

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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FEEDING A HUNGER FOR TRUTH

Convention staff leads way in Moldova partnership

By Melissa Lilley | BSC Communications

UNGHENI, MOLDOVA – As two team members from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) left a family's home in the district of Ungheni, they weren't sure what to think. They shared the gospel. The husband and wife listened, but they did not really have much to say.

The Moldovan couple did ask for two tracts so they could each have their own copy to read. Maybe they were interested, the team wondered. Maybe the couple did want to know more.

A few days later, the BSC team spotted the family at an evangelistic worship service that was presented by Moldovan Baptists and Convention staff.

More than 900 people packed the auditorium that had once been used to teach Communist propaganda.

"You came, you came," the couple said to the team.

At the end of the service, the couple – along with Moldovans

See Moldova page 8

Brian Upshaw of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina shares the gospel with a Moldovan woman outside her home. (BSC photo by Kenny Lamm)

N.C. Baptists rally to fight for marriage amendment

By **SHAWN HENDRICKS** | BR Managing Editor

(EDITOR'S NOTE – This article has been updated since being posted online March 29.)

North Carolina Baptists continue to rally together across the state to learn more about how they can help support a proposed amendment to the state's constitution that, if passed, would define marriage as being only between a man and a woman.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest hosted a Marriage Amendment Forum March 28 in Binkley Chapel.

A few days later First Baptist Church of Charlotte hosted the Concerned Women for America's "Stand Strong Together" conference. Other similar events continue to be held around the state.

The events focus on educating the public about the amendment and encouraging them to show up at the polls May 8 and vote. Speakers at these events con-

tend that the eyes of the nation will be on North Carolina – the first state among others to vote on the marriage issue this year. It's the North Carolina vote that some contend will set the tone in deciding the fate of this issue in the United States – especially when it eventually goes before the Supreme Court.

"If the people speak in North Carolina, and in the other states, and affirm marriage being between a man and a woman, I believe that it will tip the balance of the Supreme Court to reject trying to foist by judicial imperialism same-sex marriage on a populace that is clearly opposed to it," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

"If we lose, they will exercise their judicial imperialism. That's what's at stake."

Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte and president of the state's Baptist Convention, spoke during the Stand Strong Together Conference



Mark Harris, president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, is interviewed March 28 by a television news crew after the Marriage Amendment Forum at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

at his church and moderated during the Marriage Amendment Forum. The state, he said, has an opportunity this spring that they may never get back.

"This time it is a little different," said Harris, noting that unlike *Roe v. Wade* – where the issue was decided by the Supreme Court – North Carolina still has

an opportunity to vote on the issue.

"Thank God that He raised up in our state legislature a majority that would put it on the ballot ... for the citizens of this state to go to the polls and determine the answer to how marriage will be defined."

See Marriage page 11

3-D helps build disciple-making culture

By **BUDDY OVERMAN** | BSC Communications

Although scripture instructs churches to focus on disciple-making, making the leap from affirming disciple-making as a priority to being a disciple-maker is often easier said than done.

Lynn Sasser, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) executive leader for congregational services, believes churches can make that leap once they commit to developing a disciple-making culture. The process of developing that culture begins by identifying the true values of a church.

“Think about the culture of your church,” Sasser said. “When you consider the calendar and budget, what is it that is really important in your church? What are the behaviors that are rewarded and reinforced?”

When forced to answer those questions, some churches may discover that disciple-making is not as highly valued as they once thought. Sasser said it’s a problem that is manifesting itself in the decline of too many churches.

“I’m convinced in my heart of hearts that what is wrong with the church today is that we are not making disciples,” he said.

Sasser shared about the importance of disciple-making during the recent “Looking at your church in 3-D” workshop March 20 at First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount. This was the first of four regional workshops scheduled this year.

“Looking at your church in 3-D” is a disciple-making initiative through the Convention to assist North Carolina Baptist churches in these efforts. The initiative calls churches to work through three phases necessary for the establishment of a disciple-making culture. The three phases lead churches to discover, develop and deliver an effective strategy of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

During the discovery phase, churches learn where they are in their efforts to make disciples and where God wants them to be. In the next phase churches develop a comprehensive disciple-making strategy that fits their unique context. During the deliver phase they implement and evaluate the strategy.

‘Simple, but not easy’

Brian Upshaw, church ministry team leader for the Convention, said all three elements are critical in a church’s efforts to make disciples. With that in mind, he cautioned that some churches might be prone to skip one or two of the steps. It’s

a mistake he wants churches to avoid.

“3-D wants to take you through all three steps,” Upshaw said. “It’s simple, but not easy.”

During the workshop pastors learned how to identify the efforts in their churches that are contributing to a disciple-making culture and which ones are not. They also spent time discussing ways to implement the 3-D process.

“What we are presenting to you today is a process, not a one-time effort,” Upshaw said. “Hopefully it will become a new way for you to go about all of your ministry planning and execution so that you’re always in a mode of discovery, always in a mode of development, always in a mode of delivery.”

Russ Conley, BSC senior consultant for leadership development, pointed out that some churches need to begin the process with a fresh vision for reaching the lost people in their communities.

“You can’t make decisions on what ministries to continue or end without a clear vision of what God has called you to do,” he said. “What passes for vision in most churches is manmade, not God inspired.”

Conley said the process of changing the vision in some churches will be hindered by an outdated framework for

ministry built around a constitution and bylaws that was constructed decades or even centuries ago.

“The structure in your church is perfectly designed to achieve the results you are achieving,” he said. “The challenge is to have a structure that is appropriate to your vision that does not overwhelm the life of the church.”

As most pastors know, changing the structure of a church is not easy. But it can be done when pastors commit to orienting the life of their church around making disciples of Jesus Christ.

James Clark, pastor of Powells Point Baptist Church, said the 3-D process can accomplish that goal. Prior to participating in the workshop, Clark attended a one-hour presentation of the 3-D material through his local association. That presentation stimulated a desire to learn more, and the workshop experience confirmed his initial assessment.

“The potential of the program warrants the investment and time,” he said. “I believe that it absolutely holds the key to breaking open our churches.”

For more information on “Looking at your church in 3-D,” including future workshops, visit ncbaptist.org/3d. Two training events are scheduled in September and October. **BR**



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“One of the least of these” hasn’t been outside for three months. Please help!

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

– Matthew 25:40

Has your church registered to construct a wheelchair ramp?

Time is running out and ramp-building teams are still needed. Register your team now and participate on **April 28, 2012**. Without your help, there are people who will be trapped inside. You can be a part of making April 28 **“independence day”** for hundreds of aging adults in need!

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




CHURCH NEWS



Sandy Run Baptist Association

About 900 people gathered March 25 at Crestview Baptist Church, Forest City, for “If My People ...,” a community prayer rally. The theme was based on 2 Chronicles 7:14. Marvin Green, Sandy Run’s associational missionary, called the gathering a “solemn assembly.” Green estimated 40 different churches participated from possibly a dozen denominations. “It has kind of overwhelmed us how God has moved,” Green said. The association is praying for revival and leading its churches to do the same. Green said a group started gathering regularly to pray about 10 years ago with the “Jesus” video project. “We feel like our burden from God is to call God’s people to pray and to cry out for revival,” he said. The group plans to meet again May 3 for the National Day of Prayer.



Highland Baptist Church, New London

A dental clinic, sponsored by Highland Baptist Church, New London, was held March 16-17. Approximately 440 people were provided with dental treatment by volunteer dental professionals, providing \$250,000 in free dental care. The clinic was coordinated in conjunction with the North Carolina Missions of Mercy, an outreach of the North Carolina Dental Society. Several state and local agencies also participated in providing additional services, including necessary blood testing and patient evaluation, vascular screening, diabetes screening and counseling, STD counseling, and stress management counseling. Local law enforcement and EMT’s were made available onsite by the mayor of New London, Calvin Gaddy. Pastor Mike Madaris welcomed and addressed all of the visitors to the church. A program was provided for the waiting patients by the choir directors, Joy and Robert Whitley and the youth pastor Matt Wilkinson, using DVD’s of choir programs. There were over 140 church volunteers working each day. This is the fourth year Highland Baptist has participated in this outreach.



Wilmington Baptist Association

Volunteers from churches in Wilmington Baptist Association (WBA) joined with volunteers from Tennessee Jan. 25-Feb. 7 for a mission trip to the Baptist Home for Girls in Temuco, Chile. The trip was sponsored by the WBA’s Woman’s Missionary Union. The N.C. team – Clara Huff, First Baptist Church, Wilmington; Ray and Linda Carter, Barlow Vista Baptist Church, Hampstead; Pat Warnock, Atkinson Baptist Church; Pat Davis, Calvary Baptist Church, Wilmington; Pat Weaver, Corinth Baptist Church, Vale; and Janice Thomas, Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson Springs – taught Bible stories, made crafts, led singing, and canned fruits and vegetables. Above, Huff, a former missionary to Chile for more than 30 years, teaches some of the girls. The Baptist Home for Girls is one of the ministries of the Baptist “Love Foundation” sponsored by the Baptist Churches of Chile with two love offerings each year. The Woman’s Missionary Union of Chile has supported this ministry for more than 50 years. Huff also delivered a check for \$644 to the home from WMU-NC’s Hispanic women. The money will go toward purchasing shoes for the 23 girls in the home.

Cape Fear Baptist Church, Riegelwood

Floyd Way Flynn, a member of Cape Fear Baptist Church, Riegelwood, received special recognition March 11 during the morning worship service. At right, Flynn, center, was presented a certificate of recognition and achievement from the North Carolina House of Representatives by Dewey Hill, left. Cape Fear Pastor George C. Potter, right, presented Flynn with a state flag flown over the Capitol building in his honor. The certificate mentions Flynn’s service as a trustee, deacon and member of the finance and cemetery committees for the church.



Rocky Face Baptist Church, Canton

Rocky Face Baptist Church, Canton, recognized its pianist Maxine Scott on her 80th birthday. At right, Pastor Donnie Henson, left, presents Scott with a plaque for her 67 years of service. At age 13, Scott took over piano duties from her mother and has been playing since then. She is a charter member of the church which was started in 1938.



