

IMPACT YOUR WORLD CONFERENCE

Learn how you can become involved in embracing 'unengaged' people groups April 30-May 2. Read guest column by one pastor who was impacted. [Page 12](#)



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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New life in New York

Couple leaves comforts of South for city that never sleeps

By **SHAWN HENDRICKS** | BR Managing Editor

Kevin and Kristi Cabe love the view from Sunset Park in Brooklyn, N.Y. The park overlooks a backdrop of tall buildings and skyscrapers in Jersey City, Manhattan and Staten Island. Further in the distance one can see Queens and the Bronx.

"It's really an amazing place to stand and see it all," writes Kevin on his blog that documents the couple's recent move to the city.

It's a much different view for the Southerners. Both have North Carolina ties and were living in Knoxville, Tenn., a few weeks ago before uprooting to the Big Apple. The couple packed up their possessions, sold their car, quit their jobs and moved from a "comfortable life" in Tennessee to Brooklyn.

[See New York page 8](#)



Afghanistan massacre prompts call for Christians to pray

By **DON GRAHAM** | Baptist Press

A lone U.S. soldier accused in a shooting rampage that killed 17 Afghan civilians near Kandahar March 11 is prompting Southern Baptist workers in Central Asia to continue asking American Christians to pray for peace.

The shootings threaten to further inflame a roiling tide of anti-American sentiment that swept the country in February following Afghans' outrage over the burning of Muslim holy books, including Qurans, at Bagram Air Base, as well as the posting of a video to the Internet in January allegedly showing four Marines urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters.

The Quran-burning incident alone was followed by a week of protests in which 30 Afghans were killed; attacks that resulted in the deaths of six American military personnel also were tied to the burning.

Some Afghans "understand and are slow to judge, but they ... are certainly not the loud voices," says Leo Hughes*, a Southern Baptist human needs worker in Central Asia who has spent time in Afghanistan.

The vehemence with which Afghans sometimes respond to such incidents may be difficult for Westerners to understand, Hughes says, but the violence is a

byproduct, at least in part, of 30 years of war that has ravaged the country beginning with the 1979 Soviet invasion.

"I have not encountered anyone in this country who has ever known Afghanistan at peace," Hughes says. "There are a few very old men who, when you hear them talk, it's almost like they are hallucinating when they speak about a time of peace."

In addition to America's ongoing conflict with the Taliban, there is continuous fighting among more than 20 ethnic groups that make up Afghanistan's population of 30 million. Hughes says the need to pray for peace for the country's tribes is equally as important.

"Think about a tribe of a million people accusing another tribe of 2 million people of doing wrong, so they fight. The winner was right; the loser was wrong. That's the law of the land," he says.

It's just another reason why prayer is so desperately needed, Hughes says. Rather than react with pessimism or negative attitudes based on stereotypes, American Christians must pray that Christ will soften Afghans' hearts and break the cycle of violence.

These are people God loves, Hughes says. "We are terrible at making generalities and characterizations

[See Afghanistan page 8](#)



These three generations of Afghan villagers live in poverty with little hope for a better life, the result of decades of war that have decimated the country's economic, infrastructure, health care and education systems.

After arrest of student, Southeastern ministers to campus

BR staff/SEBTS/Baptist Press

Students, faculty and guests gathered March 20 during chapel at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest after the arrest of one of its students who had been charged with sexual assault.

William “Billy” Watson Birch, 43, was arrested March 17 and released March 19 on \$50,000 bond. Birch faces charges for sexual assault on a 25-year-old male student. Both Birch and the victim lived in Goldston Hall on Southeastern’s campus.

Danny Akin, Southeastern’s president, reminded students and faculty of the “depravity and wickedness of man” in his address to them. The incident, he said, should serve as a reminder to “how desperately we need the gospel.” He warned students to be careful in their walk with the Lord and to be involved in a local church.

Akin said Birch admitted to him that he wasn’t involved on a regular basis at the local church level.

Akin told the students they can’t hide from sin or confront it on their own.

“Don’t hide it,” Akin said. “Don’t act like, ‘If I ignore it, it will go away.’ Let us help you.”

Birch met with Akin March 19 and confessed that he is guilty of the charges against him. He apologized in Akin’s

office and asked that a letter he wrote be shared with students. Akin spoke of Birch’s embarrassment and repentance over what had happened.

“Not only did I forgive him for what he had done,” Akin said, “but I want to let you know that Birch’s victim has already forgiven him as well.”

Birch has been expelled from the seminary and evicted from his apartment. Because of the nature of the incident there are a lot of eyes watching Southeastern now and what students and faculty will do, Akin said.

“What I want them to see is a re-deemed community of sinners,” Akin added, asking students to especially be careful when using social media.

“This incident is tragic in so many ways and is a reminder of the fallen and broken world in which we live,” Akin wrote in an email to students. “Christians are not immune to this reality. Sin is always crouching at the door and this is evidence of the necessity to take every thought captive to Christ and to walk wisely before our God.”

Akin took a moment to address false information about the incident that had been released by the media to the public. He shared that some of the early media reports were either incorrect or misleading. One report said the seminary, specifically Akin, was unavailable. Akin

said he, along with the seminary’s communications director, were in contact with local media outlets. Early reports also said students had not been notified of an attack. Akin said students were not notified immediately because authorities had Birch in custody and no one was in immediate danger.

“I pledge to you, the Southeastern family, that I never – nor will I ever – cover up any facts that concern our institution and family at Southeastern,” Akin said.

An email was sent to students March 18 informing them of the incident and that Akin would address it when he was in chapel Thursday, March 22. He sent another email March 19 indicating that he would be in chapel March 20 to address concerns about the incident as well as misinformation that had been circulating.

Mark Liederbach, dean of students, sent out an email March 19 about a mandatory meeting that afternoon for students living directly on campus to discuss what had happened and offer the seminary’s services if anyone needs counseling. He, as well as other staff members, are available.

In one of his emails, Akin described the seminary as “a precious family of re-deemed sinners.” Again in chapel service on March 20, he addressed the people gathered as “family.”

“We should never be surprised when sinners sin,” Liederbach said in chapel.

Akin, Liederbach, and Sam Williams, a counseling professor, addressed the need to pray for Birch and encourage him in a right relationship with God.

They also stressed the need to pray for the victim, whose identity has not been released. They asked students to pray for their fellow student and, if they do know him, to be sensitive to what he needs right now.

Birch is a recognized blogger in Southern Baptist circles, with Dave Miller of *SBCVoices.com* calling him a friend “whose judgment and astute theological argument I was increasingly impressed with.”

In a blog post March 19, Miller, pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, said he returned from leading the evening service at his church Sunday to find an email from Birch admitting moral failure.

“I feel like crying as I write these words, because a brother in Christ whom I counted as a friend has fallen deeply into sin,” Miller wrote.

He also noted that “a 25-year-old seminary student has had his life turned upside down as the result of this assault.” Miller wrote that the victim “has been badly damaged by another’s sin” and will need “God’s grace and power to find comfort, healing and strength.” **BR**

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Alicia Wong April 20-21, 2012

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Above, volunteers gather potatoes last fall for the Cleveland County Potato Project. (Contributed photo)

Cleveland project creators hope potato idea spreads

By KATHRYN HAMRICK | Special to the Recorder

In small potato patches across Cleveland County and in the hearts of the hungry who receive the potatoes, Christ's followers are planting hope.

Since potatoes are a viable crop across North Carolina, the leaders of the Cleveland County Potato Project hope this highly successful project will take root across the state.

The project began in 2009 with a vision arising from a men's Sunday School class at First Baptist Church in Shelby. Doug Sharp and Bill Horn left the class that Sunday, burdened about the needs of the hungry and believing a simple idea – planting potatoes – was something they could do.

Sharp and Horn spoke to agricultural agents and local farmers and then went to Charles Reed, ministry support team leader of the Greater Cleveland County Association, who encouraged them to proceed because of the tremendous need for food.

When the first plot of land was made available for planting in the spring of 2010, Reed prayed with the advisory group on the wind-chilled site, asking that God “bless the talent and spirit of people who want to do something about hunger in this county.” Sharp says, “Bill Horn and I are given credit for starting this potato project, but God started this. We don't claim any credit.”

In the spring of 2010, 10 donated plots were planted – and that first year 30,000 pounds of white and sweet potatoes were harvested and distributed through the association, church food pantries and other relief agencies.

In 2011, 84,000 pounds of potatoes were harvested from 22 donated plots. The goal for 2012 is to grow 100,000 pounds.

Baptist individuals and groups have been heavily involved in the project from the outset. Sharp says the support of the association has been critically important, especially in the distribution phase.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has helped fund the project each year with gifts from the Hunger Relief Fund. The N.C. Baptist Men's Shelby Mission Camp has made a plot of land available. The area's Spanish-speaking ministry has raised a crop of potatoes. Gardner-Webb University students help with soil sampling and are a consistent source of volunteers.

Local Baptist churches are participating in the project. One of the churches involved is Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Shelby, led by Jimmy Black. He sees the project as a way for the church to carry out its mission. “We literally had children and church members all the way up to 80 years of age out there,” Black said.

Seven Cleveland County churches have also had potato plots: Elizabeth Baptist, Shelby; Patterson Grove Baptist, Kings Mountain; Zion Baptist, Shelby; Second Baptist, Kings Mountain; Getsemani Hispanic, Lawndale; Washington Missionary Baptist, Shelby; and Lafayette Street United Methodist, Shelby. New Life Baptist Church in Madison in Rockingham County has also had a plot.

