. One of those churches was Hall Street Baptist Church, which offered to let Life Community use part of their building as temporary office space.

Hall Street was clearly in decline. For three months, the gifts Life Community gave to the church in gratitude literally kept the lights on.

That's when Hall Street leaders came to Rager with an offer. The 108-year-old

Hall Street Baptist Church was dissolving and wanted to give its building to Life Community at no cost.

At first, Rager turned it down. Instead, he wanted to help Hall Street restructure and restart. But the Hall Street leadership was ready to pass on the building and move on.

Not only did Hall Street give the young church plant a sanctuary that held 600 people but also a 15-year-old Christian Life Center that included a full-size basketball court. After a little more than a year in the building, the church has grown from 200 regular attendees to 300.

Mark Clifton, the senior director of replanting for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), says Life Community's story illustrates a larger trend in Southern Baptist life.

"The story of replanting churches in North America is an answer to the prayers of so many Christians," Clifton said. "For years, we've been praying that God would resurrect dying churches. That's what we're seeing as dying churches like Hall Street hand off their buildings to new church plants like Life Community. In my lifetime I've never seen growing, healthy churches demonstrate such a passion for helping struggling churches."



Kenny and Taran Rager, at right, prepare for Life Community Church in Owensboro, Ky., to celebrate its fourth birthday. Above left, members of Life Community were given a piece of a puzzle, which they put together as a church. When finished, the puzzle displayed a photo of the church with the words, "Hope Restored" on it.

"It has to be an answer to prayer."

Last year alone, NAMB identified 135 churches involved in a replanting process, but that number is likely just a fraction of the real total. Clifton says NAMB doesn't have a complete picture of how many churches are involved in replanting today. In fact, Clifton didn't hear about Life Community's story until early 2018.

Nearly 1,000 Southern Baptist churches drop off the SBC database each year, many because they are closing their doors forever. Without a strategic replanting process in mind, many of these congregations would give or sell their properties to other local establishments – from worship halls for other faiths to bars and restaurants.

Clifton believes this is tragic.

"The church is today, more than ever, a bulwark of truth," Clifton said. "We need every church. We can't lose them. God is using replanting to make sure this happens."

This is why Paul Chitwood, executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC), helps churches like Life Community throughout the replanting process.

"Our KBC staff was also blessed to assist when the growing Life Community congregation began conversations with Hall Street Baptist Church about the Hall Street property being given over to Life Community," Chitwood said. "It was a beautiful picture of the kind of sacrificial generosity that allowed the resources of a struggling church to remain in the Baptist family and be used to richly bless a young, growing church. Now in the hands of Life Community, the Hall Street property has once again become a thriving force for the gospel in Owensboro. We hope to see more sacrificial gifts like this one rather than church buildings being abandoned or sold."

Local associations, state conventions and NAMB all play a role in helping dying



churches either find new life as a congregation, merge with a healthy church, become a campus of a larger church or, as in the case of Hall Street Baptist Church, pass on their building to a new church plant.

But no matter which avenue a church goes down, replanting begins with a struggling church making a courageous decision.

"Replanting starts with a church's realization that they can no longer do ministry as they've been doing it and expect new results," said Bob Bickford, NAMB's associate director of replanting. "It's not about a program or a study or a new promotional piece sent out to the community. It's not about inviting people to come to a church for a program or a service or an event. It's about a church being honest before God and saying what we've been doing hasn't been working."

NAMB provides a number of resources to help raise the visibility of replanting throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, including a new podcast hosted by Clifton and LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer. Each episode of "Revitalize and Replant" focuses on a different issue facing those involved in the replanting process. Past topics have included: the characteristics of an effective church replanter, unseen signs of a declining church and how to organize a replant.

"Our role nationally is to connect all the dots," Clifton said. "We're showing what God is doing through replanting and changing the old narrative – that dying churches are bad places to avoid. Dying churches are great places to go to and great places for God's glory to be seen. We also do what we can to train state conventions and local associations to contextualize replanting in their area."

For more information about NAMB's church replanting efforts, visit namb.net/church-replanting. **BR**

“A REPLANT IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO RUN AWAY FROM. GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW IN SOMETHING OLD.”

Mark Clifton | Revitalize & Replant Podcast with Thom Rainer



Learn more at
RevitalizeAndReplant.com

Track star runs ‘spiritual race’

Sanya Richards-Ross has completed the 400-meter dash faster than any other American woman. At the 2012 Olympic Games, she became the second American woman in history competing in the 400 meter race to be crowned an Olympic Champion, and the first American woman in nearly three decades.

Richards-Ross is the second most decorated female track and field

Olympian ever, but that is not all. She is also a public speaker, philanthropist, entrepreneur and television personality. She founded the Sanya Richards-Ross Fast Track Program in Kingston, Jamaica, which provides children with literacy training, physical education and healthy meals. And her sports clinics are meant to empower young people with the necessary skills to succeed in life, both on and off the track.

Roman Gabriel III spoke with Richards-Ross about her new book, competing in the Olympics and faith. Below is an edited transcript.



ROMAN GABRIEL III
Sports Q & A

Q: In 2017 you published your first book, *Chasing Grace, What the quarter mile has taught me about God and life.* Would you tell us about that experience?

A: Actually, I have two versions, *Chasing Grace* for adults and *Run with Me*, which is for kids ages 8-12. I was so excited, so happy. I waited until my career was over, because writing a book takes a lot of work. It was such a great journey to fully explore all of my experiences and to figure out what were the most important moments I wanted to share with the world to hopefully inspire other people to do great things.

Q: Can you talk about the biblical metaphor that describes how our spiritual journeys are like a race?

A: Absolutely, I think it is biggest takeaway from the book. As a young person, I was always chasing something. Later in life, it was about records, medals and all of those things. But, ultimately I was fortunate to run into grace.

I realized that it wasn't about a physical race, but a spiritual race – becoming the best person I could be and glorifying God as much as I could through my journey. The 400-meter is one of the toughest races on the track, there are many times in life where things get tough too. So, many of the lessons I learned through the 400 are absolutely helping me to live the best life I can.

Q: What makes a person want to run one of the most grueling races in the world, the 400, and make that your life's mission?

A: (Laughing) I don't know Roman, but I can tell you one thing, running always came natural to me. And whenever you're doing something that is really a gift, you do feel closer to God. Whenever I was practicing or training, I always felt like that was what I was born to do. Those times were often when I had my most revealing moments, and my most prayer-filled moments – on the track.

Q: What was your strategy in running the 400?

A: My coach trained me in the four sections: push, pace, position and poise. And the fifth “P,” which is always prayer. The four hundred taught me a lot, and I'm very grateful that I found this race and success on the track. I'm really blessed.



Sanya Richards-Ross holds up the United States flag at the 2012 Olympics in London. She is the most decorated female track and field Olympian. (Contributed photo)

Q: What is it like to win four Olympic Gold Medals, to set your sights and goals really high, and then reach them?

A: Well, first of all, I always had a desire to be great. I think that was all. As a young person, I always thought I could do great things, but that was also nurtured by having an amazing family. I had tremendous support from my mom, dad and sister, who came to every track meet and encouraged me along the way. What I learned was that when you set lofty goals, you are setting yourself up to be vulnerable to failure.

Q: Why is failure so important in the process of becoming successful?

A: You cannot be afraid to fail, because those are the things that strengthen your character. Also, it helps you to redefine your goals and motivates you even more. For me, it was the most fulfilling experience of my life, what I would say helped me to run into my fairy tale, and finally get that individual Gold Medal. It's hard to put into words what that meant. What made it even more special was my whole family being there.

See Track page 12

FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
ENROLL NOW FOR NEW QUARTER ON APRIL 3, 2018

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

VA BENEFITS AVAILABLE
POST-9/11 GI BILL

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

RENEWINGworship

Bring your worship team for a time to refresh and revitalize!

EQUIPPING AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO BRING NEW LIFE TO YOUR CHURCH'S WORSHIP.

worshipLEADER BOOT CAMP

FRIENDLY AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH | GREENSBORO, NC
APRIL 20-21, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT
WorshipLeaderBootCamp.org/GREENSBORO



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptists.org

The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Ministries Offering.

Danny Wood to be SBC Pastors' Conference nominee

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

Danny Wood, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors' Conference, according to an announcement by Texas pastor Gregg Matte.

Matte, pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church, told Baptist Press (BP) March 7 Wood "has shined with integrity, love and wisdom" through more than 20 years at his current pastorate.

"With the Pastors' Conference and Southern Baptist Convention being in Birmingham for 2019, he is the right choice to lead us in his hometown," said Matte, a former Pastors' Conference president. "Most importantly, Dr. Wood understands the joys and challenges we face as pastors and will plan a conference that inspires our hearts with great theology and application."

Current first vice chairman of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees, Wood has served on church staffs in Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. Prior to entering ministry, he had eight years of business experience with AT&T Information Systems and South Central Bell in Alabama.

This year's Pastors' Conference, which will feature messages from key leaders and music and worship, will be June 10-11 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas preceding the SBC's June 12-13 annual

meeting there. Matte called Wood "a man worthy of following, an example in rightly dividing the Word of truth along with shepherding the flock well in the daily tasks of the local church."

"Danny and I have been friends for over a decade," Matte said. "I've spoken in his church and often listen to him via podcasts. He has led his church in Cooperative Program and missions giving to the extent that Shades Mountain is numbered among the top churches in Alabama year after year. While 25 percent of their giving goes outside the walls of their church to missions, they are more than just a generous church – they are also a sending church."

"With 35 mission trips a year including 1,300 people, serving as the lead church with NAMB's Send efforts in New York City, while also having one of the best special needs ministries in their state, along with adopting local schools for ministry, Shades Mountain Baptist with Dr. Wood as their pastor are fulfilling Acts 1:8 to a degree we can all be thankful for," Matte said.

Wood has served as pastor of Shades Mountain since 1997. The church averages 2,350 in Sunday morning worship attendance, according to data from the SBC's Annual Church Profile (ACP).

In 2017, the congregation gave 10 percent of its \$8.5

million in undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified channel for supporting missions and ministries in North America and around the world.

Shades Mountain has baptized at least 70 people each of the last 10 years, with a high of 116 in 2011, according to ACP data.

Wood has served in leadership positions at multiple levels in Southern Baptist life, including the SBC Committee on Committees and Credentials Committee, the Alabama State Board of Missions Executive Committee and as evangelism director for Louisiana's Concord Union Baptist Association.

