

MILTON HOLLIFIELD
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
pages B1-8



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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'WILD LAWSUIT' CHALLENGES N.C. BATHROOM LAW

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

Flickr photo by Hal Goodtree

Despite a federal court challenge, social conservatives in North Carolina are defending a state law upholding religious liberty and requiring individuals in state government buildings to use restrooms based on the gender indicated on their birth certificates.

"North Carolinians are pretty fed up with their voices being clamped down and tossed out" regarding the defense of traditional marriage and religious liberty, said Mark Harris, a Charlotte pastor running for U.S. Congress. "... The citizens of North Carolina are determined their voices are going to be heard."

A lawsuit filed in federal court March 28 by pro-transgender activists alleges North Carolina's Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972. According to the lawsuit, the bill's "requirement that transgender people be shunted into single-sex spaces that do not match their gender identity invades their privacy and exposes this vulnerable population to harassment and potential violence by others."

Gov. Pat McCrory, a Republican, has defended the law, including in a document titled "Myths vs. Facts: What New

York Times, Huffington Post and other media outlets aren't saying about common-sense privacy law."

Mark Creech, executive director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina, said McCrory's classification of the mainstream media is an accurate reflection of a "mammoth misinformation campaign" afoot among the cultural left.

Attorney General Roy Cooper, the governor's Democratic opponent in his bid for re-election this year, has refused to defend the measure in court, calling it a "national embarrassment" that "puts discrimination into the law," The Associated Press reported.

The Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act was passed March 23 during a special session of the state legislature convened in response to a Charlotte city ordinance that would have taken effect April 1 barring discrimination in public accommodations based on "gender identity, gender expression" and "sexual orientation." The ordinance deleted a section of the city code stipulating sex discrimination laws did not apply to "restrooms, shower rooms, bathhouses and similar facilities which are in their nature distinctly private."

State lawmakers overturned the ordinance by establishing a state nondiscrimination law that preempts all local government laws. The new state law prohibits discrimination in employment and public accommodation of individuals based on, among other factors, their "biological sex," identified as "the physical condition of being male or female, which is defined on a person's birth certificate." The law does not include an explicit ban of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

McCrory's "Myths vs. Facts" document argues the law permits private businesses to allow anyone to use any restroom. It also permits transgender persons to use the restroom of their choice in state facilities as long as they have changed the sex indicated on their birth certificates – a change allowed in North Carolina only for those who have undergone gender reassignment surgery.

See Bathroom page 4

GEORGIA GOVERNOR VETOES RELIGIOUS LIBERTY BILL

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal's March 28 announcement that he would veto the state's religious liberty bill has provoked criticism from social conservatives, including Southern Baptists.

Mike Griffin, public affairs representative for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, told Baptist Press that Deal, a Republican, "missed an opportunity to stand for Georgia values as opposed to Wall Street and Hollywood values."

"We certainly respect his right to make that decision, but we also respect the right to voice our disappointment with it."

House Bill 757 – the Free Exercise Protection Act – combined elements of a Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a First Amendment Defense Act and a Pastor Protection Act. Griffin said explicit protections for wedding service providers like bakers and florists were removed from the measure's final version, but one section stipulating no individual would be forced to participate in a same-sex wedding could perhaps be applied to for-profit businesses.

Homosexual rights activists and corporations, including Apple, Coca Cola, Hollywood studios and the NFL, had called on Deal to veto the bill. The NFL suggested adoption of the measure could disqualify Atlanta from contention to host a future Super Bowl.

Deal, in announcing his veto at a news conference, said "there has not been a single instance" to his knowledge of persons or organizations of faith in Georgia being forced to act against their consciences in ways referenced by the bill.

See Bill page 7

Grateful for Milton and Gloria Hollifield

The *Biblical Recorder* dedicates eight pages of this issue (B1-8) to recognize Milton Hollifield's 10th anniversary as executive director-treasurer (EDT) of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). He was elected and installed in a called meeting of the convention April 11, 2006.

We believe Baptists in our state need to reflect on the way God has worked in the life of leaders and give thanks for those He has chosen to serve us. Good leaders take a lot of heat and unfair criticism. It comes with the territory. So it is important to balance the voices of the critics with the voices of those who want to express appreciation for the tireless labor of our leaders.

You should know that we did not ask Hollifield for permission to honor him. He certainly would have rejected the idea. As far as we know he was not aware of our plan to recognize him.

The *Recorder's* staff attempted to summarize some of the strategic events and actions that required the EDT's measured response in the past decade. We searched through 10 years of printed *Recorders* and the website, *BRnow.org*, and found an impressive amount of material to describe the activities and personalities in N.C. Baptist life during this period of time.

It is said that newspapers write the first draft of history. Hopefully a book will eventually be written to tell the full story. We believe the story will show how God has worked through the lives of imperfect people to accomplish His purposes and give Him glory.

Since limited space required us to give our readers the short version of events that influenced Hollifield's leadership, there are some items we are not able to cover. So I will add a few personal thoughts here.

When Hollifield stepped into the role of EDT, N.C. Baptists were dealing with a lot of division. Many in convention leadership, if not most, were perceived to be favorable to the moderate-liberal leaning Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. But the conservative resurgence that reshaped Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) life was making an impact on our state.

Those loyal to the SBC had been elected to places of leadership in the state for more than 10 years; their influence was growing rapidly. The next EDT needed to be a man of biblical conviction who is gracious and fair. He needed to be loyal to the SBC and lead N.C. Baptists to be convictional on matters of evangelism, missions, prayer and discipleship. But the

issues are more expansive. He must be a man whose integrity inspires trust.

N.C. Baptists needed their next leader to be a man with experience in the local church, the association, the state convention and the national convention. He must appreciate people from every level of life and be passionate about Kingdom work.

Milton has met and exceeded the expectations most of us had when he stepped into his new office.

If the problems he inherited were not enough of a challenge, the state and the nation fell into economic chaos two years later. The shock waves damaged local churches before pressing on

denomination life with aftershocks that undermined mission strategies and agencies. Through these challenges the office of the EDT was not a place of comfort.

Today N.C. Baptists give more to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions than any other state convention. The churches' generous gifts make N.C. a leader in giving to North American missions and to many other mission causes through the Cooperative Program.

Across the SBC Hollifield is respected as a voice of reason and experience. He is regularly asked to serve in national positions of responsibility. He stays current on the issues of the SBC.

I could write volumes about the positive health of ministries that are aligned with BSC. Hollifield has been a friend and cheerleader for our Baptist Children's Homes, N.C. Baptist Men, the Baptist Hospital, the N.C. Baptist Foundation and the *Biblical Recorder*. The convention's three camps – Caswell, Caraway and Truett – are stronger than ever.

He has friendly relationships with the presidents of the Baptist universities and the Woman's Missionary Union of N.C.

Fruitland Baptist Bible College and the *Biblical Recorder* have called new leaders during Hollifield's tenure. David Horton was installed as the eighth president of Fruitland on Aug. 21, 2009.

I began serving as editor and president of the *Recorder* on May 25, 2011. Both organizations benefit from Hollifield's strong support.

The relationship between our convention staff and the staff at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has never been stronger. This has aided in very favorable fellowship between the seminary and local churches.

The BSC's collegiate outreach is very

healthy after significantly restructuring the ministry for the 21st century. Church revitalization is intensifying with impressive results, and church planting continues to grow. Most of those new churches are reaching ethnic peoples who live in the state. Internationals are being engaged with the gospel in increasing numbers.

A stellar characteristic of Hollifield's ministry should not overlooked. He has surrounded himself with excellent staff. These men and women are bright, visionary and passionate about fulfilling the Great Commission. They serve all of us well. We are thankful for their skills and their dedication to impacting lostness in N.C.

While most of this recognition highlights Milton, we would miss an integral part of his life if we do not also recognize his wife, Gloria, for her valuable support and personal involvement in their shared ministry. We are thankful for her beyond words. I ask N.C. Baptists to continue to pray for Milton and Gloria.

Crisis in N.C.

Moving to another subject, I need to ask you to give considerable attention

to an urgent crisis. Yes, I believe this is an extremely urgent matter.

The governor of N.C. is being blasted by executives of large corporations who want to reshape social order. Businesses that include Pepsico, Lowes (home improvement, not the grocery store) and allegedly more than 100 other corpora-

tions are threatening the governor with economic penalties.

They should be ashamed for their actions.

President Barack Obama's administration also suggested that the new law could make North Carolina ineligible for billions of dollars in federal aid for schools, highways and housing.

Liberals in the world of politics despise big business.

In campaign rallies their candidates rail against business leaders with extreme cruelty. But for some strange reason those same business leaders bow to the ruthless threats of leftist activists, leveling the same harassment on legislators and governors who stand for moral decency.

The most recent crisis in our state can be blamed on the Charlotte City Council. They passed a senseless ordinance that threatens the privacy, and potential safety, of individuals in public restrooms. But when the state legislature approved a statewide measure to reverse Charlotte's action and restore the decency citizens have enjoyed for centuries, corporate leaders caved to the screams of radical leftists and began to pressure our leaders to reverse the standards of decency.

Gov. Pat McCrory and members of the legislature need to hear from you.

Please make every effort to call, write or email them this week to express your prayers, appreciation and support for their wisdom and courage (governor.nc.gov/contact). Pray for them.

Watch for news about several rallies being planned to show public support for these battered elected leaders. **BR**



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

"Across the SBC Hollifield is respected as a voice of reason and experience."

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IN FOCUS

A WORD FROM OUR LEADER

A call to awake, unite and pray in St. Louis

It's that time of the year again – the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is nearly two months away. This year, the meeting will take place June 14-15 in St. Louis, Mo., and I believe that it will once again be a wonderful time of prayer and fellowship as we work to make the name of the Lord Jesus known to the nations. I hope you will take this opportunity to represent your church and North Carolina Baptists as you participate in meetings and vote on decisions that will govern the work of our national convention.

Last year, the SBC Annual Meeting was a great time of joy and prayer as we experienced the obvious presence of God and prayed for a great awakening in our nation. Ronnie Floyd, president of the SBC, led us all in a time of earnest prayer for revival that I still reflect on.

I am confident that we will once again experience a work of God while we are in St. Louis. Continuing the momentum from last year's meeting, the theme for 2016 will be, "Awaken America: Reach the World." Pray that this theme will unite Southern Baptists in a movement to reach others with the gospel like never before.

We will elect a new president of our convention in June. Many of you have heard that a North Carolina pastor will be nominated. He is J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham.

The Summit Church is a church that is impacting lostness through disciple-making in unique ways. I appreciate Greear's leadership in facilitating a disciple-making culture among the congregation he serves, the pastors he mentors across our state, the missionaries the Summit sends and the churches they plant. Steve

Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn., and David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Orleans, will also be nominated as candidates for SBC president.

I hope to see you at the annual meeting in St. Louis, and I do pray that God will awaken His Church to another period of revival. With nearly 2.9 million people living in the city, St. Louis one of the largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. Pray for effective results in evangelistic events that will be conducted prior to and during the meeting.

Remember that it is our responsibility to pray not only for those who are lost in this nation, but also those living in other nations of the world.

As we pray for the Lord to bring about an awakening, may we join together in a spirit of unity as the revival of God's church begins in our hearts and continues to the next generation of Christ followers. (EDITOR'S NOTE

– If you or your church would like more information about Annual Meeting of

the Southern Baptist Convention, please visit sbcannualmeeting.net.) **BR**



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
SBC executive
director-treasurer



Three reflections on political correctness, cultural conversation

ERLC

I recently saw an Internet meme with an image of a 2-foot-tall book with several thousand pages. On it was the caption, "Things People Find Offensive: 2016 Edition." I would have found the image funny had it not been for the fact that its message was painfully true.

OK. Truth be told, I still found it funny. However, many people aren't laughing – and understandably so – as one wrong public statement or tweet can land you quarantined in the politically incorrect hall of shame. And once there, you'd probably be shamed some more while undergoing a public crash course on what you should've said if you had any common sense. More than likely, you'd eventually be "farewelled" from relevance, and maybe even fired from your job.

That's tough stuff. I get it. So what is political correctness, exactly?

Settling on a singular, succinct definition has been a difficult task. For the average evangelical frustrated by the current state of affairs, to be politically correct (PC) probably means something like the following: adherence to language, policies or measures which are intended not to offend or disadvantage any particular group of people in society – particularly, marginalized and minority groups.

Simple enough? Absolutely not!

It is undeniable that, for a whole host of reasons, our current cultural conversation is in a state of crisis. From university campuses to political campaigns to the public square, we find ourselves seemingly incapable of amicable exchange. To be sure, the situation is a bit more complex than a mere call for civility. Many monographs and popular-level articles have been written in an attempt to trace the historical development of what is now our PC society.

While some choose to highlight the genealogy of an economic Marxism gone cultural, others focus their analysis on the state of affairs on college campuses – one piece in particular having diagnosed the problem as a coddling of collegiate minds.