More information about starting a similar project can be found online at ccpotatoproject.com. For questions about the project itself, call Sharp at (704) 480-1608 or Reed at (704) 482-3472. **BR**

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Food roundup

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) has its annual Food Roundup in April. Churches, businesses and organizations have the opportunity to help provide for the needs of BCH's boys and girls in care throughout the state. BCH serves more than 700,000 meals and snacks per year. Help meet this year's goal to collect at least \$350,000 in food, supplies and gift cards.

For more information about how you or your church can be a part of Food Roundup, contact Alan Williams; (800) 476-3669, ext. 1277, or awilliams@bchfamily.org. Contact your church or association to find out about local food collection dates.

'Friends of Children' workdays in May

In May, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina is hosting its “Friends of Children” workdays. Church groups and families can directly impact the BCH ministry by serving at one of the state-wide locations. This is a great one-day mission opportunity, and lunch will be provided. For more information about projects and registration, contact Alan Williams at (800) 476-3669 or awilliams@bchfamily.org.

Workdays and locations are:

- **May 5** – Kennedy Home, Kinston; Mills Home, Thomasville; Cameron Boys Camp, Cameron; Oak Ranch, Sanford.
- **May 12** – Camp Duncan for girls, Aberdeen; Odum Home, Pembroke.

Retreat for developmentally disabled

Truett Camp in Hayesville, will be hosting this year's Western Happiness Retreat June 1-3, an opportunity for the developmentally disabled to have fun and learn about

encountering God's power.

Camp director is Lester Evans, and the theme is “Amaz-

ing Wonders

Aviation.” A registration form is required for each camper and chaperone. All ages are welcome. The cost is \$80 per person. Visit specialministries.ncbaptist.org for more information and a registration form. Contact Donnie Wiltshire at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5630; dwiltshire@ncbaptist.org.



Minister's wives pursue Christ at retreat

The 50th annual North Carolina Baptist Minister's Wives Retreat, July 16-18, at Caraway Conference Center, Sophia, will be a time of encouragement and worship for minister's wives. Come hear Bible study leader Beth Greer speak about a passionate pursuit of Christ, and seek refreshing rest and fellowship.

Register by April 16: \$153/person for a double room and \$179 for a single for two nights lodging and six meals. After April 16, the fee will increase by \$5. For questions and registration forms, contact Lisa Miller at (704) 305-2401; jlbrmiller@yahoo.com.

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

STEVE RICHARDSON has been called to Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Goldsboro, as minister to families with children. Richardson is also a school teacher.

Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Oakboro, has called **ROBERT DENNY** as pastor. Denny was previously pastor of median adults and pastoral care for Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte.

DON WILLIS has been called to South Mountain Baptist Association, Vale, as associational missionary. Willis recently retired as pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Vale.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Greensboro, has called **JACK BENZENHAFFER** as assistant pastor for senior adult ministry. Benzenhafer has served on several seminary and school faculties and is a former pastor of Baptist churches in Illinois and New Jersey.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance.

Because we are a statewide newspaper, events included are usually beyond the local church level.

All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

GuideStone Funds honored with premier financial award

By **TIM HEAD** | Baptist Press

GuideStone Funds has won one of the most prestigious awards in the financial world for mutual fund families with up to \$40 billion in assets – the 2012 Lipper Award for Best Overall Small Fund Group in the U.S.

As the first Christian-based socially screened fund family to win the premier Lipper honor, GuideStone was ranked No. 1 among 182 eligible companies for its consistently strong risk-adjusted investment performance across broad asset classes.

GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins, chief operating officer John Jones and chief investment officer Roddy Cummins, along with Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, were in New York City March 8 to receive the Lipper trophy at a dinner sponsored by *The Wall Street Journal*, Thomson Reuters and Investment News.

Hawkins said the Lipper Award for Best Overall Small Fund Group "recognizes a standard of excellence that we pursue every day as we seek to honor the Lord and enable our faithful participants to invest according to their biblical principles."

At a celebration event in Dallas March 12, Cummins first thanked the Lord for His favor and then recognized the daily collaborative efforts of GuideStone's 450 employees as well as the team of outside sub-advisers to the fund group.

"People often think that they have to compromise biblical integrity for investment performance," said

Cummins, who has overseen the growth of the GuideStone Funds family from 13 funds at its inception in 2001 to 27 funds today. "We are dispelling that myth."

GuideStone Funds has achieved its leading level of excellence through its sophisticated proprietary manager-of-managers investment platform that leverages what GuideStone believes to be the best possible intellectual capital worldwide. The 27 funds in the GuideStone Fund group are managed by more than 20 professionals dedicated to its investment process and committed to GuideStone's biblically based, social screening guidelines.

"The Lipper Award is a very meaningful accomplishment professionally for our team," Cummins said.

GuideStone Funds are available to Southern Baptist and evangelical Christian churches and ministry organizations that GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention is authorized to serve. In addition, the funds are sold to individuals associated with those organizations that are eligible to utilize products and services made available by GuideStone Financial Resources. For more information, visit www.GuideStone.org.

Lipper, a Thomson Reuters company, is one of the financial world's leading fund research and analysis organizations, covering more than 122,000 funds, with 231,000-plus share classes, in 61 registered for sale (RFS) universes.

Lipper, in providing independent insight on global collective investments, analyzes mutual funds, retirement funds, hedge funds, fund fees and expenses to the

asset management and media communities. Additional information is available at www.lipperweb.com.

Forming alliance

GuideStone Financial Resources and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company have announced the formation of an alliance to provide property and liability insurance services to Southern Baptist churches and affiliated ministries.

GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said the alliance with Brotherhood Mutual brings together two ministry-focused organizations that share common values as well as a heritage of serving churches.

"The risk management needs of churches continue to grow and change," Hawkins said. "Brotherhood Mutual understands the unique needs of ministries."

The alliance with Brotherhood Mutual is the next logical step in the growth of GuideStone's property and casualty program, Hawkins said. GuideStone first began its direct involvement in the church insurance market in 2008.

Churches interested in learning more about property and liability coverage, and the risk management tools available to them, can call GuideStone at 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or visit GuideStonePropertyCasualty.org.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Tim Head is executive officer for denominational and public relations services at GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Information about the alliance with Brotherhood Mutual was written by Roy Hayhurst, editorial services manager for GuideStone.) **BR**



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Tony Dungy shares about Colts, faith, Billy Graham

Earlier this year, Tony Dungy, an NBC football analyst and Super Bowl winning coach, sat down with *Biblical Recorder* sports correspondent Roman Gabriel III. After winning a Lombardi Trophy both as player and coach, he walked away from the game, on top both professionally and personally. Now Dungy continues to be a champion at home, through his involvement in ministry on many fronts (including All-Pro Dads), and in his new career as an analyst on Sunday Night NFL on NBC. Dungy shared about his new life covering the game, being a fan and supporter for his son's team, and his thoughts on a host of topics:



ROMAN GABRIEL
Sports Q & A

Indianapolis Colts, Peyton Manning, Tim Tebow, longtime evangelist Billy Graham and his coaching future.

Q: How tough has it been for you watching Peyton Manning's situation?

A: The whole thing has been hard for me. To see them lose 11 games in a row to open the season, to see Jim Caldwell who coached with me get fired two years after being in the Super Bowl. Bill Polian had been general manager here 14 years and hired me. To see those people not here now ... and to see Peyton Manning struggl[e] with an injury ... that is very difficult. He is the ultimate competitor; he wants to be out there.

Q: What do you believe Jim Irsay is trying to do with the Colt's franchise from his perspective?

A: Irsay has to run a franchise. He has to put his feelings and fans' feelings aside. He has to put his personal feelings aside, do what he thinks is best for the franchise, and that can be hard some times. Jim Irsay is the relationship person. I know letting Jim Caldwell go hurt him but he has to say, "For the long



Tony Dungy, at left, atop his players' shoulders celebrating the Indianapolis Colts' 29-17 Super Bowl XLI win over the Chicago Bears. Moments later, before a national TV audience, Dungy said he was proud above all for "doing it the Lord's way." At right, Dungy gathers his family, including the newest member, and their fourth adopted child, Jason. Back row, Eric; Laren, Dungy's wife, holding Jason; and Dungy with Justin. Front: Tiara, Jade and Jordan. (Left photo by Bob Carey; right photo by Shawn Ray Photography)

run, the long haul of this franchise, this is the best thing to do. That is what a real leader does.

Q: Many experts have always felt you would come back to the NFL someday. Do you foresee a time when you will come back and coach?

A: I really don't see it. I [have] a lot going on with ministries ... and a freshman son at the University of Oregon that I get to watch play. My family loves me being home, so honestly, life couldn't be better right now.

Q: I know I was always excited when my dad used to watch me play. How does that feel for you getting to see your son on the field from a father and fan perspective?

A: There is nothing like it. This year, I'm there sitting in the parent's section. Everyone is rooting for each other's kids.

My son Eric scored the first touchdown, and it was like the best feeling ever. My wife and I got to go to the Rose Bowl where they won on the last play of



the game. [There is] something special about watching your son play.

Q: What are your thoughts on players who are open about their faith? Why is it so polarizing?

A: Tim [Tebow] is a person who stands up for his faith.

He is quick to let people know that he can't separate his Christian faith and who he is as a person from his performance and what he does as a football player.

Some people really embrace that and they love that, and other people don't. So that is always going to be polarizing, but I love Tim because he is who he is, and he is never going to be different no matter what situation he is in.

Q: What is some advice you would give to young people today?

A: The best advice my dad ever gave me was never follow the crowd. Do things because you want to do them, not because everyone else is.

Don't feel like you've got to be popular. Don't feel like everybody else is doing it so I have to do it. Think about your life and your future and what's going to happen to you.

Q: Billy Graham is 94 years old. In your time around him, what

would you say about him?

A: Greatest missionary in my mind. He is stuck on one thing and one thing only and that is spreading the gospel.