Before serving at Shades Mountain, Wood pastored First Baptist Church in Ruston, La., and served on staff at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

Wood earned a doctor of ministry degree from Beeson Divinity School of Samford University, where he has served as a trustee since 2017. He also holds a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a bachelor of science in business administration from Auburn University.

Wood and his wife, Janice, have an adult daughter.

Wood's nomination is the first to be announced for the Pastors' Conference. The 2019 SBC annual meeting will be in Birmingham. ■



DANNY WOOD

Church security event teaches leaders to 'be prepared'

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

The headlines on mass shootings have become increasingly common – and worrisome.

Last November, it was an attack on First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where a gunman came in with a rifle during a Sunday morning service. He shot and killed 26 people.

It was not the first such an attack.

More than 400 people have been killed in various houses of worship across America since 1999. And 135 of these incidents were in Baptist churches, more than any other denomination.

Increasingly, churches are asking how they can be safe. What should they do when the unthinkable happens?

Be prepared: It could happen at your church

Current events and a heightened interest in church security was the background for a conference on church security which drew more than 80 Baptists to West Chowan Baptist Association's building in Ahoskie on Feb. 5. Similar events have taken place across the state and across the country following November's shooting in Texas.

West Chowan's Director of Missions Terry J. Stockman Sr. said he organized the conference in response to numerous

questions on church security from the association's 61 churches. Helping churches make disciples is his main assignment, he said, "but we must also be aware of security concerns that can come up and be good stewards."

West Chowan Association's churches are spread across Hertford, Bertie and Northampton counties – mostly rural with a few smaller towns. It's a description that fits many North Carolina Baptist churches.

Thankfully, no violent attacks have occurred in West Chowan. But Stockman said churches should take preventive steps before an attack happens. "We want to get people on guard before something bad happens," he said.

Stockman invited sheriffs from three counties and a church insurance representative to speak and to field questions. One sheriff could not attend.

Hertford County Sheriff Dexter Hayes and Bertie County Sheriff John Holley gave general information on church security, but they also offered to help churches tailor plans to their specific situations.

Hayes said law enforcement officials in all of North Carolina's 100 counties have access to solid security recommendations from federal sources, and most will be willing to help churches evaluate security procedures, such as checking building entrances, lighting and the like.



Bertie County Sheriff John Holly, from left; Hertford County Sheriff Dexter Hays; Director of Missions Terry Stockman; and Church Mutual Insurance representative Jay Hinton address a church security conference Feb. 5 in West Chowan Baptist Association in Ahoskie.

Hayes said tailoring security procedures to individual churches is important, because churches vary in number of members and in the number and size of their buildings. Across North Carolina, some Baptist churches own their buildings while others rent space. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina helps plant more than 60 new churches a year, and many of these start by meeting in public schools.

But the two law enforcement officers presented solid helps on getting started. Many of the security steps will help deal with natural disasters, fires and other situations that do not involve shootings.

Sheriff Hayes said churches must con-

sider security for all its activities, not just the Sunday services. Shooters most often attack "soft targets," or smaller, more vulnerable groups. He cited the shooting at a prayer meeting Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., which left nine dead, including the pastor, on June 17, 2015.

Whether it's a prayer group, Bible study group, or a few people working on the church food pantry, Hayes said, "That's when the subject will come and try to do harm."

Churches should have a trained team of people focused on security, Hayes said. Arrange for a limited number of people

See Security page 14

California pastor A.B. Vines to be 1st VP nominee

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

California pastor A.B. Vines will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), former SBC President Johnny Hunt announced March 13.

Vines “is a close personal friend that has a deep love for our convention,” Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., told Baptist Press (BP) via email. “In our time together he so often speaks of his passion to serve and make us better together as a convention.”

Pastor of New Seasons Church in San Diego for the past 13 years, Vines has shepherded the church from being an African-American congregation of 67 members to becoming a multiethnic church of 1,800 members with five campuses, including Arabic- and Spanish-language campuses, according to information provided by Hunt and the church.

Vines currently serves as president of the California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC) and is a trustee at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). A former president of the National African American Fellowship of the SBC, Vines has chaired the SBC’s Credentials Committee and served on the Committee on Committees.

In 2017, New Seasons recorded 14 baptisms and an average worship attendance of 578 at its primary campus, according to the church.

For 2016 – the last year for which data is available from the SBC’s Annual Church Profile (ACP) – New Seasons classified \$127,737 as Great Commission Giving, 16.5 percent of the church’s undesignated receipts. Included in that figure are community feeding and clothing ministries, at least two church plants, mission work in Africa and support of a school in the Philippines, the church said.

By convention action in 2011, the SBC defined Great Commission Giving as comprising “contributions to any Baptist association, Baptist state convention, and causes and entities of the Southern Baptist Convention.”

New Seasons told BP it gave \$6,000 through the Cooperative Program (CP) in 2017, approximately .8 percent of its undesignated receipts. It reported an additional \$2,500 in giving to its local Baptist association and nearly \$80,000 in total missions giving amid a building program that increased designated receipts.

Prior to the building program, the

church had given \$32,170 through CP in 2014, according to the California convention and ACP data.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists’ unified channel for supporting missions and ministries in North America and across the globe.

Vines told BP he “would love to support” SBC causes with larger monetary gifts, “but due to the fact that a lot of the SBC entities do not have a clear sense of the African American context and our African American experiences, I have to go and develop my own [ministries] so I can support those that are important to our community and to our culture.”

If elected, Vines said, “I’m going to encourage” the convention to “bring excluded groups to the table” and “realize that different cultures have different needs and situations, and you can’t pigeonhole everybody into one box.”

If Southern Baptists “ever get the racial issue together and how we should work together better,” Vines said, “I think we’re positioned to be the greatest evangelistic organization in the world.”

Vines serves on advisory boards for the ERLC and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary’s Center for Pastoral Leadership and Preaching. He was a member of SBC Executive Committee (EC), President Frank S. Page’s African American Advisory Council, and serves on the EC’s permanent Convention Advancement Advisory Council.

Vines established a global church planting ministry in 2016 called the New Seasons Church Global Network.

He holds a doctor of ministry degree and a master’s degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Camilla, Ga., and an undergraduate degree from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego.

Vines and his wife, Karen, have four children and 13 grandchildren.

He is the first announced nominee for first vice president. Announced presidential nominees are J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., and former Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Ken Hemphill. ■



A.B. VINES

SOUTHERN BAPTIST BRIEFS

ERLC joins High Court brief for pro-life centers

(Baptist Press) The Southern Baptist Convention’s ethics entity has joined with other organizations in urging the U.S. Supreme Court to protect fully the free speech of pro-life pregnancy centers.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and three other groups signed on to a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the Christian Legal Society (CLS) calling for the high court to review a lower-court decision they say restricts the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. The justices will be considering whether to accept the appeal by a California pregnancy care center.

The case, *First Resort v. Herrera*, involves a San Francisco ordinance that bars a pregnancy center that does not perform or refer for abortions from making “untrue or misleading statements.” The city proposed that First Resort – which operates Support Circle Pregnancy Clinics – violated the law by having a “paid Google search link” that enabled its website to appear in searches for “abortion in San Francisco.” The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled against First Resort, saying the pregnancy center’s speech qualifies as commercial, not ideological or religious.

Commercial speech receives less protection under the law.

The Supreme Court’s consideration of whether to rule on First Resort’s appeal comes as the justices prepare for oral arguments in a similar case. The high court will hear arguments March 20 in *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra*, which involves a California law that requires pro-life pregnancy centers essentially to publicize abortion services by posting notices about public programs that offer the procedures for free or at little cost.

Huckabee resigns from CMA Foundation

(Facts & Trends) Former Arkansas Gov. and Southern Baptist pastor Mike Huckabee resigned March 1 from the Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation board following criticism of his stance against same-sex marriage from multiple members of the country music industry, reported *The Tennessean*.

Huckabee’s resignation came less than a day after his appointment to the board of the charitable arm of the CMA.

The CMA Foundation is devoted to growing and supporting music education programs across the country.

“My sincere thanks to the CMA Foundation for believing I had something to contribute,” wrote Huckabee in his letter of resignation.

“I regret that my presence caused controversy and threats to vital support for deserving kids. Kids wanting to learn music shouldn’t be victims of adults who demand that only certain people can be in the room or be heard.

“I wish you nothing but good will and success at reaching students across America who need music as much as I did. At the end of the day, I’m not worth the fight, but the kids are. Never stop fighting for THEM!”

Following Huckabee’s appointment to the board, the association and foundation began fielding complaints from industry leaders and fans, many saying they would pull their support.

Complaints reportedly included Huckabee’s beliefs about biblical marriage and his involvement with the National Rifle Association.

2017 SBC Annual available online

(Baptist Press) The 2017 SBC Annual of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Phoenix meeting is available for download and text search at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (SBHLA) website, sbhla.org.

The 2017 edition joins annuals archived at SBHLA dating back to the SBC’s 1845 inception.

The SBC Annuals are a ready access to a wealth of SBC history and news, including meeting proceedings, entity reports, statistics, sermons, state convention information and lists of staff, trustees and committees, said SBHLA director Taffey Hall.

“The SBC Annuals are a basic starting point for researching the historical issues and activities of the SBC. Having these resources available digitally greatly enhances accessibility,” Hall told Baptist Press in written comments.

“Anyone from anywhere can view and keyword search the annual proceedings from 1845-present online.