I think perspectives such as these offer interesting insights that need to be

seriously considered as we contend for a more sensibly sensitive society.

However, I think that evangelical Christians would do well to be mindful of a few things as we seek to engage.

There are two extremes to be avoided, not one

I often hear Christians decry political correctness in favor of a climate where they can "say whatever they feel/want." Every time I hear that phrase – or a derivative of it – two thoughts come to mind: first, a question, "what exactly is it that you want to say?" and, second, I'm reminded that the goal of a distinctly Christian dialect has never been unbridled speech.

The biblical witness is clear. "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart," warns James, "this person's religion is worthless" (James 1:26). Likewise the apostle Paul instructs, "let no corrupting talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29).

While censored speech is certainly problematic, unsanctified speech is just as poisonous; our outrage should be against both. Far from saying whatever we feel, Christians are called to "walk in wisdom toward outsiders," and to "let [our] speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6).

Clarity, thoughtfulness are helpful

While I suggested previously that civility alone would not remedy the problem, it certainly helps. Arguably, one of the things that our PC culture has forced evangelicals to do is to reflect a level of clarity in our public square commentary that, prior to this moment, we felt little pressure to do. Previously, we could not only count on people to be charitable in their listening, but we could assume their familiarity with, and even partiality to, our rhetoric and reasoning. Indeed, times have changed.

And, ironically, many of our efforts to avoid giving offense and being misunderstood – albeit painstaking and frustrating at times – have resulted in fresh and helpful articulations of some of our most

See PC page 12



STEVEN HARRIS
Guest Column

Submissions

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

Read global news with pro-life mindset, advocates say

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR staff writer

Planned Parenthood made headlines last summer when undercover videos revealed company executives discussing the sale of aborted fetal parts. The exposé triggered a federal investigation of the women’s health provider and prompted a backlash lawsuit by Planned Parenthood against the pro-life group that organized the sting operation. More than four decades since *Roe v. Wade* legalized the practice nationwide, media coverage once again fixated the country’s attention on the abortion debate.

Despite longstanding controversy in the U.S., less attention is given to the global scale of abortion practices. Some evangelical pro-life advocates want to see that change.

In 2008 there were 1.4 million abortions performed in North America. Compare that number to 4.4 million in Latin America and 27.3 million in Asia the same year.

Organizations such as the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and The Heritage Foundation work to inform people about worldwide abortion practices so that individuals and churches can advocate for the unborn more effectively across geopolitical borders.

Surveying the landscape

Pregnant mothers overseas often face complicated and uncertain circumstances in ways that may not be well understood by some American evangelicals.

Many developing countries enforce high restrictions on abortion, but there is no indication of lower rates in such areas. According to the Guttmacher Institute, the abortion rate is 29 per 1,000 women of childbearing age in Africa and 32 per 1,000 in Latin America, where the procedure is illegal under most circumstances. By contrast, the rate is down to 12 per 1,000 women of childbearing age in Western Europe, where abortion laws are less strict.

The Guttmacher Institute reported unintended pregnancies as the root cause of abortion. Approximately 225 million women in developing regions live without adequate access to modern contraceptives and family planning resources.

Pro-abortion groups, such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Center for Reproductive Rights, advocate legal abortion as a human right in developing regions. They argue for the elimination of unsafe illegal abortions, one of the three leading causes of maternal mortality.

For decades the Roman Catholic Church has opposed abortion on an international scale, but the evangelical impact has been less visible, said Travis Wussow, ERLC director of international justice and religious liberty.

“When these developing countries are coming to the U.N. and you have these pro-choice advocates trying to link aid – trying to link legitimacy – to a country’s position on abortion,” said Wussow, “we have to recognize that many of these countries are under a lot of pressure.”

Evangelical engagement in the international abortion debate would allow “these countries’ representatives [to] realize that there is a diversity of opinion in the West on this issue,” he said.

Understanding the issues

Jennifer Marshall, vice president of the Institute for Family, Community and Opportunity at The Heritage Foundation, pointed out a serious international threat to human dignity from a developed nation.

China’s two-child policy, formerly one-child, suggests that government has the ability to use coerced abortions and forced sterilization to set controls on family life in a way that is concerning for the freedom of the family, she said.

Marshall also noted a broader issue.

“We need to be concerned about the dignity of human life across the life spectrum ... concerned about trafficking and the abuse of human beings,” she said. “[W]e should be seeking government according to the rule of law, that protects all people with equal dignity and particularly women and their unborn children.”

Haiti, for example, has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere, according to a 2011 report by the Human Rights Watch. In 2010 a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, damaging 60 percent of health facilities in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, the center of Haiti’s health system. Ten percent of health professionals were killed in the disaster or emigrated after the earthquake.

Women and girls face obstacles to maternal care, including lack of services, delayed access to services or fear of sexual violence.

They also “continue to be second-class citizens with unequal representation before the law and state,” according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Thinking globally & personally

In addition to specific, international policy changes, Marshall said individual Christians should strive to be aware of international news items, reading them with a pro-life mindset and identifying personal connections to places or situations.

“Others may share that interest. Often in churches, that connective interest leads to something more concrete that the church can do,” she said. “Be open minded about that and how God can bring attention to something.”

Wussow recommended churches begin to think about pro-life advocacy in countries they already engage. Local churches should reach out to their partners in certain countries and ask about issues related to abortion and pro-life movements that exist there.

“The fight is really going to be country by country,” he said. “To some extent, that’s what the church is already doing with missions.”

(EDITORS’ NOTE – Liz Tablazon is circulation and social media manager for the Biblical Recorder. Seth Brown, BR content editor, contributed to this story.) **BR**

Bathroom

Continued from page 1

Republican state Rep. Paul Stam, speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, said the lawsuit filed against the bill “reads like a novel.”

“If the courts follow the law, the lawsuit will be thrown out,” said Stam, a former member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and a former trustee at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. “... This is a wild lawsuit.”

Among the suit’s claims:

One plaintiff’s “sex assigned at birth was female, as his birth certificate reflects, but that designation does not accurately reflect his gender identity, which is male.”

“Medical treatment such as the surgery required to update a person’s North Carolina birth certificate does not alter a person’s gender ... but rather merely brings a person’s body into alignment with the gender they have always been.”

Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, said the new state legislation is necessary to preserve the rule of law, safeguard religious liberty and protect public safety.

“We just did not need the risk of men in women’s restrooms,” Harris said. The Charlotte ordinance “said

that transgender individuals simply could choose to go to whatever restroom they felt most comfortable with. It was based on what they felt. It didn’t even say they had to be presenting as a woman.”

Harris continued, “No one ever said that a transgender individual was more likely to be a predator on innocent children or women. However, the way this ordinance was written ... it certainly left the door wide open for people with less than positive motives to use this to be in a women’s restroom.”

Richard Land, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, said that restricting restroom use based on biological sex “is not just a safety issue, it’s also a modesty issue.”

Supporters of open access to restrooms should “talk to more women about this,” said Land, former president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. “There are some innate gender differences, and one of them is modesty ... My wife was just horrified [before the state legislature acted] at the prospect this [Charlotte] law was going to go into effect.”

Land added that religious liberty protection for wedding service providers who object to same-sex marriage on religious grounds is an underreported aspect of the

new state law.

“Religious freedom is a right that is not granted by the Constitution,” Land said, referencing its divine origin. “It is recognized. It is guaranteed by the Constitution. The idea of discrimination goes both ways. These laws are meant to protect citizens’ religious freedom. It’s to protect the faithful and their beliefs.”

State Rep. Jonathan Jordan, a co-sponsor of the measure, told BP pro-transgender activists in North Carolina should present their case directly to state and federal legislators rather than acting via local ordinances – which he classified as violations of the state’s constitutional principle that governing power is vested in the legislature unless the legislature delegates specific powers to local governments.

Adding to the list of groups legally protected against discrimination “is an argument you need to take to either Congress or to the state ... instead of trying to overreach and kind of go behind with a local municipality, which didn’t have the authority to do that,” said Jordan, a Republican and a Southern Baptist.

He added, “I would not want to add more federally protected classes. I’m not sure where that’s going to stop.” **BR**

Baptists on Mission celebrates 40 years of ministry

By EMILY ROJAS | BSC Communications

The year was 1976, and Ed Bullock had just been appointed as the executive director of a newly formed auxiliary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) — a corporation called N.C. Baptist Men (NCBM). Now, 40 years later, N.C. Baptist Men, also known as Baptists on Mission, has a legacy to celebrate.

Some of that celebration will take place on April 15-16, when NCBM will host the 2016 Baptist Missions Conference at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Open to all Baptist men, women and students, the conference will feature breakout sessions, mission fair exhibits, mission testimonies and a volunteer supper.

Since 1997 alone, NCBM has distributed more than 6.2 million meals and treated more than 58,000 patients on its medical/dental buses.

With 17 ministries that span from agricultural missions to sports and recreation ministries, NCBM has been blessed to be able to serve in a variety of different fields.

Lynn Tharrington has worked for NCBM since 1971 — a time when the office was still the BSC's Brotherhood department, existing to do hands-on missions for North Carolina Baptist churches.

Tharrington has served alongside all three of the auxiliary's directors, and the organization has been a source of joy to her as she has seen firsthand the effect that acts of service can have on the lives of others over the course of her 45-year career with NCBM.

She recalled a time when NCBM was embarking on

its first disaster relief mission — helping with cleanup after tornadoes ripped through Red Springs in 1984.

"At that time, nobody had ever heard of disaster relief," Tharrington said.

"But God did have that vision. He knew what He was preparing us for."

In 1992, Richard Brunson was appointed as the executive director of NCBM, a position he still holds today.

He has seen the ministry grow, but he said the focus of NCBM remains the same.

"Our job is to help churches involve their members in missions," Brunson said. "We want to challenge all men, women and students to be involved in missions."

Brunson said that a large part of NCBM's growth over the years had to do with helping Baptists to understand that they can be missionaries in their day-to-day lives. Many people give to missions and pray for missions, but they often don't see themselves as missionaries, Brunson said. NCBM helps change that mindset.

"We wanted to change the story from missions education to missions involvement, and every Christian is a missionary," Brunson said.



Baptists on Mission disaster relief volunteers serving in Johnsonville, S.C., gather to pray in this October 2015 photo. Volunteers serve in a variety of ministries. (NC Baptist Men and Women Disaster Relief Ministry Facebook photo)

"All Christians are called, gifted and sent."

If you or your church would like to learn more about becoming involved with North Carolina Baptist Men, please visit baptistsonmission.org or contact Lynn Tharrington at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5599, or lharrington@ncbaptist.org.

Because of the *Biblical Recorder's* press deadline, coverage of the 2016 meeting in Charlotte will be in the May 7 issue of the *Recorder*. **BR**



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SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

David Crosby becomes third to be nominated for SBC president role

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

Louisiana pastor David Crosby will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, fellow Louisiana pastor Fred Luter announced March 24.

“I have watched David the last 10 years here in New Orleans as he has taken the leadership of all the churches and pastors of our city in helping to rebuild New Orleans, which everybody knows was totally destroyed [in 2005] in Hurricane Katrina,” Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, said in an interview, telling Baptist Press of his intention to nominate Crosby during the SBC annual meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis.

“I saw how he was able to get a lot of things done to get the city back up and running,” Luter said, noting Crosby’s “passion for the Body of Christ and for our convention.

“I can see that same passion he had for our city leading the Southern Baptist Convention.”

During the 20 years Crosby has pastored First Baptist Church in New Orleans, the congregation has given between 7 and 15 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program (CP) despite a major relocation effort and \$3.5 million of damages sustained from Katrina, Luter said.

During the fiscal year that began a month following Katrina, First Baptist gave 10.4 percent through CP, according to the SBC’s Annual Church Profile (ACP). Over the past five years, the congregation has averaged 9.5 percent giving through CP, Southern Baptists’ unified program of supporting North American and global missions and ministries.

Total missions giving for the congregation has been at least 22 percent of its undesignated receipts each of the past five years, according to ACP.

Currently, First Baptist forwards 7 percent of undesignated receipts



David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Orleans, was the featured speaker during the evening session June 17 of the 2012 WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting. Photo by Matt Miller

through CP; 1 percent to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; 1 percent to the New Orleans Baptist Association; .5 percent to Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans (a joint ministry of the North American Mission Board and the New Orleans Baptist Association); and approximately .5 percent to a ministry to seafarers at the Port of New Orleans, Crosby said.

A designated gift held in trust also generates funds given through CP each year, Crosby said. The church has averaged 658 in worship and 24 baptisms annually over the past five years, according to ACP. Previously, Crosby pastored churches in Texas and Mississippi.

Luter said Crosby has demonstrated “a heart for missions and a heart for people regardless of their skin color or what side of the tracks they were born on.”

Some 20-25 percent of worship attendees at First Baptist come from non-Anglo ethnic groups, Luter said. Following Katrina, Franklin Avenue, which is predominantly African American, met at First Baptist’s facilities for two and a half years, and the two churches continue to

engage in joint ministry and fellowship activities.

