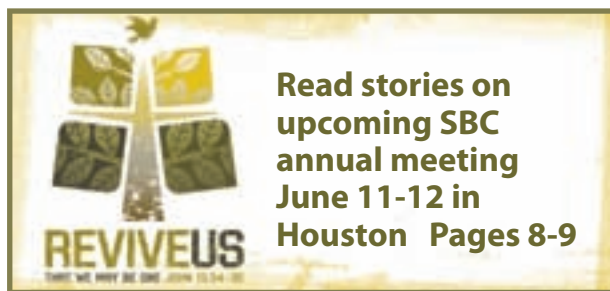




**Heritage Awards honor N.C. Baptist's best Page 2**



**Read stories on upcoming SBC annual meeting June 11-12 in Houston Pages 8-9**

# BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

MAY 11, 2013 • News Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 179 NO. 10 • **BRnow.org**

## Campus ministry addressed in BSC statement

BR staff

**O**n April 11, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) Executive Committee



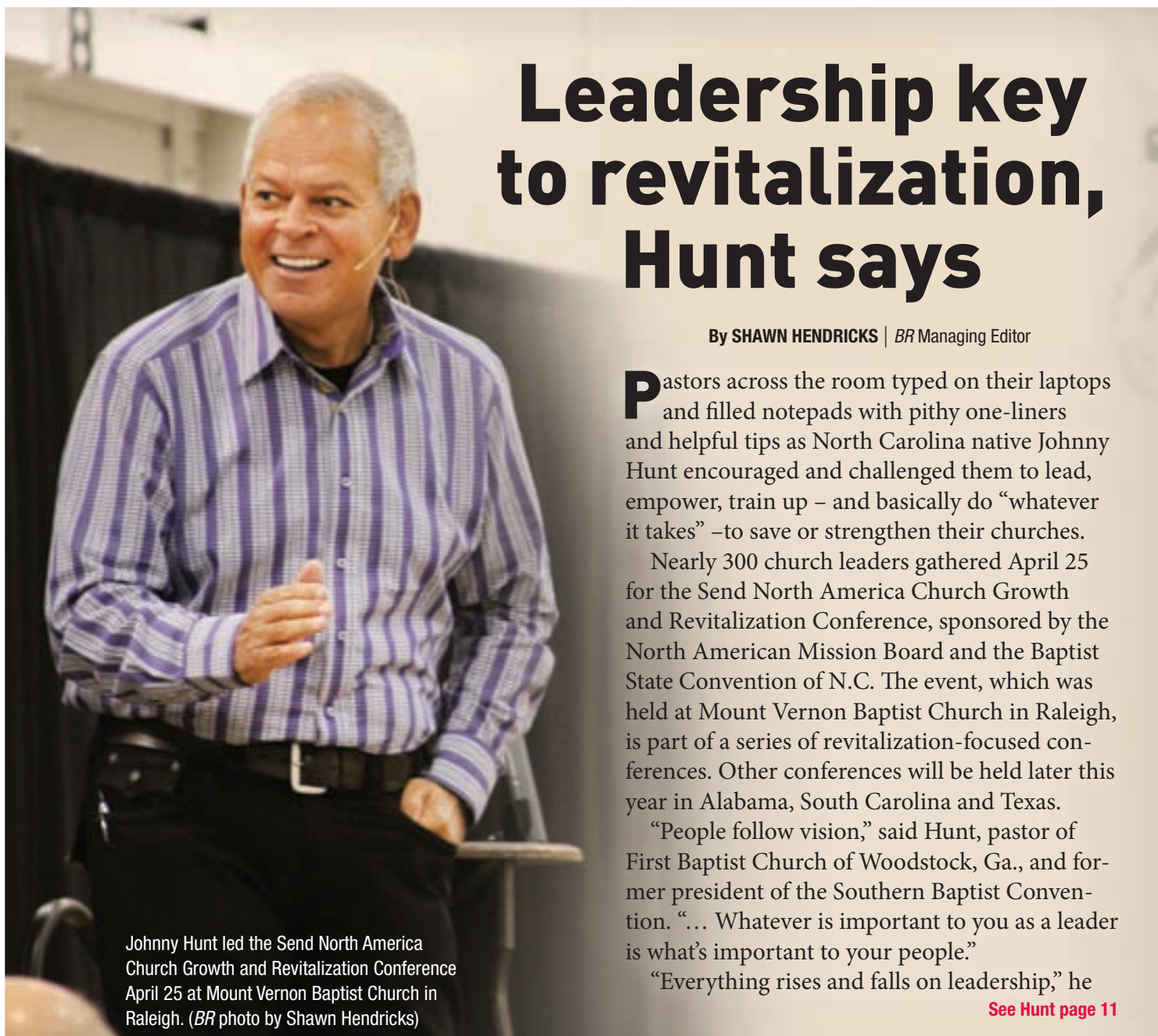
**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**

approved a five-year strategy proposal that would restructure the organization to better equip and assist churches in making disciples, in evangelism and church planting among people groups throughout the state and beyond. Since the announcement, the BSC has received

a variety of responses – some positive and others voicing concern about the proposed changes that will go before the Board of Directors in May.

To better clarify the vision and strategy, the BSC plans to release a series of statements in the coming days and weeks. Written by Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer, here is the first of those statements:

**See Statement page 4**



Johnny Hunt led the Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference April 25 at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Raleigh. (BR photo by Shawn Hendricks)

## Leadership key to revitalization, Hunt says

By **SHAWN HENDRICKS** | BR Managing Editor

**P**astors across the room typed on their laptops and filled notepads with pithy one-liners and helpful tips as North Carolina native Johnny Hunt encouraged and challenged them to lead, empower, train up – and basically do “whatever it takes” – to save or strengthen their churches.

Nearly 300 church leaders gathered April 25 for the Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference, sponsored by the North American Mission Board and the Baptist State Convention of N.C. The event, which was held at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Raleigh, is part of a series of revitalization-focused conferences. Other conferences will be held later this year in Alabama, South Carolina and Texas.

“People follow vision,” said Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. “... Whatever is important to you as a leader is what’s important to your people.”

“Everything rises and falls on leadership,” he

**See Hunt page 11**

## N.C. pastor seeks to solve segregation dilemma

By **K. ALLAN BLUME** | BR Editor

**N**icholas Muteti knows from first-hand experience that God can unite people who are very different and very divided. And, he is passionate about proclaiming the power of God’s Word to heal impossible rifts. That’s the message of the African pastor’s newly published book, *Segregation in Churches: Providing God’s Answer to Solve the Dilemma*.

Three years after giving his life to Christ in the East Africa nation of Kenya, Muteti found himself preaching the gospel to the Maasai tribe. Two Maasai warriors charged him with spears, clubs and swords, because he

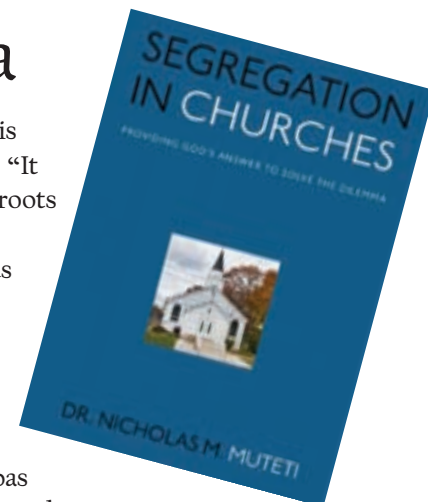
was from the Kumba tribe. The two tribes were declared enemies who had been at war for centuries.

The book tells how he survived and how God miraculously ended the animosity between the tribes. The experience launched his mission to proclaim the healing of racial and cultural divisions, especially in Baptist churches.

He came to the United States 18 years ago to get an education. Having completed his M.Div. in languages at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, today Muteti pastors Forestville Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C. From the pulpit he looks into a balcony built over a hundred years ago for slaves.

Talking about his book, Muteti said, “It all began with my roots in Africa.”

Muteti contends his background qualifies him to write about segregation. Describing the relationship between the Kumbas and the Maasai, he said, “We were



**See Pastor page 16**



# 'Humble,' servant leaders honored during Heritage Awards

By SHAWN HENDRICKS | BR Managing Editor

**N**orth Carolina Baptist agencies honored 17 people April 23 during the 13th annual Baptist Heritage Award ceremony in Greensboro.

The annual award ceremony is co-sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of N.C. and the N.C. Baptist Foundation. It honors individuals and couples for their service to Baptist agencies.

Keynote speaker Michael Blackwell, president and CEO of Baptist Children's Homes of N.C. for the past 30 years, described the award recipients as those with "a light in their eyes, with an energy in their bones, and with a fervor in their spirit."

"This entire room today is full of women and men with that kind of passion, with that kind of missionary spirit," he said.



JERRY A. & EVON JORDAN

## Baptist Children's Homes

The Baptist Children's Homes of N.C. honored Jerry A. and Evon Jordan for their financial support, dedication to ministry, and work in their community and church. Blackwell shared how the couple, members of Lakeview Baptist Church in Albemarle, have ministered to children at Mills Home and Camp Duncan.

"Whether it's building a bath house at Camp Duncan for Girls or providing encouragement to a child who has lost his or her way, Jerry and Evon are not satisfied to just visit a cottage, go away and never come back," Blackwell said. "Pages in a book could be filled with their unselfish acts of philanthropy. Their mission is to change lives, and they are our partners in changing the lives of scores of children."

## Baptist State Convention

The Baptist State Convention of N.C. (BSC) honored Sei Hun Kim for his ministry among Asian Christians. Kim



SEI HUN KIM

has mentored, disciplined and ministered to new believers and Christian leaders, and helped plant churches through the BSC, the North American Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Although he officially retired in 2005, Kim continues to serve the BSC in Asian church development and leadership development.

Kim is "one of the most humble servants of God that you will ever meet; he always desires that ... all of the attention and praise be directed toward Jesus Christ," said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the BSC. "God has used this man to change the destiny of many people because they discovered a relationship with Jesus Christ."

## Biblical Recorder

The *Biblical Recorder* honored Michael Smith for his dedication to the *Recorder*, the Baptist State Convention of N.C. and his "stellar" support of the Cooperative Program (CP). He has led Fruitland Baptist Church in Hendersonville to give as much as 49 percent through CP.

Smith has served as pastor of the church for the past 22 years. He is a past chairman and member of the BR Board of Directors, served numerous other Baptist committees and is one of the faculty at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute.

"We want to honor him ... not only because of the specifics of his involvement in the *Biblical Recorder's* life and history, but the big picture is always important as well," said Allan Blume, editor of the BR.



MICHAEL SMITH

## Campbell University

Campbell University in Buies Creek honored Sadie Neel. A 1942 Campbell graduate, Neel served as a trustee for 20 years and a committee chair at the university. She created a scholarship fund in memory of her late brother, and created two endowed scholarships to benefit Campbell's Divinity School.

She has been actively involved with Neuse Baptist Association and Falling Creek Baptist Church in Goldsboro, where she is a member. She is a committed member of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), teaches a Sunday School class and has served on various church committees. She has played the organ for more than 30 years.

"Sadie Neel has served the people of her community," said Jerry Wallace president of Campbell University. "She has served her church, and she has served Baptist people."



SADIE NEEL

## Chowan University

Chowan University in Murfreesboro honored Betty Rose Duke, a trustee and Development Committee member of

Chowan, for her financial gifts to the university. She has been a strong supporter of the university's music department. She helped found and is honorary chair of the Friends of Music organization, which helps provide needed funding for the university's music efforts. She is a member of First Baptist Church in Ahoskie and is active in



BETTY ROSE DUKE

WMU, the church's senior citizens group and various other church and community committees.