I remember the first event we had at Raymond James Stadium was the Billy Graham crusade.

I got the opportunity to introduce him, to sit on the stage and watch the message.

He just talked and then he said if this message has impacted you I want you to come down and it was like everybody leaving the stadium after a game. The stands just emptied and they all came down on the field.

It was so simple and yet so powerful. A memory I will never forget.

Q: What is it about him that helped you in your coaching life?

A: I felt that I had a lot of missions: to help young men grow, be a good coach, build a winning team, as well as advancing the cause of Christ. With Billy Graham, he had a one-track mind, and that was to advance the cause of Christ. I admire that so much about him.

For more information on All Pro Dads and Tony Dungy go to allprodad.com. **B3**

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Wingate wins community service award again

WINGATE – The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) honored Wingate University as a leader among institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Wingate, which has ties to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was admitted to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging its students, faculty and staff in

meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community. This is the fourth year in a row for this honor.

CNCS admitted a total of 641 colleges and universities for their impact on a variety of issues. Of that total, six received the Presidential Award.

Wingate students logged more than 15,000 hours of community service in 2011. This year's honor is based on several projects. **B3**

Three N.C. Acteens to serve on national panel

By COURTNEY SIMPSON | WMU

Each year, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) selects six outstanding Acteens to serve as National Acteens Panelists based on their commitment to missions and participation and leadership in their Acteens group, church, school and community.

This year, three of the six are from North Carolina: Jessica Francis and Lacey Wheeler, both of Abbotts Creek Missionary Baptist Church in High Point; and Sarah Harris of University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte. All three have also served as state Acteens panelists with WMU of North Carolina for the past two years.

Francis, Wheeler and Harris serve with three other teens – Sarah Behling and Amy Washburn, both from University Hills, and Madison Johnson of Jackson Park Baptist Church in Kannapolis – on the North Carolina panel.

Acteens is WMU's missions organization for girls in grades 7–12. Through Acteens, girls grow in their relationship with God and each other as they learn about and participate in missions, develop leadership skills, and live a missional lifestyle.

Francis, a member of Acteens for five years, cited learning about human exploitation as one of the most meaningful things she has done in Acteens. The topic made such an impression, she chose to write her sophomore research paper about the effects of human trafficking.

"I learned even more about the tragic stories of trafficking both in America and across the world," Francis said. "Many of my friends have also taken a great interest in human trafficking and have helped me share with others my newfound passion for this epidemic. It is spreading like wildfire, and we have the power to do something about it."

Wheeler has also been involved in Acteens for five years and actively partici-



Six teenagers from North Carolina are serving on the state Acteens panel. From left, top row: Madison Johnson and Sarah Behling; center row: Lacey Wheeler and Amy Washburn; bottom row: Jessica Francis and Sarah Harris. Francis, Harris and Wheeler are also serving on the national panel and will be helping with the annual meeting in June and submitting items for *The Mag*, the Acteens' magazine. (Contributed photo)

pates in missions trips, and community projects. "Missions is much more than humanitarian works and good deeds," Wheeler said. "The purpose of missions is to bring others to Jesus Christ by showing His love in all we do."

Mark Hollar, senior pastor of Abbotts Creek, recommended both Francis and Wheeler for the national Acteens panel.

"I have known Jessica all her life," Hollar said. "She is a leader as well as a great servant. Her missions veins run both deep and wide."

Hollar said he has known Wheeler for the past five years, and related she actually attended youth functions and missions events before her family followed her. Now her parents, brother and grandparents are all active members at Abbotts Creek.

"Lacey is fully committed to the missions and service work done in our church," Hollar noted. "She helps with our food ministry each month, sings in the choir, and is a leader in our strong Acteens ministry. I am honored to recommend someone the caliber of Lacey to serve as a catalyst and mentor for other Acteens."

Harris has been involved in Acteens at University Hills for six years. "Missions involvement has opened my eyes and helped me take the focus off of myself and to view the world through God's eyes," she said. "These experi-

ences have helped me to personalize the Great Commission and feel that I can make a difference even though I may be just one person."

Deborah Taylor, Harris' Acteens leader, said, "Sarah demonstrates a Christ-like attitude on every trip I have served with her on, no matter the location or task. She is not just a 'missions trip' girl, but demonstrates this servant attitude with peers, school, community and family."

The other national panelists are Sarah Gaby of Heritage Baptist Church, Grand Blanc, Mich.; Alyssa Hargrove of First Baptist Church, Spring Hill, Tenn.; and Mary Virginia Harper of First Baptist Church, Prattville, Ala. The Acteens Panelists, who serve from Feb. 1 to Dec. 31, each receive \$1,000 from the Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship for Acteens from the WMU Foundation.

These National Panelists will be featured during the WMU Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La., June 17–18. They will also write articles for *The Mag*, the Acteens missions magazine, and for the Acteens website, wmu.com/students.

To apply for the 2013 panel, visit the Acteens site or look for an application in the fall *Acteens Leader*. Applications are due to national WMU by Dec. 1. **BR**

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For more information contact:
*David Turner, Corinth Baptist Church, 252.335.7287, dtuner@corinthbaptist.com or Rob Roberts, Chowan Baptist Association, 252.426.9621, rroberts@chowanbaptist.org.

Visit www.PrayNC.org, www.chowanbaptist.org, or www.ncbaptist.org/renew

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President,
Rick Astle Ministries

Richard Blackaby,
President,
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Evangelical training helps churches reach communities

By BUDDY OVERMAN | BSC Communications

Although every church is called by God to engage in evangelism, a one-size-fits-all approach does not exist. Every local church must develop an effective strategy to evangelize its community.

That principle is the driving force behind the Intentionally Evangelistic Church Strategy (IECS).

IECS is a comprehensive, five-part evangelism initiative that assists pastors and churches, in their unique context, to be intentional in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Don McCutcheon, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) executive leader for evangelization, developed the effort through his experiences and research during which time he discovered five core components of evangelism applicable to every church.

“God has called us to make disciples in our communities,” McCutcheon said. “When churches implement this strategy they begin to reach their communities for Christ.”

Since 1997, more than 200 churches have used IECS to help enhance their evangelism efforts. About 40 percent of those churches doubled their number of baptisms within two years of implementing the strategy.

The Convention provides statewide and regional IECS training throughout the year.

During three days of instruction, participants learn how to incorporate evangelism into every aspect of church life through evangelistic leadership, evangelistic prayer, event evangelism, assimilation and personal evangelism.

Here’s what several leaders had to say about IECS during a recent three-day training seminar:

Marvin Green, director of missions Sandy Run Baptist Association



MARVIN GREEN

Green has attended three IECS training seminars, and he teaches it to pastors and churches in his association. “I was a pastor for almost 40 years and I went to a lot of conferences and I gained something from all of them, but I’ve never had one affect me like IECS,” Green said. “It has been the most profound change agent in my ministry.

“So I can ask these pastors to do it because I know the difference it can make.”

Green said the effectiveness and adaptability of IECS make it an essential tool for pastors. “It’s a strategy, not a program. Most pastors don’t want another program to put into their churches,” he said. “It can be adapted no matter the size of the church and can be plugged into what they are already doing.” All five components are important and beneficial, Green said, but the prayer component has benefited him the most.

“I know that if you strengthen that particular ministry the potential is great to reach the lost,” he said. “A few of my churches have caught the understanding of that importance and have begun to focus on evangelistic praying.”

Shannon Scott, pastor Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Raleigh

In addition to attending several IECS seminars with his staff over the years, Scott’s church has served as a regular venue for statewide and associational IECS



SHANNON SCOTT

trainings. IECS encourages churches and pastors to prioritize disciple-making, Scott said.

“We start right, and we know that evangelism is dear to our hearts, but given time we drift away,” he said. “Sometimes we need that urge to get back on track. That’s what IECS does.”

Ed Rose, pastor Central Baptist Church, Wendell

Two full-time staff members and four lay elders from Central Baptist joined Rose during the three-day training. “I brought the staff because I wanted us to hear firsthand the same things and to be able to discuss the things together, so that we will be aligned in our think-

ing as we go through our annual planning,” he said. “I think it is important for our ministry teams to hear from someone else other than the pastor.”

Rose prays that the training proves fruitful for Central Baptist.

“Hopefully it will permeate the entire body, so that we will become more intentional in all of our ministry activities in terms of being evangelistic,” Rose said.

“My hope and dream is that the



ED ROSE

strategy will become lived out by our people.”

For more information on upcoming IECS training visit ncbaptist.org/iecs. **BR**

Find It Here: Expanding the kingdom, impacting lostness

BSC Communications

The statistics can be daunting: 5.6 million, 258 million and 6 billion. But those are more than statistics; they represent the number of people across North Carolina, North America and around the world who desperately need to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Baptist State Convention of North

Carolina (BSC) has designed the Find it Here 2012: Expanding the Kingdom initiative to help North Carolina Baptists maximize their efforts to reach the world with the gospel.

This year’s emphasis is the third year in a three-year emphasis on intentional evangelism, transformational discipleship and mission mobilization.

To help North Carolina Baptists engage in God’s mission of sharing the gospel



message, Find it Here 2012 is built on the foundation of Acts 1:8 and seeks to help churches develop a strategy for reaching their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the earth with the gospel.

Find it Here includes four strategic phases: discover, develop, implement and evaluate. As churches move through the phases they will assess their current mission strategy, create the framework for a comprehensive mission strategy, implement that strategy and then evaluate the effectiveness of that strategy.

Joel Stephens, pastor of Westfield Baptist Church in Westfield, is leading the congregation through this year’s mobilization initiative. The church recently completed the discover phase and is working toward developing a missions strategy.