Total missions participation at First Baptist “may rival” worship attendance, Crosby said, with 4,235 instances of individuals participating in missions projects reported on the 2014 ACP, the most recent year for which data is available. That statistic includes some individuals being counted multiple times because they participated in multiple missions projects, Crosby explained.

Each week, First Baptist sends 80-100 adults into New Orleans to perform a variety of ministries, including feeding the homeless, providing weekend food for needy public school students, conducting prison ministry and nursing home ministry, teaching English as a second language and ministering to people in the sex industry.

The church has taken 14 trips to Ghana over the past six years in conjunction with its adoption of an unreached people group “through the guidance and encouragement of the International Mission Board,” Crosby said. First Baptist sponsors NOLA Baptist Church, a NAMB

church plant, and Crosby is a founding board member of New Orleans Baptist Ministries, the umbrella organization which operates Baptist Friendship House on behalf of NAMB and the local association. Crosby has served a variety of leadership roles at the association, state convention and SBC levels, including moderator of the New Orleans Baptist Association, Executive Board member of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and member of the SBC Committees on Committees and Resolutions. He is a trustee at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Crosby told BP, “I really believe in cooperation, and I believe the Southern Baptist Convention exists primarily to facilitate cooperation among our churches for the world mission of the gospel. Cooperation, to me, has a financial component, and my churches have always been deeply invested in the Cooperative Program and the special missions offerings. Cooperation also has a personal component.”

He continued, “I also feel strongly about the gospel being both proclaimed and enfolded. The gospel needs proclamation and incarnation. So I’m convicted that our behavior, both individually and collectively, should reflect the Savior and please Him, and that our words are not enough. ... I try to keep both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission on my heart.”

Crosby’s nomination is the third to be announced for the SBC annual meeting. Other candidates include J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, and Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. See stories in previous print issues and at BRnow.org.

He is married to Janet and has three children and eight grandchildren. Crosby holds a master of divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of philosophy from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. **BR**

Pakistani Easter bombing kills 72, including 29 children

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

The death toll is rising from a suicide bombing targeting Christians in a crowded park on Easter Sunday in Lahore, Pakistan, with at least 72 dead, including 29 children. More than 300 were wounded, based on reports from Morning Star News and CNN.

Already claiming responsibility for the evening attack and professing to have targeted Christians is the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar terrorist group, a splinter faction of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) that has professed allegiance to ISIS.

“We claim responsibility for the attack on Chris-

tians as they were celebrating Easter,” Jamaat-ul-Ahrar spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan said in a statement the group released shortly after the bombing.

“It was part of our annual martyrdom attacks we have started this year,” he said, threatening that the attacks “will continue throughout this year.”

Morning Star News said Christians comprise only 2 percent of an estimated 192.8 million people. Many of the victims were women and children, as the suicide bomber detonated at least eight kilograms of explosives near the children’s swings in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park, Morning Star News said.

“The Red Crescent responded within five minutes, and the first ambulance reached there within four min-

utes,” said Saeed Elahi, chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (Red Cross) in an interview with CNN, “but because the casualty was very high, we had to respond with doctors, paramedics and a large number of volunteers. So they provided them first aid and shifted them to the different hospitals.”

The attack was the deadliest in Pakistan since the December 2014 massacre of 134 school children at a military-run academy in Peshawar. Pakistan is ranked as fourth on the 2015 Global Terrorism Index. Pakistani Christians and other religious minorities have faced attacks from Islamist militants for more than a decade. Blasphemy there is punishable by death, and some Christians are imprisoned for their faith. **BR**

AROUND THE STATE

Obituary

MARY RUTH MILLER HAMBLIN, 86, of Cornelius, N.C., died March 25 in Huntersville.

A Tennessee native, Hamblin was a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and involved in writing articles for Christian and genealogical publications. She was a member of the Alexandria Chapter of the DAR Huntersville and First Baptist Church, Huntersville.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Robert Lee Hamblin, who was a pastor in Tennessee, Texas and Mississippi. He was also professor of New Orleans Seminary and a vice president for the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board).

She is survived by children, Bobbie Ruth Hamblin Monger of Maryville, Tenn., Karis Jan Hamblin Kremers of Cornelius, and Mary Carole Hamblin Dibble of Manchester, Conn.; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorials: First Baptist Church, 119 North Old Statesville, NC 28078, to be designated to the Building Fund.

Staff changes

Chestnut Dale Baptist Church, Newland, has called **CHAD COLE** as pastor. He was formerly pastor of Beech Valley Baptist Church, Sugar Grove.

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Bill

Continued from page 1

He suggested the First Amendment and the Declaration of Independence are sufficient to protect religious liberty.

Griffin countered Deal by providing BP with a document listing 14 alleged “recent examples of religious discrimination in Georgia,” including denial of permission to begin a religious student club at an Atlanta middle school and a requirement in Ellijay, Ga., that organizers of a prayer chain obtain a permit before praying on the sidewalk. Griffin conceded that none of the 14 examples pertain to same-sex marriage.

Deal, a Southern Baptist, said of the bill, “This is about the character of our state and the character of its people. Georgia is a welcoming state filled with warm, friendly and loving people.

“Our cities and countryside are populated with people who worship God in a myriad of ways and in very diverse settings.

“Our people work side by side without regard to the color of our skin, or the religion we adhere to. We are working to make life better for our families and our communities. That is the character of Georgia.

“I intend to do my part to keep it that way.”

“For that reason,” Deal said, “I will veto HB 757.”

The governor criticized both “those in the religious community” who “have resorted to insults that question my moral convictions and my character” as well as those in business who “have resorted to threats of withdrawing jobs from our state.”

To override Deal’s veto would require a two-thirds vote in each house of the state legislature – a mark of which the bill narrowly fell short in both the House and Senate. To override the veto prior to the 2017 legislative session, three-fifths of each house must vote to reconvene, Griffin said.

Russell Moore, president of Southern Baptists’ Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, tweeted that Deal’s “sell-out to big business pressure on religious freedom [is] one more example of what serving Mammon does to the common good.”

Moore added Deal’s “veto of religious liberty protection is shameful.”

Ryan Anderson, a research fellow at The Heritage Foundation, wrote in an online commentary that Deal “bought into” nonsensical arguments from the cultural left “hook, line and sinker.”

“Protecting minority rights after major social change” like the Supreme Court’s legalization of same-sex marriage is “a hallmark of American tolerance and pluralism,” Anderson wrote.

“But Deal seems unwilling to do anything that might protect such people and their rights.

“And big business and special interests on the Left seem intent on doing everything to make sure people are coerced by the government into violating their beliefs.”

A March 21-24 poll conducted by Clout Research found two-thirds of Georgians agree with the Free Exercise Protection Act while just 27 percent disagree. **BR**

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"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."
MATTHEW 7:7

Wives of pastors live out God's call

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Production Editor

Wives of pastors and other church staff members live under the watchful eye of their congregations.

“God has called us,” said Tabatha Frost, one the speakers at “Refresh: A Day to Equip and Encourage Ministry Wives,” held at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

Frost and Beth Harris – both pastors’ wives – addressed approximately 40 women at the March 5 event.

“He has chosen us for a purpose,” she said. “He is going to equip us ... He alone sustains us.”

Frost, whose husband serves as senior pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, spoke from 1 Corinthians 1-4, encouraging hearers to follow the godly examples set by Paul, Apollos and the Corinthian believers.

“One of our primary roles in ministry is to minister to the men we are married to,” she stressed, but all women should pray for, respect and encourage their husbands.

Frost discouraged making comparisons to others and urged the women to be aware of expectations.

“I think it’s a big struggle,” she said. “We can look at ourselves and feel like we don’t measure up.”

She shared several slides from the fashionably dressed to the frugal mom blogger or famous Bible teacher. “Comparisons will rob you of your joy,” Frost said. “We are all works in progress. There’s never an appropriate time for you to judge.”

She encouraged the women to focus on the purpose God has for them and to spend time in God’s Word.

“If you have God’s Word in your heart, then you don’t have to depend on your creativity or your cleverness. His Word is an anchor for your soul.”

Harris, wife of the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, highlighted the church as a non-profit institution that serves as the light to the community. She listed the main job of the church is to be the body and fullness of Jesus, exhibit the glory of God, execute the Great Commission and be a picture of love and unity.

Part of her church’s mission statement talks about living a life that matters. While Harris does not participate in the worship ministry, she stays involved in three (grow, serve and connect) of the four core areas of her church.

“An organized church is not inconsistent with the New Testament,” she said.

As wives of ministers, Harris said there are always going to be times where the women would have to do things they didn’t want to do.

“You can find opportunity in the obligation ... to fulfill what the Lord has called you to do,” Harris said. “You are in a position they view as important.”

In many places in the community, just by walking into a room, a pastor and his wife take on the role of moral authority. “People are aware of that,” Harris said. “In today’s times, that is really powerful ... look at the opportunities in it.”

Women need to fight for their families, she said.

“You are in a battlefield today,” Harris said. “You have to show great courage in the face of all your obligations ... in the face of danger.”

Harris urged the women to make time, not just for physical intimacy, but for saying “I love you,” romance and one-on-one conversation.



“Don’t fall into the trap of neglecting that part of life,” she said.

She talked about three specific threats to their husband and his ministry that only happen five percent of the time: the wicked, heretic and immoral woman.

All three have the potential for “utter destruction,” Harris said.

She described the wicked as generally being a male. This person listens to lies and spreads them.

While this person is lost and confused, “your weapon is prayer,” she stressed.

The heretic, who is also usually male, will twist the gospel and usually preys on the weak, young believer to draw them to a perverted belief.

The immoral woman is generally unstable, wears flattering attire and neglects her own family. Harris described her as “bold and crafty.”

“The enemy is not the person,” Harris said, but Satan.

An event hosted by Embrace Women’s Ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina offered wives of ministers a place to share successes and failures of ministry. Above, ladies share on one of the discussion topics provided. At left, Cindy Johnson, director of contemporary worship and discipleship at Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, leads worship at the event. (BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle)

“He tries to use good people and sweet people to stir up stuff.”

In a panel conversation with both Frost and Harris, Ashley Allen moderated questions and answers. Allen, BSC Embrace Women’s Ministry consultant, asked about how to know when a pastor’s wife is doing enough, making friends outside of the ministry, having personal quiet times, and other issues.

“You’re doing enough if you’re taking care of your family first,” Harris said. “If you can’t do anything else but that, do that, and that’s enough.”

Frost and Harris both said they’ve tried to include their children in the ministry over the years. “A lot of the kids’ feeling about the church have a lot to do with our attitude about the church,” Frost said.

She encouraged the women to take their concerns over anything to the Lord first because many times those concerns are unrealistic expectations that have not been communicated to her husband.

God sometimes shows her a different perspective she had not considered.

Frost called spending time in God’s Word a “passion of mine,” and urged the women to have a specific time of day set aside for quiet time. That time varies depending on the stage of life you are in, she said.

“Those of you who work you have to be really creative,” Frost said. “If that hunger is there then you can find the time.”

Discipling women remains important as well. Harris mentioned some of the Embrace training that encourages one-on-one discipleship.

Embrace offers training events throughout the year, along with an annual mission trip and breakout sessions at some of the major BSC events. Visit embracenc.org to learn more. **BR**

Bellevue security subdues ‘heavily armed’ man

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

A “heavily armed” man was subdued and arrested at the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church Easter Sunday, the congregation’s director of security services told Baptist Press (BP).

Texas-based church security expert Jimmy Meeks told BP the incident serves as an example of “heads-up” response to a potential threat.

The man – 31-year-old Marcus Donald – who was taken into custody remains under mental evaluation, according to media reports.

Bellevue pastor Steve Gaines said in a March 28 statement, “Saturday evening more than 75 people gathered to pray over every seat in Bellevue’s Worship Center – for hearts to be changed as

thousands entered Bellevue’s campus on Easter.

“Following that time of prayer in the Worship Center, this group also prayed throughout the church campus for God’s hand of protection to be on each person who visited Bellevue. We believe those fervent prayers were answered in light of the events Sunday morning,” said Gaines, who will be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention president in June.

Just before Bellevue’s 11 a.m. worship service began March 27 with an estimated 3,500 attendees, greeter Kathy Jackson noticed a man entering the church with “a pistol sticking out of his pocket,” administrative pastor David Coombs told BP. She told a nearby ministerial staff member, who radioed security.

Andy Willis, Bellevue’s director of security services and a reserve officer

with the Memphis Police Department, approached the man, identified himself as a police officer and escorted him into a hallway.

Donald appeared calm when Willis took his pistol – a .40-caliber Beretta according to *The Commercial Appeal* – and asked him to put the weapon in his car before entering the service, the officer said. Donald said he had the weapon because “Memphis is dangerous.”

Donald told Willis he had a permit to carry the pistol and did not have any other weapons. Donald then agreed to let Willis put the gun in a backpack Donald was carrying. When Willis opened the backpack, he discovered an automatic rifle and “lots of ammo,” Willis said. *The Commercial Appeal* reported the rifle was a .300 Blackout assault weapon.