M. Christopher White, president of Chowan University, described Duke as an excellent gardener, dedicated Christian and generous friend who is faithful to her church, the university and community.



RONALD HAWKINS



MARTHA HAWKINS

## Gardner-Webb University

Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs honored Ronald and Martha Hawkins for their service and financial support to the university, community and church. Ronald was also recognized for his professional excellence as a banker. The couple is actively involved at First Baptist Church of Statesville, where they are members and Ronald has served as a deacon. Ronald, a 1955 graduate of Gardner-Webb, has also served the university as a trustee, and has led on various committees in his community.

A. Frank Bonner, president of Gardner-Webb, described the couple as two of the university's "most loyal and generous friends." "Their friends will tell you," he added, "that Ron and Martha's most important leadership roles have been the roles of committed spouses, loving parents and doting grandparents."

## Mars Hill College

Mars Hill College in Mars Hill honored Susie and A.C. Honeycutt. Both graduates of Mars Hill, class of 1975, the couple was recognized for their financial

See Heritage page 6

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## CHURCH NEWS



### Dover Baptist Church, Seagrove

An ordination service was held at Dover Baptist Church, Seagrove, on March 17. Led by Pastor Donald G. Davis, center, Sean Hassell and Patrick Robinson were ordained into the ministry. Hassell, right, a graduate of Liberty University, serves as Dover's youth pastor. Robinson, left, is a student at Liberty and Dover's associate pastor.

### First Baptist Church, Wadesboro

The congregation of First Baptist Church of Wadesboro surprised their pastor, Robert L. Hunter Jr., and his wife, Denise, with an all-expense paid trip to the Holy Land. They presented the Hunters with the gift March 10 during the church's morning worship service.



### Considering ministry in Ecuador

Ten members from five North Carolina Baptist churches returned from Ecuador Jan. 30 after a 10-day vision/discovery mission. Team members, above, were from New Sandy Creek Baptist Church, Henderson: Tim Burgess, Eva Lassiter, Kevin Kilgore and Anne Cannon, team leader; from Harriett Baptist Church, Henderson: Will Breedlove; from Tabbs Creek Baptist Church, Oxford: Becky Currin, Pam Hart and Betty Lou Watson; from West Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford: Bob Dayoan; and North Henderson Baptist Church, Henderson: Gayle Davis. The group traveled to three areas of Ecuador along with International Mission Board missionaries Ruby and Fletcher Dickerson to see the needs and consider future partnerships with Ecuadorian communities. The group also visited the Nate Saint House Museum.

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



### Upper Laurel Baptist Church, Mars Hill

Pastor Cline "Junior" Hensley and his wife, Gwen, were honored for 30 years of service as pastor at Upper Laurel Baptist Church, Mars Hill. The service April 14 included a special presentation reviewing his time at the church that involved completing two building projects. Hensley was interim pastor in October 1982 before being elected pastor in April 1983. Above, Hensley, center, poses with Troy Rogers, left, former director of missions for French Broad Baptist Association, and Stephen Honeycutt, right, current French Broad director of missions.

## Calvary Baptist calls Rob Peters as senior pastor

BR staff

**R**ob Peters of Weston, Fla. has been called to serve as senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston Salem, N.C., effective June 16. The church voted April 28.

Peters was born in Augusta County, Virginia. He completed an accounting degree at Tennessee Tech and immediately enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

While at Southwestern, he worked for the accounting firm Ernst and Young for two years and served in a variety of leadership positions at Sagamore Hills Baptist Church in Fort Worth. He served First Baptist Church Dallas, Texas, as associate to senior pastor for O.S. Hawkins.

In January 2000, the Peters family moved to Weston, Fla., a suburb of Fort Lauderdale. Since then, he has served as the senior pastor of First Baptist Church. As a solo pastor he began the work of church revitalization with approximately 300 attenders. The church grew from 300 to more than 1,100 in worship attendance. Today, the church has seven executive staff members, four directors, and 95 employees in its church and school. The membership comes from more than 60 different nations and has strategic missions partnerships around the world.

In December 2001, Peters completed his D.Min. degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest,

N.C. He has authored three books. He and his wife, Wendy, are the parents of three children.

Speaking to the Calvary congregation, Peters said; "Wendy and I are anticipating a great time of ministry together in this wonderful and historic church."

Frederick W. Kremkau, chairman of the pastor search committee, said the search for Calvary's senior pastor concludes an 18-month process involving 146 candidates and 60 committee meetings. The Search Committee said in a statement: "Our prayer from the start was that God would lead us down a straight path to His shepherd for Calvary Baptist Church, and that the process would culminate in a confident, unanimous vote without reservation." Their unanimous vote was on March 26.

Gary Chapman, senior associate pastor of Calvary, served as the interim pastor of the church after Al Gilbert left to join the staff of the North American Mission Board in September, 2011. Mark Corts was Calvary's pastor for 39 years.

Chapman has served Calvary for 42 years. He said, "Pastor Rob is a strong expository preacher. He is deeply committed to evangelism, discipleship, and missions. ... As a church family we are grateful for our history under the leadership of Dr. Corts and pastor Al Gilbert, and we are excited about the future under the leadership of Dr. Peters."

More information is available on the Calvary Baptist website: <http://www.calvarynow.com/welcome-dr-rob-peters>. **BR**



ROB PETERS



# Statement

Continued from page 1

## Campus Ministry for the Future

As the student population on college and university campuses continues to diversify, so must the approaches used to reach these students with the gospel. An important aspect of the new Convention strategy is the contextualization of ministry efforts. Without question, ministry to students on college campuses is a vital part of the Convention's new strategy to impact lostness and make disciples.

The new model for collegiate partnerships is best understood within the new Convention strategy, which the Convention's Executive Committee approved April 11. The strategy is focused on reaching people all across North Carolina with the life-changing message of the gospel. Any attempt to separate the Convention's collegiate partnership model from the overarching Convention strategy makes the collegiate partnership model difficult to understand. The Convention's mission is to assist churches in the fulfillment of their divinely appointed mission. The Convention's vision is to become, "...the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." We believe that a new collegiate partnership model will help us best fulfill our new strategy, as well as our Convention's mission and vision.

North Carolina Baptists must develop more effective ways to reach many students who have no knowledge of Christ and no connection with a church near their campus. The Convention's new strategy calls for contextualized approaches throughout the Convention's missions and ministry efforts, providing the opportunity to customize efforts on the numerous campuses across North Carolina in order to maintain a Baptist presence on these campuses. Utilizing partnerships, the Convention will continue seeking to serve, reach, train and mobilize college students in an effort to make disciples who in turn make disciples on their campus and throughout the world. For this reason, final details of the new model of campus ministry, known as collegiate partnerships, are not complete; however, the framework for the new model is in place and work continues.

One component of the Convention strategy is focused on reaching the lost in the high concentration areas of our state. College and university communities are home to large concentrations of people who do not know Jesus as their Savior; therefore, fulfillment of the Convention's strategy will require increasing our efforts to assist churches in reaching college students.

Currently, the Convention has only 9 full-time campus ministry positions located on 9 campuses. In addition, the

Convention partners with churches and associations to provide ministry on 15 other campuses. Yet, there are more than 100 additional campuses in our state where young people are not being engaged by North Carolina Baptists in missions and ministry. In order to reach students on the campuses of the numerous colleges and universities across the state, a new strategy is being developed. It is the responsibility of churches to develop an Acts 1:8 missions strategy that includes efforts to reach the students on campuses near them. The Convention is positioned to assist in this mission as an extension of local Baptist churches, but the Convention does not replace the local churches.

Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM), as an organization, will continue in the new strategy.

The new strategy will support BCM efforts of evangelism, disciple-making, missions mobilization and leadership development. BCM will continue to provide leadership conferences, including work with international students, under the guidance of the Convention's collegiate partnership staff.

Essential aspects of the current approach to campus ministry will continue in the new collegiate partnerships. Currently we are engaged in leadership development, and we have no intention to move away from this effort. Leadership conferences now enjoyed by students and other leadership training opportunities will continue in the new model. In addition, we are currently engaged in missionary opportunities and we have no intention to move away from this effort. The summer missionary experiences that are an essential part of the current ministry will be an essential part of the new strategy as well. The goal is to expand and increase the mobilization of college students across the state in missionary efforts.

For the present, campus ministry facilities owned by the Baptist State Convention will continue to be used for operation of the Convention's campus ministry outreach. Their usefulness in collegiate partnerships will be evaluated in the future as the local strategy teams determine the most effective ways to reach, disciple, train and mobilize students and leaders for missions and ministry.

With more than 5.8 million lost people in our state, we must continue working together to see the gospel advanced throughout North Carolina. We believe that through this new strategy, and a new collegiate partnerships model, we will see more students than ever before reached with the gospel, disciplined, and mobilized for ministry.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Look online at BRnow.org or at ncbaptist.org for future statements or stories related to North Carolina Baptists.) **BR**

## The east, the west and our sin

John Tauler (A.D. 1290-1361), a German evangelist, was greatly respected in his day as a deeply spiritual leader who interfaced a devoted spiritual life with preaching and ministry. Because of great success in ministry, Tauler often struggled with self-conceit and arrogance. When he was 50, Nicholas of Basel confronted him and challenged him to forgo the world and his sin and to return to Christ. Tauler subsequently stopped preaching for two years and spent that time in prayer and the study of God's Word. Tauler emerged from that time of self-examination a changed man. His preaching was different; it was aflame with the power of God



Dr. Chris Schofield

resulting in many conversions to Christ.

Our sin is a serious matter before God. He is holy and must punish sin. Yet, forgiveness and cleansing is also a serious issue with Him, so much so that He sent His son Jesus to pay the penalty for sin. The good part is that we can put the past behind us with God. His forgiveness is final, and even the guilt of our sin is taken away (see Psalm 32:5). The verse of the day reminds us of that very thing – our sin will never be seen again. Tauler experienced cleansing and personal revival that in turn resulted in a more fruitful ministry because his sin was cast away. Can you say the same thing?

### Prayer Points

- Pray for Jesus to search your heart revealing any spiritual pride and conceit
- Ask the Lord to forgive your sin and take away any lingering guilt you have not surrendered

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



## North Carolina Baptist Hospital

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## Baptist historian Harry Leon McBeth dies

**H**arry Leon McBeth, 81, died April 29 in Texas.

McBeth was retired chair of the Christian history department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where he joined the faculty in 1960.

A scholar and historian, he published widely and authored nine books. He received numerous awards for his contributions to the history of Baptists in Texas, including the prestigious Elder Statesman Award (2008) from the Independence Association. He was recently honored with a Festschrift, *Turning Points in Baptist History*, for his impact on Baptist heritage. Active in many facets of denominational work, McBeth also served more than 30 churches as interim pastor before he retired in 2003. He was most proud

of his work in the classroom, where he influenced hundreds of future church leaders.