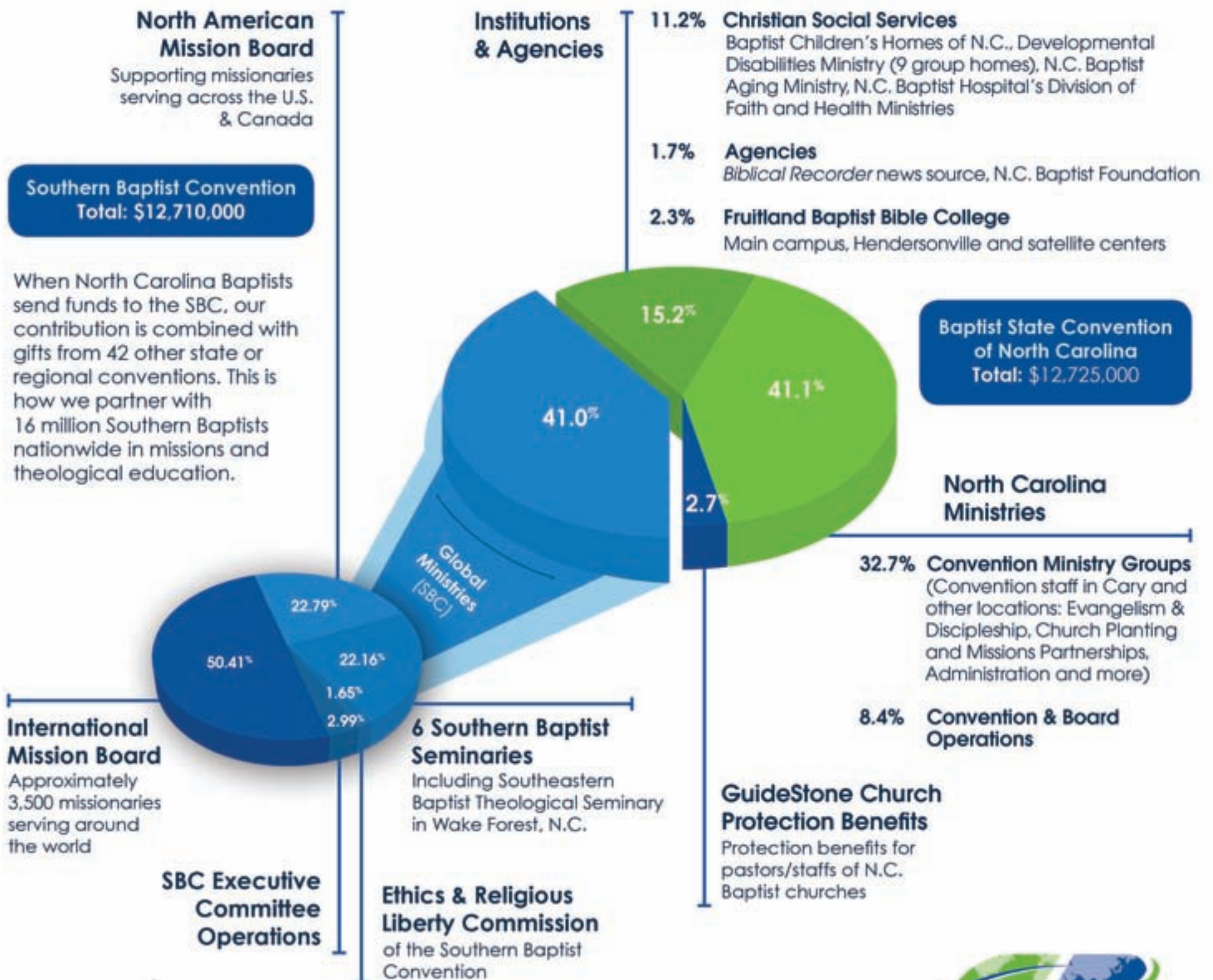
John L. Yeats, who has prepared and/or reviewed every SBC Annual since 1998 in his official capacity of SBC recording secretary, described the annuals as records of “testimony about God at work through Southern Baptists. God has done and continues to do great things among Southern Baptists.”

Full stories available online at BRnow.org.

ADVERTISE
in the
Biblical Recorder
(919) 459-5691

OUR CHURCH SUPPORTS MISSIONS ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA, NORTH AMERICA AND THE WORLD THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

2018 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET



For more information contact the Cooperative Program office at
(800) 395-5102, ext. 5541 • (919) 459-5541 • cp@ncbaptist.org





DISCIPLE-MAKING CONFERENCE RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

by Chad Austin

[nc]connect
baptist
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

More than 550 attendees gathered at the 2018 Disciple-Making Conference at Center Grove Baptist Church in Clemmons on Tuesday, Feb. 27 to be challenged, encouraged and equipped to make disciples in the home, church and world.

Through two main sessions with Matt Carter, pastor of the Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas, and breakout sessions featuring 30 pastors, ministry leaders and church practitioners, attendees heard biblical and practical truths about how to live out the Great Commission to “go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19).

Carter reminded the audience, “The call to reach the world through disciple-making is not a request, it is a command,” Carter said. “And it’s a command for every believer.”

Video recordings of Carter’s messages are now available online at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSC) Vimeo page. You may access the videos at vimeo.com/channels/dmncnc.

Audio recordings of the equipping sessions are also available. These recordings focus on a variety of topics related to disciple-making, including apologetics, personal evangelism, disciple-making at home, creating a disciple-making culture in your church and more. To access the recordings from the conference, visit ncbaptist.podbean.com and click on the category “2018 Disciple-Making Conference,” or find the N.C. Baptist podcast through iTunes.

“It was refreshing to have an opportunity to sit under someone else and hear their passion regarding discipleship

and evangelism and encourage/challenge us to do the same,” said one attendee about this year’s conference.

Another attendee remarked: “Everything was focused on the theme of disciple-making.

From the main sessions to the breakouts, everything revolved around the theme. Both theoretical and practical elements were covered.”

CHECK OUT THE N.C. BAPTIST ITUNES PODCAST

Many other local and regional events are held throughout the year that focus on particular aspects of ministry and provide training and equipping in areas such as evangelism, children, youth and family ministry, Sunday School, small groups and more. Following are some highlights of upcoming events being offered by the BSC’s Disciple-Making Team

Scorecard

Scorecard is a one-day event aimed at helping church leaders develop an aligned vision for making disciples from birth through high school.

Attendees will learn how to develop a strategic ministry plan with checkpoints to help you and your church measure spiritual growth in children and youth. Scorecard also addresses ways your church

can partner with parents to disciple their children at home. Learn more and register at ncbaptist.org/scorecard.

Inside-Out

Inside-Out Sunday School training is designed to train and equip Sunday School leaders, church staff and pastors about making disciples through Sunday School. Trainings are led by BSC consultants and other experienced church leaders. Inside-Out emphasizes using Sunday School as a way to grow and make disciples rather than simply filling seats. Learn more at ncbaptist.org/insideout

Upside-Down

Upside-Down is a training designed to equip church and ministry leaders on developing and cultivating a vibrant small groups ministry in your church. Sessions will focus on a variety of practical ministry areas related to groups ministry focused on using small groups to effectively make disciples. Learn more at ncbaptist.org/upsidedown.

Side-by-Side

Most churches have Sunday School classes or small groups, but few have both. Side-by-Side training focuses on how churches can maintain healthy Sunday School classes and small groups simultaneously because the overall goal of both is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Learn more at ncbaptist.org/sidebyside.

For information on other events sponsored by the Baptist state convention, see the other ministry offerings highlighted in the accompanying articles and event listings on this page.

A complete calendar of events is available at ncbaptist.org/events.

CONNECT NOW

VIDEOS

There is a plethora of inspirational and training videos available to you for download through our Vimeo site.

vimeo.com/ncbaptist

PODCAST

We are striving to become a better resource for you. Our new NC Baptist podcast will host various trainings we offer throughout the year. Find us by searching iTunes for N.C. Baptist or visit ncbaptist.podbean.com.

ncbaptist.podbean.com

RESOURCES

Access tons of FREE resources and information specifically catered to your needs by signing up for our mass emails. Go to ncbaptist.org/signup and fill out the form to tell us what you would like to receive.

ncbaptist.org/signup



EMBRACE OFFERS MINISTRY, MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Women’s Ministry

embraceNC.org

The Embrace women’s evangelism and discipleship ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina seeks to encourage women to walk humbly with Christ and make disciples. Embrace offers a host of events throughout the year for women to grow in their faith, be on mission for Christ and find encouragement. Here are three opportunities you don’t want to miss in 2018.

Embrace Roundtables
We’re all called to share the good news about Jesus, but often this can be difficult. Embrace Roundtables offer ladies practical training, equipping and encouragement to turn everyday conversations into “gospel conversations.” Learn more at ncbaptist.org/roundtables.

Embracing New York City
New York is one of the world’s most diverse and influential cities, yet many of the city’s residents have never heard the good news of the gospel. Join Embrace this September as part of a short-term missions team to serve alongside ministry partners in New York City. This trip is open to ladies college-age and older. An application is due by Friday, May 4. Learn more at embracenc.org/newyork.

2018 Embrace Women’s Retreat
Scripture tells us that we are “holy, chosen and beloved” because of our relationship with Christ. Ladies will explore how to live out this truth at the 2018 Embrace women’s retreat, scheduled for Oct. 26-27 at Caraway Conference Center and Camp. Registration opens Friday, June 1 on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more at embracenc.org/womensretreat18.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spiritual Leadership Equipping Track: The Prescription for Life
April 19-20, Cary
ncbaptist.org/leadershipdev

Worship Leader Boot Camp Plus
April 20-21, Greensboro
worshipleaderbootcamp.org/greensboro

Embrace Roundtables
April 28, Rocky Mount
ncbaptist.org/roundtables

Inside-Out Sunday School
April 28, Fayetteville
May 19, Butner
ncbaptist.org/insideout

Ride to Clyde
May 9-12
ncbaptist.org/ridetoclyde

Hispanic Young Adult Conference
June 1-3, Oak Island
ncbaptist.org/hyac18

WORD Conference
June 2, Greensboro
ncbaptist.org/word



Move your ministry from maintenance to multiplication

Every living thing God creates – including the church – is meant to multiply. But the reality of day-to-day life is that oftentimes ministry feels more like maintenance. Join Robby Christmas, church planting catalyst with the North American Mission Board, for “Maintenance to Multiplication” events designed to help you discover and catch a vision for personal and corporate multiplication. Christmas is stationed at Family Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, and leads an effort to train and unleash church planters

to reach South Florida with the gospel. Events are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, April 18 at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh and Thursday, April 19 at Christ Community Church in Huntersville. Registration is \$15 per person and includes conference materials and a light breakfast.

ncbaptist.org/multiplication



Will you take the church compensation survey?

All N.C. Baptist churches are encouraged to complete the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Church Compensation Survey. The biannual survey is sponsored by GuideStone Financial Resources, LifeWay Research and Baptist state conventions. Pastors and all church employees are invited to take the survey, and must be completed by May 31. Respondents can be entered to win a free iPad.