“I, of course, quickly changed mode,”

Willis said. “I dropped [the backpack]. I put my hand on my pistol – I didn’t draw it. And I yelled at him, ‘Get down on your knees,’ which he did.”

After another security team member arrived to assist, Donald rolled off his knees and ran toward the auditorium. Willis said he tackled Donald, and security team members handcuffed him and escorted him to an exit to wait for police. Donald was arrested for “emergency commitment” and underwent psychiatric evaluation, according to the *Commercial Appeal*.

Willis added he doesn’t know whether Donald intended to do harm. Coombs said Donald’s mother, who is a Bellevue member, reported he was “hyper-afraid of being attacked.”

The Memphis police and the FBI are investigating the incident. **BR**

IMB’s ‘quiet force’ Holli Fish Lancaster, 51, dies

By CAROLINE ANDERSON | Baptist Press

Described as a “quiet force,” former International Mission Board (IMB) worker Holli Fish Lancaster died in Tennessee March 29, following a battle with ovarian cancer. She was 51.

Lancaster, a native Texan, and her husband Dan served in Southeast Asia for more than 12 years. Before moving overseas, the couple planted churches in the U.S.

Prior to her death, Lancaster’s family and close friends gathered in her room and sang songs, prayed and shared memories.

“The last few days, there was mourning and dancing, and they very much blended into one another, and although there was sadness, there was an appreciation of our lives being interwoven with hers,” Kara Garrison, whose family is close friends with the Lancasters.

After the Lancasters’ daughter graduated from high school in Asia, the family returned to the U.S. to help her move to Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and then took a leave of absence from IMB to work in the missions department at Union. The family learned of Lancaster’s cancer in October.

“Holli embraced the beauty of life. She loved deeply and generously,” Marci Fish, Lancaster’s sister-in-law, wrote. “From her beloved Texas to remote villages and refugee camps in her beloved Asia, Holli lived and loved with her whole heart.... She is forever my hero.”

The Lancasters traveled and led trainings with Southeast Asian believers.

The missionary couple frequently traveled with Garrison to training events designed for displaced women from a variety of ethnic groups.

At one point, the Lancasters and Garrisons lived in a Southeast Asian country where living conditions were difficult, and Garrison said, “We needed each other to survive.”

“One thing that I will always remember is her commitment to me.... She was so supportive of traveling with me, and filling in, in a flash,” she noted.

On one trip, Lancaster had said she felt the Holy Spirit



Holli Fish Lancaster, who died March 29, was a missionary with the International Mission Board and the daughter of the late Roy Fish, a former Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor. (BP photo)

it convicting her that they needed to train the women to use biblical storytelling. Garrison initially disagreed.

“I prayed about it, thinking God was going to agree [with me],” Garrison said.

However, Garrison felt the Lord telling her to give Lancaster the whole afternoon. The women soaked up the Bible stories Lancaster told.

The women were believers, but they had very limited knowledge of the Bible. Lancaster trained the women in the country’s main language, and the women were so excited by the material that they wanted to take it a step further and practice telling the stories in their individual people groups’ languages so they could share them with their families and friends.

Lancaster and Garrison felt they soon wouldn’t be allowed to re-enter the area where these women were

staying. Many of the women were hoping to be granted permission to move to other countries. But Lancaster and Garrison thought God had something else planned for them.

“Many of you aren’t going to be going to a third country. We sense you are going to go back to [your country],” Lancaster and Garrison told the women.

Garrison said the women started weeping and they sensed the Lord had told them the same thing. Most of the women did return to their country – to a place Westerners cannot travel – and they returned equipped to simply and effectively share the Gospel.

Friends of Lancaster said she was musically gifted; she was a musician and a singer and could harmonize with anyone.

The Lancasters led worship and used music to minister in the community. Friends say she tirelessly ministered to her family. Lancaster served as a substitute teacher in biology and anatomy classes at her children’s international school.

She devoted time to editing materials written by her husband Dan and her father, the late Roy Fish, former professor emeritus of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lancaster and her husband met at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She graduated from Baylor with a bachelor of science degree in biology and later graduated from Texas Christian University with a master of science degree in biology.

Holli is survived by Dan; four children; mother, Jean Holley Fish; and siblings, Steve Fish, Jeff Fish and Jennifer Pastoor.

Memorials to: the Holli Lancaster Memorial GO Trip Scholarship via Union University, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305, or given online at www.uu.edu/giving/lancaster. Click “I’d like to designate my gift.” Donations can also be made in memory of Holli Lancaster on an online ministry site for a memorial ministerial scholarship at Union University or to help cover hospital and burial expenses. Select which designation preferred on the donate page.

*Names changed **BR**

‘The Banquet’ highlights special needs ministry

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

When Sherry Mann’s daughter was born with a rare genetic condition three years ago, Mann’s eyes were opened to a world she never knew existed.

While seeking to provide the best possible physical, emotional and medical care for her daughter, Mann says she and her husband Brian began to see the need for churches to provide spiritual care for individuals who have special needs.

“We began to see a whole new community,” Mann said. “It’s just allowed me to see this (special needs) community, their need for the gospel and how many churches need to be ready to care for them.”

Mann was one of approximately 80 people who attended one of two recent daylong conferences for church leaders on ministering to children with special physical mental or social needs and their families.

The events were held on Saturday, March 5 simultaneously at Quest Fellowship Church in Garner and Peninsula Baptist Church in Mooresville.

Titled “The Banquet” based upon Jesus’ parable of the great banquet that’s

recorded in Luke 14, the conferences featured keynote presentations along with a series of breakout sessions. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) sponsored the events in both locations.

“We believe special needs ministry is important in the lives of families and in the lives of churches,” said Donnie Wiltshire, the convention’s consultant for special ministries. “Christ’s mandate to us is that we make disciples, and that means to make disciples of everybody.”

Cheryl Markland, BSC consultant for childhood evangelism and discipleship added: “Jesus calls us to minister to all His children. We should not let our fear or lack of understanding be a barrier to fulfilling this mandate.”

Carlton McDaniel, founder and executive director of Able to Serve, delivered the keynote address to attendees at The Banquet in Garner. Based in the Triangle, Able to Serve provides educational, social and community service opportunities for individuals with special needs.

Prior to founding Able to Serve, McDaniel worked with special needs ministries in churches for more than 20

years. During his keynote address, McDaniel used the event’s theme passage of Luke 14 to share why the church should be involved in ministering to those with special needs.

In Luke 14:15-24, Jesus tells the parable of the master of a house who had planned a large banquet for many invited guests.

Yet when the banquet was ready, the guests made excuses for not attending. The master then sent his servants out to invite “*the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame*” (v. 21).

“The point was that all are welcome,” McDaniel said.

“This is Jesus’ banquet table. It’s not

yours, and it’s not mine.”

Ministering to individuals with special needs is about showing the love of God to others, McDaniel said.

“If we believe in the Creator, then we believe in the creation,” McDaniel said. “We’re demeaning the Creator when we ignore or pretend that something is wrong with His creation.”

McDaniel believes everyone has a disability that the Bible calls sin, and all are in need of God’s love and sacrifice that was provided by Jesus on the cross.

“The banquet is knowing that God loves you,” McDaniel said.

“There is no better food for my soul than knowing that God loves me.... His banquet is open to all, and His banquet is the same for all.” **BR**



CARLTON MCDANIEL

N.C. Baptists featured in prayer emphasis

Two North Carolina Baptists contributed to a special report prepared by *The Washington Times* Advocacy Department Dec. 31, 2015. “The Power of Prayer for America’s Future” included prayers relating to national and global crisis as well as prayer in daily life and how prayer impacts healing and mental health. Anne Graham Lotz wrote “Murder, madness, terrorism ... Why doesn’t God fix it?” and Gregory Clark penned “No surprise – we pray when we’re in trouble.” Lotz is founder of AnGeL Ministries based in Raleigh and author of 11 books. Clark is pastor of Hertford Baptist Church in Hertford, and serves on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Board of Directors. **BR**

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Reporting on the SBC

Southern Baptist Texan

In 1994, right before the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) met in Orlando, the little paper I edited ran an investigative piece about a far-reaching policy at one of our SBC agencies. It was an embarrassment to the president of that agency, and he responded by calling our executive director as he was packing for the trip and asking in a loud voice, “Can’t you control those people?” The exec backed us (those people) up in that case, and the agency president took his lumps. It doesn’t happen every year, but I’ve seen a version of this struggle between reporters and administrators for how the news is told many times and at all denominational levels.

What is the legitimate role of the denominational press, the Baptist state publications, as the leaders of our work and the constituent churches attempt to communicate with one another? A bit of the answer is presupposed in my question – the publications pass information to and from both parties in various ways. Because state papers are positioned to know the churches of our state conventions better than national leaders, we ask questions or seek information we believe will be beneficial to our churches’

stewardship of SBC work. These questions, and some editorial content, help alert leaders to how churches in different parts of the country understand their ministries.

Because journalists have opportunities to observe the work of our SBC leaders, we can interpret their work to our churches in a way that makes sense and usually encourages them. This interpretation is more crucial and difficult when the news is less encouraging.

Most recently, for example, the “less encouraging” news came from the International Mission Board (IMB) as it completed the hard work of cutting personnel in order to balance the budget. Something had to be done, and it was a challenging way for President David Platt to begin his tenure at IMB. In the midst of conference calls, press conferences and other contacts between IMB leadership and the denominational press, there was a bit of a struggle over the message. Is the headline “IMB brings expenses into line” or “IMB cuts 1,132 missionaries and staff”? That’s the struggle. It’s nearly always a disagreement made inevitable by the differences

between the role of news writers and that of visionary leaders. Though passions may run high, it’s rarely a matter of good guys versus bad guys. But someone will almost always speak as if it is.

Here are some thoughts on the responsibilities of the denominational press telling difficult stories and a couple of ideas for those who find us frustrating.

Journalists should ask about issues or decisions we don’t understand or that should be more completely told. Sometimes asking questions is seen as malicious or an effort to trip up a spokesman. This happens and probably explains why some folks won’t talk to reporters.

But asking is not by definition contrarian, although it may turn that way when a reporter is biased or when a leader keeps too many secrets.

Baptist papers should provide information and examples that spur churches to support Southern Baptist work worldwide. These stories are crucial and gathering them requires full cooperation from our leaders. I add here that the IMB has been exemplary in cooperation with the denominational press as we seek missions stories.

Baptist journalists must give churches a clear understanding of why things are not going according to plan and what is being done about it. This is tricky for both parties, but if we don’t do it, church leaders become cynical or immune to our calls for support. That has happened over the past 40 years.

Journalists should not, however, be recreationally suspicious of those who lead ministries broader than our own. It can become a habit or a lazy man’s version of “objectivity,” but suspicion, snark and insinuation are death to our work. Neither should we be an uncritical extension of someone’s public relations team. We do wish our leaders well but cannot become habitual boosters of every plan or leader.

Leaders, tell it all, unless you can share a good reason to keep something secret. Confidentiality should be the exception rather than just the easy option. When a reporter seeks access to your business, see her as representing thou-

sands of readers with whom you’ll never have any other contact. She does. Would you treat hundreds or thousands of Southern Baptists attending your meeting as intruders?

When a leader shares a vision or plan at a press conference, he must remember that he is not the only person in the conversation who talks to God. Someone who asks, “How will this work?” or “What will this cost?” is seeking information, not trying to undermine God’s Kingdom.

Similarly, leaders are not the only people in the room who want the mission of the SBC to succeed. Baptist editors and reporters are committed to the prospering of God’s work through Southern Baptists. Unity in purpose does not mean we ignore hard questions.

“Good journalism” is not necessarily telling the story a reader wants told in the way he wants it told.

Of course it follows that “poor journalism” is not simply defined as a story we wish was not true. Poor journalism exists, of course, but it’s sloppy, even sinful, to slander a writer just because his perspective or the news he tells annoys us.

This tense interplay between newsmakers and those who tell and explain the news is not a recent phenomenon, and it will not end. When Christian brothers are on both ends of the communications process, we are obligated to treat one another with the kind of respect we don’t always see in the culture at large.

“Respect” does not mean we must agree. It does require news people to think carefully about what is edifying as well as what is true. It requires that both parties develop thick skin and a bit of grace. We will not always agree on what’s true, much less on what is edifying to the Kingdom.

I believe newsmakers and news reporters have distinct and important roles within the Kingdom of God. We each have responsibilities, and we can provoke one another to fully live up to our Great Commission ideals. Perhaps it can be a mutually edifying relationship if all parties approach it that way.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Gary Ledbetter is editor in chief of the *Southern Baptist Texan*, where this column originally appeared. It is reprinted with permission.) **BR**



GARY LEDBETTER
Guest Column

STEWARDSHIP OF INFLUENCE

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Awaken: Humility leads to confession, repentance

By EMILY ROJAS | BSC Communications

John Franklin believes revival has a ripple effect.