Born in Rotan, he grew up in Plainview. He graduated from Wayland Baptist University, where he later served as trustee, and earned his master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Throughout his career he pursued additional study at Texas Christian University, University of Texas at Arlington, Union Theological Seminary and Oxford University.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma Grace McBeth; children, Ruth Ann Rugg, and David McBeth; stepchildren, Becky Kerkvliet and Rhonda Edwards; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. **BR**

## Rhode Island 10th state to legalize gay marriage

Baptist Press

**R**hode Island became the 10th state to legalize gay marriage May 2 when its governor signed a bill into law.

With cheering supporters behind him, Gov. Lincoln Chafee, an Independent, signed the bill at an outdoor ceremony in front of the state House, shortly after the

bill cleared its final hurdle in that same chamber, 56-15. The bill's passage was celebrated on the House floor, too, with legislators singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" after the bill's passage. The same bill had passed the state Senate, 26-12, in late April. The bill's signing means that all six New England states now have legalized gay marriage. The Rhode Island law will go into effect Aug. 1. **BR**

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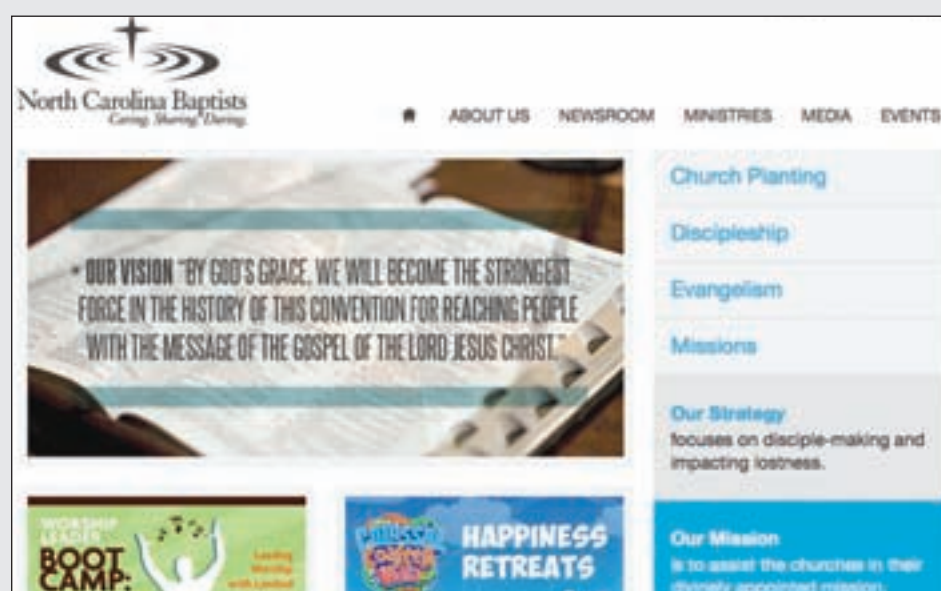
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## New BSC website to launch May 15

BSC Communications

**T**he Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) plans to launch its new website May 15.

The redesigned website, [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org), represents months of planning, research and evaluation. The entire site, from programming to design and layout, was completed in-house.

"Our goal was to design a site that would serve as a valuable resource for our North Carolina Baptist churches," said Brian Davis, BSC executive leader for administration and convention relations. "We designed this site with our end user in mind, and we pray that it will more effectively meet the ministry needs of those seeking information and resources from the Convention."

The site was designed based on feedback from online surveys, focus

groups with BSC staff and the Communications Committee of the BSC Board of Directors. The BSC mission, vision and values are represented in the new site, as is information about the Convention's new five-year strategy to impact lostness.

Site navigation has been streamlined to make it easier for N.C. Baptists to connect with their areas of interest. Navigation is now based on ministry areas and the Convention's core values. Social media is integrated throughout the site, and the site features more capability for video and audio elements. Resources can be accessed from a tab on the home page. Visitors can access an updated staff directory and event calendar, photo galleries, newsletters statewide church directory, and the latest news articles about N.C. Baptist life. **BR**

## OPPORTUNITY CORNER

### More Hurricane Sandy relief efforts planned for summer in New York, New Jersey

Southern Baptist leaders are making preparations to welcome teams of volunteers to New York and New Jersey this summer to help homeowners continue recovering from the damage left by Super Storm Sandy. All of the details have not been finalized but the information below should assist groups making decisions about whether to include the Sandy Recovery ministry in their plans for this summer.

Most of the cleanup work has been completed, however there may be some tear out of flooded homes that teams could be asked to do. Other work might include: carpentry, roofing, electrical, plumbing, insulation, dry wall installation and finish, ceramic tile, laminate and hardwood floor installation, and painting.

Beginning May 15, there will be housing available for as many as 150 volunteers

per night, housed in large groups separated by gender.

Participants must have completed at least the seventh grade prior to arrival, or be at least 14 years of age. Only those 14 years old and older will be permitted in the housing area or on worksites unless they are at least 14 years old. Teams must include at least one adult, aged 21 years or older of the same gender, for every five participants under 18 years of age. A non-refundable registration fee of \$15 per person will be required for each participant; and additionally, \$15 per person will be charged to cover the cost of housing and meals.

Additional information will be posted at [www.namb.net/sandy](http://www.namb.net/sandy) as details become available. Contact coordinators at [sandy@namb.net](mailto:sandy@namb.net). There are also opportunities through North Carolina Baptist Men. Visit [baptistsonmission.org](http://baptistsonmission.org).



# Heritage

Continued from page 2

support and faithful involvement with the college and community. A.C. is a trustee of the college. In 2006, the couple helped start Fields of Hope, a gardening and farming project focused on fighting hunger in western N.C. Through mobilizing volunteers, Fields of Hope has harvested 325,000 pounds of vegetables distributed to 12 area food banks. The couple, members of Mars Hill Baptist Church, also has led in efforts to distribute food, clothes and build homes in Honduras.

“Humble,” “visionaries,” and “committed” were words used by Bud Christman, vice president for Advancement at Mars Hill, to describe the couple.



SUSIE &amp; A.C. HONEYCUTT

## Meredith College

Meredith College in Raleigh honored Robert H. Lewis for his passion and dedicated financial support of the college. Lewis, a member of First Baptist Church of Raleigh for more than 60 years, has served three terms as a trustee and been on the Board of Associates and other committees at the college.



ROBERT H. LEWIS

Lewis, described as a “familiar face” on campus, has attended a continuing education courses at Meredith for two decades. He’s been a faithful contributor to the school’s music department, which included helping purchase a Steinway grand piano and the school’s first harpsichord. He’s also supported scholarships for music majors.

“We are so fortunate to have Bob as a leader [and] friend,” said Lennie Barton, vice president of Institutional Advancement at Meredith.

## Baptist Foundation

The N.C. Baptist Foundation honored William S. “Bill” and Dorothy L. “Dot” Goodwin. Both were recognized for their involvement in church, their association, the Baptist State Convention of N.C. and community.

Once a dairy farmer, deacon and Baptist committee leader, Bill also chaired the Apex Area School Board during the days of racial integration. The Lions Club and Apex Chamber of Commerce named him “Man of the Year.”

Dot directs Senior Singers at Apex Baptist Church. An honored Meredith College alumnae, she was the first woman to serve as moderator of the Raleigh Baptist Association.

The couple established a scholarship at Meredith College, and a charitable remainder trust with the Baptist Foundation for Baptist Children’s Homes, Meredith College and Apex Baptist Church.

“Humble” and “servant leaders” describe the Goodwins, said Bill Overby, development director for the foundation.



BILL &amp; DOT GOODWIN

## Baptist Men

N.C. Baptist Men recognized Jerry and Joyce Causey for their commitment and leadership in their community, Baptist life and Baptist Men’s Disaster Relief Ministry. Jerry, a former Vietnam helicopter pilot, designed Feeding Unit 2, which provided more than 400,000 meals during a two-month period in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Following the hurricane, the couple served more days than any other volunteers in New York and New Jersey. They are members of Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, where Jerry is a deacon. He has also led volunteers in assisting with Baptist Men projects.

“Jerry and Joyce are great examples of how God is using ordinary people in extraordinary ways to bring Him the glory,” said Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptist Men.



JERRY &amp; JOYCE CAUSEY

## W.F. Baptist Medical Center

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center honored Caryl J. Guth for her excellence as an anesthesiologist, her volunteer work and philanthropy that has garnered



CARYL J. GUTH

praise throughout her career. Once named Wake Forest College’s top female athlete, she now serves on the Medical Center’s Board of Visitors and the Board of the Medical Alumni Association, where she is a past president.

Guth, the daughter of a Baptist minister, established the Guth Family Fund in Integrative Medicine, the Caryl J. Guth M.D. Fund for Initiatives in Energy Medicine, and provided financial support for various student scholarships.

Kyle Young, a trustee with the Board of Directors for the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, described Guth as a “leader of great vision” and “the most generous living graduate of the Wake Forest School of Medicine.”

## Woman’s Missionary Union

Woman’s Missionary Union of N.C. honored Eva Higdon Wood, or as some

refer to her “Missions Sergeant” or “Sarge,” for her volunteer work, her dedication to Andrews First Baptist Church in Andrews and more than 50 years of leadership with WMU. A retired school teacher, she has led her church in various mission projects – including packing backpacks with food for needy children, working at the local food pantry and delivering school supplies to the Baptist Children’s Homes. She has coordinated offerings at her church that support mission work around the globe, and she’s mentored younger generations of volunteers in Christian, educational and community efforts.

Bonnie Wiggs, chair of the Heritage Award Committee, said, “All of us need an Eva Higdon Wood in our church or community.” **BR**



EVA HIGDON WOOD

# Historical committee announces writing competition

BSC Communications

The Historical Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) announces its annual writing competition that seeks to recognize and reward excellent historical publications.

N.C. Baptists may submit entries in the following categories: Church History; Association History (includes agencies and institutions); and Biography, Autobiography, Memoirs and Personal Reflection.

In order to be eligible for the 2013 competition, entries must have been published in 2011 or 2012.

To submit entries, mail two copies to: Baptist State Convention of N.C., Historical Committee, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512-1107.

Deadline for submissions is June 30. Winners will be recognized at the BSC’s Annual Meeting in Greensboro in November.

For more information contact Norma Jean Johnson at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5618, or [njohnson@ncbaptist.org](mailto:njohnson@ncbaptist.org).

The Historical Committee seeks to encourage churches, associations, institutions and agencies affiliated with the BSC to preserve their historical documents, artifacts, correspondence and records.

All competition entries become the property of the Historical Committee and will be added to the N.C. Baptist Historical Collection at Wake Forest University. For more information about the collection, visit <http://zsr.wfu.edu/collections/special/baptist/>. **BR**

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# WMU focuses on Great Commission

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Managing Editor

**W**omen let their love affair with missions continue at the recent Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) Missions Extravaganza.

Almost 800 women gathered April 19-21 to train, meet, learn, and pray at the 122nd annual meeting of the WMU-NC, which was held at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

"His story must be proclaimed in how we live our lives," said Tana Hartsell, president of WMU-NC, emphasizing the event's theme "The Story Lives On" based on Acts 4:20. "His story must be proclaimed in our mission organizations and churches."

Throughout the weekend leaders and missionaries shared stories about their faith and the influence of WMU.

"My mom and dad often shared stories of when and where they grew up," Hartsell said. "The sharing of stories is a precious thing. We know that the most precious story of Jesus ... isn't made up. It is true and living."

## Africa to Connecticut

Shaun Pillay's story began in South Africa. Pillay, who is a North American Mission Board missionary, was one of the featured missionaries during the WMU-NC annual meeting.

A third generation Christian because of the work of the International Mission Board, Pillay now serves in Norwich, Conn., as a church planter.

"God was looking for a missionary and He found one," he said.

Cornerstone International Church, where Pillay pastors, has a congregation of 120. He estimates that 95 percent of the members were led to the Lord on the streets of Norwich through individual encounters with Pillay or church members.