Individual survey responses may be contributed anonymously, and survey results are not reported individually. Once the survey closes, LifeWay Research will compile the results, which will be available by early fall. The survey provides churches a way to benchmark their own salary and benefits with churches of similar size.

guidestone.org/compensationsurvey



Stay informed! Get the NC Baptist newsletter

Stay up to date and with the latest news and information from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) by signing up for the N.C. Baptist email newsletter. Visit ncbaptist.org and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the image that reads “NC Baptist Newsletter.” There you’ll have the option to sign up to receive a monthly newsletter and events email. You can also go to ncbaptist.org/signup to sign up for information you wish to receive. The monthly email newsletter contains articles, videos and

other resources to help encourage and equip you in your walk with Christ as you seek to make disciples. The monthly events email contains a roundup of upcoming BSC training and equipping events sponsored by various convention ministries. These statewide and regional events are designed for pastors, leaders and laity and address a number of different ministry areas.

ncbaptist.org/signup

Mike Cummings retires after 30 years

By LAURA CROWTHER | BR staff

Mike Cummings retired Feb. 28 as director of missions for the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, but his long history of ministry among his community and fellow Native Americans is not finished.

“He has been a pastor to the pastors,” said Steve Strickland, who now holds Cummings’ former position. “I’ve come in many times to talk, get advice, wisdom and insight.”

Strickland said Cummings’ retirement will not stop him from serving the community.

Cummings was born one of 12 children in the Saint Anna section of Pembroke, a rural Lumbee farming community. In college, he realized he had not received Christ personally, although he had grown up in an active church background. He became involved in Bible studies with Campus Crusade for Christ and, not long after, submitted his life to Christ. Soon, he felt the call of God to gospel ministry.

Cummings became pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Clinton, N.C., at 19 years old. He was in college at the time and did not have a way to commute, so the church sold “fried chicken plates” as a fundraiser to buy a car, Cummings said. During this time, he met and married his wife, Quae, of the Coharie people.

He went on to graduate from Campbell University in 1974 and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1977. After 10 years in Clinton, he accepted a call to go back to his home community and serve as pastor of Mt. Airy Baptist Church in Pembroke. Then, after a decade at Mt. Airy, he was called as director of missions at the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in 1988.

Burnt Swamp is a unique association that is not limited by geographic boundaries, but is comprised of churches that are historically Native American. While the Lumbee people make up the largest share of Native Americans in the association, there are at least five other tribal peoples.

The association includes mainly North Carolina

churches, but also includes one church in Baltimore, Md. When Cummings began the associational leadership role, he saw a great need for theological training among ministers. Cummings estimates that 80 percent of Burnt Swamp pastors are bivocational, so many do not have the resources, time or money to receive a seminary education. Cummings started offering more seminary extension classes so they could have “better access to good training” and be “better equipped to lead.”

Another highlight of Cummings’ days with the association was his push to involve churches in missions. He was instrumental in helping churches to better engage in “missions outside of themselves.” Cummings is particularly interested in reaching other Native American tribes across America.

Cummings came to realize that, “if Indians are reached with the gospel, Indians must go reach them.” He stated that while the Lumbee people and other tribes in the Carolinas have been exposed to and embraced Christianity for many years, most of the Native American population in the U.S. is “largely unchristian.”

“In some of the traditional reservation communities there is a resistance to the gospel,” he said, due to historically bad experiences with white Christian culture.

Due to the ethnic connection of the Native American community, the churches in Burnt Swamp Association have been able to engage other Native American communities, even starting churches on reservations that previously had no church presence.

“It’s not as hard to raise concern [for missions],” he said, “when you tell the story of some of their own people that are in great need.”

Another change that Cummings helped initiate was the increase of involvement and acceptance of native tribes into broader N.C. Baptist life.

As a minority group, Burnt Swamp churches felt marginalized in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). That began to change when Cummings was elected as first vice-president and then president of the BSC from 1999-2001. He holds the distinction of being the first



Mike and Quae Cummings are looking forward to retirement and future ministry opportunities. (Contributed photo)

minority president of the BSC. Cummings later served as interim executive director-treasurer of the BSC.

Cummings said the presidency “was like a crowning event” to him and the association.

They were very supportive of his involvement with the BSC and took it not only as a compliment to the association, but also as a point of pride. Slowly the people in the association began to feel a greater sense of acceptance and involvement in Baptist life and missions.

Throughout his ministry, Cummings has had the strong support of his wife, who is also retiring, served as associational secretary for 40 years, beginning 10 years before her husband.

Cummings said not only has his wife done an excellent job welcoming people to the association, but she “has kept me on track in the sense of putting my best foot forward. ... She’s been a major foundation for all my ministry.”

Strickland agrees, “Together [he and his wife] have been a great team; it’s hard to talk about one without mentioning the other. Both of them have set a great example of leadership and ministry for us to follow.”

While the association is sad to see the couple leave, Cummings said his retirement will not end his involvement with his community or his people. He has already taken an interim pastor role, beginning the first Sunday of his retirement. In addition to spending more time with their three children and three grandchildren, Cummings and his wife are looking forward to continued ministry together. **BR**

Track Continued from page 6

It’s amazing when you set a goal for your life, go through the ups and downs and actually accomplish it.

Q: Your success has been awesome on the track, but how has it furthered your influence and platform off the track?

A: I think our greatest responsibility, no matter how we reach success, is to reach your hand back and to always share and give to others. Some of the greatest moments of my life are not stepping on the podium, but being able to give back to the community. I’ve had a great program in Jamaica for years that helped over 700 kids to read on their grade level. When you get an email from a kid who went off to college and is in a pivotal part of their life, those things mean so much more to me than track success. I really think, as athletes, role

models and celebrities, it’s very important that we use our platforms to inspire others, and to do good in the world. The world needs it. I take that role very seriously.

Q: Obviously your career was a great success, but you are also married to a former New York Giants’ defensive back, Aaron Ross, who won two Super Bowls. That’s quite a family picture. Your trophy room must be impressive?

A: At the height of our careers, we were traveling a lot and not home very much. I traveled all over the world, and in our first home we had a really nice trophy room.

But we moved – with babies coming, nurseries and everything. We do have a cool room with all of our stuff, but that’s not really the most important thing to

me. It’s more of the journey, and our memories together. That’s just icing on the cake for us.

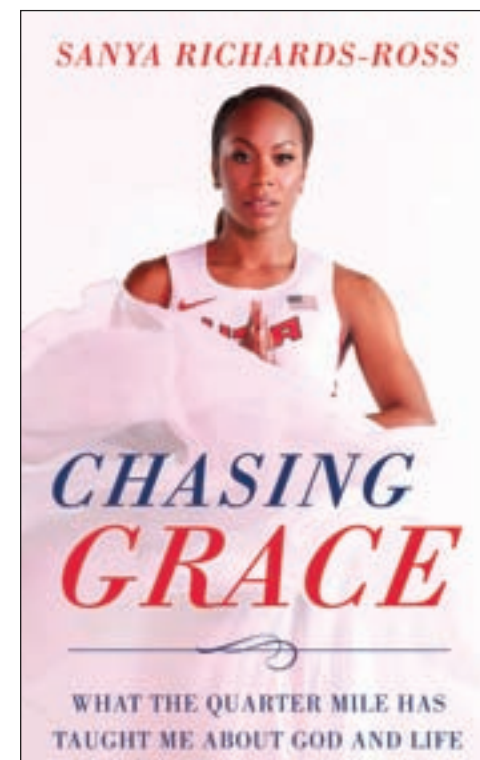
Q: When you were competing, did you have a special scripture passage that you held on to?

A: There is, the one I would say whenever I was on the starting line is Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

When you’re standing on that start line at the Olympics, you’re so nervous, and sometimes that can cripple you.

I always reminded myself, I can do anything if I just trust and believe in God.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Roman Gabriel III is an evangelist and motivational speaker. Visit the Faith Family Sports website: fspn.net. Hear his Sold Out Sports Talk Radio program on American Family Radio in 200 cities nationally or streaming live at afr.net. Visit his website:



soldouttv.com; Facebook: Roman Gabriel III; connect on Twitter: @romangabriel3rd. Contact at (910) 431-6483 or email: soldoutrg3@gmail.com.) **BR**

Hope

Continued from page 1

Christ. It currently rents space at the local Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center.

“Because I was raised here, I’ve got a real heart for the people,” says Turner. “It’s a small city. It’s a dangerous, poor place, 85 percent fatherlessness. The houses, the buildings and the roads show the desperate place that East St. Louis is in. The people know struggle.”

A drive around the city reveals abandoned buildings. The public library, the McDonald’s Turner visited as a child, family-owned restaurants – all closed now. Though the decline in population started here years ago with the riot, recent years have seen the numbers dwindle from around 60,000 to 26,000.

“Jobs and police officers have left this city,” says Turner. “Downtown is kind of like a ghost town, but it’s ripe for the gospel. The Lord hasn’t forgotten this city.”

Faith on the rise

It is 6 a.m. and a group of men from City of Joy Fellowship are up before the sun, worshipping with an acoustic guitar.

“As the psalmist looked around at the tragic condition of the people in his city,” Turner said, “it appeared as though God was unaware, inactive or asleep. So, he prays, ‘Arise, O Lord.’ Likewise, we cry out in one way or another every Wednesday morning.”

The prayers ring out over a people facing poverty, gang violence, environmental contamination and continued decline. Turner, Caryn and their five children believe that change is possible. They are working side by side with other believers to show their neighbors that love is real and hope is alive.

“The biggest challenges we face are hardness of heart and lack of zealous evangelistic consistency,” says Kempton.

In 1989, on the way home from Clark Jr. High School, he was held up at gunpoint by a gang leader with a reputation for pulling the trigger. He says, “Amazingly, I ended up escaping that situation, and as I look back on it, I realize it was God’s grace, but that was the last straw for my father and my family. They had had enough of the violence and the crime, so we moved to Houston, Texas. Little did I know 25 years later, God would give me the privilege to come back to my hometown and preach the Good News of His Son to the people of East St. Louis.”

Recognizing that teenagers here are in need of community and a safe place to gather, Turner and the team at City of Joy host a youth night on Tuesdays where they train young people how to serve others and hold down a job. The church also goes to the places where youth already gather during the week – schools and community centers – to establish consistency.

Their desire is to show teens they care and are invested in their well-being and future.

“A young lady named Allison came to our church rejecting Jesus,” said Turner. “After a few months of hearing the gospel and spending time with a few women one-on-one, she surrendered her life to Jesus. She is the real deal, zealous about spreading His gospel and love!”

Turner names a long list of men and women who have moved to the area to help with the youth: Matt and Hannah, who moved their young family from Missouri; Staricia, who came from Indiana to work in the school system; Lydia, a nurse who has a heart for young people; Joel, a skilled basketball player and coach who uses the sport to connect with the youth; and Zach, who started a Bible study for the youth in his home that has already outgrown the space.