Westview Baptist Church, Charlotte

Westview Baptist Church, Charlotte, recently honored its pastor, J. Ralph Ellis, for 34 years of service to the congregation and community. Ellis is a graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute.

Sharon Baptist Church, Reidsville

The Baptist Men of Sharon Baptist Church, Reidsville, participated in the church’s third annual “Workday for Widows” on March 10. Nine widows of the church family were assisted by the men’s group with various work details including: cleaning out gutters, pressure washing walkways, pruning, tree removal, construction of a wheelchair ramp, yard cleanup, and servicing a lawn mower. At right, John Rodgers, left, and Jim Grant, right, stop for a photo with Cleda Woollen, one of the widows who received help.



Submissions

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

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Choir robes needed

A church in Baghdad, Iraq, needs 20 choir robes. If you have robes that are not being used please contact NC Baptist Men (Baptists On Mission) office at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5597.

Dedication, open house set for Shelby camp

April 29 from 2-4 p.m. come be a part of the open house and dedication for Shelby Mission Camp. The dedication will be at 3 p.m. Shelby Mission Camp is sponsored by N.C. Baptist Men and the N.C. Missions Offering. Shelby will house, feed and sleep 200 volunteers a day, and mission opportunities range from construction to evangelistic events. The camp is at 305 Sharpton Drive, Shelby, NC 28150. Contact Eddie Williams for more information at (919) 422-9990 or ewilliams@ncbaptist.org.

Baptist Men hosts east, west golf tourneys

N.C. Baptist Men will hold their annual golf tournament at two locations on May 12 from 1 to 6 p.m. The East tournament will be at Anderson Creek Golf Club in Spring Lake, and West will be Rock Barn Golf Club, Conover. The cost to enter is \$55, and registration is open online at baptistsonmission.org. All men, women and youth are welcome to play. Contact Tom Beam for more information at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5626.

Church looks for fallen heroes, wounded warriors near Hickory

For the families of fallen heroes in Catawba County and surrounding areas, come to the Hickory Crawdads baseball game on May 26 at 7 p.m.

Sandy Ridge Baptist Church, Hickory, started a ministry in 2011 to honor fallen heroes, and they would like to extend the honor to others in N.C. If you know a fallen hero or wounded warrior, please get permission from their family to send their names to the church so their loved one can be recognized.

Contact (828) 256-8812 or info@srbconline.net.

Retreat offers getaway for pastors, wives

The Pastor's Juggling Act, a pastor and wife getaway, is open for all paid pastoral staff of North Carolina on May 31-June 2 at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Black Mountain. The retreat will be led by Eddie and Janet Thompson who have been leading marriage enrichment conferences since 1992. Russell and Kristi Johnson will lead worship. The cost is \$99 per couple including meals and lodging. Register online at ncbaptist.org. Contact Eddie Thompson at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5644, ethompson@ncbaptist.org.

Camp Caraway opportunities for summer

Camp Caraway, Sophia, will have opportunities for children, teens and parents this summer. Visit baptistsonmission.org for more information. Third grade-10th grade boys summer camp weeks are: June 18-22, 25-29; July 16-20, 23-27, 30-Aug. 3. Cost is \$230. Mini camp for boys ages 7-9 will be July 27-29 for \$120/boy. Father/son camps for 1st - 6th grade boys are: Apr. 27-28, June 15-16, July 13-14, July 5-7, Oct. 13-14. Two-day camp is \$74/person; three-day is \$120/person.

Christian high adventure expeditions are whitewater rafting or cross country experiences for boys and girls ages 14 and up. Whitewater rafting expedition weeks are: June 11-15, 25-29; July 16-20, 30-Aug. 3. Cross country weeks are: June 17-22; July 8-13, 22-27. Cross country cost is \$255; whitewater rafting is \$275/person. To register, contact Kacia Morgan at kmorgan@ncbaptist.org, (800) 395-5102, ext. 5613.

Cale offers summer camp options

Cale Camp and Conference Center in Hertford, owned by Chowan Baptist Association, is registering for summer camps. There are sessions available for second through 12th grades including day camp spaces. Rates for a week of elementary or junior camp is \$275. The price of teen camp is \$300, which includes all meals, housing, use of recreational equipment and facilities, and instruction in activities while at camp.

Contact (252) 264-2513 or info@campcale.com. Visit campcale.com.

Summer training days for WMU leaders

Associational and church Woman's Missionary Union leaders are offered training at three dates and locations. Called Exemplifying Excellence, the event will train leaders in their specific duties and roles across North Carolina. Cost is \$25 per person. Dates and locations are:

- **Central-June 22-23** – Ardmore Church, Winston-Salem
 - **East-July 13-14** – Oakmont Church, Greenville
 - **West-July 27-28** – First Sylva, Sylva
- Contact Andi Wilson with questions at awilson@wmunc.org. Visit wmunc.org for more details and to register.

Ministry offers retreat for pastors' families

Psalm 121 Ministries has the vision of providing a place where pastors and their families can retreat and be refreshed without financial burden. A hillside cottage offers views of the mountainside in Bakersville. The house accommodates six people. Visit psalm121ministries.org for more information. Or, contact sbtroutman@live.com or (704) 872-4486.

Crossover New Orleans

Southern Baptists who want to arrive early for the annual meeting in June can participate in Crossover 2012 in New Orleans. Two days are set aside for service: June 15-16.

Visit <http://joinnoba.com/crossover/>. Contact info@joinnoba.com or call (504) 282-1428.

SBC Pastors' Conference

Pastors and guests are invited June 17-18 to the annual Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference.

Session 1 begins June 17 at 5:30 p.m. and features Don Wilton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.

The remaining three sessions occur

June 18. Session 2 begins at 8:30 a.m. with Session 3 starting at 1:30 p.m. and Session 4 starting at 6 p.m. Speakers include David Jeremiah, David Platt, Fred Luter Jr., and Johnny Hunt. Located at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70130. Visit sbcp.net.

Make plans for SBC annual meeting

The 2012 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting is slated June 19-20 in New Orleans. The meeting will take place at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70130. Visit <http://sb-cannualmeeting.net> for more information about registration, hotels, tours, etc.

AROUND THE STATE

Obituaries

PAUL LEON WOMACK, 80, died Feb. 29.

A graduate of Mars Hill College, Womack received a master's degree from East Carolina University. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps and was pastor of Glen Raven Baptist Church, Kinston, for 19 years.

He is survived by a daughter, Paula W. Berube of Beaufort, S.C.; two sons, Steven L. Womack and Andrew L. Womack, also of Beaufort; sister, Barbara Shiflett of Virginia; brother, Lloyd Womack of Maryland; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials to Glen Raven Baptist Church, c/o Linda Woody, 404 Rhem St., Kinston, NC 28504.

HAZEL DAUGHETY PURYEAR, 93, of Raleigh, died March 15.

Her late husband Clarence "Rudolph" Puryear was chief of the Raleigh Fire Department. She was a member of Christ Baptist Church, Raleigh. Puryear worked as a typesetter for the *Biblical Recorder* at one time, and she later was a volunteer at Rex Hospital.

She is survived by three sons, Rudy Puryear of Barrington, Ill., and Jim and Bobby Puryear, both of Raleigh; eight grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Memorials to Christ Baptist Church, 400 Newton Road, Raleigh, NC 27615.

WILLIAM A. "PREACHER BILL" TINSLEY, 86, died March 24.

He served in World War II as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division for the U.S. Army.

He taught a ladies' Sunday School class for many years at Ebenezer Baptist

Church, Hendersonville, before being called to ministry. He was licensed to preach June 7, 1953, and ordained Jan. 30, 1955. He was pastor at Locust Grove Baptist Church, Hendersonville; Ivy Chapel, Mars Hill; Mountain Page Baptist Church, Saluda; Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Zirconia; and Cedar Springs Baptist Church, Hendersonville. He was at Cedar Springs for 25 years.

For the past 54 years, Tinsley had a weekly radio ministry with WHKP, "The Message of Hope." The show aired weekly on Sunday mornings.

He is survived by two daughters; Sandra Marie Dennis of Hendersonville, and Teresa Kay Gragg of East Flat Rock; one brother, John Edgar Tinsley of Knoxville, Tenn.; four grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Memorials to: Cedar Springs Baptist Church, 4196 Green River Road, Zirconia, NC 28790.

Staff changes

TODD MCSWAIN has been called to Norwood First Baptist Church as pastor. McSwain was training for ministry with Cottonville Baptist Church, Norwood.

First Baptist Church, Oakboro, has called **WESLEY WATTS** as minister of music. Watts has also served Bethel Baptist Church, Locust.

SCOTT DAY has been called to First Baptist Church, Creedmoor, as minister of children. Day previously served Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Denton.

Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Jonesville, has called **WESLEY SMITH** as pastor. Previously, Smith served as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Elkin.

Camp celebrates 50 years, challenges churches to 'Send 1 for Him'

BR & Caraway staff

Walking the trails and hills around Camp Caraway in Sophia, N.C., isn't as easy as it once was 40 years ago for C.J. Bordeaux.

"When did you all move Mountain View so far back up in the woods?" Bordeaux joked during a more recent visit to the camp.

Those trails bring back a flood of memories from when he led young boys as a camp counselor. It's Bordeaux's experiences at the camp that he believes helped fuel his calling to the ministry.

"Many of those [counselors] ... now serve in the pulpits and positions of leadership in our N.C. State Baptist Convention," said Bordeaux, who now is pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham and first vice president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. "I am proud to say that I am one of them."

This summer the camp program, which is led by N.C. Baptist Men, will celebrate 50 years of ministry among boys ages 9 to 17. Caraway will celebrate this milestone through various events from June of 2012 until June of 2013.