Pillay and his wife, Deshni, were the featured missionaries for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 2012 and are part of this year's missions rotation videos through LifeWay's Vacation Bible School emphasis – Colossal Coastal World.

## Conquering fear

Mary Swanner, a retired International Mission Board missionary, told the ladies that many missionaries choose to make important decisions around their birthdays because they know WMU ladies are praying for them.

For Swanner, her missionary call came 30 years ago



Roger Childres was one of the missionaries sharing about God's work through Southern Baptists around the globe during the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina Missions Extravaganza April 19-21. Childres is a retired International Mission Board missionary to Africa. To see more photos, visit [BRnow.org/Photo-Gallery](http://BRnow.org/Photo-Gallery) and click on the appropriate gallery. (BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle)

while she was sitting in the auditorium for the WMU-NC Missions Extravaganza.

"I can't go," Swanner argued. "I'm not spiritual enough ... and I don't want to wash my clothes on a rock."

When she returned home from the event she found God had spoken to her husband as well. A year later they were appointed by the International Mission Board to Uruguay.

It was only God who would call a "scaredy cat" like Swanner to the field, she said. She was afraid to fly and to travel alone. She felt she wasn't equipped for foreign language because she flunked college French.

"He equipped me to speak two languages," she said, referring to Spanish and sign language.

At the time of the Swanners appointment there were two deaf Christians in Uruguay. Now there are three deaf churches.

"Uruguayan deaf leaders are presently translating the Book of John in their heart language," she said. "God has been faithful. I am so glad I didn't miss it. I'm convinced God uses ordinary people ... so He will receive glory and honor."

## Newest addition

Hartsell called Cindy Finley, WMU-NC's new development director, "a breath of fresh air."

Cindy and her husband, Bill, have seven children ranging in age from 11 to 20. While Finley does not have a history with WMU, "my belief in the cause of WMU of North Carolina is why I am here," she said. "The legacy is beautiful. It is rich. Even more beautiful ... is the cause for which it exists.

"I believe the Great Commission is a worthy cause."

Finley said Jesus commands it, and "Jesus Himself will see it through to completion."

"Are you committed to this cause?" Finley said. "The cause of WMU is a cause worthy of our investment."

## Leadership in 'a holding pattern'

Robin Bass, interim executive director-treasurer, resigned in March and did not attend the meeting. Hartsell gave her president's report during the group's business meeting April 20.

Bass "went above and beyond expectations" during

her nine months there, said Hartsell. Bass replaced Ruby Fulbright, who left in 2012.

"Our Father is at work in WMU," Hartsell said. "I see that He is doing something mighty ... even when our circumstances might lead us to think otherwise."

Cara Lynn Vogel will also be leaving WMU-NC at the end of June.

Vogel serves as WMU consultant in several areas – preschool and children specialist, WMU growth specialist and Christian Woman's Job Corps (CWJC)/Christian Men's Job Corp (CMJC) coordinator.

Vogel will begin working with CWJC/CMJC on a full-time basis for North Carolina.

Because WMU does not have an executive director-treasurer, Hartsell has been spending three days in the office each week helping the staff facilitate their work.

"I've always appreciated them and known how hard they work," Hartsell said. "Now that I'm in the office more ... I see how hard they work. We are blessed."

The search for a new leader is currently in "a holding pattern," according to Hartsell. The search committee interviewed three candidates but decided in February to begin the process again.

In March the executive committee suspended the WMU-NC's policy to require the personnel committee to be the search committee.

A factor in that decision was that five members of the seven-member personnel committee rotated off the board. Hartsell was authorized by the executive committee to name a search committee.

The WMU-NC staff will be re-evaluating and assessing positions to possibly shift responsibilities to other areas. They will be meeting in June with a coach to help them work through the possibilities. Hartsell said a search committee will likely be named after the current staff finishes its assessment.

The next board meeting May 17-18 will be a time of orientation for new board members. They will be using the time to familiarize themselves with WMU-NC.

## Other business

Officers were re-elected to their current posts: Hartsell, president; Robin Penninger, vice president; Beth McDonald, recording secretary; and Denise "Dee Dee" Moody, assistant recording secretary. All officers were unopposed in the election.

Bylaws direct the WMU-NC to vote on annual meeting dates at least three years in advance. The 2016 meeting will be April 8-10.

Women approved a 2013 budget of \$1,046,932 based on estimated expenses. Last year actual expenses totaled a little more than \$1.5 million. The WMU-NC income, however was \$46,557 less than the expenses. Funds were transferred from investments, reserves and designated funds to make up the difference.

Last year the Heck-Jones goal was \$385,000. It was exceeded by a little more than \$11,000. The same goal has been set for 2013. As of April 15, \$183,000 has been raised toward the Heck-Jones goal.

This year the group raised \$9,898.66 in its offering during the event. Of that, \$7,728.66 will be split between Camp Mundo Vista and CWJC; \$1,250 goes toward the Crown Club; \$400 goes to operating funds; \$270 goes to Heck-Jones offering; \$50 goes to prison ministries; and CWJC gets another \$200.

The next Missions Extravaganza is April 4-6, 2014. Visit [wmunc.org](http://wmunc.org) for more information. **BR**



Deshni Pillay, right, reads the WMU missionary birthday prayer list while her husband, Shaun, looks on. Shaun is a North American Mission Board church planter in Connecticut.



# SBC Houston: Luter highlights brotherly love for meeting theme

By ERIN ROACH | Baptist Press

**A** Tuesday evening revival service with worship led by Charles Billingsley and a sermon by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Fred Luter will be among the highlights of the SBC annual meeting June 11-12 in Houston.

Messengers will convene with the theme “Revive Us That We May Be One,” based on John 13:34-35, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Luter chose the theme because he believes the brotherly love that distinguishes God’s disciples is the only way the convention will experience the revival it so desires. The theme passage commands Christians to love one another because such love is how the world will know that believers follow the Lord.

“We’re not going to do it by just our preaching or by our singing or just by our giving, we’ve got to prove it through our actions that we truly love one another,” Luter said. “And the way we do that is by being the disciples that God has called us to be.

“And if we ever get in one accord, I believe something can happen like happened in Acts chapter 2,” Luter said.

“When the New Testament church was in one accord, God did great things through the church. And that’s my prayer for this convention.”

The SBC would be more Christlike in fulfilling its mission if the convention were to experience greater unity, Luter said.

“I would just love for us to come together as a convention one year and say, ‘You know what, we’re going to put aside our petty differences and just put aside all these things that’s going to separate us, and let’s come together in one accord,’” Luter said. “The only way we can do that, we’ve got to love each other with the love of God and we’ve got to make the main thing the main thing and that’s evangelism and discipleship. When we can do that, then I think we’re on our way to being the convention that God desires for us to be.”

Luter expressed excitement about the meeting location of Houston, dear to his heart because his pastorate, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, planted a congregation there to serve its displaced New Orleans members after Hurricane Katrina.

Reports showing the level of success of the 1% Cooperative Program challenge, aimed at increasing CP funding by \$100 million within a year and extending the work of the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board also will highlight the annual meeting, Luter said.

“I want to see how those funds have impacted NAMB in planting churches and strengthening other churches, how it’s impacted IMB through the missions board with [IMB President] Dr. [Tom] Elliff as far as impacting the lives of missionaries,” Luter said. “So I’m excited to hear those reports, as well as the reports that will be coming from the six seminaries.”

A greater turnout and more ethnic diversity among messengers also are among Luter’s hopes for the meeting, and he looks forward to worship being led by Charles Billingsley, this year’s convention music director and worship pastor at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.

## 1 Million Men

New Hope Publishers, a division of Woman’s Missionary Union, and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission are partnering with pastor Jay Dennis of First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla., to launch the “Join 1 Million Men in the War Against Pornography” campaign and its related resources at this year’s annual meeting.

Dennis began the “Join 1 Million Men” anti-pornography movement when he realized the horrific toll pornography was taking on churches. “Churches are facing a spiritual battle against a hidden plague that is keeping many believers from fulfilling their part of God’s mission,” Dennis said.

The War Against Pornography will take the movement nationwide with a goal of 1 million men taking a public stand against pornography and the support of 1 million women praying for them and their families. The campaign will be a success, Dennis said, “when men are more passionate about purity than they are about pleasure, when churches can openly discuss this, instead of sweeping it under the rug.”

## ‘Crossover Houston’

Continuing in the tradition of reaching out to the host city of the SBC annual meeting, the pre-convention “Crossover Houston” will offer opportunities for hundreds of volunteers to intentionally share the gospel through block parties and door-to-door evangelism.

“The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention is working with the North American Mission Board to provide a more traditional Crossover experience,” said Nathan Lorick, the SBTC’s evangelism director. “This includes working with seminary students Monday through Friday, June 3-7, on going door-to-door with the gospel. On Saturday (June 8), churches will be hosting block parties across Houston.”

Also, NAMB is working with Union Baptist Association in Houston to help kick off “Loving Houston,” a three-year program featuring projects such as home renovation, clean-up, demolition, outreach and prayer-walking.

First Baptist Church in Pearland is one of the churches planning a block party as part of Crossover Houston.

The block party is set to include bounce houses, rock climbing, water slides for older kids, interactive games, a petting zoo and pony rides, as well as hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. In addition, the church band will perform from a bandstand.

“The Crossover event will allow many people to participate in a fun day when many residents’ normal busy schedules would not otherwise allow them to hear or see that the gospel can impact their lives,” pastor Sonny Foraker said.

For more information, visit [www.namb.net/crossover](http://www.namb.net/crossover) or [www.sbtexas.com/crossover](http://www.sbtexas.com/crossover).

## SBC smartphone app

Messengers to the annual meeting this year can stay



up to date with an SBC annual meeting smartphone app, which will include more than a dozen features, including maps, alerts, the Book of Reports and the Daily Bulletin.

The free app is available for iPhone, iPad, Android and Blackberry users and can be downloaded by visiting <http://m.core-apps.com/sbc2013am> from a smartphone or by typing in “SBC Annual Meeting 2013” in the smartphone’s app store.

## Other highlights

- The North American Mission Board will highlight a variety of ways Southern Baptists can help penetrate lostness in North America. NAMB hopes as many as 4,000 church leaders will attend its third annual Send North America luncheon as part of this year’s SBC Pastors’ Conference. The noon luncheon, titled “Building Vision and Celebrating Missions in North America,” will be Monday, June 10, in Hall B3.

- Before the Pastors’ Conference, Hispanic pastors and church leaders are invited to “Avance Hispano” June 9. The conference will celebrate SBC Hispanic ministries and is co-sponsored by NAMB, GuideStone Financial Resources, LifeWay Christian Resources and the International Mission Board.

- Woman’s Missionary Union will kick off a year-long celebration of its 125th anniversary at the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting June 9-10. Over the course of 125 years, WMU has grown from a group of women passionate about missions to a thriving international missions organization that encourages both genders and all ages to share the love of Christ and seek to make Him known. With the theme “The Story Lives On,” participants will get a glimpse into 125 years

See SBC page 10





## Pastors' Conference 'Launch' seeks revival

By KELLY LEDBETTER | Baptist Press

**B**y strengthening the pastor and his family, Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference President Gregg Matte wants to create a movement that could become the spark God uses to bring revival. Thus the theme of this year's gathering: "Launch: Taking Our Hearts, Homes, and Ministries to a Higher Place."