Stephens liked how the Find it Here process led the church to evaluate their previous mission efforts. “The greatest benefit is it’s forced us to sit down and do the painful work of honestly analyzing

our missional effectiveness,” he said. “I really thought we were a lot more on top of things.”

Before incorporating Find it Here, Westfield lacked a central focus on missions. Instead, the church had a variety of mission activities. Now, Stephens believes Westfield is learning how to bring those efforts together under a streamlined approach that fits the collective strengths of its members.

He compared the first phase of Find it Here to going to the doctor for a checkup. But in the end he is pleased with the results. “We’re glad we went for that checkup,” Stephens said. “It’s been priceless.”

His experience has taught him how easy it can be to lose focus on being mission oriented. He encourages other pastors to use Find it Here as a way to evaluate and reprioritize their mission strategy.

“It is so easy in a local congregation setting to just get stuck in the rut of doing church on Sunday and Wednesday,” Stephens said. “If you’re not careful, you end up being keepers of the aquarium.”

See Find It Here page 16

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New York Continued from page 1

They now live in a one-room apartment in Bay Ridge, a community of 70,000 people packed within two square miles. As Mission Service Corps missionaries with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) the couple is working alongside Cornerstone Church in Bay Ridge – the only Baptist church in their neighborhood – to help lead locals to Christ. The church, which launched Sept. 11, 2011, is part of NAMB’s Send North America effort to start new churches in cities across the country.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina also is involved in several of these Send North America partnerships that include New York, Toronto and Boston.

“It was simply about being obedient [to God],” said Kevin, who spent most of his life growing up in Canton, N.C.

“We had great jobs. We were comfortable. We were secure.”

Kevin has served on staff in the past at Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden and also helped start Pinnacle Church in Canton. He attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. Kristi also attended there and graduated. But the couple didn’t meet until after Kevin moved to Knoxville in 2008. There, he served as student minister at Belmont Heights Baptist Church. The Caves married in May of 2011.

Kevin first felt called to New York City about two years ago. While on a six-hour layover in Newark, N.J., as he and a mission team returned from an overseas trip to Poland, the team set out to explore the city that never sleeps.

“It was just the enormity ... the high rises, knowing that there are millions of people here,” said Kevin, noting there are more than 170 languages represented in the city.

“And knowing that in the South we have churches on every corner. But up north that is not the case.”

Though Kevin concedes there are some “church buildings” in Bay Ridge, there are few congregations that identify themselves as “evangelical” or those who put their sole trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.

“Our goal [is] to help a church as well as lead people to Christ,” he said.

The move has required some adjustment.

Without a vehicle, the Caves must walk or take the subway to get where they need to go in the city. The people “talk fast” and the cost of living is much higher. As Mission Service Corps missionaries the Caves are endorsed by NAMB, but they are responsible for raising their own support.

“We were fortunate to raise enough support that will keep us here for several months,” Kevin said.

“But we are going to need jobs ... which is good because it will allow us to meet more people.”

Right now the couple has applications out and are actively looking for employment.

The Caves are working with Nathan Tubbs, a bi-vocational pastor of Cornerstone Church and a 7th-grade science teacher. The church meets in a hotel with about 25 people who attend each week.

As an associate pastor, Kevin leads worship, works with youth and leads a small group. Kristi’s main role with the church involves leading a women’s ministry.

Both have helped Tubbs coordinate volunteer teams and lead groups to hand out flyers and information about Cornerstone. Some of the flyers can be found



hanging in stores and in other places around the neighborhood.

“We were afraid that people in the local businesses would be like ‘we don’t want this,’ but they were really friendly and really receptive,” Kristi said.

“Being from the South you always hear that people from up north are rude, and I haven’t experienced that since I’ve been here.”

While riding a subway, Tubbs shared on his cell phone how the Caves are an answer to four years of prayer.

“Having another couple come in and help out, [Cornerstone’s] ministry has been tripled,” Tubbs said.

“We’re meeting people who have never been in a church before, and no one in their family has been in a church before.”

Tubbs described the work in Brooklyn as being similar to ministry among an “unreached people group” overseas.

Afghanistan Continued from page 1

of folks. All Americans are not Christians. All Muslims are not terrorists. ... And if we are not willing to meet people and understand them, how do we have any right to condemn them? Some of my closest friends that I trust – literally – with my life every night, are Muslims. “Christ didn’t spend all His time with believers. He spent more time with nonbelievers,” Hughes adds.

“We need to get off of the church pew ... and become more concerned about the lost in the world than our own comfort.”

Among prayer requests for Afghanistan relayed by Hughes and other workers:

- Pray for God’s mercy and justice for the families of the Afghans killed in the shootings.
- Ask God to quiet rising anger and prevent this incident from sparking further violence.
- Pray for an end to conflict in Afghanistan. Ask God



Kevin and Kristi Cabe, above, face harsher winters in New York than they did when they lived in the South. As Mission Service Corps missionaries with the North American Mission Board, the couple is helping with Cornerstone Church. They are coordinating volunteer teams and hitting the pavement to tell others about Jesus and the church.

According to one study, 83 percent of New York City residents affiliate with some form of organized religion, but only 3 percent claim to trust Christ alone for salvation. “We’re about 97 percent lost,” Tubbs said. “We’re right on the verge of what the International Mission Board would call a people group that’s two percent lost ... unreached.”

Overall, the work is going to take time and persistence. “The relationships here are incredibly slow,” Tubbs said. “It takes days, months, years to have the opportunity to share with someone.”

“That’s why a couple like Kevin and Kristi Cabe are so important to our ministry because they come and they stay ... and are going to see the long-term benefits of doing that.”

For more information on how your church can become involved in similar partnerships through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina contact Michael Sowers, senior consultant with Great Commission Partnerships at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5654, or msowers@ncbaptist.org. You also can follow the Caves on their blog at kevinandkristicabe.blogspot.com or contact them at (828) 273-1536. **BR**

to bring peace and unity between feuding ethnic groups and tribes as well as peace between Afghanistan and other nations.

- Pray that those seeking to incite violence are stopped and that criminals are brought to justice.

- Ask God to ease widespread suffering caused by war and conflict. Pray that He brings peace, stability, education and sustainable living conditions.

- Pray that Afghans will worship the one true God.

- Ask God to send workers to the harvest field in Afghanistan.

“There is a huge task in Afghanistan under the hardest circumstances. The workers are few and the time is short,” Hughes notes. “Help is needed desperately.”

*Name changed.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Don Graham is senior writer at the International Mission Board.) **BR**

Bapt. medical center names vp of faith, health ministries

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem has appointed Gary R. Gunderson as vice president of faith and health ministries, effective July 1.

Gunderson, a 1973 graduate of Wake Forest University, is currently senior vice president for faith and health at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in Memphis, Tenn., and director of its Center of Excellence in Faith and Health.

“Gary’s work, particularly his ability to understand and meet the needs of patients in the community, has been recognized nationally and internationally,” said John D. McConnell, M.D., chief executive officer of Wake Forest Baptist. “His model, which brings together patient need with services within the community, coincides with Wake Forest Baptist’s mission to provide a full range of caring and healing to those that we serve. Gary’s natural ability to engage patients and community partners offers

a new way of thinking about what it is to provide health care.”

As head of the Division of Faith and Health Ministries at Wake Forest Baptist, Gunderson will oversee the division’s four departments (CareNet Counseling, the Department of Chaplaincy and

Pastoral Education, the Center for Congregational Health and the Department of Church and Community Relations) that provide spiritual care services to patients, families and medical center employees as well as manage marketing and public relations services to more than 4,300 Baptist congregations.

In addition to his bachelor’s degree from Wake Forest, Gunderson holds a master’s of divinity from Emory University in Atlanta. He also has a doctor of ministry from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Gunderson is an assistant professor at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health and a visiting professor at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. **BR**



GARY R. GUNDERSON



Learning how to operate a forklift is just one part of disaster relief training for North Carolina Baptist Men. The group was training in Raleigh March 16-17 for Region 4. See more photos online at BRnow.org/Photo-Gallery. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

Disaster relief training still available

North Carolina Baptist Men still have three regions of training opportunities through June 2.

Regions 6, 8 and 10 still have slots available to learn how to respond in disaster relief situations.

There are four levels of training available: basic, crosstrainer, recertification and advanced.

- **April 20-21 (Region 6)** – Union Co.
- **May 18-19 (Region 8)** – McDowell Co.
- **June 1-2 (Region 10)** – Cherokee Co.

Costs vary depending on training.

Contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5599, or visit baptistsonmission.org; click “training,” then “training opportunities” and choose “Disaster relief.” Email mmountz@ncbaptist.org. **BR**

Southwestern launches global Ph.D. in World Christian Studies

FORT WORTH, Texas (SWBTS) – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, is now accepting applications for a new, pioneering Ph.D. degree in World Christian Studies.

The degree will not only train missiologists but also provide opportunities for missionaries and non-Western leaders in partnering national conventions world-

wide to complete doctoral studies while living and working in “World Christian” settings that are developing in the non-Western world.

“A new episode has begun in Christianity. New actors are living out the drama that unfolds when serious indigenous believers transmit and socially translate the gospel into the non-Western world,” says Keith Eitel, dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions at Southwestern.

“The result is transformation as Christ impacts the world’s cultures. A hundred years from now we will only be able to study this era from the vantage point of history. With this degree program we can be eye-witnesses and actually become part of its development.” **BR**



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Carey pastor: ‘They wish they had ... our Cooperative Program’

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

When Al James drives up to Carey Baptist Church near Henderson, his head is uncovered but actually he wears two “hats.”

He is pastor of the church and also professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, some 30 miles to the south at Wake Forest. He also serves as the school’s associate dean for proclamation studies.

It seems fitting that James leads this 400-member church, which has been firmly focused on missions since it was founded in 1896.