When Franklin spoke at the Awaken statewide prayer gathering March 11-12 at First Baptist Church, Charlotte he said when people turn their hearts to God, the effect is contagious.

“If God’s people call on Him,” Franklin said. “God will pour out His spirit, and revival will come.”

Drawing from 2 Chronicles 7:14, Franklin, Pastor Mark Harris and Richard Owen Roberts explained how different aspects of this verse are key to starting a period of revival.

The verse reads, “*If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*”

Practically, humility is a necessary aspect of revival because it goes hand-in-hand with the confession of sin. Roberts, speaking on humility, said the essence of sin is self. If a person is solely focused on themselves in pride, they will not see their own sin.

“We need people who admit to the world that God is everything, and they’re nothing,” Roberts said. “What do you have left when you’re totally empty besides the opportunity of being filled with

the very righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ?”

Franklin said pride is the sin that God usually deals with first when convicting people of sin because it normally drives the most separation between a person and God.

Once Christians have repented of their pride, they can confess their sin to others. The remarkable thing about that, Franklin said, is that confession of sin drives those who hear the confession to confess their own sin and ask God to restore relationships that had been torn apart. Confession causes a chain reaction of confession – and that creates a ripe environment for God to begin revival.

Still, this first step – repentance and confession of sin – does not come on its own. Ultimately, it is God who changes hearts, and sometimes, Christians feel that their prayers for God to change

hearts are just not working. Harris, however, spoke about the fact that God does hear the prayers of His children, and He is willing to bring revival.

It’s not that God’s not paying attention to us, Harris said. “It’s not that we have to somehow wrangle with God, that we have to somehow overcome His reluctance to bring revival. No – what we need to overcome is our reluctant hearts.”

Even when our fellowship with Him is broken, God is still willing to align our hearts with His mission, bring revival and change lives. We are the ones who need to believe Him and humble ourselves. And that means that as far as revival goes, there is hope.

Learn more about prayer conferences in North Carolina or other prayer resources, please visit praync.org or contact Chris Schofield at cschofield@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5514. **BR**

PC Continued from page 3

deeply held convictions and their resultant sociopolitical implications.

Yet, I believe that there is more that we can do. As we rightly critique political correctness, we have to be careful to not subsume too much under its heading. Sometimes I fear that what many evangelicals label as the outlandish demands of the PC culture are often challenges to simply be a little more thoughtful, culturally aware and historically informed. For instance, it is possible to discuss the immigration issue in such a way where concern for the rule of law can be expressed and the decency and dignity of our image-bearing neighbors can be affirmed. Similarly, to seldom acknowledge racial offenses is as equally problematic as seeing them everywhere. As one former presidential candidate recently noted, there is a difference between giving into political correctness and simply seeking to be correct.

I think a Pauline principle can be instructive here as we think about how our Great Commission task dovetails with a call to be winsome with our words. “*I have become all things to all people,*” Paul says, “*that by all means I might save some*” (1 Corinthians 9:22b). This is the point, after all. Why should we lean into a run amok PC culture rather than retreat? It is ultimately a question of what our predominant evangelical posture will be. Will we simply be mad, or will we be on mission?

Challenges remain, but they too are gospel opportunities

With all that has been said it yet needs to be made clear that serious challenges are on the horizon. Evangelicals who hold to a biblical sexual ethic, for example, will continue to face increasing criticism, ostracization and threats to religious liberty. When the culture embraces and affirms that which the scriptures clearly

condemn, we must obey God rather than men. And we must realize that such conviction will come with a cost – a cost that we have hopefully already counted.

And yet, how we steward can bring disrepute to what we steward. Yes, right is right, but there is such a thing as being wrong-right. Now more than ever, Christians need to evidence an understanding of that. Elsewhere, Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, has expressed that the sexual revolution will inevitably yield its own refugees. The Lord’s church must be ready – with both its gospel-fidelity and Christ-like character bearing witness – to receive these individuals with words of grace and truth. Our only offense should be the offense of the gospel.

Ultimately, a run amok political correctness can be neither satisfied nor sustained. While being deeply sensitive to injustices, racial and otherwise, I must admit that I find it troubling how an uncritical culture of offendedness is being fashioned. It seems that the status of “offended” is legitimized simply by virtue of it being claimed. And the offender is mandated to do penance to the degree dictated without question or qualification. These kinds of transactions set awful precedents for public square interaction.

Nevertheless, it is important that we, as evangelicals, realize our dual role in such a chaotic PC culture – advocate and herald. Advocate because we have come to know the One who is just, and therefore we deplore injustice wherever it may be found. Herald because the One who is just is also justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. And, speaking of offense, we’ve all offended Him.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Steven Harris serves as the director of advocacy, working out of the ERLC’s Washington office.) **BR**

Have you been transformed?

“The hand of the Lord came upon me ... and set me down in the midst of the valley.”
(Ezekiel 37:1)

When William Taylor was converted to Christ, his life burned hot for the things that mattered most to God – souls. Taylor’s conversion experience reflects the transformational power of the Holy Spirit. His grandmother taught him the Lord’s Prayer and explained that he could experience God’s Kingdom and become a child of God as a young man.

This desire began to burn in his heart, and one night, Taylor encountered the convicting power of the Holy Spirit sitting by the kitchen fire. The sobbing was uncontrollable as he confessed every known sin and cried out to God for forgiveness in Jesus. At age 21, Taylor answered God’s call to ministry with the American Methodists and served as a missionary evangelist at many points around the world. His most noted field of service was South Africa, where he was instrumental in seeing revival come among the Xhosa-speaking people during the mid-1860s.

Through his hot-hearted love for Christ and the lost, Taylor preached with anointing and passion, often being referred to as a “Flaming Torch” or “Fire Stick” by many, including the native Xhosas. As revival broke out, Taylor emphasized the powerful transformational

work of the Holy Spirit and heartfelt prayer. During a two-year period, the Methodist church increased 40 percent in membership. Those who were converted soon began evangelizing as the revival fires spread to other areas.

Taylor’s heart was always burning for souls, as he never allowed the fire of his conversion to be extinguished. I believe one reason the church struggles with Christ’s mission today is because many who sit in the pews have never genuinely been converted.

In John 3:5, Jesus shares that to be born physically is one thing, but – if a person is ever going to experience the life-giving power of God through His Spirit and become a part of His Kingdom – that person must be “born anew” by God’s Holy Spirit. This

spiritual transformation or regeneration is different from physical life and cannot take place any other way. It is transformation of the heart and soul, through the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life. This “conversion experience” results in the life of a person being set aflame for use in fulfilling

the purposes of God, just like William Taylor. Can that be said of you?

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Chris Schofield is director of the Office of Prayer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5514, or cschofield@ncbaptist.org.)



DR. CHRIS SCHOFIELD

OPPORTUNITY CORNER



Catawba River Baptist Association is hosting an evangelistic rally April 29 at Mount Home Baptist Church in Morgan-
ton.

The event starts at 7 p.m. Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will preach.

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.

Include cost and contact information in your email or correspondence. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

CHURCH NEWS



Elizabethtown Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

On March 6, Nathan Morton was installed as senior pastor of Elizabethtown Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. Previously, he served at Burgaw Baptist Church. Pictured from left: Bruce Cannon, pastor at Bear Creek Baptist Church, Bakersville, and former director of missions for Bladen Baptist Association; Steve Spangler, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Wilmington; Morton, Michael Cogdill, founding dean and professor of Christian ministry at Campbell University Divinity School; Roy Smith, director of missions for Wilmington Baptist Association; and Charles Hester, director of missions for Bladen association and most recent former interim pastor of Elizabethtown. (Contributed photo)



Little River Baptist Association

Holly Springs Baptist Church, Broadway, and Antioch Baptist Church, Mamers, co-hosted a special service honoring Dan Deaton, who retired recently as director of missions for Little River Baptist Association after 20 years of service. The celebration of service was held at Holly Springs church and drew a crowd that filled the sanctuary, with chairs being added to accommodate the people. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

BSC sponsors historical writing competition

Each year the Historical Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) sponsors an historical writing competition. One of the tasks of the Historical Committee is to encourage churches, associations, institutions and agencies who are affiliated with the BSC to preserve historical documents, artifacts, correspondence and records.

Closely related to this task is to encourage churches, associations and others to produce a "high standard history of individuals, churches, associations and conventions."

The competition was established to recognize and reward excellent historical publications.

There are three categories: church history,* association history (includes agencies and institutions); and biography, autobiography, memoirs and personal reflection.

For the 2016 competition, the entries

should have been released in 2015 or 2016. To enter your history book, DVD, etc., mail two copies to: BSC, History Committee, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107. The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2016. Winners will be recognized at the 2016 Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting.

Questions? Please contact Penny Cozadd at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5618, or pcozadd@ncbaptist.org.

All entries become the property of the BSC Historical Committee and will be added to the N.C. Baptist Historical Collection (also known as the Ethel Taylor Crittenden Collection in Baptist History) at Wake Forest University.

For more information about the collection, visit: zsr.wfu.edu/special/collections/nc-baptist-historical-collection/.

*Older church histories can qualify if additional work has been done to bring them current to this date, and have not been previously submitted. **BR**



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April 17

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

April 24

Redeemed From Poor Choices

**Focal Passage: Gen 15:1-6;
16:1-5; 17:18-19**

On Dec. 14, 2015, Major League Baseball (MLB) Commissioner Robert D. Manfred Jr. announced that Pete Rose's application for reinstatement from the Ineligible List had been denied. Even if you are not a baseball fan, you are likely aware that Pete Rose was banned from the league for life for betting on games. For some, it is difficult to imagine that the man with more hits than anyone who ever played the game is ineligible to be considered for the Hall of Fame. But, heroes fail, even baseball heroes.

Bible heroes fail, too. Abram (later, Abraham) is called the father of all who believe (Romans 4:11), yet he had moments of doubt that led him, on occasion, to make really poor choices.

For example, when God promised to give Abram a child, from whom would come a lineage as numerous as the stars of the sky, Abram believed God's promise (Genesis 15:5). Abraham's belief was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

Later, Abram and his wife Sarai con-

cocted a plan to fulfill the promise of God on their own. They decided to use Hagar, Sarai's handmaiden, as a surrogate; a decision that has had repercussions to our very day. And, even when God changes their names and reconfirms his promise to give them a child (Genesis 17:5,15-16), Abraham asks that God simply let Ishmael be the son of promise; a request God denies.

We are reminded that the most faithful of God's people have moments of great failure. That is why Abraham's faith being "*credited to him as righteousness*" is so important. God considers him righteous, based on something outside of Abraham.

It is not his moral goodness that results in the declaration, but faith in God's promises. Indeed, it is precisely why you and I can be counted righteous, based on our trust in God's promises to us as revealed in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). It is because of Christ's perfect righteousness that God redeems us, not only from our poor choices, but from the sins that separate us from Him.

Focal Passage: Gen 27:41; 33:1-11

Nicole is an artist living in the San Francisco area. She makes a modest living selling paintings, but Nicole's adoptive family is wealthy. Her college education was paid for and like the rest of her family she anticipated receiving a fairly sizeable inheritance. Then something happened. Nicole participated in a documentary about the children of the really wealthy, without telling her grandfather. She knew it was a huge risk to be the first person in her family to talk openly about their wealth. And she was



ROB POHEK
Pastor, Raleigh Road
Baptist Church, Wilson

right to fear judgment. After all, Nicole's grandfather is Warren Buffet, one of the richest men on the planet.

After Nicole's appearances on television promoting the documentary, her grandfather sent her a letter stating: "I have not emotionally or legally adopted you as a grandchild, nor have the rest of my family adopted you as a niece or a cousin." When asked about the issue a Buffet spokesperson said: "Nicole is not

Mr. Buffett's granddaughter. She is the daughter of a former daughter-in-law of his who was married to his son for only about 10 years."

Wealth provides little insulation from the trauma of broken relationships. The Bible contains its fair share of broken relationship stories. Brothers Jacob and Esau are one such story of a broken relationship that God restores.

Esau is so angry with his brother for tricking him out of his birthright that he planned to kill him as soon as their father's death was properly mourned (Genesis 27:41). Jacob ran from Esau and his death threat. After 20 years passed, the two brothers were on a collision course to meet again. Jacob knew his sin. And, in order to demonstrate his understanding of his sin, he extended gifts to Esau and bowed before him when they meet.

Broken relationships cannot be restored until one of the parties is willing take the initiative to show humility toward the other. Because Christ has taken the initiative with us (Romans 5:8), we are able, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to humbly seek restoration when our relationships with each other are broken.

April 17

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

April 24

Faithful

Focal Passage: Acts 5:25-35, 38-42

I remember practicing for the little league all-star game when I was about 12 years old. Someone hit a hard ground ball to me in left field, and as I prepared to scoop it up, it hopped and I stopped it with my nose.

I immediately fell over, grabbing my nose in tears. All the players close to me gathered around to observe my wounded face.