Kempton Turner, right, baptizes a new believer at Joy Fellowship Church in East St. Louis. He and his wife, Caryn, planted Joy Fellowship in 2016 and serve with the North American Mission Board. They are part of the featured missionaries for the Week of Prayer for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (North American Mission Board photo)

The list goes on and on.

“These precious believers are a picture of Jesus, coming out of comfortable suburbs, moving into the heart of a 99.9 percent African-American city with danger, poverty and fatherlessness,” he said. “They’re moving because Jesus is sending them as a reflection of His heart for this city, and God is blessing their efforts. It’s amazing.”

Building the future

Home renovation is another practical way City of Joy is connecting with their community. Hammers and nails, primer and paint – these are the tools that are allowing believers to build a relationship with people who live near the church.

“All we need is a way to start a conversation,” said Turner.

He is training the members to intersect with nonbelievers, meet needs, and share their personal stories of redemption.

Dubbed R3, the outreach ministry is focused on community development, house restoration, business restoration and employment. The outreach goal is to work corner by corner and house by house throughout the city until each square foot has been covered in both repairs and improvements as well as prayer.

In their business revitalization program, they work on providing local businesses with the resources to launch or relaunch. They also strive to connect young men and women from the youth program with job opportunities in these local businesses as way to benefit the local economy and foster the sense of community.

As more people come to know Christ, City of Joy is celebrating more baptisms. And it all started with a very special one that healed a broken relationship from the past. Turner said, “The first baptism at the church was my birth mother who did not raise me. Praise the Lord!”

Indeed, the church is appropriately named.

With prayers, planning and consistent efforts, they are working toward bringing

that same kind of joy into every home in East St. Louis. They want people to not only remember this place but to invest in it.

“Some of the neediest places in America are in the inner city,” said Turner. “We’re excited to join the momentum of what God is already doing in this city with so much potential. Acts 8:8 – that’s our hope and prayer for East St. Louis: that the Lord will fill the city with joy.”

“Gifts through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are going to help us rebuild the community of East St. Louis. We want to see God spiritually invade this city. We want to see a supernatural awakening in this city turning multitudes of souls to Jesus Christ,” he said.

Turner explained how they are praying for the Lord of the Harvest to send more laborers:

“Psalm 127 says, ‘Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.’ And so, the Lord is the builder. The church is not about bricks and mortar and boards. He redeems His people and puts them in front of others in houses, on street corners, in Sunday School classes and in large and small group gatherings. The Lord builds His people through the Word. And our vision is that the Word of God would so transform East St. Louis that multitudes of souls are saved and established in faith, families are restored, children can have a mom and dad in their house again, prevailing cultural brokenness – like drug addiction and gang violence – would be healed and churches would be started near and far.

“Our house renovation ministry is just a small echo of the thunderclap of spiritual renovation that we see God doing – one soul, one house, one block at a time in my hometown,” said Turner.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Kempton and Caryn Turner are church planting missionaries featured in the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Learn more about the Turners at AnnieArmstrong.com.)

Kivett's - Your Source for Renewal

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

www.kivetts.com

KIVETT'S INC.

The Largest Family Owned
Church Furniture Manufacturer in the US

1-800-334-1139 • Clinton, NC

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

**Interstate
Transportation
Equipment, Inc.**

The South's Oldest Bus Company
Since 1947

interstatetransportation.com



New and Used Buses
Financing Programs Available



HIGH POINT, NC • 800.726.0779

Association leader discovers God had different plan

Gardner-Webb University Communications

Wesley Smith thought he was following God's will for his life in 2001 when he received his bachelor's in criminal justice from Gardner-Webb University (GWU). However, he became discouraged when he didn't find a job in juvenile probation and parole and wasn't sure what to do. Direction came during a church revival service. "For the first time in my life, I heard God to speak to me," Smith recalled. "I heard God tell me that He wanted me to serve His church."

God was calling him to a life of ministry. He sought advice from his pastor, who was also his grandfather. "He told me if I could do anything else in life and be happy, that I should do it," Smith said in a press release from the university. "I wrestled with this over the next six months, and could not get away from it. So I went back to my grandpa and told him that I could not be happy doing anything else. He encouraged me to get some biblical training, so I called the divinity school that week."

Smith liked the GWU School of Divinity's sense of community and the opportunity to interact with other students. He appreciated all of his professors, but Doug Dickens and the late Dan Goodman became his mentors and friends. Goodman gave him extra assistance with the Greek language, which enhanced his interpretation of the scriptures.

Dickens taught several of the pastoral care and



Wesley Smith serves as association missionary for Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. (Contributed photo)

counseling classes and challenged students to self-examination. "Self-discovery and developing our identity in Christ is extremely important," Smith assessed. "My pastoral care and counseling classes helped me to

better understand myself and how to help others. Other classes helped me to handle the biblical text with more confidence."

Smith also believes his criminal justice studies help as he seeks to serve people. "I have benefited greatly in my ministry by having an undergraduate degree in an area outside of religious studies," he asserted. "The psychology and sociology classes have helped me tremendously in ministering to people."

Smith received his master of divinity in pastoral care and counseling in 2008. While he was in school, he served two churches. He began his ministry in 2003 at Sandy Run Baptist Church in Mooresboro, N.C., and served at Boiling Springs (N.C.) Baptist Church from 2007 to 2016. He found his classes to be manageable and appreciated the support and understanding he received from church members and his professors.

In April 2016, Smith accepted the position of associational missionary for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. Based in Shelby, N.C., the association is made up of 88 churches. "I love Cleveland County and feel honored that God has called me to serve the Baptist churches here," Smith affirmed. "I serve pastors, staff and church leaders. Our office is a resource for the churches and the community. We exist to unite congregations in effective missions and ministries. Along with providing resources, training and support for the churches, we also create mission partnerships for short-term mission projects, and have a community assistance office." ■

Security Continued from page 7

to carry concealed firearms. It would be best to enlist people with law enforcement or military experience, "so they won't freeze in an emergency," Hayes said.

Have someone familiar with members and the area to watch the doors so potential troublemakers can be watched. He noted there needs to be a balance between welcoming visitors, which churches want, yet keeping security in focus.

Once a security team is designated, the church needs to practice repeatedly so people will know what to do in a crisis. Someone should be designated to call 911 and give clear information about what is happening, starting with the church address. The church should provide training and preparation for lockdown situations, with safe areas where people can take shelter until law enforcement arrives.

Elderly or handicapped members should be seated near exits so they can be evacuated more quickly in a crisis.

Churches should have first aid supplies on hand that should include tourniquets to stop bleeding.

Have someone keep watch on the outside grounds. Inexpensive walkie-talkies work more quickly than cell phones, whose many features can slow down calling.

If someone carrying a weapon or, say, someone wearing a long, black coat when it's 100 degrees, those outside security team members can alert the church, which can then be locked down.

Sheriff Holley said if he and his deputies come to the church to deal with an active shooter, "We come in first to take out the shooter. We're here to kill him. The deputies might go right past you bleeding on the floor, because their first duty is to stop the shooter. As long as the shooter is in the building, he's still a big threat. He

may be trying to kill as many people as possible," Holley explained.

"These things are very serious. We put our lives on the line every day," he said.

Holley said his officers went through a very difficult training event a month ago in which the weapons actually fired – the bullets were non-lethal, but painful if they hit you. One woman passed out from her fear and anxiety, though it was only training. "You cannot tell how a person will react in an emergency situation," Holley said.

Hayes said if law officers arrive in an active shooter situation, "Don't be waving a gun around! It's unhealthy!"

If your church has a Wi-Fi internet connection, churches can get more police presence by providing the password to local officers. That could lead to having deputies parking in the church parking lot all hours so they can fill out their online forms – a boost to security.

Both Hayes and Holley are Christians and members of area churches. Holley serves as minister of music at his church. One conference participant praised Sheriff Holley because all his department cars now carry the phrase "In God We Trust" on the back.

Preparing to be secure: What to do

Want to make your church secure?

It will take more than one meeting. Security experts urge churches to identify security as one of its ministries, a never-ending effort to keep members and visitors safe. Security should be coordinated with local law enforcement and tailored to each church's situation.

As other ministries, security must be planned and staffed, with established procedures to follow.

The Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company provides a good overview on preparing for church security on its web site. Learn more at brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/church-security.

The link provides access to a manual titled, "The Church Safety and Security Guidebook," which received praise from Rit Varriale, pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby. Varriale speaks with authority since he served as a U.S. Army Ranger with the 82nd Airborne Division. Varriale was considering writing a book on church security, but decided not to after seeing Brotherhood Mutual's material. He said their guidebook "is the most comprehensive text on the market."

"What sets this guidebook apart from the rest is its practical advice for developing – in conjunction with local laws and regulations – Standard Operating Procedures for everything from basic first aid to active shooter situations," Varriale said.

"Knowledge and training are the keys to security and safety, and Brotherhood Mutual provides a great start for both," Varriale said. "In the world we live in, you can't choose whether or not you'll be a target, but you can choose whether or not you'll be a hard target."

"It's important to note that safety teams should train regularly for the more anticipated emergencies, such as health and first aid issues, and not just the worst-case scenarios."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – LifeWay Christian Resources offers free security training through its Ministry Grid platform. Log into MinistryGrid.com with your LifeWay ID or register for a free account; then click the "Add to My Tasks" button in the description. The resource, featuring Dale Brooks, director of security for Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, is available through May 1. ■)

Women invited to ‘embrace’ NYC

BSC Communications

Stephen Trainer serves with Graffiti Church and Community Ministries in the Coney Island community in Brooklyn, N.Y. Trainer serves as lead pastor of Graffiti Church Coney Island and executive director of Graffiti Ministries’ Learning Center.

Graffiti is a ministry partner of the Embrace Women’s Evangelism and Discipleship Ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. This fall, Embrace will lead a team of women on a short-term missions trip to work with Trainer and Graffiti Ministries. The trip is scheduled for Sept. 13-16, and the appli-

cation deadline for the trip is May 4. Visit embracenc.org/newyork.

Trainer recently took time to answer some questions about Graffiti Ministries, the partnership with N.C. Baptists and the importance of short-term missions team. His responses are below.

Learn more about Graffiti Ministries by visiting graffiticoneyisland.nyc.

Q: Can you tell us a little about Graffiti Ministries?

A: Graffiti Ministries is a nonprofit learning center providing educational programming to the poorest neighborhood in New York City. Our

“other hand” of ministry is Graffiti Church Brooklyn. Through both of these facets of ministry, we work toward the holistic meeting of needs, both physical and spiritual. We are proud to be a part of a network of like-minded and similarly called ministry centers and churches serving communities of need.