The church was named for William Carey (1761-1834), the famous English missionary. His preaching and writing helped launch the modern missions movement before and after he went off to India for a trailblazing career as missionary, translator and educator.

“Missions has always been an important part of this church’s heritage,” James said.

James became a pastor at age 19 and later served as Southern Baptist missionary in Southeast Asia and the Philippines. He earned degrees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La., and later joined the Southeastern faculty.

Considering that missions is major both for Carey Baptist and for James, it’s no surprise either that the church is a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program (CP).

The church currently contributes 13 percent of its undesignated receipts through CP, James said.

Although Southeastern is one of six Southern Baptist seminaries supported through the Cooperative Program, James is quick to say his is not a self-serving attitude.

“It’s that I really believe this is the most effective way of promoting who we are as Southern Baptists and what we want to accomplish. It doesn’t matter if you are in a church with 10 people or 100 people or 1,000 people. We all have a way of giving together,” he explained.

He does think the percentage a church

gives of its undesignated receipts is important.

“I have heard people say, ‘You spend dollars, you don’t spend percentages,’ but percentage giving is a way for us to all be in this together with equal sacrifice. In the Bible, when you have a woman giving her widow’s mite, Jesus wasn’t looking at who gave the most money, He was looking at her heart. The Cooperative Program is a way we can all give sacrificially and we are united together so that we can do more,” he said.

Keeping a church focused on Cooperative Program support takes some effort, even for a seminary professor.

James credits “excellent pastoral leadership” in earlier times at Carey, plus past and present Woman’s Missionary Union leaders. He commends Linda Kelly and Pat Peoples as current missions lead-

ers who support the Cooperative Program and the church’s many other missions activities.

James brings in Southern Baptist

missionaries, both North American and international, plus staff with the Baptist State Convention and other professors from Southeastern to speak.

He said he hears some churches say they want to support missionaries they know, but counters that they can bring in Southern Baptist and North Carolina Baptist personnel to put faces with financial support. James says pastoral support for CP is crucial.

He preaches and teaches on missions and frequently mentions the Cooperative Program in his messages and announcements; he connects Carey’s CP giving to people or places in the news whenever possible.

“I try to keep them informed on what those CP dollars are actually doing,” he said. “I remember when I was growing up I often heard, ‘You don’t give *to* the Cooperative Program, you give *through* the Cooperative Program.’ It’s still the truth,” he said.

CP giving is part of Carey’s overall missions program, he stresses.

Carey members both give to missions and do missions. They gave more than \$11,000 to the 2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions;

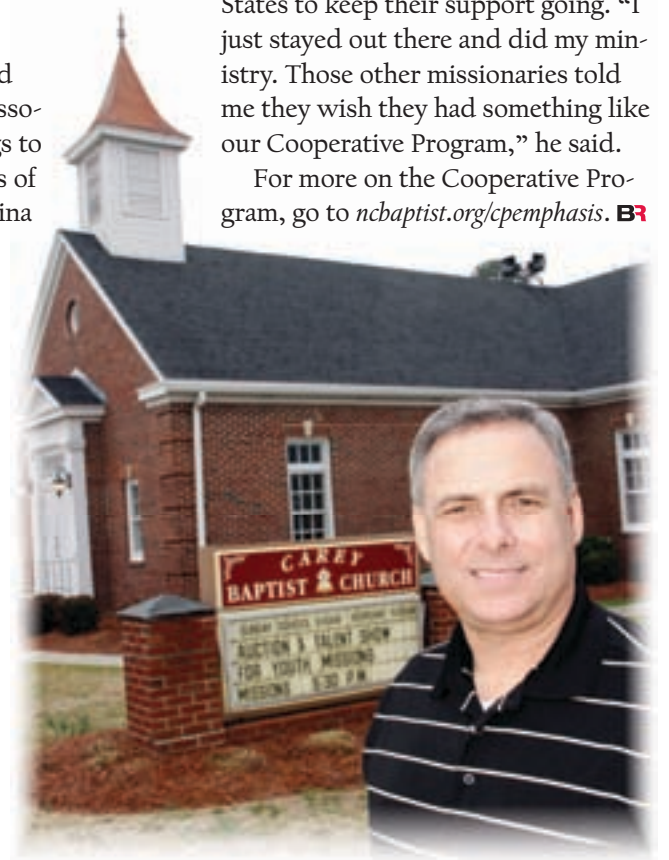
he expects they will meet their \$5,000 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions in 2012 as well.

Carey members give 3.5 percent of their undesignated receipts to Cullom Baptist Association and also give offerings to the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, North Carolina Baptist Hospital and Guide-Stone’s Mission:Dignity, which supports retired ministers. Carey members fill Samaritan’s Purse boxes with gifts for children at Christmas and take part in local ministries in the Henderson area. Some serve in the disaster relief ministries of N.C. Baptist Men. Carey’s young people serve in North Carolina and other states through the North American Mission Board’s World Changers program.

During his overseas service, James recalls meeting independent missionaries who had to raise their own support. It usually took

them between 18 to 24 months just to raise their support and then they had to make frequent trips back to the United States to keep their support going. “I just stayed out there and did my ministry. Those other missionaries told me they wish they had something like our Cooperative Program,” he said.

For more on the Cooperative Program, go to ncbaptist.org/cpemphasis. **B**



Pastor Al James stands in front of Carey Baptist Church. The church was named for William Carey, a famous English missionary, and gives 13 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)



Find it Here is a statewide evangelism emphasis. Please pray about involving your church in the following activities on or before **Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012**.

1. Pray for the salvation of non-Christian family, friends and neighbors
2. Invite non-Christian family, friends and neighbors to Easter services
3. Preach an evangelistic sermon and extend an invitation Easter Sunday
4. Baptize new converts Easter Sunday, 2012, or the following Sunday



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No time for designated decoys

A police officer was waiting across the street from a bar parking lot late on a Saturday night watching for drunks trying to drive home. After a short wait, one particularly sad case stumbled out the door with the front of his shirt soaked.

He appeared bleary eyed and confused as he wandered through the parking lot looking for his car. When he finally located his vehicle, he fumbled for his keys, bumped his head getting in, drove off and bumped the curb on the way.

Of course the man didn't get very far before the police officer had him pull over. The policeman had him step out of the car and proceeded to administer several sobriety field tests. The driver seemed to have considerable difficulty understanding some of the tests. In fact, he failed all of them miserably: he couldn't stand on one foot, he couldn't touch his nose, he couldn't walk straight, and he couldn't recite the alphabet correctly. The final legal step, of course, was the Breathalyzer, so the police officer asked his subject to blow into the tube. The green light indicated that the man was not drunk. In complete disbelief, the policeman checked the Breathalyzer and had the suspect try once more. This time another green light showed the man's blood-alcohol level was legal!

"All right," said the police officer, "but how can you pass a breath test when you're falling-down drunk? I just don't get it."

"Well, it's like this," replied the man. "I'm the designated decoy."

Recently, news reports from across North Carolina featured the results of an Elon University poll, a study, which ABC 11, the *Charlotte Observer* and the *Raleigh News and Observer* collaborated on, saying opinions had now shifted regarding the proposed marriage protection amendment. The survey supposedly found 54 percent of Tar Heel residents currently oppose the constitutional amendment, while only 38 percent supported it.

Don't be fooled! The Elon University poll is nothing more than a designated decoy – something meant to lead people away from the truth and discourage backing for the amendment. Contrary to what's being reported,



MARK H. CREECH
Guest Column

support for the marriage protection amendment is not waning. The Elon poll was not limited to registered voters, nor did it employ the exact wording of the amendment that will appear on the ballot in May. But a Civitas poll, which was scientifically conducted during the same period of time, using the exact wording of the proposed amendment, while polling only those who had voted in at least one of the past three general elections or had registered since November 2010 (likely primary voters), was completely ignored by the media.

Tami Fitzgerald, chairwoman of Vote For Marriage NC noted: "The Civitas Institute poll stands in complete contrast to the Elon poll. By asking likely voters the actual May 8 ballot question, we have a scientific test showing that 64 percent of likely voters in North Carolina support the marriage protection amendment. Furthermore, when asked if a recent court case in Guilford County challenging North Carolina's marriage laws made them more likely to support the Amendment, 60 percent of likely voters responded 'yes,' which includes 20 percent of people who had previously not supported the amendment. In addition to African-American support remaining strong for the amendment by a 40 percent margin, the poll showed that unaffiliated voters support the amendment by a 24 percent margin, which is

an increase from January's 11 percent margin."

So support for the marriage protection amendment has not shifted with most people now being opposed, but it is, in fact, slowly picking up momentum.

You know, a very prominent and powerful man of yesteryear said the role of the press should be one of a collective propagandist and agitator. That certainly seems to be what is going on today, especially when it comes to the proposed marriage protection amendment for North Carolina. There has yet to be one positive story about it in any of the major dailies, or any other news venue for that matter. Every story is propagandist in nature and obviously meant

to agitate the public against the measure. The sad thing, however, is Vladimir Lenin was the one who advocated this is how the press ought to work. In contrast, America's founders believed the hope of sustaining a free people was a free press that would freely tell the whole truth. Despite the negative reports of the media, efforts to protect marriage as one man and one woman in this state are succeeding. Therefore, like a runner who has his eye upon the goal and pushes through every difficulty to reach it, let us bear down all the more toward the mark (Phil. 3:14).

This is no time to be distracted – no time to be discouraged – no time to be following after designated decoys.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Mark H. Creech is executive director of the Christian Action League.) **BR**

"Support for the marriage protection amendment ... is, in fact, slowly picking up momentum."

Marriage rally in Raleigh

Return America (returnamerica.org) is hosting a marriage amendment rally Friday, April 20. The rally, which begins at 11 a.m. behind the state legislative building, is being advertised as a celebration of traditional values. The rally will take place in Halifax Mall at 16 W. Jones Street in Raleigh.