Located on nearly 1,100 acres, Camp Caraway began as a camping ministry for RAs (Royal Ambassadors) in the summer of 1963. Since then, more than 67,000 boys have spent a week at the summer camp. About 7,000 of the campers made a decision to follow Christ.

Though the camp has helped change lives through the years, the number of boys who attend has slowly dwindled over time. Some speculate the economy is a factor to a lower turn out.

This summer, in conjunction with the



Counselors at Camp Caraway work hard to ensure boys have fun at camp while also teaching them God's Word. This year Camp Caraway celebrates 50 years. Through the years, about 7,000 campers have made a decision to follow Christ. (BR file photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

50-year celebration, Caraway and N.C. Baptist Men are sponsoring a special emphasis entitled "Send 1 for Him."

The emphasis focuses on challenging every Baptist church in the state to send at least one boy to camp.

Bordeaux said he hopes churches will respond to the challenge and find at least one boy in their congregation who could go.

"I know the economy is tough, but pastors, parents and churches ... will get more bang for [their] buck at Camp Caraway than any place I know in this state," he said. "[They] will not

find a better place to send your boys this summer."

On July 21, Caraway will host a reunion of summer camp staff and also a ceremony commemorating the anniversary.

A commemorative wall will be dedicated in honor of all the summer camp directors who have served through the years. This summer the camp dining hall will be named after Clyde L. Davis Sr., who died in 2003. Davis was known for his help with founding the camp and his involvement in Southern Baptist life.

Each year, Caraway Conference Center and Camp hosts more than 8,000 guests through camps, retreats and environmental education programs.

Caraway is in the middle of raising support for a \$7.5 million campaign to

build a new three-story facility in its conference center area that will be used to accommodate more guests.

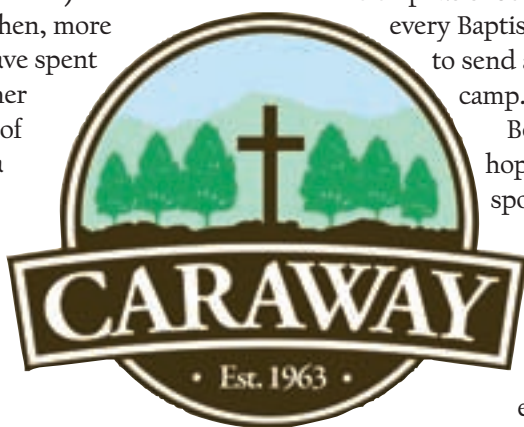
In September of 2011, Caraway also dedicated the Powell/Warren Mountain House that serves as a minister's retreat.

"[Caraway] is becoming even more of a place where we need to invest our dollars and in the lives of those who will lead this great convention and our churches of tomorrow," Bordeaux said.

"[Camp Caraway] is where they will get camping skills, swimming, fun and games, but more than that they will hear that Jesus Christ loves them."

To register or for more information go to campcaraway.org.

Contact N.C. Baptist Men at (800) 395-5102, or call Mark Moore at Caraway at (336) 629-2374. **BR**



Wife of late N.C. pastor establishes fund to help deaf NOBTS students

By GARY D. MYERS | NOBTS Communications

Stephanie Johnson knows the challenges facing a potential seminary student who is deaf. She watched as her husband, Daniel, tried to follow God's call to seminary only to encounter closed doors.

Ultimately Daniel overcame the challenges, attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) and earned a master of divinity degree. Daniel went on to serve as a minister to the deaf and a North American Mission Board

church planting strategist until his death in Jan. 16, 2011, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He was the deaf pastor at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Wilson. Now Stephanie has given the initial \$40,000 gift to establish a new fund at NOBTS – the Accessible Theological Education for the Deaf Fund – aimed at helping deaf students receive training for missions and ministry.

"My dream is that the deaf of the world will be evangelized," Johnson said about her decision to start the fund.

"That will come through the education and theological training."

Johnson is quick to point out that the fund will not be named after Daniel. She said that her husband would not want that kind of attention. Her hope is that the deaf Southern Baptists will embrace this new fund and join her in supporting it. Providing adequate services for deaf students at NOBTS will require additional fund gifts.

The goal of the fund is to help break down one of the major barriers for deaf students – the added cost of hiring an

interpreter. That was the obstacle that nearly ended Daniel's quest for ministry training.

Daniel was born on the mission field to SBC missionaries serving in Chile. Daniel became deaf at age eight, and his parents left the mission field due to his deafness. But Daniel never lost his mission zeal and always had a passion to see the deaf at home and around the world come to Christ. He knew God was calling him to ministry and calling him to seek theological training.

See Deaf students page 15

IMB appoints 61 new missionaries, N.C. couple shares calling

By LAURA FIELDING & BR staff

At least one North Carolina couple thought they had it all figured out. In recent years their family had traveled on multiple mission trips to South America. They became familiar with the language and the culture. Their desire to become missionaries in that part of the world seemed natural, easy and to be a good fit.

But God had other plans for Walter and Joy Kingman* and their two boys, – ages 12 and 6 – who are all from the western part of the state.

The couple was among 61 newly appointed IMB (International Mission Board) missionaries honored March 21, during a service at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La.

That evening the couple shared how God called them to serve in South Asia, far from where Spanish is the dominant language.

Though South America seemed more “comfortable” to them, the Kingmans believe God has something more challenging in mind.

“It’s the greatest concentration of lostness,” Walter says of South Asia. “It has more unreached people groups than anywhere else. God really turned our hearts.”

In 2006, Walter went on a volunteer trip with N.C. Baptist Men’s disaster relief ministry to Sri Lanka, where a tsunami claimed the lives of more than 36,000 people. “It’s there that I really got my calling,” he said, acknowledging it won’t be easy.

“We’re going to have to learn a language that is very hard,” he added.

“It’s going to be hot, and it’s going to be a different culture. It’s one of those things where God is saying, ‘I’m calling you somewhere you’re going to need me.’”

The Kingmans will not be the only North Carolinians heading to South Asia.

Five of six “units” – individual families or single adults – appointed during the service to this region have ties to the state. The new missionaries will begin training April 23 at the International Learning Center in Virginia.

They will leave families, friends, good careers and a familiar way of life behind them as they follow God’s lead overseas.

That evening each shared how God led them to that point.

Charles Drake* was a rebellious punk rock skateboarder who openly renounced his family’s faith, telling his parents that “God was a joke.”

But God had a plan for Drake. During college, he met a friend who also listened to punk rock but didn’t



IMB President Tom Elliff spoke about the necessity of Jesus’ death on the cross and the responsibility of all believers to share the Good News during the invitation at a missionary appointment service in Lake Charles, La. (BP photo)

act like a punk rocker. He was loving, kind and compassionate – and he invited Drake to join a men’s Bible study group.

“[I] started reading the New Testament and was blown away by Jesus – His power to raise the dead, to calm storms ... His compassion to forgive sins, to die on a cross for my sins,” Drake said.

“He saved me.”

As a new believer, Drake’s natural reaction was to tell others about Christ. He started with his friends, but after a trip to Russia he knew God was calling him to something bigger.

After serving as a journeyman missionary for two years, Drake, his wife Renee* and their two children will now live among East Asian peoples.

Heart for Arab Muslims

When Jermaine Willis* was serving in the Middle East with the U.S. Marine Corps, he didn’t just see a combat zone – he saw people who need the gospel.

“They just had absolutely no hope,” Jermaine said. “I could just see it on their faces, I could just hear it in their voices and [watch it] in their lifestyle....

“[T]hey just were lost and had nothing.

“That’s always kind of burdened and impressed me that I wanted to go back, if not to the exact same people, to the same types of people [Arab Muslims] in the Middle East and be able to offer that hope ... that can only come through the gospel.”

Though Willis felt called to missions before joining the military, seeing the reality and needs of Middle Eastern people confirmed that call.

American dream

Growing up, Suzanne Willis*, Jermaine’s wife, had one specific life ambition – to work in politics and constitutional law.

Though offered a full scholarship to a school near Washington, D.C., Suzanne felt the Lord leading her to a Bible college in Dallas. She told God she would not go into ministry, but while there, she said God slowly changed her heart.

“I just realized that it was more important to follow Christ than it was to do things for Christ,” Suzanne said. “So I just said, ‘OK, if You lead me to do anything – it doesn’t matter what it is, anything in the world – I will do it.’ ... He [God] still didn’t tell me, at that point, what He wanted; He just wanted that complete surrender and submission to Him.”

Months later, God brought Jermaine into Suzanne’s life; he told her about his call to missions. As their relationship grew more serious, Suzanne began to discover her own missions calling. Now, the Willises and their three children will be serving among North African and Middle Eastern peoples.

Elliff’s charge

IMB President Tom Elliff spoke to the new missionaries and their families about the importance of sharing the gospel and challenged the appointment service audience to “embrace” an unengaged, unreached people group (UUPG).

“Of the 7 billion people on this globe, about half of those people have virtually no exposure to the gospel ... 1.7 billion of those could actually die without ever hearing the name Jesus. [It’s] tragic,” Elliff said.

To embrace a UUPG, “it doesn’t take a big church, it takes a big-hearted church,” he continued. “So you’re that person – you’re to be His heart, His hands and His voice in that church.”

Referencing the Lord’s Supper in Matthew 26, Elliff also spoke about the necessity of Jesus’ death on the cross and the responsibility of all believers to share the news of that sacrifice.

“Will you preach the blood?” Elliff asked. “You say, ‘Well, I’m not a preacher.’ No, it’s all about proclamation. Whatever all these people are, they’re preachers. I don’t mean preachers behind the pulpit, necessarily, but they are proclaimers of the gospel. That’s what the gospel is – it is Good News. News has to be told.”

The IMB’s next missionary appointment service will be May 23 at Brentwood (Tenn.) Baptist Church.

*Names changed.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Laura Fielding is a writer for IMB. BR staff contributed to this story.) **BR**

Three Forks DOM hospitalized after motorcycle accident

BR staff

Barry Nealy, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association in Boone who was involved in a motorcycle accident March 22, was moved from a hospital in Tennessee to a facility in Greensboro.