To my surprise, it wasn't broken or bloody. Even if it had been, it was part of the calculated risk of playing baseball.

In Acts 5 the apostles were arrested for preaching Jesus and performing miracles. That night the angel of the Lord opened the prison gates and led them out so they could go back to preaching the gospel.

The officers who went to escort the apostles to court found the prison gates locked and the guards unaware of their missing prisoners.

As the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests received this report, someone arrived to tell them that the apostles were in the temple teaching the people.

After the temple guard brought them back to stand before the Council, the high priest reminded them that they had been given strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name.

Peter and the apostles boldly replied, "*We must obey God rather than men*" (5:29). They then preached the gospel to a captive audience of the highest ranking Jews of their day.

How much would it take for you to quit serving Jesus?

I don't mean denying the faith.

How much pain would it take for the wounds of discipleship to make you a spectator talking about the "good ole days?"

One hit to the nose brought our baseball practice to a halt so everyone could look at me.

Do we spend more time consoling believers over the ordinary wounds of discipleship, or calling fellow believers to stand up, brush off the dirt and praise God for the privilege of suffering for Christ?



TROY RUST
Pastor, Florence Avenue
Baptist Church, Oxford

When we think about growing pains in the local church, we usually focus on the need for more parking, classrooms or worship space.

While these physical needs may be the direct result of spiritual growth, they are out-ranked by the need to minister personally to new believers.

In Acts 6 the growing church had to address its failure to feed the Greek speaking Jewish widows.

To keep the apostles from neglecting the Word of God, the church chose seven men to address a practical need that threatened to cause spiritual division in the church.

Certain church activities have the potential to increase a believer's pride, but serving behind the scenes rarely does.

These men set the example of what deacons ought to be – servants of the church. Far from power wielding spectators, these men put shoe leather to the

Selfless

Focal Passage: Acts 6:1-10

gospel and humbly served their aged sisters in Christ.

The pastor who baptized me used to say, "Much can be accomplished for God if it matters little who gets the credit." In other words, spiritual fruit grows from the lives of believers who are selfless instead of selfish. Praising men is one of the many worldly ideas that have been transplanted into the church. When we move beyond encouragement to make the ministry about trophies, we tempt church leaders to serve for the praise of men instead of the glory of God. If we serve to the glory of God, He will give us heavenly rewards that far exceed worldly commendations.

Stephen was described as "*a man full of the Holy Spirit and faith*" (6:5). Because he walked by the Spirit and not by the flesh, he neither sought the praise of men nor recoiled in fear of men. When we desire the praise of men, we will shrink back in fear either of allies who may overshadow us or enemies that could stop us.

When we serve Jesus selflessly, we stop worrying about our pride and the fears fed by it, and get on with His Great Commission.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Denomination

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) is seeking a **full-time Regional Elder Care Director** (RECD) for the north central region of NC. The RECD is responsible for orchestrating ministry services of NCBAM. Master's degree in gerontology, social work or related field; or bachelor's degree in gerontology or social work plus two years experience in related field preferred. Visit <http://www.bchfamily.org/about/employment> to apply.

Catawba River Baptist Association, in Morganton, NC, will be accepting resumes for **Director of Missions** through May 14, 2016. For more information see CRBA website, www.crbanc.org. If you have previously submitted a resume, please resubmit it to remain in consideration. Please send resume and cover letter to: DOM Search Committee, CRBA, 1812 US Hwy 70, East Morganton, NC 28655.

Pastor

Union Grove Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **full-time senior pastor** to faithfully preach and teach the Word of God and shepherd the flock. We are a mission-minded Southern Baptist church located in Salemburg, North Carolina, a rural community in Sampson County. We will be accepting resumes until June 30, 2016. Please send to: Union Grove Baptist Church, 395 Vander Road, Salemburg, North Carolina 28385.

Burgaw Baptist Church in Burgaw, NC, is seeking a **senior pastor** to shepherd our congregation and preach the inerrant word of God. We are SBC affiliated and prefer college and seminary education with a minimum of 8 years of senior pastoral experience. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 40, Burgaw, NC 28425, or email to pastor4burgawbaptist@gmail.com.

Senior Pastor. Broadus Memorial Baptist Church in Charlottesville, VA, a moderate Baptist church of 110 active members, who affirm both women and men as deacons is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Submit inquiries and resumes to broaduspcc@gmail.com by April 30. Information is available at www.broadus.org.

Crestwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor** to lead our congregation of 100-150. Please send resumes to 530 Motor Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105 or crestwood.baptist@yahoo.com.

Cliffside Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor** for a congregation of 90 active members. The candidate should have at least 5 years experience as a senior pastor and a seminary degree from a Southern Baptist seminary. However, a recent seminary graduate without experience but with a passion to serve God would be considered. As an affiliate of SBC of NC and the Sandy Run Baptist Association we are accepting resumes. Resume and a sample DVD may be sent to Cliffside Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 336, Cliffside, NC 28024, or by email to cliffsidebaptist@bellsouth.net.

Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time senior pastor**. We are members of Randolph Baptist Association, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the SBC. Mt. Lebanon is a rural church that is conservative in theology and traditional in worship style. Candidates should possess a seminary degree or the equivalent from a Southern Baptist institution and have at least five years of pastoral experience. Resumes may be sent to: Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, 6434 Mt. Lebanon Road, Troy, NC 27371, or e-mail to hurleyshq@rtmc.net.

Church Staff

Sunrise Baptist, a conservative SBC, in Asheville, NC, is taking resumes for a **Youth Director/Pastor**. This is a part-time position for 20 hours a week. Starting pay is \$12,000 a year. Send resume to pastorbryan@charter.net or mail to: Pastor Bryan Buchanan, Sunrise Baptist Church, 419 Deaverview Road, Asheville, NC 28806. Direct any questions to the above email address. Position closes on Sunday, April 17.

Green Street Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time Student Pastor** to provide leadership to 200+ middle and high school students. Seminary and at least 5 years ministry experience preferred. Submit resumes to kristi@greenstreet.org or 1701 Westchester Dr. Ste. 620, High Point, NC 27262.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR. First Baptist Church in Cary, N.C., is seeking an Associate Pastor to serve alongside our Senior Pastor providing Administrative Leadership, Discipleship Training, Christian Education, and Pastoral Care Ministry to the membership of the church. Check our website for detail (<http://www.caryfbc.org/>). Contact our Personnel Committee by email at k4bxy@nc.rr.com.

Local church seeking **full-time Music Director** with previous experience. Successful candidates will possess many of the following: an appreciation for a wide range of Christian musical styles and genres; highly developed keyboard skills; strong verbal & written communication and people skills; experienced in music selection and choral directing; ability to provide music at weddings and funerals; comfortable with traditional and contemporary worship; skillful and committed to reaching out to the larger community; flexible, creative and collaborative; music degree. Send resume to: Salem Baptist Church, Choir Director, 1982 Salem Church Rd., Lincolnton, NC 28092.

First Baptist Church of the Islands in Savannah, Georgia, is currently seeking a **full-time Worship Pastor**. We are located in a community with many young families and are surrounded by much opportunity for impact for the sake of the Gospel. Our current morning worship attendance averages approximately 550 weekly in two morning services. We utilize a unique mix of choir, praise team, and praise band in our worship setting. The Worship Pastor will fit within a multi-staff team and an amazing number of volunteer leaders to help us fulfill our vision of leading others to KNOW Christ, GROW in Christ, SHOW Christ through surrendered lives, and to GO with the Gospel. The Worship Pastor must be able to effectively lead others into authentic worship and also disciple others. All applications will be prayerfully considered once we have received a cover letter, a resume with references, and a 2-3 minute video introduction of yourself as you briefly share your call to ministry, your passion for worship, and your heart to impact others. A webcam or phone video is perfectly fine. Please email your cover letter, resume, and video link to searchteam@fbcislands.com.

Green Street Baptist Church, High Point, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor for children and families**. Seminary and at least five years ministry experience preferred. Contact kristi@greenstreet.org or send resume to 1701 Westchester Dr., Ste. 620, High Point, NC 27262.

First Baptist Church of Crossnore, North Carolina, is seeking a **full-time Youth Pastor/Associate Pastor**. We are a conservative congregation and a member of SBC. College degree required, seminary degree preferred. Position will focus on Youth Leadership and assisting the Senior Pastor. Applicants should submit a resume to info@firstbaptistcrossnore.com or mail to PO Box 370, Crossnore, NC 28616. Deadline is 4/15/2016.

Southside Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC, is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music and Worship**. Responsibilities include leading choir rehearsal, instrumentalists rehearsal and morning worship service each Sunday. Knowledge of technology, media, PowerPoint and EasyWorship is required. Experience with blended worship is preferred. Email resume to: geopat1055@yahoo.com or mail to SBC, 1001 Greenhaven Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406; Attention: Music Search Team.


Christ Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, is seeking a **full-time Director of Children & Preschool** to provide leadership for a comprehensive ministry, infants through 6th grade. Experienced, formal education preferred, strong organizational and communication skills. Send cover letter and resumes to Director's Search Committee, Christ Baptist Church, 400 Newton Road, Raleigh, NC 27615, or to kim@christbaptist.org. Resumes accepted until April 15, 2016.

Trinity Baptist Church of Mooresville, N.C., is seeking a **full-time Youth Director** for a 500 member Southern Baptist church. Minimum educational requirements: college degree (Bachelor or higher), preferably in Christian Education or Youth Ministry. Salary will be commensurate upon education and experience. Please submit resume and letters of reference to Personnel Committee, Trinity Baptist Church, 221 Irvin Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117, or email to office@trinitybaptist.com.

Miscellaneous

Camp Smoky Christian Retreat, Sevierville, TN. Rec. Field – Commercial Kitchen (no extra cost) 9 Hole Disc Golf – Sleeps 150 – Worship Center – Pool – Archery – Beautiful Campus – Great Prices!! Contact Robert Nichols at 865-603-0701 or robert@seviercountybaptists.org.

NCBAM needs intergenerational teams to build wheel chair ramps during Rampin' Up! April 30 and May 7, 2016. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.



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APRIL
10

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SUNDAY

Our Cooperative Program is a practical, low-cost way for Baptist churches of all sizes to share the costs of sending missionaries and supporting ministries. It is how Baptists respond to the Bible's missions instructions to take the gospel far and wide and to send missionaries.

Sixty percent of the 2016 Cooperative Program budget funds the Baptist State Convention's ministries in North Carolina, including its related institutions and agencies. Forty percent of the funds go on to the Southern Baptist Convention as we partner with more than 46,000 autonomous Southern Baptist churches — and 41 other state conventions — across the country to support international missions, North American missions and the six SBC seminaries, including Southeastern in Wake Forest, plus the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

In 2015, N.C. Baptists led all other state conventions in giving more than \$13.65 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and more than \$5.89 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions. Thus, through CP and offerings, N.C. Baptists sent more than \$30 million to the SBC — more than 60 percent of their total missions giving. That compares to about \$20 million used for missions and ministry in our state.

N.C. Baptists have increased the SBC's share of their Cooperative Program budget every year for the past 10 years, and sent \$1.6 million more to the SBC in 2015 than in 2014.

The Cooperative Program is shockingly simple: N.C. Baptists adopt a budget at their annual meeting in November. During the year, churches send in their contributions to our Baptist State Convention accountants, who allocate and distribute the funds according to the budget. That's it in a nutshell.

Baptists from churches like yours serve on the boards of directors and trustees that run our mission boards and other work. The convention was organized to serve the churches.

Most of our churches would be unable to send even one missionary. But consider all that Baptists are able to do together:

Overseas, our Cooperative Program helps support thousands of missionaries serving around the world and sharing the gospel with 949 people groups. They helped baptize more than 190,000 new believers a year and start more than 13,000 new churches a year.

Consider that across North America, our Cooperative Program helps support missionaries and church planters who are starting nearly 1,000 new churches a year — that's some 82 new churches a month and about two new churches every day.

In North Carolina, our Cooperative Program enables the Baptist State Convention's Church Planting Team to assist in starting over 100 new churches a year in our state. Meanwhile, our convention's staff helps equip existing churches for ministry and outreach in many ways. A bold new effort to reach non-Christian internationals is being launched to reach more of our state's estimated 5.8 million lost people, who also speak more than 300 languages.

The Cooperative Program helps support many other ministries: Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Fruitland Baptist Bible College, N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry, among others.

On April 10, celebrate what we Baptists can do together through our simple way of partnering on the costs of missions and ministry! To learn more about the Cooperative Program, go to www.ncbaptist.org/cpresources.



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

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



CELEBRATING MILTON HOLLIFIELD 10 Years

On April 11, 2006, Milton A. Hollifield Jr. was elected as the fourteenth executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). In a special session of the convention, held at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, 1,066 messengers voted to approve the new leader with no apparent opposition. According to a report in the April 29, 2006 edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, Don Warren, chairman of the BSC board of directors, officially nominated Hollifield. Robert Jackson, chairman of the search committee, told messengers Hollifield was the committee's choice and "an answer to our prayers."