Q: Why do ministry in Coney Island? What needs do you see?

A: Coney Island is home to a very famous amusement area, but many are not aware that this is the very poorest neighborhood in New York City. Most needs extend from the damaging cycle of generational poverty, such as homelessness, unemployment, hunger, drugs and gun violence.

Q: How have you seen God move among people while you and your family have served in Coney Island?

A: We have seen people come to a relationship with Jesus as King for the first time, people choose to follow Him in believer’s baptism, and move away from damaging situations and behaviors. We have seen people go from drug dealer to church service!



Q: Beyond God calling a lady to serve on a short-term mission trip in Coney Island, what is one thing you would share with women of why they should serve on this team?

A: Selfishly, we could use your hands and feet, and hearts! As important and valuable as short-term laborers are for our cause, it is even more important for us, in our view, to use our time together to help our teams understand God’s Kingdom in a new and exciting way and to understand the unique needs in the inner city. Many who have served with us tell us later how serving with Graffiti on a short-term mission trip has helped them understand ways to make the gospel available in their own communities, and we view investing in teams as a very important part of our ministry.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – The Embracing New York City missions trip is open to ladies college-age and older. More information, including the trip application forms, are available at embracenc.org/newyork. Application deadline is Fri., May 4.) **BR**

ARE YOU LEADING OTHERS TO SEEK THE LORD?

“Then, they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God ... with all their heart and with all their soul ... and He was found by them” (2 Chronicles 15:12, 15, NKJV).

In September 1794, a group of pastors grew gravely burdened over the spiritual famine in the land and gathered to seek the Lord in prayer in Lebanon, Connecticut. Soon, God answered and led them to draft and send a letter calling on all ministers in every denomination across America to begin prayer gatherings on the first Tuesday of January 1795.

Many denominations and churches were receptive to the challenge, and reports began to circulate that God was at work through the prayer gatherings.

After two years of fervent prayer, heaven came down, and the Second Great Awakening was underway. It started first in the New England area and quickly spread southward and westward.

God had come, and colleges, churches and communities were seeing the fruits of the fervent prayers of God’s people as churches were revived and the lost were saved.

That’s what can happen when leaders lead others to consistently seek the Lord through prayer.

In 2 Chronicles 12, Asa was faithful to call and lead God’s people to consistently seek the Lord. How did he do that? First, Asa led them to gather and consecrate themselves in obedience as they offered sacrifices to the Lord.

Second, Asa led the people to enter

into a binding covenant together, where they promised to consistently seek the Lord with “all their heart and with all their soul.”

This represents a continual commitment to seek the Lord through piety, prayer and wholehearted devotion.

The covenant to seek the Lord was well received as they “took an oath” and “rejoiced” together. What happened after the seeking?

The Scripture says that God was “found,” which means He was with and near His people, and, “the Lord gave them rest all around.”

God is looking for leaders to lead His people to consistently seek Him through holy living, wholehearted devotion and passionate prayer. Pastors who are not leading their people to consistently seek the Lord in heartfelt prayer are playing games with the souls of men, women, boys and girls.

To refuse to seek the Lord is to sign a death warrant on the church in America and on America as a nation. The hour has come to seek the Lord for revival and spiritual awakening and I

believe the Lord waits to be found.

What will you do?



CHRIS SCHOFIELD

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Chris Schofield is director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Office of Prayer. He can be reached at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5514, or cschofield@ncbaptist.org.)



Senior Adult Ministry State Leadership Conference

May 1, 2018 | Thomasville

Living Forward will provide leadership training for pastors and lay leaders of senior adults.

Special Speakers:



Dr. Michael C. Blackwell
President/CEO of Baptist
Children’s Homes of NC



Carolyn Hill Edwards
Senior Adult
Retreat Planner

In addition to vendors and a *Parade of Churches*, six breakout sessions include:

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren by Leisa Henderson
- Building an Intergenerational Community by Josh Lail
- The Nuts and Bolts of Senior Adult Ministry by Sandy Gregory
- Looking Forward, Living Forward by Martha McDowell
- Rediscovering Your Best Self by Whitney Brooks
- Ageism and What to Expect with Aging by Elizabeth Thomas



North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry | ncbam.org | 877.506.2226

Hemphill unveils campaign website backed by Louisiana Baptists

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

An organized campaign is underway to elect Ken Hemphill for president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), including a website, social media accounts and promotional content backed by the Louisiana Baptist Convention (LBC).

The site, kenhemphill2018.com, includes articles about his upcoming nomination, podcast episodes featuring Hemphill and a series of video interviews hosted by a Vimeo account owned by the LBC.

Hemphill told the *Biblical Recorder* that he began working on content for the site soon after his candidacy was announced. Students from North Greenville Univer-

sity in Greenville, S.C., where Hemphill serves as an administrator, filmed and produced the video interviews. LBC Communications Director John Kyle created the website, which is stored on LBC internet servers.

David Hankins, LBC executive director, said “a number of people” have been involved in the website’s development.

“Our communications team gave counsel. We have a lot of people writing articles, a wide ranging group of people,” he told the *Recorder* in a phone interview.

“We are glad to host the website because we believe it is in the best interest of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and we are excited about the opportunity for people to know Ken Hemphill and how

he can lead us as the next president.”

Hankins declined to name other individuals involved in the campaign, but he said some have already made on-record endorsements and more names will be made public in the future.

When asked if voter mobilization or other campaign efforts were underway, Hemphill said he is “coordinating hearing sessions” with pastors in Tennessee and other regions. Some Southern Baptists have contacted him “spontaneously” to ask questions about his candidacy and other issues, he said.

Asked why he believes a direct promotional effort is necessary, Hemphill said, “I am deeply passionate about the Southern Baptist Convention ... and I felt like this may give me an opportunity – even if it’s short-lived, just four or five months, whatever God has in store – to really talk about some things that are a concern to me.” He named a decline in Cooperative Program giving, both in dollars and percentages, as one of those concerns and said his focus is “revitalizing our denominational partnerships.”

Some Southern Baptists have questioned the propriety of both an open campaign for SBC president and direct support for such an effort by a state convention.



Ken Hemphill is a candidate for Southern Baptist Convention president. (kenhemphill2018.com photo)

Hemphill objected to the perception of formal electioneering.

“I wasn’t trying to run a campaign,” he said. “I was trying to communicate some values that I think are important. ... and how to communicate these convictions in the broadest method.”

Hankins called the effort a “grassroots campaign where rank-and-file Southern Baptists are trying to exercise their opportunity and duty to shape their convention.”

Hemphill’s forthcoming nomination was announced Feb. 1 by an unnamed “group of distinguished Southern Baptists,” according to a news report from Louisiana’s *Baptist Message*. **BR**

Two missionaries die in Congo

A couple working with the International Mission Board (IMB) were killed in a car accident March 14 in The Democratic Republic of Congo.

“It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that two of our IMB family have gone to be with their Savior,” said the IMB in a Facebook post.

Randy and Kathy Arnett died in a car accident, and another couple – Barbara and Jeff Singerman – were injured, along with a national who served as the driver for the couples.

Randy Arnett is a two-time graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) in Kansas City, Mo. “We grieve this loss along with their

families, the IMB, and the rest of the Convention,” said MBTS in a Facebook post. “May their faithfulness stir us all to press on for the Nations that all may hear.”

Arnett received a master of divinity degree in 1983 and his doctor of ministry degree in 1996.

The Singermans were transported to Johannesburg, South Africa, with serious but not critical injuries. Both were expected to undergo surgeries March 19-20 to repair broken bones (Barbara) and to address finger and hand movement (Jeff).

Jean Louis, the driver, underwent an operation but has been released. **BR**

Funding

Continued from page 4

The bylaws stipulate the funds for the previous calendar year may be received up five business days following the last Sunday of the year.

Since Dec. 31 was the final Sunday of 2017, the convention was required to count any funds received during the first week in January 2018 toward 2017 giving totals.

Both Volz and John Butler, BSC executive leader for business services, said they expect CP giving to even out as the year goes on.

“As we get into the next few months

(the budget) should even back out,” Volz said.

Butler added: “It’s just the way the calendar fell this year.... This is not unusual, and we were expecting this. We are still less than one week of typical receipts behind budget, so I’m not concerned at this point since January’s receipts really only reflected three full weeks of church contributions.”

The Executive Committee’s next regularly scheduled meeting is April 12.

The next meeting of the full BSC Board of Directors is May 21-22. **BR**

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

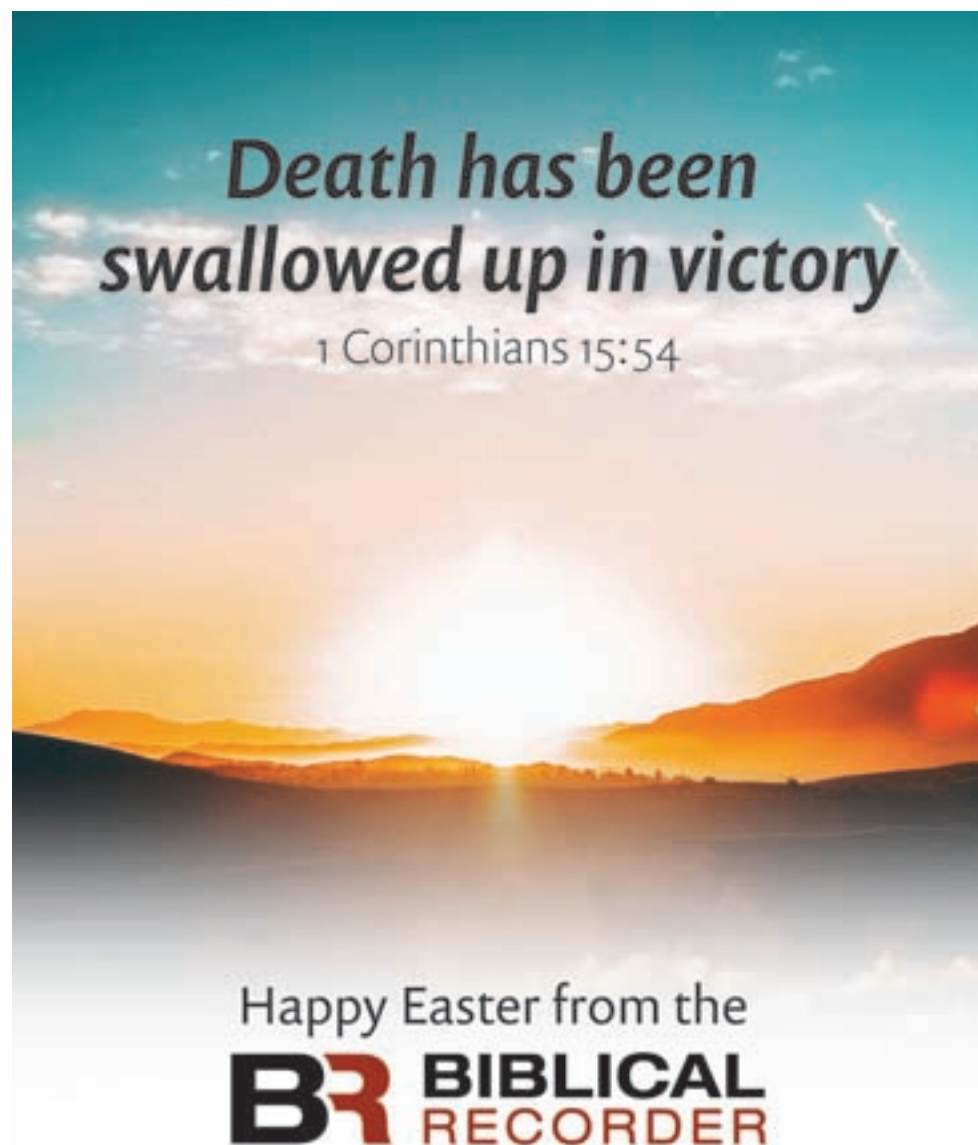
The annual North Carolina Campers On Mission spring rally will be April 19-22 at Denton Farm Park (1072 Cranford Road, Denton, NC 27239).