Nealy, was riding his motorcycle March 22 when he was involved in an accident, suffered broken vertebrae in his

neck, a collapsed lung and broken pelvis. He was taken to Johnson City Medical Center in Tennessee where doctors performed emergency surgery and he was placed in the Intensive Care Unit.

“I really feel the strength of your prayers, so please do not stop,” said Nealy’s wife, Donna, in an update March 26.

Nealy recently had a tracheostomy and was moved to Moses Cone Hospital.

An update on the association’s website indicated that his breathing had improved and that Nealy was able to talk with a cap on his trach.

“As you can imagine after 15 days on his back he is weak, and they will begin getting him up, and go from there,” Donna said in an update.

Media reports indicate that Nealy’s motorcycle crashed into a Ford sedan in Watauga County.

The Watauga Democrat reported that Trooper David Searcy of the N.C. Highway Patrol said Nealy’s motorcycle crossed the center line into the path of the car while it was traveling at about 50 mph.

The report said the driver of the car suffered pain to his wrist and neck but was not transported to the hospital.

Check for updates on the association’s website: 3forksassoc.org. **BR**

Charlotte churches choose to change, reach community for Christ

By MELISSA LILLEY | BSC Communications

Every week on the way to the hospital for visitation Jack Homesley drives through the neighborhood where he spent his childhood. Only now when he drives by Hoskins Avenue Baptist Church in Charlotte, which he remembers as always having a full parking lot, it looks almost empty.

Church attendance has dwindled, with about 15 people present on Sunday mornings. The community looks different, too. The once white, blue-collar neighborhood is now more diverse and home to many Hispanics and African-Americans.

The senior adult congregation of Hoskins Avenue is no longer reaching the neighborhood, which changed around them before they knew what to do.

About two years ago Homesley, pastor of Christ Community Church in Huntersville just 15 miles north of Hoskins Avenue, began praying for Hoskins Avenue.

"I would stop from time to time and tears would fill my eyes," he said. "That neighborhood desperately needs the gospel. I wanted to help revitalize the church."

For nearly a year Homesley met with leaders from Hoskins Avenue and they prayed about what God would have them do. Their leadership also wanted

the church to start reaching the people around them; they just didn't have the resources or manpower.

Mary Hoyle has been at Hoskins all her life. Her parents joined the church when she was six months old.

"Over the years we realized we weren't reaching the community and outreach wasn't effective," Hoyle said. "I'm stunned that we reached the point we did. We had no idea where to turn. We had to step back and say, 'Lord, you're going to have to handle this. We're going to die as a church; we need for you to take over.'"

Hoyle and the Hoskins Avenue congregation decided the church must change or it would eventually die.

"We had to step back and say, 'Lord, you're going to have to handle this.'"
— Mary Hoyle

Homesley worked with the congregation to develop a plan to help turn things around. Homesley calls the plan a three phase

"progressive partnership plan."

"We're building trust," he said.

"We're helping out, but not taking over."

Last fall the two congregations began phase one, which included pastors and staff from Christ Community helping preach on Sunday mornings. "This enabled Hoskins and Christ Community to build fellowship, trust and familiarity with one another in the process," Homesley said. In phase two, Christ Community began helping with Sunday morning music worship and provided ushers and greeters.

Christ Community also provided additional pastoral care assistance and help with interior and exterior renovations and repairs. Now, in phase three, the congregations are working together to develop and implement a strategy for community outreach, Bible studies, prayer gatherings and other ministries.

Homesley is prayerful that in a few months Hoskins will be ready for a full-time pastor who can help the congregation continue moving forward in their efforts to share the gospel and make disciples.

Feeding the multitudes

Another unique partnership in the Charlotte area between Westmoreland Baptist and Eastside Baptist is now moving forward with strategic changes after six months of prayer, transition and adjusting.

Eastside Baptist merged with Westmoreland in an effort to not only keep the church doors open, but to care for the community.

"I felt God wanted us to merge with another church because we were not being as effective in carrying out the Great Commission as we should have been," said Eastside pastor Michael Snyder.

When Snyder became pastor the church averaged 25 in attendance for Sunday morning worship, and that's how it had been for the past six or seven years. For about three years Snyder attended a support group at Westmoreland when he met with Westmoreland pastor Todd Marlow and other area pastors. The day came when Snyder knew it was time to talk with Marlow about Eastside merging with Westmoreland.

Snyder and Marlow prayed for 30 days before talking to anyone else about a possible merger. "The more we prayed, the more in agreement we were," Marlow said.

On both ends, the transition continues to be a smooth one. "I'm amazed at how easy the transition has been. That can only be a God-thing," Snyder said.

When the churches merged the church changed its name to HOPE Community Church of Metrolina, with a West Campus (Westmoreland facility) and

East Campus (Eastside facility).

Marlow preaches at the West Campus Sundays at 9 a.m. and then drives 30 minutes across town to preach at 11 a.m.

at the East Campus. He will continue doing this until a pastor is on staff for East Campus.

Although the back-and-forth travel has not been easy, to Marlow, seeing people in the community come to know Jesus makes it worthwhile. "We're not loving people for what they can do for us. It's not about saying 'look at us.' We want to feed the multitudes with the love of Jesus," he said.

The merger will bring facility renovations at Eastside, a worship pastor to help lead at both campuses, weekly home life groups at Eastside and community outreach. Snyder is now responsible for pastoral care and senior adult ministry at both campuses. When talk of a merger began Marlow didn't make many promises. "We just said we would love them and preach God's Word," he said.

In the last six months or so the Westmoreland campus has grown and attendance has nearly tripled at East Campus.

A Hope Caring Center was launched in March at East Campus so that the church can offer food and clothing to people, build relationships, and share the gospel. "Everything is for His glory and not ours," Marlow said. "Colossians 1:27 says we have Christ, the hope of glory, in us. That's why we exist. That's who we are." **BR**



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Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute

Founder's Day nears

Founder's Day will be May 8. The festivities begin at the chapel at 10 a.m. Guest speakers include: Brian Davis and Bob Pitman. Lunch will be provided. Pitman will also be preaching during the regular chapel service May 9.

David Horton, President,
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Moldova

Continued from page 1

all across the auditorium – made their way to the front to publically profess their faith in Jesus Christ.

The weekend evangelistic services became the culmination of a week of ministry – March 9-19 – by BSC staff among the Moldovan people.

“I cannot remember a time in my ministry when I pleaded as I did with people to come to Christ,” said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer, who preached during the service.

“As I walked to the podium that night, I had my Bible and a few notes I had made in the Bible,” Hollifield said. “I was depending on God that night. The Lord was giving me the thoughts and the words to say even as I was preaching. I was dependent on Him for every word. Even after years of ministry, God taught me new truths about being dependent on Him and allowing Him to do His work.”

Hollifield shared the story of Nicodemus with the crowd. “God impressed upon my heart that the Moldovan people were depending on the church and good works – the same things Nicodemus was depending on for salvation. But Jesus says that we must be born again.”

Orthodox beliefs are so ingrained into the Moldovan culture, Hollifield said, that the concepts of having a personal relationship with God and assurance of salvation are completely new ideas to many of them. Moldova is less than two percent evangelical.

Partnership and purpose

That week the BSC team from the Convention went in groups to homes throughout villages in the Moldovan district of Ungheni. Moldova, which is divided into 33 districts and is the poorest country in Eastern Europe, is bordered on the north, east and south by Ukraine, and on the west by Romania.

Through a partnership with the Baptist Union of Moldova, the BSC – which sent a total of 11 staff on the trip – hopes to lead North Carolina Baptists to engage in evangelistic efforts throughout the 32 remaining districts. The trip was coordinated by the BSC’s Office of Great Com-



Mike Sowers, left, shares jump rope duties with Ashley Allen in Moldova. Sowers and Allen, along with Kenny Lamm (seen playing to the left of Allen) took some time to spend with and minister to children in Moldova. BSC staff were in Moldova to work with a partnership that has been developed through the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, which Sowers leads. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

mission Partnerships, which is led by Michael Sowers. The team shared the gospel and invited families to two evangelistic services held during the week. They also went door-to-door distributing food to people in need and sharing the gospel, and leading children’s camps throughout Ungheni.

“In the midst of an atheistic culture, God promised He would prevail. He promised that nothing would prevail against His Kingdom,” Sowers said.

“We are seeing what fervent prayer and God’s faithfulness will accomplish. God can overcome what seems like the most impossible circumstances to get His gospel to the nations.”

Hollifield and Chuck Register, BSC executive leader for church planting and missions development, led pastor’s

conferences in three different cities: in the capital of Chisinau, in the northern city of Balti, and in the southern city of Cahul. Ashley Allen, director of Embrace Women’s Missions and Ministries, spoke at two women’s conferences.

A need for churches

BSC staff also evaluated future opportunities and ways to involve North Carolina churches in reaching Moldova for Christ. More than 1,000 villages in Moldova are still without an evangelical presence.

“[The] vision for this mission trip was for our staff to set an example for North Carolina Baptist churches,” Register said.

“As churches consider adopting or embracing one of these districts, we wanted our staff to model that focus and emphasis. I never want to challenge North Carolina Baptists to do something we will not do.”

Two North Carolina Baptist congregations have already committed to evangelize two of the districts. An additional 30 churches are needed to commit to

serving in the remaining districts.

Since returning from Moldova the staff has begun putting together resources, based on their experiences and what they learned. They hope to help churches as they prepare physically and spiritually for mission work in Moldova.

Hollifield shared how he hopes other North Carolina Baptists will be able to experience some of the same victories – and beyond – what the BSC’s team experienced in Moldova.

“I pray that many churches across our state will step up and respond to the plea for help in Moldova,” he said. “I believe if we can get enough North Carolina

Baptists to serve in Moldova, we stand a great chance of shaping the future of that country as we see people who are open to

the gospel come to faith in Christ and in turn, be discipled and reach others.”