Born in Marion, N.C., Hollifield grew up in Swannanoa where his father served as a pastor. He is married to Gloria (Sullins) Hollifield of Black Mountain. They have one son, Judson, who lives with his wife, Jamie, in Asheville, N.C., and two grandsons.

Hollifield received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Mars Hill College in 1977 and a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas in 1980.

He pastored West Shady Grove Baptist Church in Blue Ridge, Texas while in seminary. Upon return to N.C., he served as an associate pastor of West Asheville Baptist Church for two years. From 1982-1991 he pastored First Baptist Church of Stanley and then became the executive director of missions for the Gaston Baptist Association. In 1993 the General Board of the Baptist State Convention elected Hollifield as director of the Evangelism Division, a position he held for 13 years under two executive director-treasurers of the convention.

In recognition of his 10-year anniversary with the BSC, the *Biblical Recorder* presents the following summary of some of the key changes that happened during Hollifield's service as executive director-treasurer.

Before Hollifield was elected, some Baptist institutions in the state were taking steps to change their relationships with the convention. In 2005 the Committee on Nominations had rejected some nominees suggested by entity presidents who previously had not experienced challenges to names they brought forth. It was reported that the committee denied nominees from churches that were affiliated with the liberal-leaning Alliance of Baptists or were members of churches not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Biblical Recorder

Biblical Recorder editor Tony Cartledge announced in the Feb. 18, 2006, edition that the *Recorder* would choose

See Hollifield on page B4



TIMMY BLAIR

Senior pastor, Piney Grove Chapel Baptist Church, Angier; president, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, November 2014-present

"I was at the called meeting of the convention in 2006 when N.C. Baptists installed Brother Milton as our executive leader. I think everyone could sense that God was going to use this man to lead us to a renewal of Biblical conviction, a fresh vision for evangelism and a

responsibility for discipleship. He deeply cares about the concerns, cares and ideas of all N.C. Baptists. I have been in many meetings when he has said, 'Now I want to hear from you all.' Thank you, Brother Milton, for 10 years of faithful service."

ROBERT JACKSON

Senior pastor, Peninsula Baptist Church, Mooresville; chairman of the search committee that recommended Milton Hollifield

"Milton's heart for evangelism and his knowledge of North Carolina Baptist life assured the search committee that he was the man best suited to lead North Carolina Baptists. In the decade since his election, he has not wavered from his commitment to evangelism and disciple-making in fulfillment of the Great Commission. Our convention has prospered under his leadership."



PERRY BRINDLEY

Director of missions, Buncombe Baptist Association, Asheville; BSC president of board of directors, January 2015-January 2016

"Milton Hollifield has been very clear that the convention belongs to the churches and exists to assist the local church in reaching its kingdom potential. Milton is open and sensitive to concerns while staying focused on Kingdom growth. I greatly appreciate that he is equally concerned for the health of churches in both urban and rural settings in all 100 counties of North Carolina. He believes every church and association is significant if our state is to be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have also been blessed to see him reach out to build strong relationships with local pastors from every corner of the state."

NATIONAL LEADERS HONOR HOLLIFIELD



"I congratulate North Carolina, my beloved home state, for being the blessed recipient of the leadership of Milton Hollifield. He has developed a reputation across our nation of being a man who appreciates the past but knows how to lead forward into the future. He is a statesman who is deeply appreciated by me and many others. Milton is my friend. I have nothing but admiration for him and pray that this would be a great time of celebration and rejoicing. God bless you, Milton. God bless North Carolina Baptists." – **Frank Page**, president, CEO, SBC Executive Committee

"I appreciate brother Milton's leadership, partnership and friendship. He is a statesman among Southern Baptist leaders, and his thoughtful and wise approach makes him among the most respected state executive leaders. I highly value his advice and wisdom. I often lean on his counsel. I am also grateful for how he leads North Carolina Baptists to place such a high priority on missions. North Carolina churches are consistently among the highest givers to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and North Carolina Baptists have significant partnerships with church plants in North America. Thank you, Milton for what you give and how you lead! I am grateful for your partnership and proud to call you my friend." – **Kevin Ezell**, president, North American Mission Board



"It was a great day for North Carolina Baptists and the Kingdom of King Jesus when Milton Hollifield became our executive director-treasurer. Integrity, statesmanship, encourager, shepherd's heart, lover of souls and a heart for the nations all come to mind when I think of this faithful and devoted follower of our Savior. Thank you, Milton. You have led us well!" – **Danny Akin**, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

"I praise God for 10 years of Milton Hollifield's leadership among North Carolina Baptists. He is a shining example of a brother who loves people and serves churches in such a way that they are mobilized to make disciples from their neighborhoods to the nations and everywhere in between. I thank God for his friendship and our partnership together in the gospel on this great commission, and I pray that the Lord will bless his leadership for countless more years to come." – **David Platt**, president, International Mission Board



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of
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to
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CAROLINA
BAPTISTS



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UNIVERSITY



WE CONGRATULATE YOU
Rev. Milton Hollifield
FOR 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

As Executive Director/Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of NC

We thank you for your missions heart

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

Revelation 7:9-10

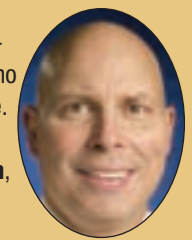
PRESIDENTS APPLAUD HOLLIFIELD'S LEADERSHIP

"Milton Hollifield is a kind and gentle man who is consistent in his Christian faith. I always found him to be approachable and available for wise counsel. Being the executive leader of N.C. Baptists is not easy. Milton is a person who can hear every one's opinion and then point the way to honor God without compromising any of the tenets found in the Holy Bible." — **Don Warren**, layman, Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia; BSC board of directors president, 2006-2007*



"Serving as a convention officer the first four years of Milton's service, I saw first-hand how skillfully and gracefully he navigated our convention through stormy waters. It is hard to adequately comprehend the heavy responsibilities he inherited and the challenging transitions he faced in N.C. Baptist life. When you add to that the rapidly changing social and cultural shifts in the world and the organizational resets that are inevitable, I believe we must conclude that Milton is God's man for the hour in N.C. Baptist life. I am very grateful for his leadership." — **K. Allan Blume**, editor, *Biblical Recorder*, BSC board of directors president, 2007-2010*

"Milton is a person of deep devotion to Christ who has the highest hope and aspiration for N.C. Baptists. Additionally, he has a warmth that attracts every person, no matter their role or place in life. Milton's sense of humor endears him to everyone. Our friendship began a number of years before he ascended to this high position of leadership. However, Milton has always remained the same." — **Bobby Blanton**, senior pastor, Lake Norman Baptist Church, Huntersville; BSC board of directors president, 2010-2012*



"Milton has not lost that passion for prayer as he continues to desire that we impact the lostness of this state and reach to the ends of the earth. I am thankful for his heart for pastors. There have been many times we have prayed together and he has always conveyed a heart that is surrendered to God. Thank you Milton for your servant heart and love for the Lord!" — **Michael Barrett**, pastor, Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, Pleasant Garden; BSC board of directors president, 2012-2015*

*terms begin and end in January

Fruitland Baptist Bible College

Thank you
Milton Hollifield
for the *10 years* of great leadership!

www.fruitland.edu

Congratulations, Milton!

10 Years of Service to NC Baptists

The North Carolina Baptist Foundation appreciates your support and leadership. During your tenure, the Foundation began North Carolina Baptist Financial Services, the Foundation's church loan program; total assets have increased; and each year, more NC Baptist churches and individuals have learned how they can support Kingdom causes until our Lord returns.

You are a great encouragement.

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www.ncbaptistfoundation.org





Hollifield Continued from page B1

a portion of its directors for 2007. The action took advantage of a provision in BSC bylaws that allowed colleges, institutions and agencies to nominate up to 50 percent of its own directors. In return, the respective entity would give up an equal percentage of funding from BSC. However, the *Recorder* never followed through on its intention, and Cartledge retired in July 2007. The *Recorder's* directors continue to be elected by BSC.

Retirement homes

The Baptist Retirement Homes (BRH) announced Jan. 18, 2006, that its trustees had adopted amendments that changed the corporation's bylaws with regard to the election and removal of trustees. BRH president Bill Stillerman said he was not asking for a severance from the BSC, but wanted the board to choose its own directors.

BRH began electing its own directors, and funds for the ministry were held in escrow for at least one year before all funding was removed from the convention's budget. BRH never officially filed for legal separation as required by BSC documents. Although the board has not established an official relationship of friendly cooperation with BSC, the organization continues to work directly with local churches in the state.

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina

Ten days after Hollifield began serving in his new role, the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) held its annual "Missions Extravaganza" at

Ridgecrest Conference Center. At the meeting delegates approved bylaw changes that effectively loosened the organization's ties to BSC, according to a report in the April 29, 2006, edition of the *Biblical Recorder*.

Changes included removing the word "auxiliary" and a statement from bylaws that said the WMU-NC "shares a common religious purpose with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and shall operate as an auxiliary of the Baptist State Convention and shall cooperate with the program of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina as it relates to the promotion of Christian missions and ministries locally and globally."

The new language of the bylaws stressed the historical relationship with BSC and the "common heritage as laborers together in Christian work ..." It added that WMU-NC "may also cooperate, as it deems advisable, with other entities that share a common purpose in promoting Christ-centered and Bible-based missions and ministry locally and globally." Other bylaw changes separated the organization from the human resources department of BSC and established an autonomous business plan. The organization chose to move its offices out of the Baptist Building in Cary. The changes prompted BSC's budget committee to remove WMU-NC from the annual budget in 2007 and the State Missions Offering in 2008.

Baptist colleges and universities

Prior to 2006, five Baptist colleges and universities were discussing a new relationship with BSC. Formal discussions continued between the presidents of the educational institutions and BSC officials through 2006 and 2007 until the messengers at the November 2007 convention ap-

proved a new relationship. The schools gave up Cooperative Program (CP) funding over a period of four years in exchange for the opportunity to elect their own trustees.

In 2008 three North Carolina Baptist schools elected their first trustees from churches not affiliated with BSC. Wingate University, Gardner-Webb University and Campbell University elected trustees from churches that were either not Baptists or not affiliated with BSC. The three schools, along with Chowan University and Mars Hill University, no longer receive financial support through the CP budget.

New ministries

Out of the vacuum created by changes in the relationships with WMU-NC and BRH, churches called for new ministries to fill the void. At the November 2008 annual meeting messengers approved the creation of Embrace Women's Ministry and North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM). Both ministries launched the following year. Neither ministry was a duplicate of the organizations they replaced.

The new ministry to senior adults was developed under the auspices of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH). BCH President Michael C. Blackwell said the new ministry did not plan to duplicate or compete with Baptist Retirement Homes. Instead, Blackwell said it was designed to assist churches and associations in three areas: education to help senior adults in such issues as identity theft and adult day care; practical ministry such as in-home assistance with meals and handyman work; and personal services such as transportation. Sandy Gregory became the director and continues in that role.

Messengers voted to release \$880,000 that was be-

2006

Milton Hollifield installed as the executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina on April 11.

2007

A new relationship was established with the Baptist universities at the November annual meeting.

2008

Messengers approved the creation of Embrace Women's Ministry and North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry at the annual meeting in November.

2009

N.C. Baptist Foundation launched a new church loan program in January.

2010

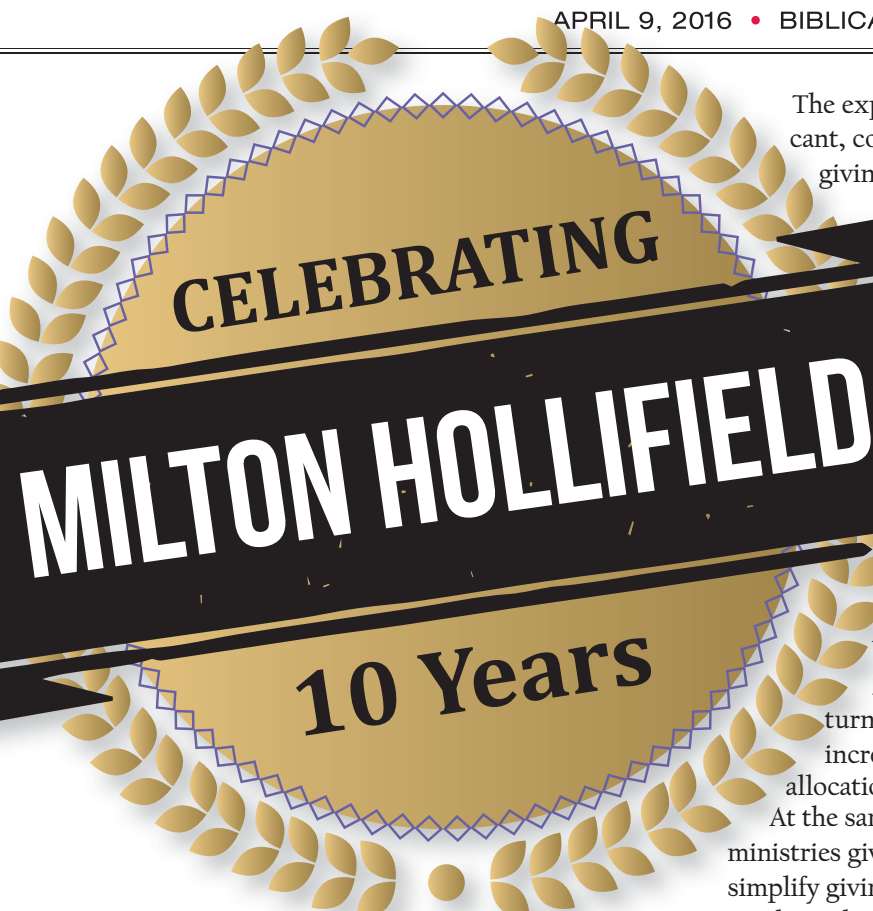
New York partnership began with February vision trip.