The June 9-10 Pastors' Conference will feature preaching, worship, prayer and panel discussions to undergird the ministry of pastors and their wives. The sessions, at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center, will be held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 11-12 annual meeting there.

"Our vision for PC13 is to inspire the heart and offer practical application to the hands of the pastor and his wife," Matte, pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church, has said, toward seeking to create a movement rather than another conference. The "Launch" theme, he added, offers a nod to the host city's role in America's space program.

"The Pastors' Conference is not just a connection with an event, but a connection with a pathway" to a relationship with the convention, Matte told the *Southern Baptist TEXAN* newsjournal. "That's something we can bring to the table that others can't. You can go to another conference and it starts, it finishes and it's over."

In contrast, by interacting with other pastors of all ages at the Pastors' Conference, Matte said, "You connect and now you're connected with the resources that relationship can provide for you."

"The denomination was created to be a blessing to the local church," he added in describing the camaraderie among believers who take a strong stance on the Word of God and want to make a differ-

ence in the world.

"That's a huge deal. That's what's important to young guys, too," Matte said, voicing a belief that all generations should participate in the annual meeting, pre-convention sessions such as the Pastor's Conference and the Crossover evangelistic effort. This year, Crossover will include outreach in conjunction with Union Baptist Association and North American Mission Board as well as block parties hosted by Southern Baptists of Texas Convention churches.

Speakers for Sunday evening (June 9) at the Pastors' Conference will include Bruce Frank, pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden, N.C.; John Bisagno, pastor emeritus of Houston's First Baptist Church; and SBC President Fred Luter Jr., pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Also that night, a ministry roundtable panel discussion will consider the topics of leadership challenges, leading change, and leading a congregation and staff. It will feature Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas; Rodney Woo, senior pastor of the International Baptist Church in Singapore; and Eric Geiger, vice president of LifeWay Christian Resources' church resources division.

Monday morning (June 10), will feature messages by Woo and Ed Stetzer, lead pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., and president of LifeWay Research, and a panel discussion on preaching Scripture and reaching the lost by Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in Springdale, Ark.; Mark Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.; and Tony Merida, lead pastor of Imago Dei Church

in Raleigh, N.C., and associate professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

On Monday afternoon, speakers will include pastor Matt Carter of Austin Stone Community Church in Austin and Gary Rosberg of Des Moines, Iowa, speaker and co-founder of America's Family Coaches. Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., and his wife Ann will lead a roundtable discussion on balancing family and ministry, keeping the Sabbath through rest, a pastor's personal relationship with Jesus, and handling fear.

"If we lead well, preach the Word well and blow up our homes, then we've lost it," Matte said, emphasizing the importance of addressing family concerns.

"There [is] a very big tension for us as pastors to not work 24 hours a day," he said, referencing a pastor's mindset "so when we're at church we're not at home, and when we're home we're not at church."

Matte said wives are encouraged to join their husbands for the afternoon session on family issues following the women's concurrent session on Monday morning featuring keynote speakers Barb Rosberg of America's Family Coaches and Jennie Allen of Austin, author of "Anything: The Prayer that Unlocked My God and My Soul."

On Monday evening, Pastors' Conference speakers will include Greg Laurie, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif.; Tim McKenzie of Sugar Land, Texas, president and founder of On Every Word Ministry; and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, host of "Huckabee" on the Fox News Channel.

See Pastor page 10

## Biltmore leader chosen as Pastors' Conf. nominee

By ART TOALSTON | Baptist Press

**B**ruce Frank, lead pastor of the Asheville-area Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden, N.C., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, according to an announcement by Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd.

Floyd, a former Pastors' Conference president and pastor of Cross Church in Springdale, Ark., stated in an April 23 announcement to Baptist Press: "As I have had the privilege

to get to know Dr. Frank, it is obvious that his life and work are dedicated to the gospel of Jesus Christ. He has served in various leadership positions within Southern Baptist life and has spoken in diverse settings across the country. According

to *Outreach Magazine*, under Dr. Frank's leadership the Biltmore Church has been one of America's 'Fastest Growing Churches' three of the last four years. They are a multi-campus church that has seen over 1,300 people baptized in the past three years."

The Pastors' Conference will be June 9-10 in Houston. Baltimore will be the site of next year's Pastors' Conference and SBC annual meeting. Frank, 48, has led Biltmore, with campuses in Arden and Swannanoa just east of Asheville, since 2008, having previously served at the Houston-area First Baptist Church in Humble, Texas, from 1999-2008.

According to Southern Baptists' Annual Church Profile database, Biltmore Baptist Church had a weekly attendance of 4,839 in 2011 (2012 statistics for the church have not yet been posted) and 4,070 in 2010. The church recorded 460 baptisms in 2011 and 445 in 2010. The overall membership of the church stood at 7,196 in 2011 and offerings/gifts to the church that year totaled \$8,837,438.

Frank is on the 18-member Bible Studies for Life advisory council, which has helped redesign and enhance the LifeWay Christian Resources curriculum used in more than 30,000 churches. The revised curriculum will debut this fall.

Find Frank at [www.brucefrank.org](http://www.brucefrank.org) via Twitter @BruceFrank1. **BR**



BRUCE FRANK

**Two N.C. pastors are part of the Pastors' Conference lineup June 9-10 in Houston, Texas.**



# SBC

Continued from page 8

of missions history through theme interpretations and interactive exhibits.

- Ministers' wives will consider how they are uniquely called to the gospel ministry at their annual luncheon as they focus on the theme "For the Sake of the Gospel" from 1 Corinthians 9:23.

The Ministers' Wives' Luncheon will begin at noon Tuesday, June 11, in the George Bush Grand Ballroom of the George R. Brown Convention Center with Donna Gaines of the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church as the guest speaker. Advance tickets are \$15 at [LifeWay.com/sbcwives](http://LifeWay.com/sbcwives); \$20 at the door.

- For the first time in its 34-year history, the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in America plans to appear as one body during the Tuesday, June 11, afternoon session of the SBC annual meeting. About 800 Koreans are expected to attend the Korean fellowship as well as the SBC.

- A new strategy for Native American ministry will be the focus of the Fellowship of Native American Christians' June 10 annual meeting. They'll discuss a Bible study methodology based on the oral learning style of Native Americans, and they'll emphasize developing indigenous leaders and expanded church planting.

- Hiring a full-time executive director, holding regional leadership conferences and helping blacks attend college and plant churches are on the agenda for the National African American Fellowship's annual meeting June 10 at the convention center.

- The Filipino Southern Baptist Fellowship of North America will mark its 20th year as it meets Tuesday, June 11. The group, with about 220 affiliated churches in

the United States and Canada, will gather for a luncheon and meeting from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Houston-area First Philippine Baptist Church in Missouri City, Texas, at 15002 Hillcroft St.

## Registration

Register online at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net), under the Messengers tab.

After online registration, each messenger will receive an eight-digit registration code to present at the annual meeting's Express registration lane. There, the registration code can be entered into a computer and a nametag will be printed.

The traditional registration method also is available.

## Resolutions

Messengers wishing to propose resolutions must submit them at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net) under the Messengers tab. Resolutions may be submitted online but must be followed up by a letter of credentials from the submitter's church.

## Convention arrangements

Shuttle service will be available Sunday through Wednesday to and from the convention center and select hotels noted at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net), under the Housing and Travel tab. Shuttle passes are available online for \$12 and onsite for \$15, with service provided 3-10 p.m. Sunday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday; and 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday.

Shuttle service to and from the airport and hotels is available through SuperShuttle at a discount of \$2 off one way and \$4 off roundtrip; tickets must be purchased online at least 24 hours in advance of flight arrivals at [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) using discount code MB4UU.

## Children & students

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief childcare volunteers will offer childcare for newborns through age 5 during the SBC Pastors' Conference and the annual meeting. Childcare is \$25 per child for each of the events, not to exceed \$45 per family per event. There is a \$10 non-refundable registration fee per child.

Lunch for preschoolers will be available for \$6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Children in Action and Youth on Mission will offer activities June 11-12 for older children.

Children in Action, for children who have completed grades 1-6, will challenge children to follow God's plan with courage. Children in Action is \$40 per child, along with a \$10 non-refundable registration fee per child.

Youth on Mission will teach students who have completed grades 7-12 to discover they can follow God's plan with courage. Youth will begin their days at the convention center with worship before going into the community for hands-on missions work at the Mission Centers of Houston and the Houston Food Bank.

Youth on Mission is \$55 per participant, along with a \$10 non-refundable registration fee per student.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - Erin Roach is assistant editor of Baptist Press. Diana Chandler, Baptist Press' staff writer, contributed to this report.) **BR**

# Pastor

Continued from page 9

This year's leadership team, which includes Paul Jimenez, pastor of Taylors First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., as vice president and pastor John Morgan of Sagemont Church in Houston as treasurer, sought to enlist a diverse group of speakers from different ages and stages of life. "You've got people from different places and ethnicities," Matte said, "from North Carolina to Singapore to Houston to California."

Matte said his prayer for pastors after the conference is that "we'd preach better, we'd lead better, we'd see God's Word better and stronger, and the Lord would do His work in us."

The Pastors' Conference is free and requires no registration. To learn more about this year's schedule, sponsors and mission, visit <http://www.sbcpc.net/>.

For the first time in a couple of years, child care for older children - ages 6-12 - will be offered during all Pastors' Conference sessions, provided by Children's Conferences International. Register at [www.childrensconferences.com](http://www.childrensconferences.com).

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief childcare volunteers will offer child care for newborns through age 5 during the Pastors' Conference. **BR**

# Midwestern inaugurates new president

Baptist Press

Entering a freshly completed chapel complex, trustees, guests, friends and family gathered to inaugurate Jason K. Allen as the fifth president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 1. The service was held following the spring trustee meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Entity heads from across the Southern Baptist Convention were in attendance or brought greetings. An invocation given by Jimmy Draper, president emeritus of LifeWay Christian Resources, was followed by hymns, introductions and Scripture readings. Frank Page brought greetings from the Executive Committee and commended Allen's vision for the seminary's responsibility toward the local church. Page said, "Our prayer is that you will never forget your connection to the local church."

Allen was elected by the seminary's board of trustees last October. Previously, he had served as vice president for institutional advancement at Southern Seminary. **BR**

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# Hunt

Continued from page 1

said. “You want a giving church? Start giving. You want a witnessing church? Start witnessing. You want a mission church? Do missions. ... Sometimes [pastors] say, ‘Our people, they just don’t get this.’ ... Well, maybe it’s because you’ve never gotten it.”

Hunt is no stranger to revitalizing churches. In addition to his years as a successful pastor in N.C., he led Woodstock from 250 people in 1986 to more than 6,500 in attendance today. But Woodstock is in the minority of churches across the Southern Baptist Convention. According to the latest available figures, he added, 73 percent of all SBC churches are declining or plateaued.

Every year 10,000 churches from all denominations shut down, said Hunt. Of those churches, 900 of them are Southern Baptist congregations.

Hunt shared with the crowd how Woodstock is helping relaunch dying churches – such as Vinings Lake Church in Mableton, Ga. – so they can reach their communities for Christ.

“In 30 days ... I had four churches call me,” said Hunt. He said one church went from a handful of discouraged people, who were about to close their church, to those in need of every room in their building to fit the crowd during their opening relaunch day. “That could be happening all over the country.”

“[And] we’ve got all these guys that want to plant churches,” Hunt said. “You know what I found out about you church planters? You all could use a building. There’s 900 out there if we can find out how we can get them.”