For photos and videos, visit flickr.com/ncbaptist. To learn more about how to get involved in Moldova, call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5654, or visit ncbaptist.org/moldova. Or, contact Sowers at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5654, or msowers@ncbaptist.org. **B3**



Crowds filled auditoriums to hear North Carolina Baptist leaders share the gospel. (BSC photo by Kenny Lamm)

“We are seeing what fervent prayer and God’s faithfulness will accomplish.”
– Mike Sowers

NO HOPE WITHOUT CHRIST

Moldova mission team encounters lostness, spiritual darkness

By Melissa Lilley | BSC Communications

While the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's mission team was in Moldova, they encountered bitter cold and a spiritual darkness steeped in orthodox religion. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

UNGHENI, MOLDOVA – Wrinkles lined her face and wisps of gray hair poked out from underneath the blue and yellow scarf wrapped around her head. She stood in the doorway bundled up in a long gray coat. A smile never left her face.

The woman was glad to meet the team from the United States. She thought their religion was better than hers and said they were better people. The team shared the gospel with her. They explained that they were not better than her, and that only the grace of Jesus Christ can save sinners.

She listened and then spoke with such kindness. She said she just couldn't do it. All her life she was taught to go through a priest to reach God. No one could ever have assurance of eternal life, she said.

The team prayed with her and with the young woman with her, perhaps a granddaughter. During the prayer the younger woman began to weep. After the prayer, she continued wiping tears from her eyes.

She appeared to be so close to responding in faith to Jesus Christ.

"We met one person after another who was so ingrained in orthodoxy that there's this blindness over their eyes that they can't see Jesus – because they think they already know Jesus," said Kenny Lamm, worship and music consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). "It will take God's power to lift that fog from their eyes."

Lamm was one of 11 staff from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina who participated in a mission trip to Moldova March 9-19 coordinated by the Convention's Office of Great Commission Partnerships. (See cover story on page 1 for an overview of the trip and the partnership.)

Lamm saw hope represented in the young woman.

"The younger generation could be so pivotal in Moldova because they are not as steeped in the religious traditions," he said.

Throughout Moldova are icons, or constant reminders that teachings from the Moldovan Orthodox Church are firmly rooted in minds and hearts of its people.



Ashley Allen, left, prays with a Moldovan woman. Some of the BSC team went door-to-door to share Christ. (BSC photo by Kenny Lamm)

An icon is known as a blue, cross-shaped box mounted to a wooden pole that holds images of saints, Mary, or Jesus on the cross.

Icons are everywhere, from a roadside to a hilltop overlooking a village. Driving into the city of Ungheni, an icon sits just off the left side of the road, near the railroad tracks before arriving at the house of culture. During the former Soviet Union days, buildings called the "house of culture" were used to teach Communist ideals.

Evangelicals would label the icons as graven images. Moldovans who follow the Orthodox tradition believe they are a sign of blessing and one way to point people to God.

John Miron, president of the Baptist Union of Moldova, knows the challenges that come with trying to penetrate spiritual darkness. Miron and other pastors were chased out of a village when they tried to start a church there. Tires on their cars were slashed and the priests told them they were not to assemble in the village boundaries.

In the village of Parlita, where the mission team served the first day, they met a woman with young children who had never heard the name of Jesus.

"When I asked her if she knew of Jesus, she said no," said Iana Fincher, BSC church planting ministry assistant. "I asked a couple other times to make sure she understood me – but she had no concept of Jesus."

Fincher was born and raised in Chisinau, Moldova's capital city, and moved to the United States with her family as a teenager. Her ability to speak English, Russian and Romanian allowed her to serve the team well as a translator.

Fincher's family learned about the gospel when a Gideon from the United States was in Moldova handing out Bibles on the street. Fincher's mom received one of the Bibles. She soon began attending a Bible study so she could understand more of what she was reading.

Fincher's mom prayed to receive Jesus Christ and so did her dad. Her dad did not learn about Jesus until he was about 40 years old. Her grandmother and uncle prayed to receive Christ shortly before they died, but the rest of her family in Moldova does not believe in Jesus.

The village where Fincher's parents grew up is still without a church.

"The people we visited in the villages were completely hopeless. They had been lied to about God and about Jesus. And these people are the rule; not the exception," Fincher said. "I saw how raw lostness is and how sad it is."

Merrie Johnson, BSC senior consultant for student evangelism and ministry, met a woman in the villages who had never owned a Bible.

"She told us that the priest reads the Bible to them. They don't read the Bible for themselves," Johnson said. "We gave her a Bible and she couldn't believe it. She was beside herself with joy."

Johnson also met an 82-year-old man who was not saved. His wife, a believer, wanted her husband to hear what Johnson and the team had to say about the gospel.

"He stood there the entire gospel presentation and listened. But he said, 'I can't do it.' He kept saying, 'This doesn't equal what I've heard in my church.'"

See Lostness page 10

Retired dental clinic finds new life, meets needs in western N.C.

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

A dental bus retired by North Carolina Baptist Men after 22 years of service is finding a second life as a stationary dental clinic operated by Truett Baptist Association in Marble.

See a dentist for a toothache? It's routine for many North Carolinians, but it can be a challenge for many living in Cherokee and Clay counties in the far western part of the state.

That's why the new dental clinic is big news, said Mitchell Shields, Truett's director of missions.

The new clinic also stands as a lesson in how Baptist partnerships can help meet needs.

The 1989 Bluebird bus now sits to the right of the association's office building on N.C. Highway 141, permanently parked on a concrete slab under an awning with steps to the entrance.

The engine and other parts of the vehicle's mechanical parts were worn out.

This was its second engine, and it had more than 100,000 miles of service.

But the interior clinic with two chairs, X-ray machine and storage for supplies are all in good condition.

Its interior was completely refurbished in 2001.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) originally provided a \$140,000, interest-free loan to N.C. Baptist Men to buy the bus in 1988. It was soon being driven by volunteers all over the state for clinics to provide medical and dental care.

It was one of two mobile units maintained by the ministry.

When the ailing bus was replaced last



The North Carolina Baptist Men recently retired a dental bus from its ministry. Julie Ledford, left, a volunteer dentist from Hayesville, and Mitchell Shields, director of missions for Truett Baptist Association in Marble, pose for a photo in front of the now permanent fixture in western North Carolina. A few dentists have volunteered to help with this ministry in the Bluebird bus. (BSC photo by Mike Creswell)

October by a new truck-mounted Lifeline Mobile medical dental unit, it was decided to let Truett operate the Bluebird.

Joanne Honeycutt, N.C. Baptist Men coordinator for the statewide mobile medical/dental ministry, visited the association in December to train the Baptist volunteers who will be working with the new dental clinic, which will become an on-going ministry of Truett Baptist Association. It will be staffed and operated by them.

"I found the folks to be just as excited about their 1989 bus as we were excited about our 2011 mobile unit," she said.

Honeycutt coordinates the schedule of the two mobile medical/dental units and the thousands of professional and lay volunteers required to keep them functional.

The ministry delivers free care to more than 4,000 patients in scores of clinics

held across the state each year.

"We are so grateful that Truett Association had a desire to use a stationary dental clinic to meet the needs of people in that part of the state," said Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptist Men.

"God will continue to use this dental bus for many years to meet the physical and spiritual needs in the western part of the state," he said.

Shields said

there's a tendency for local Baptists to think North Carolina Baptists imagine the state stops somewhere around Asheville.

"But having the clinic has a tremendous impact on an increased sense of cooperation," he said.

"We are working together."

Shields has worked hard on still more partnerships to get the clinic into operation.

A \$6,000 grant from the N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) provided the concrete slab the clinic sits on.

"Many of our patients are older adults who have trouble getting access to dentists willing to accept their Medicare/Medicaid coverage," Shields explained. "They have to drive 60 or 70 miles to get a Medicare dentist."

A local church member donated the shelter.

Local construction workers and builders provided the excavation and grounds preparation.

"What you see right here has been a partnership with NCBAM, N.C. Baptist Men and local churches, coming together

and working cooperatively," he said.

Shields said they are also working cooperatively with the Clay County Health Department, which also operates a dental clinic.

"This morning they brought some dental burrs over because we didn't have what was needed," he said.

But the Truett clinic will usually have needed supplies, because they are working with a company that provides free dental materials to non-profits.

Twelve patients were seen by volunteer dentist Julie Ledford, DDS, on its first day of operation, Feb. 24 this year.

Four dentists have committed to provide free dental care through the dental clinic, and a fifth dentist has said he will help after his upcoming retirement.

Such numbers are needed for the ministry, because the overall number of dentists in relation to the population is low in the area, Shields said.

"Our primary concern is relieving pain," he said.

"We have a lot of folks who are just hurting. We're trying to relieve that pain."

Currently the association has a list of about 175 prospective patients.

The medical/dental ministry of N.C. Baptist Men is funded through the North Carolina Missions Offering, taken up by many churches during September each year.

But, the new Lifeline Mobile unit has been partly paid for by gifts from the Duncan Foundation, the Friess Family Fund, the Goodwill Foundation, churches, summer camps, dental offices and individuals.

Honeycutt said \$49,000 remains to be paid on the \$450,000 cost of buying and equipping the new unit.

For more information on the medical/dental ministry or to make a contribution for the new mobile unit, contact Honeycutt at jhoneycutt@ncbaptist.org or call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5603. **BR**

Lostness Continued from page 9

The spiritual darkness is overwhelming, but the Convention's mission team saw the power of God at work while in Moldova.

The woman in Parlita, who had never heard of Jesus, prayed to receive Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. Several team members had opportunity to share their faith and then watch as God worked and people responded to the gospel. On the Sunday before the team left Moldova some team members preached in churches throughout Chisinau.

One of the churches, Gethsemane Baptist, meets in a Russian public elementary school that was once used as a meeting location for Communist leaders.

One of the church members is a woman who before she was saved used to teach, as she described, atheist propa-

ganda in the school. The Sunday the team was at the church, a teenager someone who described himself as an atheist – prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.