Contact Return America at P.O. Box 380, Wallburg, NC 27373; call (336) 407-6406; email returnamerica@hotmail.com; or visit the organization's website.

Obama opposes amendment

(BP) President Obama says he opposes a proposed North Carolina constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman – an amendment that polls show a majority of the state's voters support.

The amendment, which will be on the May 8 primary ballot, is aimed at preventing a state judge from redefining marriage to include gay couples, as has happened in Massachusetts, Iowa and Connecticut. The amendment, known as Amendment 1, reads: "Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State."

Twenty-nine states have similar amendments in their respective constitutions.

"While the president does not weigh in on every single ballot measure in every state, the record is clear that the president has long opposed divisive and discriminatory efforts to deny rights and benefits to same-sex couples," Cameron French, a spokesperson for the Obama North Carolina campaign, said in a statement to the media. "That's what the North Carolina ballot initiative would do – it would single out and discriminate against committed gay and lesbian couples – and that's why the president does not support it."

But Tami Fitzgerald, chairwoman of Vote FOR Marriage NC – the coalition backing the amendment – said Obama's position would allow a judge to determine the issue.

"Unfortunately, his recommendation against the Marriage Protection Amendment would leave the definition of marriage up to an activist judge instead of the people of our State," Fitzgerald said.

For more information about the amendment, visit VoteForMarriageNC.com. **BR**

Marriage amendment Updates and Resources

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has a collection of articles and information on the marriage amendment. It is available in hard copy or electronically by contacting Brian Davis, BSC executive leader for administration and convention relations, at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5506, or bdavis@ncbaptist.org.



Websites

- **Christian Action League** – christianactionleague.org
- **Christian Life and Public Affairs** – blog.ncbaptist.org/clpa
- **Vote For Marriage NC** – voteformarriagenc.com
- **North Carolina Family Policy Council** – ncfamily.org
- **The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission** – erlc.com
- **Family Research Council** – frc.org
- **Return America** – returnamerica.org

Do you have items, sites, or other information to share? Email editor@BRnow.org.

It's time to give up excuses, embrace 'unengaged'

Imagine going into a room with 100 people starving of malnutrition and you had a large bowl of warm food. You put heaping spoons of nourishment on 27 of these plates before you run out of food.

When you return from the kitchen, you dish out food on those same 27 plates until they run out again. Next time, you give food to those same ones who are now stuffed, while leaving all the others starving.

What if you kept feeding the same ones over and over, and at the same time the vast majority starved while you never took the time, money or effort to give them a single morsel?

I had heard about them, read articles about them, and even mentioned them in sermons, but I had never taken unreached, unengaged people groups (UUPG) seriously until three years ago. I thought it wasn't my problem. I had read that at least 73 percent of the people on earth were without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but I was busy feeding the other 27. That was my responsibility.

For over 30 years I had taken many mission trips, completed mission projects, and developed partnerships with missionaries.

However, I had always excused my personal involvement in engaging a UUPG because as a pastor in America, I believed they were not my responsibility. I shirked my personal responsibility by hiding underneath a much larger group responsibility.

I thought, "Our church gives to

missions. We support the Cooperative Program.

We give to Lottie Moon. We fully support the International Mission Board. It is their job to reach the unreached. I am a Southern Baptist, and they are trying to reach those who are spiritually starving."

Like the men in Luke 9, I had used so many excuses; "It is too costly. They are too far away. We are involved in other good works. This is too hard. There are lost people right here."

In my devotion time one day I read where the four starving lepers received a miraculous provision. While they were gorging themselves as everyone around them starved, they said, "What we're doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves." (2 Kings 7:9). There it is!

If God has saved me and I know others do not know – I AM RESPONSIBLE!

Even after 2,000 years since we were commanded to make disciples among all people groups, there are still over 6,400 people groups that are "unreached," (UUPG) with less than 2 percent Christians; and over 3,500 that are unreached, and "unengaged" (UUPG). They have no church, no missionary, and no one engaging them with the gospel.

This means while 27 out of every 100 people on earth keep getting all the food along with most of the cooks and servers, 73 are left starving. As a follower of Jesus Christ who has received the Bread of Life, I cannot excuse myself. I am responsible

and so are all those I keep feeding week after week.

Those whom I am privileged to serve understand this same responsibility. We realize Acts 1:8 starts in our community, extends in our country, and embraces the continents. We are intentional about reaching the lost around us in our Jerusalem.

Last year, Englewood launched a new church plant in our Judea, Creekside Fellowship in New Bern, while sponsoring two new Hispanic church plants.

Two years ago, after months of prayer and exploring the different UUPGs in the world, Englewood Baptist Church made the unanimous public

declaration in a called business session: We are committed to go wherever it takes, and do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes in order to plant indigenous, healthy, reproducing churches among the Koli Malhar people.

After taking five teams to South Asia in the past 16 months, we know of seven Koli adults who have professed faith in Jesus Christ, thrown out all their idols and been baptized. All glory goes to Jesus Christ! Our church is committed to send a couple from our congregation to work among the Koli and other UUPGs through the International Mission Board, but will be financially supported by the church.

This church is focused and filled with excitement as members in every age group are praying for the Koli. Engle-



MICHAEL CLOER
Guest Column

Impact Your World Conference

When: April 30-May 2

Where: First Baptist Church, Charlotte

Deadline to register: April 25

Registration fee: \$50

For more information, contact Teresa Bowman at tbowman@imb.org or (800) 999-3113, ext. 1721.

One of the speakers will be Michael Cloer.

Register: www.regonline.com/IYW2012_NC

wood is taking personal responsibility.

I challenge other pastors to join me in embracing a UUPG, or an area, a village, or a region with several of these groups. Four pastors from eastern North Carolina are currently leading their churches to partner together to embrace, not one group, but a district in Mumbai that contains several UUPGs. What an exciting concept – cooperating together to reach the unreached!

There are enough churches in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that if we pastors and members took personal responsibility, we could embrace every unengaged people group that is left in our lifetime. We could take food to all those 73.

What about you? What is your excuse? (EDITOR'S NOTE – Michael Cloer is senior pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount.) **BR**

Praying for a harvest

Before I became executive director-treasurer of this Convention I served as executive leader for the mission growth evangelism group, what we refer to now as our evangelization group. Evangelism has always been a very important part of my life. I am thankful for every opportunity God gives me to share how the gospel changed my life.

The Bible tells us in Romans that people cannot believe in Jesus if they have not heard of Jesus. God has entrusted to us His gospel message and commands us to tell others.

One way your Convention staff is seeking to help churches make evangelism a priority is through the Intentionally Evangelistic Church Strategy, or IECS. (See story, page 7.) This is a strategy that Don

McCutcheon, our executive leader for evangelization, developed to help teach churches to be intentional in fulfilling the Great Commission.

In 1997, while still serving as director of evangelism strategy for the Florida Baptist Convention, Don first introduced IECS. Since then, more than 200 churches have implemented the strategy, and 40 percent of those churches doubled in baptisms in two years or less.

IECS is based on four principles: Every Christian is called by God to be involved in the Great Commission; evangelism begins with the local church; churches are different and must find their own way to evangelize their community; and God wants to bless Christians in reaching nonbelievers.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive director-treasurer

The five-part strategy includes evangelistic leadership, evangelistic prayer, assimilation, event evangelism and personal evangelism.

Churches are encouraged to develop an individualized process for effective evangelism that incorporates these five elements.

If your church has not participated in IECS, please pray about doing so. You can find more information at ncbaptist.org/iecs.

With Easter Sunday almost upon us, I also want to encourage you to join us in our Easter evangelism emphasis.

As part of this year's Find It Here: Expanding the Kingdom missions focus, we are also inviting North Carolina Baptists to participate in an intentional Easter evangelism emphasis. (See story, page 7.)

For the past two years, hundreds of churches across the state have participated and we have seen the gospel transform lives.

More details about this emphasis are available at 2010.finditherenc.org.

As we pray about being more intentionally evangelistic, what better time than during this Easter season?

There's still time for you to go across the street and invite a neighbor to come to church with you on Easter. Pastors, there's still time for you to prepare an evangelistic sermon for Easter Sunday.

If we are going to reach this state and this world for Jesus we must begin with prayer. In our own strength and abilities we can do nothing. Scripture commands that we go and tell, but only God can save and only God can draw people unto Himself. Please pray that Jesus Christ would open the hearts of lost people so that they will come to know Him as Savior and Lord.

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God Ye must be born again." – John 3:3, 7 **BR**

Opportunity is knocking at our door

By definition, an opportunity is limited by time. An opportunity to help a friend is limited to the point in time when your friend has a specific need. An opportunity is a favorable circumstance, a moment in time, an open door to do something that can only be done at that given moment.

We've all had those regrettable times when we saw an opportunity and did nothing. We could have made a difference in a life, a family, a community or even the world, but we missed it.

We did not capitalize on the one moment that we will never be able to recapture, no matter how much we would like to turn back the clock. What we should have done will remain undone for eternity.

Jesus captured the urgency of time when he said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4, NKJ).

There is a time given to us to do the right thing. When the night comes, the door is closed. It will never be open again.

Such a moment faces North Carolinians.

A very simply worded, uncomplicated amendment to our state's constitution will be on the ballot on May 8. Responsible citizens will cast a vote. Christians have an opportunity to impact our culture in a very positive way by voting for the amendment.

I pray that men and women of conviction will vote consistent with the truth of scripture to identify marriage as God defined marriage – one man and one woman.



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

This is a definition which has worked since the creation of man and woman. Civilized cultures have embraced it without question. This definition has never been the cause of societal collapse. It has never undermined a single political system. On the contrary, it has been a bedrock of social and moral stability wherever it is practiced.