Campers On Mission (COM) is a national fellowship of Christian campers of all denominations who desire to share their faith in Jesus Christ by word

and deed as they participate in a variety of mission projects. Come to the rally to learn about COM and get excited about using your RV for missions.

The registration form can be found at nccampersonmission.org.

Call Shirley Thompson at (336) 274-9622 if you have any questions.



OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Buncombe Baptist Association is sponsoring Relational Evangelism in a Post Christian Culture on April 14 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Buncombe Baptist Association in Asheville. This equipping event is for all church leaders. Cost is free but registration is required. Lunch is provided and a free copy of *SPLASH: Show People Love and Share Him* by Ken and Paula Hemphill will be given to all participants. To register call (828) 782-0545 or (828) 252-1864.



KEN HEMPHILL

The Interpreter Training Program will be held May 11-12 at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia.

The “Interpreting in the Worship Environment” instructor is Allison Randolph, who is RID certified and has interpreted for over three decades. The interpreter has many challenges such as: what are special considerations related to interpreting prayer?

How does one handle responsive readings? How much can I paraphrase and still be dealing with sacred scripture? What do I do during instrumental music? What is the role of the interpreter during



an invitation?

Allison will speak to these and many more worship situations.

Cost is \$40 for the training and additional costs for conference lodging and meals, depending on lodging options.

Visit ncbaptist.org/interpretertraining.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is sponsoring Together in Christ Deaf Conference May 11-12 at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia.

The year, Kevin Clark, deaf evangelist from Morganton, will lead the workshop. Kevin will use his evangelism and discipleship videos to teach attendees an evangelism presentation to use with their deaf friends and help deaf people grow in their faith. Free materials, both books and videos, will be given to everyone who attends.

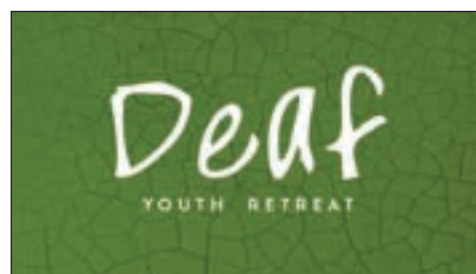


Cost is \$105 per person for a private room, \$85 for a double occupancy room or \$55 for commuters.

Visit ncbaptist.org/togetherinchrist.

The Deaf Youth Retreat will be held at Camp Caraway in Sophia, May 18-20. This is an annual weekend camp for deaf middle school and high school aged students.

Deaf youth will experience all the fun of Christian camp in an ASL language-rich environment. Cost for North Carolina campers is \$105 each, with some partial scholarships available.



Deadline for registration is April 25. Visit ncbaptist.org/deafyouthretreat.

Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) of North Carolina and National WMU are teaming up to host myMission Project 2018, May 25-28 in Greensboro. Participants will serve the internationals and refugees who live in the community of Greensboro.

This opportunity is for women between the age of 18-34.

Registration is \$130 before March 26 or \$150 after March 26 and includes three nights of church lodging, some meals,



T-shirt and administrative fees.

Visit wmunc.org/shineday17.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is sponsoring the Hispanic Young Adult Conference, June 1-3 at Caswell Conference Center. The theme is “Connected,” drawing from John 15:5. The conference is for single and married young adults, ages 18-35.

Participants will experience worship, devotions, workshops, sports and fellowship.

Registration is \$130 per person before April 19 or \$140 April 19-May 22 and includes lodging, a T-shirt and seven meals. Visit ncbaptist.org/hyac18.



The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is sponsoring the “All Out” W.O.R.D. (Worship, Outreach, Resources, Discipleship) Conference on June 2 at the Piedmont Baptist Association office in Greensboro. Participants at this annual conference will experience a time of worship and equipping the next generation of Asian-American leaders to impact lostness through disciple making with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This event is open to both second and third generation



Asian Americans. Registration deadline is May 16 and the cost is \$10 per person, which includes all conference materials and lunch. Visit ncbaptist.org/word.

The North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell is hosting Beach Reach Children’s Camp for children in grades 3-6 on June 8-10. The theme is “Confidence” and children will study the life of the Old Testament prophet Daniel, while learning how and why we can live our lives boldly for Jesus even when people around us do not.

Participants will enjoy outdoor games, music and worship as they come to understand the confidence they have in Jesus. The speaker and musician will be Daniel Justice.

Cost is \$130 per person and includes



meals, lodging, worship, games and a bounce house party. Visit fortcaswell.com/project/beachreach18/.

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

First Baptist Church, Cary, has called **PAT KILBY** as senior pastor. Kilby, a native of Canton, N.C., earned a master of divinity and doctor of ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously served as senior pastor at Sunrise Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, Ga. He and his wife, Angela, have been married for 29 years and have four children.



PAT KILBY

RICHARD GRADY BEACHAM has been called as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Mamers. He previously served as interim senior pastor at Brookwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville. Beacham earned a master of divinity from Wake Forest Baptist Theological Seminary and a master of science in pastoral counseling from Loyola University. He and his wife, Rose, have four adult children.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest.

Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

April 1

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

April 8

God is Faithful

Focal Passage: Luke 24:1-12

It amazes me the memory of my children. If I said I would play with them or take them somewhere or get them something, they never forget. I wish I could say that my faithfulness matched their memory. We are flawed and many times unfaithful. We break promises. But God does not. God is supremely, perfectly, gloriously faithful.

There is no greater miracle than the miracle of the resurrection. Jesus' resurrection has been doubted, denied and dismissed by skeptics over the years. Theological liberalism arose from Enlightenment skepticism.

How could the resurrection actually happen? Dead people don't come back to life. But Enlightenment skepticism and theological liberalism neglected to explain an integral element of the resurrection story – Jesus predicted it.

Not only did Jesus predict His resurrection, but the disciples themselves dismissed His prediction. The angel they met at the empty tomb told them, “Remember how he told you ... that the Son of Man

must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

They were completely unprepared for Jesus' resurrection as they huddled together in fear and hopelessness. But when Jesus appeared to them resurrected, they came face to face with his faithfulness. Jesus kept His promise.

Not only did He rise again, He had predicted He would rise again. His resurrection declared His deity and the fulfillment of His promise vindicated His faithfulness.

Before the resurrection the disciples were more likely candidates for depression than for becoming spokespersons for the largest religion of all time. The only explanation for change in the disciples is the ratified faithfulness of their risen Lord. Jesus promised He would rise. The disciples saw Him, changed and declared His resurrection. And we today can have confidence in the historical reality of the resurrected Christ who has redeemed billions of lives.



CHRIS HEFNER
Pastor,
Wilkesboro Baptist Church

Focal Passage: Psalm 23:1-6

Our youngest son, Nathan, was a difficult baby. He had colic along with an irritable stomach. Eventually, we had to give him a lactose-free, hypoallergenic baby formula called Nutramigen.

If you're not familiar with Nutramigen, that's OK. Think of it as liquid gold. At least that's what it seemed like when we paid for it.

Anyway, I can remember fighting with him to eat. We knew what was best for him, even if he didn't want to eat. I think David had something similar in mind when he penned the verses of his most influential psalm – “The Lord is my shepherd”

As a shepherd, David knew his sheep were entirely dependent upon him. They required green pastures and still waters (sheep will not drink from moving streams). But more than provision, the Lord our Shepherd guides us.

He guides us to places of provision and protection. Our Shepherd also leads us in the “*paths of righteousness for his names' sake.*” David understood leadership. It was his responsibility to lead and guide his sheep. But when David comments about God's leadership, he reflects on God's purpose.

As sheep, we don't know what is best or where we need to go. We tend to wander and drift. But God leads and guides us, and notice why. He guides “*for His name's sake.*”

God guides us because He's redeemed us. We are the recipients of His love, the bearers of His name. So He guides us because we reflect His reputation and glory to the world. The Lord “*leads us in the paths of righteousness*” because the only way we can walk in righteousness is by Him and through Him.

When we walk in righteousness, it becomes obvious to others that we are walking with wisdom and purpose. Would you join David? Would you follow the leadership of your Shepherd in the paths of His righteous word for the sake of His glorious name?

April 1

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

April 8

Assurance of the Resurrection

**Focal passages: John 20:2-9;
1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

Prior to serving in full-time ministry I was a registered nurse, primarily working in cardiology and in the emergency room. In those two areas, it was common to work with patients who were facing life-threatening conditions.

During these critical periods of waiting, I would watch the family members. While their loved one was alive, the family was holding on to hope. However, once death came, they realized, physically speaking, hope was gone.

They accepted death as the final answer. The grave was proof. You put the dead body in there and that is where it stays.

As one of my medical colleagues once told me as a matter-of-fact while I was trying to share the gospel with him, “Dead men don't rise.”