The team saw up close the hopelessness that comes without Jesus Christ and the need for God to work in hearts. Before the trip, Fincher prayed for God to show her lostness and to break her heart for the Moldovan people.

"I am so glad to know that through faith I have assurance of salvation," she said.

"I have never been so thankful for that. I remember thinking during the trip how I never wanted to take that assurance for granted."

For photos and videos, visit flickr.com/ncbaptist. **BR**



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Marriage

Continued from page 1

Gay marriage impact

The issue is about religious freedom, said Tami Fitzgerald, executive director of the North Carolina Values Coalition, an organization that focuses on promoting faith, family and freedom.

“What people don’t realize is that gay marriage means the beginning of the end of religious freedom,” she said. “When marriage is redefined in a state to become generalist, there are legal consequences for anyone who disagrees with it.

“What happens is there is a sea change of law ... everything from property rights, to inheritance laws have to be changed because the assumption that there underlies them is that marriage is between one man and one woman.”

Many Christian ministries in some states – where gay marriage is legal – are already feeling the impact.

In New Jersey, a Methodist church camp had to close after a lesbian couple sued the camp because they were not allowed to marry on the grounds. The couple won their case, which forced the camp to choose their religious convictions over continuing to operate and allow same-sex marriage ceremonies.

“The court said the constitution allows some intrusion into religious freedom to balance other important societal goals,” Fitzgerald said.

Some Catholic charities have also chosen to close their doors because they refused to allow gay couples to adopt children from their organization.

Many opponents of the marriage amendment claim it will deny homosexuals equal rights. Tim Wilkins, executive director of Cross Ministry in Wake Forest, argued during the forum that homosexual relationships are already “unequal.”

“Homosexuality is commonly a cry of diversity, yet a same-sex marriage or relationship is characterized by sameness, not diversity,” said Wilkins, who lived a gay lifestyle for more than 10 years before beginning a ministry that helps people escape homosexuality.

“Regarding the question of homosexuality and race, same-sex attraction, biblically



Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, speaks March 28 during a special marriage amendment forum at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. “If the people speak in North Carolina, and in the other states, and affirm marriage being between a man and a woman, I believe that it will tip the balance of the Supreme Court to reject trying to foist by judicial imperialism same-sex marriage on a populace that is clearly opposed to it,” Land said. (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

defined, is not an orientation matter but a temptation matter,” he said.

“Of the millions of temptations we face everyday, where does scripture elevate this particular temptation to a high status? Our orientation as humanity is toward sin.”

Unless marriage is redefined “radically,” said Southeastern Seminary professor Daniel Heimbach, “gay relationships are not in the same relational categories as the sort of relationships with which marriage laws are concerned. That is why this amendment has nothing to do with equality.”

“Legalizing same-sex marriage will radically change marriage in a way that denies all fixed structures and deinstitutionalizing marriage as a social institution, thus harming everyone by threatening social stability and intergenerational survival.”

Many who oppose the amendment argue the amendment will take health care away from children, prevent

private companies from offering domestic partner benefits or weaken domestic violence laws. Many of these claims, the panel at the Southeastern forum said, are blatantly false. To read more about these arguments check out a guest column written by N.C. House Majority Leader Paul “Skip” Stam, one of the panelists at the forum. The column was published in the March 17 issue of the *Recorder*. Or, read the story online through keyword search at brnow.org. The column is entitled “What will the marriage amendment do?”

Fitzgerald later referenced a political ad that features Clay Aiken, a former American Idol contestant, who opposes the amendment.

“He’s in front of a playground, and he says if Amendment One passes, ... some of these children behind [him] will lose their healthcare benefits,” Fitzgerald said.

“He never once mentions the word ‘marriage’ ... ‘heterosexual’ or ‘homosexual family.’”

“They are deliberately calling it ‘Amendment One’ to divorce it from marriage so that the average person out in the public won’t know this amendment is about marriage. The amendment is about protecting marriage.”

Until Christians take a stand, the issue will never go away, said Kenyn Cureton, vice president for church ministries at the Family Research Council.

“What you need to know is that proponents of same-sex marriage are well organized, well funded, and they are relentless,” he said. “They will not stop until we rise up, speak the truth in love, and stop them – and do it together.”

He challenged pastors and church leaders who are for the amendment to work together, to stay focused through prayer, and to preach on what the Bible has to say about this issue. “Don’t ever think that your influence is insignificant,” he said. “You as pastors, as ministers of the gospel, can make a positive difference ... being the salt and the light here in North Carolina.”

For more information on this issue, related guest columns and stories, go to brnow.org or access the *Recorder*’s Marriage Amendment page under the “Resources” tab at brnow.org/marriage. **BR**

N.C. marriage amend. has 20-point lead

Baptist Press

Two new polls that use the exact language citizens will see on the ballot show a proposed North Carolina marriage amendment with a substantial lead.

A survey of 1,191 likely voters by Public Policy Polling has the amendment ahead, 58-38 percent, while a poll of 1,001 by SurveyUSA has the amendment up, 58-36 percent. Each survey included in the question the language that will appear on the ballot: “Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State.”

North Carolinians will vote May 8.

Nationwide, polls have shown that people are more likely to support a marriage amendment if it is stated in the

positive – as the ballot language does and as the Public Policy Polling and SurveyUSA polls did – than if it’s stated in the negative.

Questions that include the word “prevent,” as an earlier survey by Elon University did, also tend to decrease the level of support for an amendment. The word “any” also may have led to a lower level of support for the amendment, since it underscores the negative tone of the question.

Public Policy Polling’s survey of Maine in 2009 was the only one to correctly predict residents there would reverse a law that had legalized gay “marriage.”

The Public Policy Polling survey was conducted March 23-25; the Survey USA poll, March 16-20; and the Elon University poll, March 26-29. **BR**

Marriage amendment

Updates and Resources

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

Websites

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

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



What can you do to support marriage amendment?

The purpose of this article is not to talk about if or why we should support the marriage amendment as North Carolina Baptists and citizens. It is not to try to convince you that marriage is a good thing. It is. God says so! We should be way past that.

I believe, no matter what the polls may or may not say, the vast majority of the people of our state and in our churches are supportive of the traditional view of marriage being between one man and one woman.

However, it is clear that there are those with a contrary view to the traditional view of marriage. They are willing to do whatever it takes to make their definition of marriage the law of the land. This is the crux of the matter.

Do we in North Carolina want to wake up one day and find that our legislature or some irresponsible state judge has changed our laws to try to make marriage the union between any two consenting adults? (or maybe something even more offensive?) If not, the question becomes “What should we be doing to support the North Carolina Marriage Protection Amendment?”

One, we need to plan to vote for the marriage amendment.

This will take the definition of marriage out of the hands of politicians and judges and put it in the hands of the people.

A constitutional amendment can only be changed by the people. No state judge can credibly say that the traditional definition of marriage is unconstitutional if it is in the constitution. You can be sure that if this amendment fails to pass, the same-sex marriage activists will be emboldened to work to change our laws to allow same-sex marriages in North Carolina.

Second, we need to talk to our neighbors, relatives and friends about the need to vote for this amendment.

In our state and country we are supposed to have a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

If we fail to vote, we cede the decision about our laws to those who do vote. It has taken almost a decade to get this amendment on the ballot. We don't want to wake up on May 9 and wish we had done more to get people to vote to protect marriage. We can use our computer to make flyers asking people to vote for the amendment and distribute them in our neighborhoods or other places.

Bring up the subject with those you know and share your concerns about marriage. Use your telephone to call people and ask them to vote. Volunteer to drive someone to the polls.

Third, write a letter to the editor of

your local paper expressing your support for the amendment. Ask the paper to take a position in favor of the amendment.

Write a letter to your local politicians or call them and ask them to support the amendment publically.

Remember, they want your vote so they have an incentive to try to make you happy, especially if they receive a lot of calls and letters.

Fourth, put a yard sign in your yard and encourage your friends to do the same. If you need to, make your own sign or have it made at a printer.

Contribute to the Christian Action League or VoteForMarriageNC.com to help pay for the cost of media to tell our side of the story. If you have the money, get some yard signs made and give them to your friends. Take up money and buy yard signs. Do something to get the message out.

Fifth, volunteer to stand at a polling place and give out flyers that show people how to vote if they wish to support marriage.

Many people are confused and think a vote against the amendment is a vote against same-sex marriage. It is not!

A vote for the amendment is a vote to protect traditional marriage as being between one man and one woman. I believe personally that we who believe in



RAY BARNHILL
Guest Column

“Many people are confused and think a vote against the amendment is a vote against same-sex marriage. It is not!”

traditional marriage can make a huge difference at the polls by giving out a flyer with a sample of the ballot with a huge check on the “for” box.

There are rules about how close you can be to the entrance of a polling place. Don't worry; there will be others giving out flyers for their candidates.

Just stand near them. Be nice and act like a Christian should act. Bring extra coffee and donuts. Give them to the people standing at the polls giving out flyers who don't agree with you. Smile!

Sixth, pray! Remember, God is still in control. The question comes back to us, “What should we be doing to support the North Carolina Marriage Protection Amendment?” The short answer is “Whatever it takes!”

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Ray Barnhill is pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Wilson. He also is a member of Christian Life and Public Affairs, a committee serving the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.) **BR**

For God so loved the world

As I listened to the wonderful musicians and waited for the time in the program when I would preach, I couldn't help but marvel at this unique opportunity. This very

stage where I sat, in this very building, was used during the Soviet Union days as a place where Communist principles were taught.

Although it is now run down, I can't imagine what this building looked like in its prime. I imagine it sparkled and shined and looked pristine. I imagine it was a sight to behold as people poured in for rallies and special events.

But just a few weeks ago I watched as people packed the auditorium not to hear Communist propaganda, but to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed. For two evenings, on a Saturday and a Sunday, I had the privilege of preaching the gospel to people from villages throughout the Moldovan district of Ungheni.