But, my concern is that we will miss two opportunities. We will miss the opportunity to pray together, and we will miss the opportunity to vote together.

May 3 is the National Day of Prayer. This is the Thursday before we have the opportunity to vote for the marriage amendment.

May 3 and May 8 are two monumental days of opportunity. I hope we will not miss either date.

I want to plead with pastors and other Christian leaders to plan a specific prayer event on Thursday, May 3. As you gather to pray for America (it is the National Day of Prayer), pray for North Carolina. North Carolina needs the truth of God's Word and a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit. This will not happen apart from fervent prayer.

In Luke 18, Jesus gave a great parable on the power of prayer. The Holy Spirit made sure that Luke inserted these words before he reported the parable:

"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1, NKJ). He seemed to be saying that in a time of need, there are two choices: pray or give up. The word translated "lose heart" ("faint" in the King James) means "to be utterly spiritless; weary to the point of exhaustion."

We must pray. We cannot afford to throw in the towel. This is our opportunity to pray for our state and our nation in very specific ways.

Christian pastors and leaders must call God's people to prayer. I believe Christians have a genuine desire to follow leaders who will issue a call for public gatherings of prayer. Call people to prayer for a breakfast gathering, a noon gathering, or an evening service. Encourage everyone to ask their employers if

they can meet for prayer during their lunch break on May 3.

As we pray, acknowledge to God that America's problems are not primarily financial, political or social. Our problems are spiritual.

America's hope does not rest in one leader or institution. Our hope is found in the One who created us, and loves us enough to give His only Son for our eternal salvation. Call to God

on behalf of America, that He will hear our cry, and that we would see a revolution of righteousness sweep our state and nation.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Resources for the National Day of Prayer may be found at NationalDayofPrayer.org. Resources for the marriage amendment may be found at BRnow.org/marriage.) **BR**

TAR HEEL VOICES

Stand for what is right

In Dudley Stallings' letter (March 3) he said he did not think pastors should preach about the marriage amendment. Yes, it can cause some controversy, but preachers should stand for what is right according to God's Word.

To illustrate what can happen: In 1989 I changed my membership to a new church. We called a new pastor in 1993, and some time later we voted to change our affiliation from the General Baptist Association of Virginia to The Southern

Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. There were a number of families who left. But after a dip in attendance, we began to grow fast.

When this pastor came the average attendance was 135; now it has reached near 700. This church has planted three other churches that are growing steadily. If you follow God's leading you can grow.

Dan Lang
Gatesville

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CORRECTION

In "Lives changed, N.C. baptism numbers up," published March 3, we reported an incorrect baptism number shared. An error on the Annual Church Profile (ACP) put Catawba Valley Baptist Church in Morganton in the list of top 10 churches for 2011 baptisms.

The number of baptisms for the church was actually 12 instead of the 217 reported. All of the top 10 churches had baptisms over 200, with the higher-ranked churches in the 300-400 range,

and the top-ranked church listed 2,410 baptisms. The list was compiled from numbers received through the ACPs. We regret the error.

The *Biblical Recorder* strives to maintain clear and accurate stories. Part of that is relying on submitted information. Please help us by checking information before it is sent.

If you see problems or errors, please report to editor@BRnow.org or call (919) 847-2127.

April 8

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

April 15

Jesus Rose from the Dead

Focal Passage: Matthew 27:62-66; 28:5-8; Luke 24:13-16, 32-33, 35

What connection exists between the daily news and the Good News, between the “kingdom of this world” and the Kingdom of the Lord? And what does the resurrection mean for us today?

The bodily resurrection of Jesus is the chief foundational doctrine of Christianity. The Apostle Paul was so convinced of its reality that he declared, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins” (1 Cor. 15:17). There were many eye witnesses who saw, spoke, and ate with Jesus after His resurrection. His resurrection fulfills not only His earthly claims, but also gives assurance to mankind that there is life after death which is available by faith.

Warren Wiersbe asserts, “The Jewish leaders remembered what the disciples forgot: that Christ promised to come out of the tomb after three days. How unfortunate it is when Satan and his children know the Bible better than Christians do! The Jews called Christ ‘that deceiver’ (v. 63), little realizing that one day the na-

tion of Israel will accept the ‘arch-deceiver,’ the Antichrist, and make a covenant with him. ‘Make it as secure as you can’ (v. 65), was all Pilate could say. But no earthly seal could hinder Christ from coming out of the tomb as He promised.”

As we consider the significance of Jesus’ resurrection, consider these truths: (1) It proves He is the Son of God (John 10:17-18); (2) It attests to the truth of scripture (Acts 2:21; Ps. 16:10); (3) It assures us of our own future resurrection when we die (1 Thes. 4:13ff); (4) It is a proof of future judgment (Acts 17:30-31); (5) It is one of the central truths in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-8); (6) It is the assurance of our future inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3ff); (7) It is the foundation for Christ’s heavenly priesthood (Heb. 7:23-28); and (8) It gives the power to the Christian life (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:18-20; Rom. 6:4).

Our message at Easter is “Come and see ... Go and tell!” Every Sunday is resurrection day for the believer. He is risen; He is risen indeed!



JEFF MEYER
Associate pastor of
education, Bay Leaf
Baptist Church, Raleigh

Focus Passages: John 15:1-5; Romans 6:1-7; Galatians 2:19b-21

The focus of Christianity is not a dying Savior but one that is living and indwells each believer. We have been crucified with Christ, we have been raised with Him, we have been reconciled with God, and we are to now grow in Christ. While we are to continue to fight sin via Christ’s resurrection power, we are not doing it alone. We should live for Him as our living hope.

Paul proclaims that believers have been crucified with Christ, we no longer live, and it is Christ who lives in us (Gal. 2:20a). We are to no longer live for ourselves, our own desires, or our own agenda. Is there evidence in your life to demonstrate that you do “live by faith in the Son of God (Gal. 2:20b)?” Our life’s testimony should give evidence of the Savior’s ownership of our life. By faith we have been given the right to be called children of God,

and so we willingly give up the right to the throne of our own lives because we are no longer king; Jesus is. Max Anders said it this way: “I have crucified my right to self-control in life, in the same way that Christ gave up his right to physical life; I gave up my right to self-life.”

Each believer has been raised with Christ and is no longer enslaved by sin. Sin is no longer master; Jesus is. We have been given freedom to walk in a new way of life; our chains are gone. We died to the old life.

Jesus’ death and resurrection were God’s final remedy for sin. Death has no mastery over Him, and no longer governs us either through our salvation. We are now drawn to righteousness.

Our new reality as believers leads us away from sinning. Believers are marked by Christian living. Expect difficulties as Satan is our foe looking to destroy each believer. Pray for strength to defeat temptation the next time you face it. Be thankful for his transforming work in your life.

Remain in Jesus, and He will remain in you. That’s how we will bear fruit; fruit that will remain.

April 8

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

April 15

Be Confident of the Resurrection

Focal Passage: Luke 6:12-8:56

The resurrection is a major component of the gospel message.

Some groups focus on Christ on the Cross – to the point that they ignore the importance of His resurrection. The Cross without the resurrection only speaks of a martyr for a cause. Christ did not die as man for what He believed in, He died as the Son of God to redeem us back.

Go back to the Old Testament picture that God provided in the Day of Atonement. See the High Priest as he offers the sacrifice. Watch him gather the blood and how he takes it into the Holy Place. He passes by the Seven-branched Candlestick and the Table of Showbread. Going past the Altar of Incense he enters between the veil into the Holy of Holies. Once inside he pours the blood on the Mercy Seat – offering up before God the sacrificial blood to cover the people’s sins.

The people wait outside the Temple – waiting to see if the sacrifice was accepted. How would they know if the sacrifice was in fact accepted? When the High Priest walked out from behind the

veil. When he stepped out they knew that their sins were covered.

Today, we know that our sins are removed because the High Priest (Jesus) came back from behind the veil. On that glorious Sunday morning when He stepped out of the grave – He proclaimed that the sacrifice had been accepted. We are clean before God.

The lesson this week challenges us to stop and examine the scriptures as they teach about Christ’s resurrection. Go beyond just reading the gospel accounts. Look at the truth that God has been proclaiming throughout the Old Testament.

Recently I learned that Thomas Kinkadee’s paintings have the letter “n” hidden in them. If you look at his signature, to the right will be a number saying how many are hidden. If you want to see them you have to seriously search for them. If we search the Bible we will find the truth of the Resurrection given throughout. These will build our trust in the validity and value of the Resurrection.



THOMAS MARSHALL
Pastor, New Hope
Baptist Church,
Laurinburg

Focal Passage: Luke 9:1-50

A school principal noticed that many of her children came to school on Monday mornings hungry. They had received breakfasts and lunches during the week, but on the weekend they received very little. This principal told a Christian lady what she had noticed and said that she wished there was a way to help.

Together, they decided on a plan to provide a bag of snacks for those most in need. What started as a way to help a small number of students branched out to include all the schools in the county and now regularly provides about 600 bags a week to these in need. Many now help with this ministry.

These bags, called “Jesus Bags” because they have “Jesus Loves You” printed on them, are eagerly anticipated by the children.

How did this ministry come about? It started because one lady had the heart of Christ and saw a real need. Just as the

disciples saw a need that day with Jesus, she looked at the hungry around her. The disciples’ reaction was that the need was so great they couldn’t meet it. They said send them away. Because the need was overwhelming, they didn’t even begin to meet it.

We are often guilty today of looking at the need – seeing how large it is – and then turning away without doing anything.

We need to not focus on the need – we need to focus on God. We may not be able to help everyone, but what can we do for the ones God places in our path? Are we looking for opportunities God has for us?