## Leadership

Pastors need to be willing to go wherever God calls them. If a church is struggling and failing to reach out to its community, allow God to help you rebuild it, Hunt said.

“Guys say to me. ‘I’m not going there, they don’t even have an outreach program,’” he said. “That’s why they need you. ... It’s leadership. Go lead. ... Go somewhere and build something. ... Go do a great work like Nehemiah. There’s a bunch of walls down in the Southern Baptist Convention, so we need to go, and we need to build.”

Pastors must also train up new leaders around them.

“A ministry cannot grow without developing more leaders,” he said.

“You go to make all of the hospital visits. You go see all of the sick. You do all of the witnessing.

“Everybody that’s baptized, you win them,” he added. “... If you will do it alone, they will let you.”

Finding new leaders can be as simple

as setting up a meeting with other leaders.

“Leaders know leaders,” Hunt said. “Recently, I met with a good number of leaders and I said, ‘I’m really looking for some more leaders,’ and before we left the room that day ... I had 80 names.”

Pastors also need to be willing to take two weeks or longer off to rest.

“Sometimes the reason you won’t, ... you feel the church can’t do without you, which speaks of an unhealthy mindset to begin with,” Hunt said. “And I think if it’s just two weeks to a month, and it can save your ministry, [that’s] not a bad exchange.”

Many times getting a church back on the right track involves making subtle changes, not big ones. “It normally doesn’t take a major adjustment,” said Hunt, comparing some churches to a high-performance vehicle that simply needs “a small tweak.”

No church is beyond hope, said Michael Lewis, who spoke later that afternoon. Lewis directs church revitalization and pastoral relations for NAMB. “I’ve talked to probably 10 pastors this week who ... just feel hopeless,” he said. “If revitalization is ever going to occur, it must first occur in the heart of the pastor.”

Lewis, who has pastored churches in Florida, South Carolina, Georgia and Texas, shared how he saw God heal wounds at the first church he pastored many years ago in Lancaster, S.C.

“The pastor that was there before me left in adultery, ... two of the church leaders had committed suicide,” he said. “I walked in that church. It was 60 people, and it seemed there was no recovery. ... We just felt hopeless.”

But after more than 7 years of serving there, Lewis said the congregation went from nearly shutting down to planting five Spanish-speaking churches in the community.

“God can do a mighty work,” he said. “We have to believe that. If we really believe the Lord is the Lord of the resurrection then it will lead us to obey Him by preaching His Word by prayer, which are key components of revitalization.”

## Building disciples

After Lewis spoke, Baptist State Convention of N.C. (BSC) staff also encouraged pastors in attendance to contact them for more information on how they can help through various discipleship, evangelism and church growth initiatives.

For revitalization to take hold, it starts with the church’s culture, said Brian Upshaw, church ministry team leader for the BSC. To achieve a disciple-making strategy, he said, a disciple-making culture must be established.

“We believe that happens as we order our lives, our everyday lives, around this call ... to love God with all of our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves,” Upshaw said. “Everyone of us is called to make disciples.”

Seeing transformational change takes a lot of work and time, said Hunt during the closing session that afternoon.

“There is no such thing as a great work without longevity,” he said. “No one ever built a great work without years. ... Don’t ever go somewhere for a good start.”

“If you go serve ... [tell yourself] ‘Come hell or high water I’m called to be there.’”

Find out more about creating a disciple-making culture by contacting Brian Upshaw at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5632. For more information about future revitalization conferences go to <http://www.namb.net/revitalization/>. Or contact NAMB at [revitalization@namb.net](mailto:revitalization@namb.net) or call (770) 410-6388. **BR**

# Survey: Many at church not helping others grow

By RUSS RANKIN | Baptist Press

**A**lmost three out of every four churchgoers say they have significant relationships with people at church, but less than half are intentionally helping other believers grow in their faith, according to a study by LifeWay Research.

The survey of Protestant churchgoers identifies “Building Relationships” as one of eight attributes of discipleship that consistently show up in the lives of maturing Christians. The survey is part of a larger study identifying traits of transformational discipleship. Results of the “building relationships” questions reveal a seeming disconnect between churchgoers actually pressing into new relationships or participating in discipling other Christians.

While 74 percent agree they have developed significant relationships with people at their church, response to the statement “I intentionally try to get to know new people I meet at church” garnered 53 percent agreement, including only 1 in 6 churchgoers who strongly agree. Additionally, only 42 percent say they intentionally spend time with other believers in order to help them grow in their faith. Twenty-eight percent say they do not help others grow.

Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research, pointed out that, “Advertisers know it takes multiple introductions to get someone’s attention. Unfortunately, a visitor to church may have to meet six people before someone cares enough to get to know them.”

The research reveals the characteristic that best predicts better building of relationships at church is attendance of small classes or groups of adults.

According to the survey, 33 percent of churchgoers attend

classes or groups for adults (such as Sunday school, Bible study, small groups or adult Bible fellowships) four or more times in a typical month. Fourteen percent attend two or three times a month.

The highest percentage – 41 percent – indicate they do not attend such groups at all in a typical month, while 12 percent attend once a month. Four out of 10 churchgoers say they do not attend church groups.

“The Bible frames relationships among believers as a proactive investment in other Christians,” McConnell said. “In fact, Hebrews 10:24 refers to the need to exhibit concern for other Christians in ways that encourage love and good works.”

Other actions that predict more spiritual maturity in building relationships include praying in a group with other Christians more often, praying for one’s church and church leaders, and having regular responsibilities at church.

“Most attendees have friends at church, but only a minority invest time to help other believers develop their faith,” McConnell said. “It is as if churchgoers arrive to sit together as spectators for a game rather than arriving as player-coaches who work together and develop each other’s game.”

The findings on “Building Relationships” are part of the largest discipleship study of its kind. To learn more about the transformational discipleship research visit [LifeWayResearch.com](http://LifeWayResearch.com). The TDA is available at [TDA.LifeWay.com](http://TDA.LifeWay.com).

The survey of 2,930 American adults who attend a Protestant church once a month or more was conducted Oct. 14-22, 2011. A demographically balanced online panel was used for the interviewing. Respondents could respond in English, Spanish or French. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed plus/minus 1.8 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in subgroups. **BR**



# Mother's Day: The greatest legacies

Baptist Press

**P**eople say my daughter looks like me. She does, but it is not the only similarity we share.

We both love to decorate. I am in my French Country stage of life having gone through Country and Colonial.

Rebekah, not so much.

Walking through the first home she and her husband Terrence bought, the word eclectic comes to mind. It is a house that says, "Artists live here." Explosions of color greet you when you walk into the living room and continue to welcome you in whatever direction you turn. There's peacock blue in the living room, burnt orange in the dining room and raspberry in the downstairs bath. Chartreuse green – which feels like happiness on the staircase wall – is mixed with stripes and a bold mural I recognize as Rebekah's work.

And finally, when you leave, you are treated to the unique art on the front door which has been covered with Rebekah's signature swirls and dots created with a Sharpie pen.

Yes, quite a difference from the inheritable rustic provincial elegance I've strived to create in my home. But, I think that's the point.

We also both love to cook and entertain. Even when she was too short to reach the counter, she'd pull up a chair and help me stir the batter for cookies and scones as we prepared for open houses and afternoon teas. She learned to carefully measure ingredients for cakes and watched the time as we baked cookies for a school function or the new neighbors next door.

When Rebekah was 6 years old, we moved into a nice white house on Rua Fialho de Almeida in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. By that time she was a pro at new languages and cultures, having already lived in two states and Madrid, Spain. We settled into our new life quickly; every morning Terry and I would go to language school where we were learned Portuguese, and Rebekah would head off to the Little Red Riding Hood School where she soaked up the language like a sponge. And, just like in Spain, she was speaking it faster and better than Terry and I ever hoped to accomplish.

One day she burst into the kitchen with a mission. "I need cardboard boxes," she said, her beribboned braids flying through the air. When I asked why, she told me about the little boy at the front gate. "He's looking for cardboard and paper because the storm blew his house down."

We found some old moving boxes out back in the storage room and broke several down. "I can do it," she insisted when I offered to help carry the cardboard to the front gate. Gathering her treasure, she balanced the awkward bundles under her arms and started down the narrow sidewalk that led to the front of the house. But before she reached her destination, she set her bundles down and ran back into the kitchen where I had returned to finish dinner preparations. "Do we have any food we can give them?" she asked in a low voice with a troubled look in her eyes. "I bet they're hungry

since they don't have a house."

She took three little loaves of fresh bread I'd bought for dinner and put them into the bag of black beans I brought from the pantry. By the time she added a banana, two apples and an orange, the bag was bulging, and she balanced it carefully in her arms as she made her way outside and lifted it through the bars to the eager hands that waited patiently on the other side. First the bag of food, and then, one by one, the flat boxes, destined to become the new walls of a shanty. They talked for a few minutes before the beautiful brown boy tucked the bag into the crook of one arm and

dragged the cardboard down the street behind him, heading back to the hillside slum he called home.

The very next day, we went to the market and bought large bags of rice and beans and measured them out by the kilo into brown paper sacks Rebekah had decorated with pictures of hearts and flowers, carefully writing ARROZ across the bottom of half the bags with rice and FEIJÃO on the rest. Taping them shut, we lined them up on the lower pantry shelf so that whenever hungry children came clapping at the gate, Rebekah would have something to give them.

And that's what she did. She watched for them, hurrying out to the gate to eagerly greet them before running back in to grab the bags of rice and whatever fruit and bread or cookies we had to send with them.

She loved the children who came to the gate; the only difference she saw



**KATHY SHARP**  
Guest column

**"People say my daughter looks like me, but I hope I look more like her."**

**– Kathy Sharp**

between them and herself was the hunger in their eyes.

Rebekah is a married woman now, but I still see the generous heart of the little girl who drew pictures on brown paper bags and carried her gifts of food to the gate. I hope others see the fingerprints I have left on this child. But more importantly, I hope others see the fingerprints she has left on me.

Sometimes legacy is handed down, but other times a legacy is handed up. People may say my daughter looks like me, but I hope I look more like her.

As a mother I've learned that the greatest legacies are not family heirlooms or recipes handed down from generation to generation. The greatest legacies come when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our motives of love and compassion. Life's too short to leave legacies for tomorrow – we must live them today and build trails on which our children will follow.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Kathy Chapman Sharp is a communications consultant, speaker and conference leader and author of *Life's Too Short to Miss the Big Picture for Women from which this article is excerpted*. Chapman Sharp formerly was director of communications for Saddleback Church, Purpose Driven Ministries and The Chapel and has held management positions at LifeWay Christian Resources and the International Mission Board.) **BR**

## Stewardship: A matter of the heart

**A**bout two years ago the Barna Group released a research study that concluded only about four percent of Americans tithe. To know that only such a small percentage of believers tithe not only disappoints my heart, but also greatly concerns me.

Our Lord provides us with financial resources so that we may better serve and glorify Him. Stewardship is all about our heart. If we truly love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, we will desire to be faithful with the financial and material assets He entrusts to us.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus tells His followers that where their treasure is, their heart will be also. If we are consumed

with the earthly, temporal things of this world – such as money and possessions – then our hearts will be more focused on



**MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.**  
BSC executive  
director-treasurer

temporarily fulfilling our own desires than on fulfilling the Great Commission. I pray that we will live with an attitude of thankfulness unto God for every good gift in our lives, giving cheerfully unto Him, and seeking to use every gift for His glory.