On Saturday night the Lord impressed

upon my heart to preach from John 3:16. I knew God wanted these people to know how much He loved them and how much He wanted a personal relationship with them.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

I want you to know that I approached these services with a great sense of responsibility. Perhaps more than any time in my life, I felt such a dependence upon God; a total dependence on Him for every thought and every word I shared during those messages.

I cannot tell you the overwhelming burden I had as I looked out into the crowd and realized that most of the faces staring back at me did not know Jesus Christ. God reminded me that He loves

every single person on this earth and that He died to save people in Moldova just like He died to save me. What a joy it was to see many of them accept Christ as their Savior.

I was preaching in Moldova because I was on a mission trip with 10 other mem-



Milton Hollifield, left, was part of a team of Baptist State Convention employees who recently went on a mission trip to Moldova. Team members worked with Moldovan leaders to build plans for the future of its partnership. For more stories, see pages 1 and 9. Visit flickr.com/photos/ncbaptist. (BSC photo by Kenny Lamm)

bers of your Baptist State Convention staff. In addition to preaching during the two evangelistic services, Chuck Register and I were blessed to teach during pastors' conferences throughout Moldova.

Other members of our mission team faithfully served each day in different villages in Ungheni. They helped with food distribution, children's camps and shared

the gospel with people in the villages.

I want you to know how blessed I am to have been granted this opportunity from God to serve Him in Moldova. I was blessed to serve alongside our Convention staff, and I was blessed to see God work in the hearts of Moldovans.

Our Convention's Office of Great Commission Partnerships is coordinating this Moldova partnership, and you can learn more by visiting ncbaptist.org/moldova.

Your Convention staff has a desire to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ – this

is why we went to Moldova. My prayer is that North Carolina Baptist churches all across this state will join the work God is doing in Moldova.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16 **BR**

Do you have a biblical worldview?

Everyone has a worldview. Very few people have a biblical worldview. A worldview has been described as the lense through which one sees everything around him. It is the filter through which one interprets every activity and event he observes and experiences.

According to David Noel, author of *Understanding the Times*, a worldview is “any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man’s relations to God and the world.”

Researcher George Barna found in a 2004 study that only half of Protestant pastors have a Biblical worldview. He says, “A Biblical worldview has a radical effect on a person’s life.” Barna’s claims are supported by his research (see barna.org).

Our worldview determines how we worship, how we live, how we vote, how we spend our money, how we spend our time and every decision we make.

I understood the meaning of a worldview better after visiting other countries. On a mission trip to Africa some years ago, the missionaries explained to me how Christian faith in that region had experienced a blending of animism and superstition over the years. They did not want me to be surprised when I saw elements of that culture occasionally overriding the truth of scripture.

Traveling to Asia several years later, the missionaries explained to me that in their culture Christianity was often intermingled with ideas from Islam. The people saw everything through a blended view of Christianity and Islam, unaware of the contradictions or simply choosing to ignore them.

In yet another part of Asia, the missionaries explained that Christians in that region had embraced some Buddhist rituals in their worship services. I saw it firsthand.

Visiting Eastern Europe and South America, I have been informed that

Christian thought was often mixed with orthodox legends and Catholic rituals. Traditions were valued above scriptures.

I confess that the thought came to me, “How sad that these countries don’t have the good form of the Christian faith like we have in the United States.” The Holy Spirit quickly convicted me of my arrogant, errant thinking.

In America our Christianity is not as pure as we would like to think. Some within the ranks of the Christian faith have embraced secularism, relativism, materialism and humanism. Others weave folk lore and cultural traditions into their brand of Christian living. As the world presses them into its

mold, their lifestyle and worship style reflect an absence of biblical values. Calling themselves “Christian,” they look very non-Christian by biblical standards.

Such a perspective is not just a blending of religions. It is a blending of worldviews – views which are fundamentally in conflict with each other. The result is a liberal, watered-down form of the Christian faith, far removed from the authentic faith of the early followers of Christ.

Without a focused, biblical worldview, we fail in our mission to be salt and light. We diminish the body of Christ to a social meeting, merely celebrating human accomplishments while pushing God into the background.

The focus of the humanistic worldview is to please mankind. Humanism wants to keep everyone happy and embrace all shades of religions. It is the ultimate form of relativism and is an artificial image of the Christian faith.



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor



A traditional medicinal practitioner prepares an infusion of herbs in his store in Taipei’s Dihua Street night market. Chinese medical remedies, despite the city’s modern aura, remain popular. Just as with historical herbs, modern-day Christians sometimes piece together what they know about Christianity and combine it with traditions from the religion in which they were raised to develop their worldview. (BP photo)

Humanism invents new “rights” (gay rights, abortion rights, etc.) in order to appease the sins of an unregenerate world. It is a cheap substitute for grace. It glorifies man above God without resolving the sin problem.

Sadly, there are Christians with the label “Baptist” whose worldview is more humanistic than biblical. They introduce confusion into the minds of the populace. The world is puzzled as it watches churches who take opposing positions on moral issues which are clearly addressed in scripture. The witness of the Christian church is damaged – even neutralized.

Paul spoke boldly to the church at Galatia on this issue. “As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! For am I now seeking the favor of men, or

of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:9-10, NASB).

We are the church. The word ‘church’ in the New Testament is translated from the Greek word ‘ekklesia’ which comes from two words: “ek” meaning “out” and “kaleo” meaning “to call.” We are called out, not blended in! We are unique. We are special. We are witnesses. That is the root of our worldview. **BR**



Submissions for Tar Heel Voices (letters to the editor)

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to editor@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185. Letters can be anonymous but only with approval by the editor. Each submission will be subject to style, length and clarity adjustments. Only one letter from the same writer will be published in a 90-day period.

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April 22

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

April 29

Jesus Works Through His Church

Focal Passages: Matthew 16:13-19; 28:18-20

A 1986 Gallup poll asked “Who do you say Jesus Christ is?” Eight in 10 Americans affirmed their belief that Jesus Christ is God or the Son of God. Yet only 50 percent of them would affirm the orthodox position that Jesus was in fact God living among men. Some mistakenly affirmed that Jesus was divine only in the sense that He was a man called by God to reveal God’s purposes in the world. If that latter view were true, our salvation would be ineffectual.

Twenty-six years later we live in a post-postmodernist culture. A coexist ethos is strong. Syncretism rules the day. Today’s answers to the same poll would yield that Jesus was an ancient philosopher, a powerful religious leader, an influential social reformer, or, if the respondent was very uninformed, that He never actually existed.

Matthew 16 records that Jesus conducted His own poll asking, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” The answers varied, but Jesus was much more inter-

ested in His disciples’ understanding. Peter voiced his conviction and proclaimed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” His answer was both correct and God-given. The Holy Spirit has revealed Peter’s discovery to every believer. Our mission is to tell and show others how they can discover Jesus as the Christ, too.

Consider these questions for further discussion: Why is Peter still right? What does the title “Christ” mean? How should one interpret the insight (v. 17), power (v. 18), and authority (v. 19) given to Peter? What are the keys of the kingdom, and what do they bind and loose? There is so much here to grasp, more than this article can convey.

In Matthew 28, Jesus challenges his disciples (and believers everywhere) with an enormous challenge to make disciples wherever they are.

This same Great Commission is ours today. How will you respond to our mission to make disciples? It is the reason we are still here. Be faithful.



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

Focal Passages: Matthew 24:9-14, 39b-44; Revelation 7:9; 22:12-14

Wars and rumors of wars are some of the signs of the end times. Some countries have been experiencing civil war for years leaving refugees and others in their wake. In the midst of suffering and deprivation, many wonder when will the end come.

In Matthew 24, Jesus drops a bombshell of information on His disciples sharing that there is a time when nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. He speaks of how the church will be placed in the midst of this conflict. Even so, His promise in verse 13 is that those who

stand firm will be saved in the end – a promise brings a secure hope to each believer. Stuart Weber notes that, “Each one who stands firm to the end in spite of persecution, false teaching, and the hardening of society’s conscience would enter into the eternal kingdom of heaven

with the Messiah.” What a promise – a promise that only God can deliver.

As the end of time draws nearer, what is the church to do? Verse 14 has the answer – the gospel of the kingdom should be preached worldwide as a testimony to all nations. This testimony could win the listener over, and it could also condemn the guilty. The Good News is only good for those who accept it. There is an eternal difference for those who listen and accept it than for those who do not. The Bible says that the end is coming.

Consider the parable of the faithful and wise steward. What does it teach us about readiness, stewardship and judgment? What does it teach us about serving and witnessing to others? Jesus said He is coming again. If you knew that the world was going to end in six months, what would you do, and how would your lifestyle change? No one knows when Jesus will return. Signs are increasingly being fulfilled in our generation. God is on time – never early and never late. Be alert, be aware, and be ready. How are you preparing for the second coming of Christ? No one knows the day or the hour. Are you ready?

April 22

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

April 29

Christianity 104: Be Good Neighbors

Focal Passage: Luke 9:51-13:21

“It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood, A beautiful day for a neighbor. Would you be mine? Could you be mine?” For over three decades Fred Rogers opened his show for children with these words. He sought to broaden children’s view of how we work together. A neighbor was more than just the person next door.

The old saying was that any two people were separated by six people. Last November because of the social networks, they now say that only 4.74 people separate any two people in the world.

Maybe the world is shrinking. So, in this day of Internet and other means, who is my neighbor? If I am to love my neighbor as both the Old and New Testaments teach, who is it?

It seems to be human nature to seek to find ways of not doing something. This is not always bad. We seek to “work smarter, not harder.”

We have invented machines to do many of the tasks we used to do by hand. My computer’s spell-check saves me from constantly going to the dictionary.

However, sometimes we seek to find ways out of doing things we should. God tells us to love our neighbor.

So, we try to narrow down the field. Even in Jesus’ day we see this happening. In this encounter the lawyer is basically saying, “Define neighbor.”

He, like us, was missing the true intent of what God was saying.

Being told to love my neighbor was not a limiting statement.