2010

International partnership with Moldova launched at November annual meeting.

2011

Statewide Vision Fulfillment forums led to modification of Seven Pillars and evaluation of convention staff structure.



The expressed commitment to missions is significant, considering the downward trend of total CP giving by N.C. Baptist churches over the same 10-year span. Total giving decreased by nearly 20 percent while the percentage BSC set aside for missions rose by 7 percent.

In both 2006 and 2007, the BSC forwarded 33 percent of its total CP budget to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to be distributed among SBC mission agencies, seminaries and other entities. From 2008 onward, that number began to rise by one-half percent each year until it reached 37 percent in 2015. The trend took a sharp turn when messengers approved a three percent increase for 2016, bringing the global ministries allocation to 40 percent (\$11.8 million). At the same time the BSC began increasing its global ministries giving, Hollifield also led the convention to simplify giving mechanisms.

Throughout the 1990s, four giving plans were created, allowing churches to choose how their CP gifts were divided among various state and national entities. They provided moderate churches the ability to choose a plan that designated a portion of their gifts directly to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, affiliated colleges and universities, or other missions entities. Other plans allowed conservative churches to opt for a more traditional, BSC-SBC distribution of funds.

Ongoing committee inquiries into the plans' efficiency revealed that a majority of churches were using one plan. As a result, the convention approved a simplified plan. According to a 2008 *Biblical Recorder* report, he told the Board of Directors, "Keep this phrase in mind ... a simple plan with options."

Christian education

The agreement with five Baptist colleges and universities to reduce CP funds allocated to the schools in exchange for increased independence in the election of trustees resulted in a reduction from nearly \$6 million in 2008 to zero in 2012. Some funds were set aside for student scholarships at the five Baptist colleges.

In 2015 the BSC board of directors voted to transfer administration and oversight of the Baptist college scholarship program from the convention to the NCBF.

Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from cooperating N.C. Baptist churches who attend one of the five affiliated educational institutions are now funded through an endowment established by NCBF, rather than CP funds. The funds totaled more than \$1.2 million in 2006 and had been gradually decreased to \$300,000 in 2015, before making the transfer to NCBF. Some of the recovered educational funds were used to increase resources assigned to Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

Hollifield Leadership Center

The executive committee accepted a \$2.5 million offer

on the sale of the Hollifield Leadership Center in July 2013. After years of financial losses, the center ceased weekly operations at the end of 2012, but remained available for weekend retreats in 2013.

BSC purchased the 30-acre facility on Lake Hickory in 2000 to use for retreats and training events. It was made possible by a significant gift from Gwendolyn Hollifield, who is not related to Milton Hollifield.

Proceeds from the sale were applied to the New Beginnings capital campaign at Caraway Camp and Conference Center near Asheboro. A new 299-seat auditorium was named in her honor. Caraway, the N.C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell and Fruitland Baptist Bible College have all added new facilities in the past 10 years as well.

Collegiate ministry

On April 11, 2013, the BSC Executive Committee approved a new five-year strategy to better assist churches in disciple-making. The new structure included a change in the BSC's collegiate ministry. At the time there were nine full-time campus ministry positions and partnerships with churches on 15 other campuses. The majority of North Carolina's almost 200 college and university campuses were not being engaged by North Carolina Baptists.

Campuses with full-time staff positions included Appalachian State University, Boone; East Carolina University, Greenville; North Carolina State University, Raleigh; University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill; UNC-Asheville, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Pembroke, and Western Carolina University, Cullowhee. The new structure eliminated many campus ministry positions but provided staff to equip churches to have more of a presences on college campuses. Church ownership became the core of the new strategy which recognized there is not simply "one way" to reach North Carolina's diverse population of college students. Local church ownership meant every campus in the state could potentially have the witness of a Baptist church.

Under Hollifield's leadership, the board of directors voted unanimously in 2015 to sell the Battle House, the former Baptist campus ministry property at UNC-Chapel Hill for \$1.55 million.

They also approved the sale of properties at East Carolina University and UNC-Asheville. The property at UNC-Pembroke was transferred to the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. This year the former Baptist Campus Ministry property at N.C. State University was sold for \$860,000, and the former facility at Appalachian State University was sold for \$500,000. Proceeds from all of these sales were placed into a special account used exclusively for collegiate partnerships.

Shifting funds away from campus ministers and campus properties was controversial when first announced, but since 2014 BSC collegiate ministry has grown from nine campuses to a gospel presence on at least 30 campuses. More students are hearing the gospel today from Baptist churches than they were before the change.

A new vision

The new vision announced by Hollifield in 2013 was labeled, "Impacting Lostness Through Disciple-Making."

See Hollifield on page B7

2012

Toronto church planting partnership began early in the year.

2012

Spring vision trip leads to BSC mission partnership with Boston.

2013

Campus ministry reset begins focus on collegiate partnerships with churches.

2013

Lake Hickory property is sold for \$2.5 million; proceeds benefit Caraway expansion.

2013

New five-year strategy focusing on disciple-making, evangelism, church revitalization and church planting was announced April 11.

2014

The immigrant mapping project began, evolving into the Peoples Next Door thrust across N.C.

2015

New church revitalization office established at November annual meeting.

BSC LEADERS RECOGNIZE HOLLIFIELD'S TENURE

"Milton Hollifield has always been a graciously warm and gentle person, even to those who may have been on the other side of the aisle. He quickly began a process of uniting us, in order that the past divisions would no longer separate or define us. Milton invited all to join at the table of ministry and missions under the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ." — **Stan Welch**, West Asheville Baptist Church, Asheville; president, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 2005-2007*



"One of the greatest lessons I learned from Milton was to be loving and gracious even when you face opposition. I have stood alongside Milton at times when our convention, or some position on which our convention had taken, was attacked or opposed. He always responded with love and grace. He chose to be like Jesus and maintain his loving and gracious position on the truth of God's Word." — **Rick Speas**, Old Town Baptist Church, Winston-Salem; president, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 2007-2009*

"Milton is a man of prayer. He never makes a decision without spending time thinking about it and praying over it. Through the years I have watched him face many difficult decisions, and each time he humbly sought the Lord's guidance on his knees in prayer. He is one of the wisest men I have ever known, because he is a man that genuinely walks with the Lord." — **Ed Yount**, Woodlawn Baptist Church, Conover; president, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 2009-2011*



"For five years I had the privilege of serving as an officer of the state convention. In meetings where prayer requests were shared I remember Milton's attentiveness to the needs of pastors and church leaders who he sensed were facing difficult times. I see in Milton a shepherd leader when I observe the dependability to fulfill his commitments. Milton and Gloria have traveled many miles across this state either preaching, presenting an award, or simply showing up to encourage a pastor and his church." — **Mark Harris**, First Baptist Church, Charlotte; president, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 2011-2013*

"Milton Hollifield amazed me with his poise and careful thoughtfulness with every word he rendered to us, to the press and to the convention as a whole. It was obvious that he had saturated every decision and every cause with much prayer. There was always great wisdom and insight in his words and in his actions. Someone has once said, 'I can act like a Christian. My problem is reacting like a Christian.' That statement being true, Milton Hollifield was, to me, always the embodiment of Christ-likeness." — **C.J. Bordeaux**, director of missions, Pee Dee Baptist Association, Rockingham; president, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 2013-2014*



*Officers are elected in November at the BSC annual meeting.

**Thank you and congratulations,
Milton,
for 10 years of great work
on behalf of the Baptists
of North Carolina.**

**Mars Hill University
is proud to call you
one of our
distinguished alumni.**



**Congratulations to Rev. Milton
Hollifield on this great milestone!**

**We are grateful for your service to
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From Baptist Men and Women Mission Volunteers

Hollifield

 Continued from page B5

The new strategy led to realignment of the staff. Prior to this time BSC staff was organized into five ministry groups with a total of 22 teams. Now, there are four ministry groups with 19 teams.

Brian Davis, associate executive director-treasurer, said a key component of this change involved combining the former congregational services and evangelization groups.

“The combining of these two groups has been driven by a key shift in philosophy; a shift that is the foundation of the strategy: disciple-making,” Davis said. He said the new “ministry is driven by the philosophy that disciple-making is the combined effort of evangelism and discipleship that results in disciples making disciples.”

Great Commission Partnerships (GCP) and Church Revitalization are among some of the new teams. The GCP office was established to engage unreached and unengaged people groups around the world.

The office works with local, national and international partners.

The church revitalization team was established by the Executive Committee in November 2014 as an outgrowth of impacting lostness through disciple-making.

Through it all, personnel has played an

integral part in Hollifield’s tenure. Davis and John Butler, executive leader of business services, were brought in early and have been at the convention during all the staff changes. When Hollifield began, there were 97 full-time convention employees. Currently, there are 89 full-time employees.

This number only includes convention staff and not the number currently working at Baptists on Mission, Fruitland, any of the camps or conference centers or WMU-NC.

In 2008, the Board of Directors adopted “7 Pillars for Mission and Ministry,” reflecting the BSC’s core values.

After a Vision Fulfillment process that included 16 listening sessions across the state, the core values were revised in 2011. Visit ncbaptist.org/7pillars to learn more about the “7 Pillars.”

The changes emphasized a focus on disciple-making and included ministry with internationals, unreached and unengaged people groups as well as younger church leaders.

Hollifield’s unchanging vision from the beginning still remains, “By God’s grace, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will become the strongest force in the history of this convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.” **BR**

Congratulations Milton Hollifield

10 YEARS AS EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR TREASURER

We offer our heartfelt appreciation for your decade of support and leadership.

Thank you for all you have done to make each North Carolina Baptist facility a special place for worship and renewal.



**Caraway Conference
Center and Camp**



North Carolina Baptist Assembly



Truett Baptist Camp

Milton Hollifield, Jr. is Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. We all know that. We know that he was a pastor, Director of Missions, and a Divisional Team leader in the BSC. But, we also know that a title does not a leader make. A leader's most effective leadership is gained when his people trust him, follow him, and believe that he has their best interests at heart. **Milton Hollifield, Jr. has faced the tests of leadership and passed with flying colors.**

Part of what a leader does is show up. Milton will see anyone, anytime, anyplace. There are no insignificant churches, Associations, or groups of people. Each year, he spends scores of nights on the road. **Two words sum up why he can do this: Gloria Hollifield.** She drives him everywhere, whether arriving in Nashville at 2 a.m. or back home at midnight. While she drives, Milton is either on the phone, researching something on his laptop, or answering an email — sometimes doing all three at the same time.

Milton was baptized by his father, the late Rev. M.A. Hollifield, Sr. Years later, Milton had the joy of baptizing his only son, Judd Hollifield. Baptist blood runs strong in his family. With all the pressures of occupying this Impossible Chair of Infinite Possibilities, Milton finds refreshment with his family, whom he calls the delight of his life. Grandsons Stewart and Avery have given him new life, new joy, new hope. When he can read a John Grisham novel, spend time outdoors and perhaps hunt a few quail, Milton is like a new man. He knows, as all good leaders do, that there is always the struggle to remain optimistic and not sink into cynicism. **I sum up his leadership style as one of Pure Determination and The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence.**

It's been a jam-packed ten years since his installation service at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. His honeymoon in his new job lasted about as long as it took him to walk from the church to the parking lot, in other words, about five minutes. A man of less faith, less integrity, less confidence, could have easily been eaten alive by all the unfolding events that he faced on Day One. He has not only sat comfortably in the Executive Director-Treasurer's chair for a decade, he has stood tall while doing so. **As a man of prayer and persistence, of vision and vitality, he continues to bring his unique stamp of leadership upon this most crucial of positions in the Baptist State Convention, that of Executive Director-Treasurer.**

MICHAEL C. BLACKWELL
President/CEO
Baptist Children's Homes of NC
April 6, 2016



Reverend Hollifield, we extend congratulations on your 10 years of service and our heartfelt appreciation for your dedicated support of the Baptist Children's Homes vision of "Sharing hope...changing lives."

Baptist Children's Homes of NORTH CAROLINA

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