As important as stewardship is from a financial aspect, stewardship goes beyond financial giving. Stewardship should be a way of life for believers in Jesus Christ.

We must be good stewards of our time. We must spend time in prayer and in God's Word every day. Our time

should be invested in discipling and serving others – all for God's glory and purposes.

I also want to remind you and encourage you that as a believer in Jesus Christ you have been made a steward of the greatest gift of all – the gospel. 1 Corinthians 4:1 tells us that we are "stewards of the mysteries of God," or of the gospel. In Ephesians 3:2 and Colossians 1:25, Paul writes that he has been given the stewardship of God's grace.

We also know from 2 Corinthians 5 that we are stewards of reconciliation, and we are called to be ambassadors for Christ who live in such a way that the love of Christ is clearly on display. What a tremendous privilege we have to be called ambassadors for Christ! God has entrusted us with the message of salvation – the hope of the gospel – and we

must share this message with those who have yet to hear.

As you are aware, we recently announced a new five-year strategy for our Convention that is focused on impacting lostness through disciple-making. I believe that this strategy will help us become better stewards as we refocus our attention on evangelizing the lost in our state, nation and world.

I pray that we would live as stewards of the gospel who desire to store up treasures in heaven and to advance God's eternal Kingdom. From finances to time to talents, everything we have has been given to us by God so that we can join Him in His work of transforming lives with the gospel.

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." Ephesians 4:1 **BR**



# Gideons: impressive, effective, powerful

**T**hey don't seek publicity. They never advertise. In fact, they prefer to work quietly. But their impact is profoundly known around the world. The Gideons International is responsible for distributing Bibles in 190 countries. Last year they distributed 84 million Bibles and New Testaments around the world.

Jeff Audrain, a church ministry specialist with the organization's Nashville headquarters, likes to remind supporters, "...every time your heart beats, two Bibles are distributed by a Gideon somewhere in the world."

You may know them best for their placement of Bibles in hotel rooms. But hotel distribution makes up only 8 percent of their work. Gideon Bibles are in hospitals, convalescent homes, medical offices, prisons, jails and domestic violence shelters. They also give scriptures to students in the 5th grade and above, prisoners, police officers, firefighters, medical professionals and military personnel.

The Gideons will supply, free of charge, a New Testament to every member of the U.S. Armed Forces and to patients at U.S. Veterans Administration hospitals.

Bibles are available to chaplains for placement in day rooms, libraries, and guardhouses on military bases and military chapels. Hospital Testaments with Psalms are available for the bedside in base hospitals or in U.S. Veterans Administration hospitals.

This outstanding organization is driven by lay leadership. Only men in evangelical churches who are endorsed by their pastor can become a Gideon.

They believe all of the Bible, but underscore the verses which accentuate its

effectiveness such as Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword..."

Recently the Gideons of N.C. held their annual convention in Raleigh. They invited me to teach two Bible study sessions and join them for the pastor's banquet.

I've been a guest at more Gideon events than I can count. They always have thrilling stories, great music and solid Bible teaching. The Raleigh convention did not depart from the norm.

One testimony came from Mary Kay Beard, a self-described over-achiever who

graduated from high school at 15 and nursing school at 18, but became a robber and found herself at the top of the FBI's most-wanted list when she was 28.

In her solitary confinement cell of a federal prison, she read a Gideon Bible and trusted Christ as her Savior. Now she is the founder of "Angel Tree," promoted by Prison Fellowship. Mary Kay and her husband, Don, founded Encourager Ministries in Birmingham, Ala. Her story is indescribably captivating.

Another testimony was Chamila Pannila's. She met Christ as a college student after a Gideon gave her a New Testament on her college campus.

Born in Sri Lanka, her family moved to Houston, Texas when she was an infant. She did not question her very traditional

Buddhist family's religious traditions until she entered college.

Camilla's spiritual search took her through the pages of the Gideons' gift. She read about Jesus for the first time and followed Christ, in spite of rejection by

some in her family. Today she spreads contagious enthusiasm for Jesus.

As a pastor, I have always been sup-



**K. ALLAN BLUME**  
Editor

**"As a pastor, I have always been supportive of the Gideons. They were instrumental in my salvation."**



portive of the Gideons. They were instrumental in my salvation. They believe in the strength of the local church. They neither conflict with nor compete with the local church. They support their pastor. Pastors should support them.

It has been my practice to lead the church to support the Gideons. When I left the pastorate to become editor of the Biblical Recorder, my last Sunday as a pastor was a Gideon Sunday complete with videos, testimonies and a Gideon speaker. I love the Gideons and thank God for them.

How effective are their labors? According to their website, *Gideons.org*, each Bible placed in a hotel room has the potential to reach up to 2,300 people in its estimated six-year life span. Research

from the hotel industry says that approximately 25 percent of travelers read the Bibles in their hotel rooms. Many lives have been transformed and redirected because they read that Bible.

The Gideons International began in 1908. Today more than 300,000 members, the ministry's women's Auxiliary, and an untold number of supporters across the globe are making an eternal impact. They give their time and money to make it possible for others to have access to God's Word and experience the love of God through Jesus Christ.

The Gideons are not the only ministry that distributes Bibles. It is commendable that the North American Mission Board is sending cases of Bibles to Baptist churches.

The Muslim Bible Day project places copies of scriptures in the hands of searching Muslims. There are other Bible distribution ministries.

If we are "people of the Book" as we claim, we must remember that God uses His Word. When doors are closed to missionaries, God speaks through His Word behind closed doors. While most of us own a dozen Bibles, many have never seen one.

As you hear so much bad news around the world, know that there is unreported good news. Quietly, diligently, the men and women who invest their lives in the

ministry of the Gideons are distributing more than two copies of God's Word per second, totaling one million Bibles and New Testaments every 4.5 days. The

seed of the Word is being sown and lives are changing. Join them and celebrate with them.

*"So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" Isaiah 55:11.*

Visit *Gideons.org* to hear personal testimonies, learn how you can become a Gideon and to give a contribution for Bible distribution. Call (615) 564-5000 or email [tgi@gideons.org](mailto:tgi@gideons.org). Mail: The Gideons International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214. **BR**

**"If we are 'people of the Book' as we claim, we must remember that God uses His Word."**

## Submissions for Tar Heel Voices (letters to the editor)

Please send no more than 300 words, along with contact information, to [editor@BRnow.org](mailto: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. Like the *Biblical Recorder* fan page on facebook and follow us on Twitter: *#biblicalrecord*.

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May 19

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

May 26

## Becoming a Person Others Need

**Focal Passages: Proverbs 6:6-11, 16-19, 23-27**

**A**s a pastor, I have worked with numerous couples whose marriage was in significant trouble. Sometimes their issues stemmed from external factors, but most of the time their problems came from ungodly character traits. Do not misunderstand me; I realize we all make a sinful contribution to our relationships. Indeed, even on our best days we do not handle our relationship perfectly. However, I have noticed that when relationships begin to get in trouble it is because people have refused to admit or address their character deficiencies. I have a pastor friend who used to say, “We are a lot more ‘wickeder’ than we give ourselves credit for.” His statement is bad grammar, but good theology. Many Christians tend to see themselves in a more favorable light when the reality is they have major issues. Their refusal to address those issues not only hurts themselves, but also hurts those around them.

Are there character issues in your life that need to be addressed? If so allow

God’s Word to speak into your life, and you will become more like Christ and have a greater impact on those around you.

Let me close with a personal illustration: I’ve always wanted to get up early to spend time with the Lord in Bible study and exercise. The problem was I would never do it. One morning when I was lying in bed God reminded me of two verses. Proverbs 6:9-11, “How long will you lie there O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.” The second verse was, “As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed” (Proverbs 26:14). Ever since that morning I have tried to be more diligent in getting up early. I have failed numerous times, but because my family sees me striving to allow God’s Word to shape my life, it has inspired them to do the same.



**BARTLEY WOOTEN**  
Senior pastor, Beulaville Baptist Church, Beulaville

## Giving Others What They Really Need

**Focal Passages: Proverbs 11:12-14; 17:17; 18:24; 27:5-6, 9-10, 17; 28:23; 29:10**

**T**he Bible says, “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born out of adversity” (Proverbs 17:17). I believe many Christians today do not understand what it means to truly love someone. In our culture, we have confused love with acceptance – especially in the area of relationship. Our culture tells us that if we genuinely love someone we would be supportive of their lifestyle choices. That is not love at all if we believe those choices will lead to destructive behavior. Love is more than affirmation; it can also involve confrontation and isolation (1 Corinthians 5:1-5). Of course, no one wants trouble or hardship, but true love may demand it. Love is doing what is best for a person according to God’s Word, even if it brings adversity. Tragically, many denominations have also confused acceptance with love. Many years ago I had the

privilege to go to the Middle East for 26 days with other seminary students from various dominations. Many of the students from the other seminaries did not have a high view of scripture. Throughout our trip we had many lively discussions. Although we did not agree on many things I naively thought we would agree on certain things. As I began talking to this future pastor, she told me that she and her boyfriend were living together. Evidently, her denomination (which was a mainline denomination) approved of this lifestyle. I’m sure she did not think I was a very loving person after our discussion, but that was not the case. I was very gentle in my response because I wanted God’s best for her and her fiancé, and living together before marriage was not it. However, because I did not affirm her actions it was seen as unloving.

Giving others what they need is not the same as giving others what they want. A true friend will be honest with you and love you enough to tell you the truth. Sometimes that is very difficult, but with much prayer God will give you the wisdom and strength to stand strong and make a difference.

May 19

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

May 26

## Look for Spiritual Excellence

**Focal Passage: Titus 2:1-15**

**J**ohn Wooden was nicknamed the “Wizard of Westwood” because of his almost magical accomplishments as head basketball coach of UCLA. Over a 12-year period his teams won 10 NCAA championships, and during one three-year stretch, won 88 consecutive games. He coached dozens of future NBA stars and was national coach of the year six times. If there is anyone who has ever lived in the last century who truly understood excellence, it was John R. Wooden. Some may not know, however, about Wooden’s Christian faith. Here is one of his more famous quotes: “Be true to yourself, help others, make each day your masterpiece, make friendship a fine art, drink deeply from good books – especially the Bible, build a shelter against a rainy day, give thanks for your blessings and pray for guidance every day.” Wooden never forgot his humble origins in Indiana. He was the ultimate husband, family man and Christian, once saying that “when he died, he hoped there was enough evidence of his faith to convict him.”

He was not a “flash in the pan.” When he arrived at UCLA, he inherited a team with a losing record, and it would be 15 years before he would hoist a NCAA championship banner. In this great text, Paul is exhorting Titus and the congregation to excel by setting an example of integrity, dignity, sensibility and good works. It is a text for families. Older men, younger men, older women and younger women are all given instruction for godly living; the standard is high because God expects and demands nothing less.

Perhaps the focal verse should be verse 8. As a leader, Titus’ message was to be sound, solid, beyond reproach. The message, however, extended far beyond the words that Titus would teach or preach. The message was also in the content of his character. People can always criticize our words, even scripture itself, but they can’t honestly demean a life lived the way God intended. Truth be told, that is exactly what the world is looking for.