Instead of helping the one, we often help none.

The lady mentioned earlier trusted God to provide for a small number. He in turn has opened many doors of funding and provision for this vital ministry in our county. She never has too much, but He always provides what is needed when it is needed.

What are you, your Bible class, your church able to do? What is your “Jesus Bag” that God will supply? Can you trust Him?

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Senior Pastor. First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, TN (fbcmboro.org), a progressive downtown church with an active membership of over 400, is seeking a gifted preacher and spiritual leader. Our mission is to build an authentic community of diverse individuals by serving Jesus Christ, providing relevant Bible study and worship (both traditional and contemporary), and engaging in hands-on-ministry locally, nationally and internationally. FBC Murfreesboro partners with both CBF and SBC. A seminary degree and pastoral experience is required. Women and men are encouraged to apply. Send resumes and a cover letter stating your vision for church life by April 30 to Pastor Search Committee, 200 E. Main St., Murfreesboro, TN 37130, or fbcmboropastorsearch@gmail.com.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, SBC church in Troy, NC, is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Five years minimum experience is required. Seminary degree and references are required. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Mt Carmel Baptist Church, PO Box 903, Troy, NC 27371, or e-mail coltranes@connectnc.net.

Temple Baptist Church in Brevard, NC, is currently seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please send resume to be received by April 15, 2012, to: Pastor Search Team, Temple Baptist Church, 5 Temple Church Road, Brevard, NC 28712.

Mount Gilead Baptist Church of Fayetteville, NC, seeks a **full-time pastor** to lead our Southern Baptist church who believes the Bible is the word of God and who follows the Baptist Faith & Message. Must be an effective leader for all areas and ages. Current active members is approx. 125. Seminary degree and references are required. Send resumes to Mount_Gilead_Pulpit@yahoo.com or mail to Search Committee/Carey, 8337 English Saddle Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28314.

Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro, NC, seeks a **full-time pastor**. We're affiliated with Bladen Association, BSCNC and SBC. Pursuing a pastor with an unwavering love for God, His infallible Word and a passion for the lost. Candidates must adhere to Baptist doctrine and be of exceptional Christian character. Church is comprised of a diverse group of people with member leadership unparalleled for congregational size. The ideal pastor should be an effective communicator, visionary and emphasize evangelism. The candidate must have at least five years of pastoral experience and a Bible college graduate is preferred. Send resume to Galeed Baptist Church, PO Box 429, Bladenboro, NC 28320. For more information visit www.galeed.us.

Poplar Springs Baptist in State Road, NC, is seeking **full-time pastor**. Send resumes to psbc@embarq.com or PSBC, 193 Fellowship Way, State Road, NC 28676.

Church Staff

Large church in Knoxville area searching for a **worship pastor**. Blended worship style (choir, praise team, band). Must have conservative theology and experience with productions. Experience with sound, lighting, and video a plus. Great compensation package. Email a resume and family photo to grow4life@aol.com.

Lafayette Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, is seeking a **full-time minister to children** (birth-6th grade) **and their families**. We are dually aligned SBC/CBF with a non-traditional ministry strategy. Ideal candidate should have experience working in childhood ministry along with appropriate training. Job description is available at www.lafayettebaptist.org. Send résumé to Lafayette Baptist Church, Search Committee, 501 Hope Mills Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304, or to lbcfaync@nc.rr.com.

Minister of Youth and Music. Is it you? We are seeking a vision filled and energetic person to guide and care for our youth and music ministries. This person will lead and equip our youth and music ministry teams. While the responsibilities will include everything from planning yearly calendars and budgets to coordinating camps and trips, this position could be fulfilled by someone looking to grow in ministry experience. Experience and credentials negotiable but passion for Jesus, His Church body, and the spiritually lost a MUST!! Mail resumes to: Belhaven Missionary Baptist Church, Attn: Search Team, P.O. Box 400, Belhaven, NC 27810.

First Baptist in Southern Pines, NC, a CBF church, is currently seeking a **part-time Minister of Children and Families**. Seminary degree preferred. Deadline for applications is April 13, 2012. Mail resume and cover letter to Gerald Galloway, Chair, Minister of Children and Families Search Committee, 200 E. New York Ave., Southern Pines, NC 28387, or e-mail to searchcommittee@fbc@gmail.com.

Macedonia Baptist Church, Lincolnton, NC, is receiving resumes for a **full-time Minister of Children, Youth & Discipleship**. Applicants who are graduates of a theologically conservative Bible college or seminary are preferred. You may email pastorsetzer@yahoo.com for a complete job description. Resumes will be received until March 31, 2012. Please mail resumes to: Dr. Randy Setzer, Macedonia Baptist Church, 5286 E. Hwy. 150, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

Minister of Worship and Discipleship.

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, in Shelby NC, is seeking an energetic worship leader for our music and media ministries, as well as our growing discipleship ministry. The ideal candidate will successfully blend traditional and contemporary music styles into our DayBreak (8:30 AM) and Celebration (11:00 AM) worship services. In addition, this person would be leading our adult and children's hand bell choirs and heading up our discipleship ministry. Send résumés and inquiries to the Music Ministry Search Team, c/o Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 198 Pleasant Ridge Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152, or to Eric@PRBCShelby.org by April 2, 2012.

The First Baptist Church of Shallotte has an immediate opening for a full-time **Associate Pastor, Music and Worship**. FBCS is affiliated with the Brunswick Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of NC, and the SBC. To learn more about FBCS and the position, visit the church website at www.fbcshallotte.com/about-us. Resumes and inquiries should be sent to fbcsmusic@atmc.net or mailed to FBCS, 4486 Main Street, Shallotte, NC, 28470, Attention APMW.

Miscellaneous

7+ acres, North Raleigh, Creedmoor Rd & Strickland Rd area. Can be subdivided. Ideal for church or civic organization. \$90,000 per Ac. Julie Wright Land Company 919-847-5731.

Children's Ministry Murals. Call toll free 1-800-925-3084 and learn how to receive 50% discount on a mural. Offer NC-1. www.biblestorymurals.com.

NCBAM needs builders for the biggest ramp-raisin' marathon this state has ever seen. Register for Rampin' Up! – an April 28, 2012, event at www.ncoperationinasmuch.org. Check out www.rampinup.org for more information or call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

NCBAM needs servant volunteers to educate aging adults about the use of Red Bags. Contact North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry to learn how Red Bags prevent overmedication and the use of conflicting medicines: 877-506-2226 or online at www.ncbam.org.

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East Coast Women's Bible Conference

Speakers

Jean Stockdale and Donna Gaines



God provides Abundantly!
Ephesians 3:20

May 4-5, 2012
Englewood Baptist Church
Rocky Mount, NC
Registration Cost \$30
Deadline May 2

Register online at www.englewoodbaptist.com or call the church office at 252-937-8254 for any questions you have.

Find It Here

Continued from page 7

Free resources to help churches carry out the Find it Here emphasis are available for download at finditherenc.org. This site features videos, sermon outlines, Bible study lessons and other guides.

Easter evangelism

North Carolina Baptists are also encouraged to participate once again in the Find it Here Easter evangelism emphasis. Hundreds of churches across the state have participated in the Easter emphasis during the past two years. If your church has not been involved in previous years it's not too late to join this year's effort.

As in the previous two years, pastors and church leaders are encouraged to lead their churches to do the following:

- Pray for non-believers (family members, friends, neighbors and work associates) by name.
- Invite those non-believers to attend the Easter Sunday morning worship service.
- Preach an evangelistic sermon and extend an evangelistic invitation.

- Baptize new converts on Easter Sunday or the Sunday following.

A variety of evangelism resources are also available on the Find it Here website. For more information, please contact Janet Packard at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5563, or via email at jpackard@ncbaptist.org.

C.J. Bordeaux, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, participated in last year's Find it Here Easter evangelism emphasis and baptized 16 people on Palm Sunday. This year he is planning to baptize a father and his stepdaughter together at the end of the Easter service.

He believes that Find it Here is an effective tool and should become a yearly process and focus for North Carolina Baptists.

"The house will not be built by itself. The man must put his

hand on the hammer," Bordeaux said. "Find it Here is just words on paper or a banner that is hung until we use it. We've got to utilize the tools we've been given."

Visit finditherenc.org, email findithere@ncbaptist.org or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5648. **BR**

"It is so easy in a local congregation setting to just get stuck in the rut of doing church ..."
— Joel Stephens

April 22, 2012 Cooperative Program Sunday



Between ages 6 and 17, Clifton Lambreth was cared for by Baptist Children's Homes. He became a Christian, a college graduate, an author and a top executive with Ford Motor Company. More proof that your Cooperative Program is working!

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reach/equip college students on 38 campuses across the state; provide college/university scholarships to more than 500 Baptist students each year,

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Stay connected at www.rampinup.org

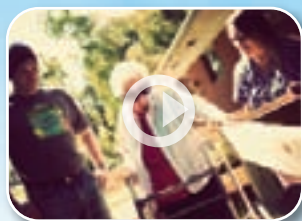


RAMP GOAL: 300!

Register now!

On April 28, 2012, in conjunction with Operation Inasmuch, you can construct a wheelchair ramp and be a part of setting a record for ramps constructed in a single day! Register online today to have your ramp counted and you could win one of four \$750 awards for ramp supplies! The drawing will be held April 2.

See how one North Carolina Baptist church helped to free an aging adult by building a ramp. **Rampin' Up!** video is on YouTube. Search Rampin' Up! or go to www.youtube.com/ncbamvid.



Register for Rampin' Up! at www.ncoperationinasmuch.org to be counted. Also, download complete instructions on "how to build a wheelchair ramp." Need help finding someone who needs a wheelchair ramp? Call NCBAM at 1-877-506-2226.