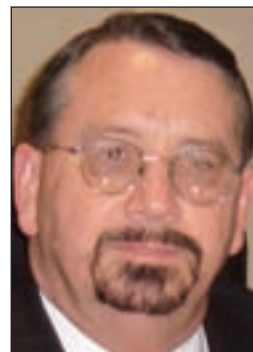
It was not based on the other person. It was an instruction to me. I am to love those I come in contact with.

As Mr. Rogers asked the children to be his neighbor, we are to seek out others to be a part of our neighborhood.

We are to be the good neighbor.

How do we do this? In the parable Jesus told, He emphasized having compassion on those who have needs.

We need to step outside our comfort zone and invite others in. But beware, when we do this we must accept the opportunities God presents to us.



THOMAS MARSHALL
Pastor, New Hope
Baptist Church,
Laurinburg

Christianity 105: Manage Money Well

Focal Passage: Luke 13:22-17:10

A pastor told the story of a well-to-do man in his community who came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. On the day that he

was to be baptized, as he was stepping into the water, he suddenly stopped and said, “Wait, I’ll be right back.” The pastor said the man went back and grabbed his wallet. Money had been his god, and now he wanted to submit all to Christ.

Money is a great servant but a terrible master. Too often we allow money to become the controlling agent of our lives.

Turn on the news and you are bombarded by reports on the economy. If we are not careful we will allow the economy to establish and control our thoughts.

We will be looking to the economy for our future security. Who we look to for our future security often is a glimpse into where we really place our trust.

Does our view expose us as “profess-

ing” Christians while being “practicing” pagans?

Much of our unrest and uncertainty about the future stems from where our foundational trust is located. If our hope for tomorrow comes from our bank accounts, IRA’s, 401k’s and other economic sources, we will be constantly fearful. If it rests on the solid rock of Christ – we have confidence in the future.

Someone has said that you can tell where a person’s true heart is by looking at his calendar and checkbook. Where do we spend our time and money? Is it to pursue making more money? Is our goal to have one dollar more? Do we spend it all on ourselves and what we want out of life?

How much time and money do we spend reaching out, touching and helping those in need?

Jesus spoke more about money than He did about heaven and hell. Could it be He did this because we are so focused on money in place of what counts for eternity?

When we give account for ourselves before God (Romans 14:12), what will we say? Will the ledgers show that we helped or hoarded? Think about it.

Deaf students

Continued from page 5

When Daniel first applied to a Southern Baptist seminary, the school affirmed his call and agreed to accept him but did not have funding to help with an interpreter. The school suggested that Stephanie accompany her husband to class to take notes and interpret. But she also needed to work to pay for tuition and living costs. The Johnsons felt as if God had closed a door.

Daniel decided to try another school before giving up. This time he applied to NOBTS. The response was identical. The school affirmed Daniel's call and welcomed him as a student, but he would have to provide

his own interpreter. This time, thanks to the funding from the Louisiana Baptist Convention and several students who knew sign language, Daniel's story didn't end with another closed door. He enrolled in 1982 and completed the master of divinity in 1985.

Johnson said the lack of funding for interpretive services for deaf students, especially those following God's call to international missions, burdened Daniel until his death. The IMB requires 20 hours of seminary training for its career missionaries. The requirement is the same of deaf men and women who feel called to serve over-

seas, and the increased financial burden of interpreters can be a hindrance for some deaf students. Johnson is hopeful that her gift and similar gifts from others will help alleviate the extra costs to deaf students.

The International Mission Board affinity groups dedicated to reaching deaf peoples estimates that there are as many as 28.9 million deaf people living outside the United States. The IMB currently has about 50 missionaries serving among the deaf. Johnson hopes the new fund will lead to greater missions outreach to the deaf people of the world. **BR**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

First Baptist Church, Pilot Mountain, NC, is a multigenerational congregation seeking a **Senior Pastor**. Pastoral and ministerial staff is supported by the deacons, church council and committees. Worship services are a blended music style and expository teaching from God's Word, with focus on reaching the local community, home and foreign missions. Applicants need clear sense of God's call to the pastoral ministry, led by the Holy Spirit, and exhibit visionary leadership while demonstrating a shepherd's heart. Accepting resumes through June 4, 2012. Also include a statement of faith/personal testimony and an audio or visual of a recent sermon. Mail to: Pastor Search Team, c/o First Baptist Church, PO Box 818, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041. For questions or follow-up: pastorsearch@fbcpiotmountain.org.

SENIOR PASTOR. East Lumberton Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC, is seeking a full-time senior pastor who is dedicated to serving God, passionate for God's people, and committed to helping the church grow in membership and service to the Lord. Five years minimum pastoral experience required. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 201 Whiteville Ave., Lumberton, NC 28358, or email to elbchpastorsearchcommittee@gmail.com.

SENIOR PASTOR. Cheraw First Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a senior pastor, chosen by God, who is equipped to serve and lead as our church continues to grow in Christ. If prompted by the Holy Spirit, submit your resume to cfbsearchcommittee@gmail.com or mail to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 337, Cheraw, SC 29520. We will be accepting resumes April 2nd through May 31st. Please visit our website at www.cherawfbc.com.

Trinity Baptist Church, an SBC church in Trinity, NC, is seeking a **full time pastor**. Seminary degree and reference required. Send resumes to bbenfi6193@aol.com or Trinity Baptist Church, PO Box 9, Trinity, NC 27370 by July 1, 2012.

Lake Lynn Baptist Church, a growing conservative SBC church located in Fayetteville, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. In the past year, the church has grown in membership and is seeking a pastor to carry it to the next level. We have three part-time leaders to include an associate pastor, children's minister, and worship arts director. We are seeking a pastor who is pursuing, or holds, a master's degree in divinity from an accredited seminary or school of divinity. Please send resume electronically to Lakelynnbaptistchurch@embarqmail.com. Resume must be received by June 30, 2012.

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

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

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

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

Church Staff

Flemings Chapel Baptist Church is seeking a **Part-Time Director of Ministry of Students and Families**. This position will primarily work with our students in middle and high school and minimal involvement with our college students. In addition, this position will seek to grow stronger families through our student ministries. Please send resumes by email to pastorscott@flemingschapel.org or mail to 4430 Littlejohn Church Road, Lenoir, NC 28645, Attention Scott Shoffner, senior pastor.

Full-time Minister of Music and Music Education for Poplar Springs Baptist Church. Seeking college graduate with music degree and three years experience as minister of music. If interested send detailed resume to MM Search Committee, 3014 Poplar Circle, Shelby, NC 28152.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION. Loris First Baptist Church, Loris, SC, is seeking a full-time associate pastor for music and education. Degree from accredited seminary required. Anyone interested may send resume to: Search Committee, LFBC, 3117 Main Street, Loris, SC 29569, or e-mail to: piver@coastal.edu.

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

Guilford Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC, is seeking a **Part-time Worship Leader**. Must be able to lead a blended music service. Will work with members of praise team, choir and audio/visual. Basic computer skills required. 10-15 hour/week including Wednesdays and Sundays. Email resume to sandrashu@triad.rr.com.

Miscellaneous

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CP ahead of pace at fiscal year midpoint

Baptist Press

Year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries received by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee are \$4,764,590.68, or 5.12 percent, above the year-to-date budgeted goal, and are 0.75 percent behind contributions received during the same time frame last year, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Frank S. Page.

The total includes receipts from state conventions and fellowships, churches and individuals for distribution according to the 2011-12 SBC Cooperative Program (CP) Allocation Budget.

"This stands in marked contrast to the first quarter of our fiscal year when CP contributions languished in a double-digit decline from the previous year," Page said. "We praise the Lord that we have seen this significant rebound in CP support for the missions and ministries of the SBC."

As of March 31, gifts received by the Executive Committee for distribution through the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget totaled \$97,764,590.68, or 105.12 percent of the \$93,000,000 year-to-date budgeted amount to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The total is \$736,653.49 less than the \$98,501,244.17 received through the end of March 2011.

The convention-adopted budget is distributed 50.2 percent to international missions through IMB, 22.79

percent to North American missions through NAMB, 22.16 percent to theological education, 3.2 percent to the SBC operating budget and 1.65 percent to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). If the convention exceeds its annual budget goal of \$186 million dollars, IMB's share will go to 51 percent of any overage in Cooperative Program allocation budget receipts. Other ministry entities of the SBC will receive their adopted percentage amounts and the SBC operating budget's portion will be reduced to 2.4 percent of any overage.

"The Cooperative Program is the fuel that drives what we do together as Southern Baptists," Page said.

"While I am grateful for everything we do collectively, I am especially thankful that more than \$49 million in CP contributions has been distributed for international missions and another \$22 million has been used for North American church planting and evangelism."

Designated giving of \$116,862,719.30 for the same year-to-date period is 0.34 percent, or \$394,841.17, above gifts of \$116,467,878.13 received at this point last year. The total includes only those gifts received and distributed by the Executive Committee and does not reflect designated gifts contributed directly to SBC entities.

CP is a channel of giving through which a local church is able to contribute to the various ministries of its state convention and to the various missions and ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention with a

single contribution. Traditionally, state and regional conventions have acted as collecting entities for Cooperative Program contributions. They retain a portion of church contributions to the Cooperative Program to support work in their respective areas and forward a percentage to Southern Baptist national and international causes. The percentage of distribution from the states is at the discretion of the messengers of each state convention through the adoption of the state convention's annual budget.

CP allocation budget receipts received by the Executive Committee are reported monthly to the executives of the entities of the convention, to the state offices, to the denominational papers and are posted online at

cpmissions.net/CPReports. March's CP allocation receipts for SBC work totaled \$16,142,489.90. This is the fourth successive month that contributions exceeded monthly budget projections. Designated gifts received last month amounted to \$29,682,787.57.

The end-of-month total represents money received by the Executive Committee by the close of the last business day of each month. Month-to-month swings reflect a number of factors, including the number of Sundays in a given month, the day of the month churches forward their CP contributions to their state conventions and the timing of when state conventions forward the national portion of their CP contributions to the Executive Committee. **BR**



**CP Sunday
is April 22**

BR weekly

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