In every case, my friend was right, except for one. And that one has made all the difference.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead, just as He promised, and brought hope to all those who repent and believe in Him by faith. He defeated death, hell and the

grave, bringing life – abundant and eternal – to those who turn to Him.

Those who die apart from Christ are twice dead – physically and spiritually. But, because Jesus – who died but is now alive – rose from the dead, we who were spiritually dead are made alive through faith in Him.

The reality of our resurrected Lord makes a difference every day in all of life. People lose their house to a fire and lose hope. The tomb is empty! There is hope.

People experience broken relationships. The tomb is empty! There is hope! If Christ had not risen from the dead, we would have no hope – in life or in death. But Paul says, “Christ has been raised from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

We, therefore, not only have hope in this life but the life to come. Christ is not only our resurrected Lord, but also our returning king! Do you know the hope of the resurrected Christ? If not, trust Him today! If you do, tell someone today, “The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive. Trust in Him!”



RANDY MANN
Pastor,
Central Baptist Church,
Henderson

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 11:17-29

The older I get, the more I recognize both the importance and difficulty of – oh yeah, remembering.

There are at least a couple of different kinds of remembering that take place in our lives. We remember some things

nostalgically – simply recalling fondly a person or event and how we felt. You might think of a former teacher or a trip to the beach.

We must remember other things, however, because they require action on our part – things like staying on a complicated but important medication regimen or taking out the trash each week.

The reality is, for all of us, we are prone to forget and need reminders. Some of the things mentioned above aren't really disastrous if we forget. Other things bring much greater consequences.

God knows His people are prone to forget. On the plains of Moab, Moses in giving a series of speeches (Deuteronomy) to Israel before going into the

Remembering the Sacrifice

Promised Land, called the people over and over again to “remember” who God was and what He had done and admonished them not to forget.

In giving the Lord's Supper to His Church, God placed before us a regular and visible reminder to remember Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. And this remembering should always call us to action.

It should first call us to worship – worship the God who redeemed us by His Son. We are here, not for ourselves, but for God, united in Him and with one another. It should also call us to proclamation.

Even in our participation in the Lord's Supper we proclaim that we have been reconciled only through the sacrifice of Christ, not based on our merit or works. It should lastly call us to evaluate our lives. Paul warns the Corinthian believers not to come to the Lord's Table unexamined. Because Christ paid such a price for our sin, we should come humbly, gratefully, confessed, and clean.

The next time you partake of the Lord's Supper to remember Christ's sacrifice, don't simply reflect nostalgically. Ask God's Spirit to drive you to action – worship, evaluate and proclaim!

Pastors, planters and volunteers: Come to Vermont

Final in a series

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

Talk to N.C. Baptists who serve in Vermont and sooner or later you'll hear a plea for help:

Come plant a church. Come pastor a church. Come for a time and help churches reach out. Send money. Pray.

"If you feel the Lord is leading you here and you're too scared to take that step, trust the Lord and come," urges North Carolina native Chris Autry, serving in Barre, Vt. "Yes, it will be hard. Yes, the winters are brutal. But you see one person saved, and you will forget about how hard winter is. You will forget how hard the cultural things are."

"Volunteer teams are blessed, because they get to see God at work in a different place," said Mark Abernathy, who coordinates partnerships for N.C. Baptists on Mission, also known as Baptist Men. "Though Vermont is part of the United States, it's not like North Carolina."

"We had four church plants that either

have launched in 2017 or [were planned to] launch by the end of the year," said Lyandon Warren, Vermont church planting catalyst for the the North American Mission Board.

"We are praying that God will continue to raise up church planters within Vermont and also to send in more from outside the state. God is continuing to do miraculous things."

Warren said there are many ways to help the work in Vermont.

"I dream of seeing teams of North Carolina believers come plant a self-sustaining, multiplying, multi-site church, using all sorts of methods to reach people," Warren said. "At the end of the day, that is the goal: To reach people for Christ, to make disciples who make disciples and to see churches planted."

"If we had enough planters, we could do eight or 16 new churches a year. We're just praying Luke 10:2, that the Lord will send out the laborers to bring in the harvest."

North Carolina churches can help with

this "calling out of the called," Warren said.

"If churches could just get a vision for continually putting out the call for people to surrender to ministry, to seek out individuals that leaders think could be church planters," Warren said. "I'm not saying they have to abandon their vocations, but that they can simply choose to do what they're currently doing in a different context that is unchurched. That's what New England is – it's an unreached people group."

"Reaching New England will require that many more people tell God that they're willing to quit their current jobs and move to new work in New England – and commit to share their Christian faith with co-workers and circles of influence, to say, 'I'd be willing to be part of a church planting team. I may not be the lead pastor, but I can lead a small group. I can do outreach. I can certainly serve my church, and I'd be willing to do that.'"

"When numbers of people start doing

this, it will be a game changer," Warren promised.

NAMB now has a trainer whose mission is to train bivocational church planters.

"This is huge!" Warren said. "This opens the door for so many more people, not to quit work and go to seminary for five years, but they can get training and then go plant a church."

Some rural areas of Vermont, for example, likely will require pastors who can also hold down a secular job to support themselves.

"We need hundreds of teams serving across New England in both cities and rural areas, Warren said.

"It will take urban hub churches, multiplying churches as well as small, rural churches to get the gospel where it needs to go."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – If you or your church are interested in learning more about opportunities to serve in Vermont, contact Mark Abernathy with at mabernathy@ncbaptist.org or 919-459-5607.) **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Cedar Creek Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **full-time Pastor**. We are a conservative, rural Southern Baptist church. Accepting résumés until April 15, 2018. Mail résumés to Linda Prevatte, chairperson, 3716 Cedar Hill Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28312.

First Baptist Church, Florence, S.C., is prayerfully seeking the **pastor** God has called to lead the revitalization of our church. We are seeking a shepherd of Southern Baptist faith with a minimum of six (6) years of senior pastor experience. The position requires a BA, BS or equivalent degree from an accredited college or university and a master of divinity or equivalent degree from an accredited seminary. Please contact us for our church profile to determine if you would like to submit a résumé. Contact: First Baptist Church Florence, Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 13687, Florence, SC 29504.

Church Staff

Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, is seeking a **full-time Minister to Children and Families**. For more information about our church, the position description and qualifications, and where to send résumés, please visit www.snydermbc.com/minister-children-families/.

Neill's Creek Baptist Church in Angier, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **part-time youth minister** for an active youth group of 30+ students. To submit a résumé or to request the job description and qualifications, please email ncbc@embarqmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Hickory, NC, is seeking a **full-time Minister with Students** grades 7-12. Candidate should be able to advance a well-established lay-involved missions-focused student ministry that averages 40 active students. Also should provide church-wide leadership in outreach and evangelism, college ministry, singles ministry and assist with pastoral care and senior adults. Must be a team player with excellent communication and teaching skills. He/she must fully support our identity statement (see www.fbc.cc/identity), be committed to making biblically-grounded disciples for Jesus Christ, have a passion for students, be a graduate of an accredited university and have a master's degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school. E-mail résumé, cover letter and references by April 30 to YouthSearch@fbc.cc. Our members give to the SBC, BSCNC, CBF and CBFNC.

Mountain View Baptist Church of Hamptonville, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor of Students** – (middle, high school and college). Please send résumé to mvbc@yadtel.net.

Director of Music Position. First Baptist Church of Highlands, NC, is seeking a full-time director of music, salary DOE. Musical training and experience required. Résumés, including references, may be sent to FBC Highlands, POB 625, Highlands, NC 28741, or emailed to info@fbchighlands.org; 828-526-4153.

First Baptist Church, Spruce Pine, NC, is prayerfully seeking a candidate to serve as **full-time student ministry leader** K-12. This person must be a born again child of God, demonstrate Christian character, be called to lead children and teens and provide a testimony of faith. A bachelor's degree in a related field from a Baptist seminary or divinity school is preferred. Responsibilities include an active leadership role with the youth grades 7-12, to include Bible teaching and mission projects and to plan and coordinate church volunteers to work with the children k-6 grades. Please submit résumé to First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 125 Tappan St., Spruce Pine, NC 28777, or email to doctorrock1@yahoo.com.

Full-time preschool and children's pastor.

The First Baptist Church of Mauldin, S.C. is seeking a full-time Preschool and Children's Pastor. Send résumés to First Baptist Mauldin, 150 South Main Street, Mauldin, SC 29662, or email wleonard@fbcmauldin.org. For more information, visit www.fbcmauldin.org to view the job profile and job description.

Miscellaneous

Plan to attend "Living Forward," NCBAM's Senior Adult Ministry State Leadership Conference May 1 in Thomasville (9:30am-3:00pm). Learn more at ncbam.org/aaaim or call 877.506.2226.

Sermon Outlines/Commentaries For the Savior's Servants by Dr. Andy Royals. Book contains 67 sermon outlines with practical application, a valuable tool for pastors, preachers and teachers! Helpful to all who love expositional structure and seek to boldly declare the truth of God's Word. Available on Amazon for \$9.99.

Share the Biblical Recorder – FREE. Order three months free. Contact liz@BRnow.org.

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

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

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org.
- Purchase ads at BRnow.org/Advertise.
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

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

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.25 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.45 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

"There was
NEVER
anything
to eat."



Note: Maggie's name and photo are changed for her privacy and safety.

Abandoned as a three-year-old by her mother and step-father, Maggie lived with her step-grandparents. The elderly couple could barely provide for themselves much less care for a little girl. Maggie remembers always being hungry as **"there was never anything to eat."** Maggie and her step-grandfather would walk to a local landfill where he would rummage through the piles of trash looking for anything he could sell to keep food on the table or the power on a bit longer. **Too often, Maggie relied on searching a nearby dumpster for food to eat.**

Thankfully, Maggie came to **Baptist Children's Homes (BCH)** where she didn't have to worry about being hungry. So many boys and girls, like Maggie, could never count on eating regularly before coming to live at BCH. It's the reason why the **Food Roundup** every April means so much to the North Carolina children and families you help us serve every year. **You help feed them for an entire year by providing approximately 700,000 meals and snacks! Please let the love of Jesus shine into the hearts of children, many who hear the Gospel for the first time at BCH, by collecting \$400,000 in food, gift cards and supplies.**



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES
Baptist Children's Homes
of NORTH CAROLINA



Watch the 2-minute video. Scan or visit www.bchno.org/food17

Download the leaders guide, needs list, slides & ads for your newsletter at www.bchfoodroundup.org // 1.800.476.3669