**WAYNE PROCTOR**  
Pastor, Eure Baptist Church

**Focal Passage: Titus 3:1-15**

**Y**ou may know the name William Wilberforce from the excellent movie, “Amazing Grace.” Wilberforce’s impact on the British world came from the position he held in Parliament. Though mired in the minority, he relentlessly pressed the cause of slaves and the poorest of the poor. While he was noted for helping educate children and improving living conditions for textile workers and other low wage-earners, he was most identified for his stalwart efforts to end the slave trade. After his evangelical conversion in 1785, Wilberforce took to rising early in the morning to read his Bible and write in his journal. One of his greatest character traits was his steadfast devotion to the spiritual values he deemed right and good. Britain’s eventual abolition of slavery came within days of Wilberforce’s death.

Preceding Wilberforce, a humble Quaker by the name of John Woolman

## Look for Good Works

was influencing folks throughout the eastern seaboard of America regarding the evils of slavery. Woolman and a friend spent weeks in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina observing slavery. As a preacher and layman, Woolman consistently spoke against it. Greater than his words were his actions. He boycotted using products made with slave labor. He refused to take free lodging in places where slaves were employed. Unlike some who dogmatically defend on principle, Woolman invited dialog and disagreement, that he might learn from them and share an opposing view. Woolman and Wilberforce were good men, motivated to good works because of their Christian faith.

Good works are important testimonies to the Christian’s faith. We should consciously seek to do as much good as we can (v. 8). We should remember, however, that works always follow faith, and faith comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul identified this inward working as the “washing of regeneration,” a “renewal by the Holy Spirit.” In the poetry of verses 4-7, the key word is “He” – God as Father, Son and Spirit.



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### Pastor

Bethlehem Baptist Church of Jacksonville, NC, a traditional, conservative, Southern Baptist church is seeking a **full-time pastor** with a clear sense of God's calling to the ministry. Requirements include six or more years of pastoral experience and education from an accredited Southern Baptist seminary. He should also adhere to the doctrinal statement of the Baptist Faith and Message of 2000. Please e-mail your resume along with any media and /or links to [bethlehempsc@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehempsc@gmail.com). Resumes will be accepted until June 15, 2013.

Lewisville Baptist Church, in Lewisville, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor** to serve our congregation and community. Candidates should have five or more years experience and hold a seminary or master of divinity degree. Resumes may be submitted by May 31, 2013, to: Pastor Search Committee, Lewisville Baptist Church, 125 Lewisville Clemmons Road, Lewisville, NC 27023, or by email [toleslie@lewisvillebaptist.com](mailto:toleslie@lewisvillebaptist.com).

Godwin Heights Baptist Church of Lumberton, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor** with five or more years of ministry experience and who holds a seminary degree or a master of divinity degree. The ideal candidate should have the following qualities: an effective communicator and preacher who works well with the church family and community; a strong leader who promotes a spiritual interest of the church; and a caring individual who is gifted in pastoral care. Interested candidates should submit resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Godwin Heights Baptist Church, 704 Godwin Avenue, Lumberton, NC 28358. Position opened until filled.

Mt. Beulah Baptist Church located in Wadesboro, NC, is seeking a **pastor** to lead us. Interested pastors please contact Pastor Search Committee, Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, 3373 Country Club Road, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Flat Rock Baptist Church seeks full-time pastor ([www.flatrockbaptist.com](http://www.flatrockbaptist.com)). We are a dually-aligned, moderate/conservative congregation that supports women deacons. Church uses the 1963 Baptist Faith & Message. Send resumes with CD/DVD to Pastoral Search Committee, PO Box 587, Mount Airy, NC 27030.

Fishing Creek Baptist Church of Wilkesboro, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor** with more than five years pastoral experience and is a graduate from a Bible college. The ideal candidate should have the following qualities: be a God-called man, a gifted teacher who enables persons to learn and understand deep spiritual truths, an effective communicator of well-prepared sermons, a person with personal vision and a well-developed vision for the future of the church, and a skilled counselor available to assist persons with personal and spiritual problems. Interested candidates should submit resumes to Fishing Creek Baptist Church, C/O Robert Stone, 4039 NC Hwy 16 S, Moravian Falls, NC 28654. We request that resumes be received by May 18, 2013.

### Church Staff

**Minister of Music & Worship.** Full-time salaried position. Seeking a man of God w/a master's degree from seminary of like faith. Church is located in the Western NC Foothills. Responsible for directing/leading all choirs, praise team and orchestra. Church has two morning services that are blended in style. Please send resume to [dmills@burkembaptist.org](mailto:dmills@burkembaptist.org). For a complete job description, please visit [www.burkembaptist.org/home/worship-pastor-search](http://www.burkembaptist.org/home/worship-pastor-search).

**Worship Leader Needed.** The Worship Leader is primarily responsible for oversight of the worship and music ministries of Second Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, NC. This position involves developing, coordinating and administering an effective ministry that provides leadership and supervision of volunteers. The Worship Leader will provide direction to various ministries and teams including worship teams and bands, choirs (adult /youth), special music, drama and media technology (video, sound, lights). The ideal candidate is gifted in the areas of music, leadership and administration and possesses a servant's heart with the passion and ability to lead and inspire worship. Interested candidates can view a complete job description at [2ndbaptistchurch.net/worshipleader](http://2ndbaptistchurch.net/worshipleader). Please forward cover letter, resume, video(s) and/or website link to [resume@2ndbaptistchurch.net](mailto:resume@2ndbaptistchurch.net).

Calvary Baptist Church is seeking a **Part-time Worship Leader** to lead blended music services. Send resume to: Calvary Baptist Church, 3001 South York Road, Gastonia, NC 28052, or [ccalvarybaptist@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ccalvarybaptist@carolina.rr.com).

**WORSHIP LEADER.** Trinity Baptist Church is seeking a part-time worship leader with a strong musical background. An undergraduate degree at minimum is preferred. TBC is located in Trinity, NC, just minutes from the Triad. Trinity Baptist Church is in a "revitalization" stage and therefore desires to move towards a "blended" style of worship. If interested please email resume to [tbctnc6499@gmail.com](mailto:tbctnc6499@gmail.com).

Wilkesboro Baptist Church seeks **part-time Minister to Children** (hours not to exceed 30 per week). Responsibilities include all children's ministries and the designing of a ministry to enhance the spiritual growth of children; babies through 6th grade, families and leaders. Applicants should have personal relationship with Jesus Christ and love for interacting with children and families. Strong work ethic with leadership, organization, communication, and teaching skills required. A seminary degree and college degree in elementary education or equivalent children's ministry experience is desired. Qualified applicants may send resume to [childrenfirst@wilkesborobaptist.org](mailto:childrenfirst@wilkesborobaptist.org) or Minister of Children Search Committee, Wilkesboro Baptist Church, PO Box 61, Wilkesboro, NC 28697. Resumes accepted through May 28, 2013.

An American Baptist church in Huntington, WV, is seeking a **full-time, seminary-trained minister of music** who is capable of blended worship styles. Fifth Avenue Baptist is an historical church with a comprehensive music program, including children, youth, instrumentalists, handbells, ensembles, and a chancel choir. For more information, contact Katherine Pyles at 304-523-0115 or submit a resume with three references to [katherinep@fifthavenuebaptist.org](mailto:katherinep@fifthavenuebaptist.org).

Berea Baptist Church in Rockville, VA, is seeking a **part-time Minister of Music and Worship**. Duties include working with the pastor and staff to plan for two Sunday worship services, conducting the adult and handbell choir and serving as a resource for the praise band and the youth and children's choirs. Candidate should possess good leadership and organizational skills and an appreciation for both traditional and current music styles. A solid scriptural understanding of worship is necessary. A college degree, preferably in music, is required; seminary and/or graduate study is preferred. Experience of 3 to 5 years in directing a choir or musical group is needed. Send resume to [searchteam@berea-baptist-church.org](mailto:searchteam@berea-baptist-church.org).

Central Baptist Bearden, Knoxville, TN, is seeking a **Minister with Children and Families**. Position is full-time, salaried with benefits. The ideal candidate will be called by God for this specific area of ministry; hold a bachelor's degree in education; hold a seminary degree (or equivalent) with a focus on Christian education with children; and have at least three years experience with children in a church setting. Central Baptist Bearden is a mid-town, dually aligned CBF/SBC congregation of 2,900 resident members. Average weekly SS attendance is 1,100, which includes 100 children, grades 1-6. Position profile, personal and professional profile (application) and recommendation form are all available under Employment at [www.cbcbeardean.org](http://www.cbcbeardean.org). If questions, contact Dr. Chuck Chance, Chair of the CMSC, at [cchance@utk.edu](mailto:cchance@utk.edu).

Highland Baptist Church, 8524 Crowder Rd., Raleigh, NC, seeks a **pianist**. Annual compensation II K. Approximately 8 hours per week. Contact Lesley Brunson at [lbrunson@highlandbaptistchurch.org](mailto:lbrunson@highlandbaptistchurch.org) for more information.

Salem Baptist Church of Apex, NC, seeks a **part-time Music Ministry Assistant**. Salem offers classical and contemporary Sunday morning worship services. Job responsibilities include coordinating and rehearsing Salem's orchestra and the contemporary worship band; practicing with the worship team and various music ensembles; and coordinating with the Music Pastor to plan music, drama and other worship arts elements. Send resume to Salem Baptist Church, 1205 Salem Church Rd., Apex, NC 27523-8259, or [jolds@salem-bc.org](mailto:jolds@salem-bc.org).

### Miscellaneous

Family Cathedral Baptist Church is delighted to invite **all Baptist Pastors and churches to their one year anniversary and book launching** on Sunday, May 26, 2013, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Oakhurst Baptist Church, 5037 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28025. Come and support us take North Carolina for Jesus.

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# Pastor

Continued from page 1

enemies, we could not get along. But God called me to minister to the Maasai people – the enemies of my tribe. God put us together.

“I saw that nothing is impossible with God. To see the power of God’s Word working in the hearts of the Maasai people and Jesus Christ bringing that animosity to an end was powerful. He reconciled two tribes just as He did the Jew and the Gentile.”

But the young African experienced the shock of his life when he arrived in the U.S. He said, “When I came to the United States, and I found out that the whites and blacks don’t worship together, that is something that I never knew. I could not believe it. I never heard anything about Christians in America not worshipping together. I never heard about that from Southern Baptist missionaries I worked with in Africa. No one ever told me. I was shocked.”

Muteti made a phone call to the International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond. “I told [a missionary] that I did not know that in America there were black churches and white churches. I worked closely with IMB missionaries in Africa, and they did not tell me.”

Immediately, Muteti began to pray

that God would open up an opportunity to share the good news of reconciliation. “I knew at that moment – it was a confirmation that God really called me to this country,” he said.

Muteti attended First Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., where he had many opportunities to share his story with the pastor, deacons and others. The church’s pastor, Frank R. Lewis, said Muteti, “... writes with the passion of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor when it comes to the subject of racial segregation in the church.”

Wherever he preaches, Muteti encourages believers to love and accept those of other races. His message is the same to Latinos, African-Americans, Caucasians or Asians. “We should reach out cross culturally,” he said. “We want everybody to go to heaven, and there are not two heavens. There is only one, and it is for those who are born again.”

Muteti is not blind to the tensions that often exist in some cultural settings. But he believes “if God has called us to go to all people, we’ve got to welcome all people from all cultures and unite people for Christ. The Spirit of God, moving in every person’s life, can make us one in Jesus Christ, reaching out to every nation,

**“There is only one [heaven], and it is for those who are born again.”**

**– Nicholas Muteti**



every people group.”

Cross-cultural evangelism is very much needed. He said, “Not this ‘look-alike’ evangelism. If you only reach out to me because I look like you, that is not enough.”

Frank Page, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, said in an endorsement of the book, “In his telling of his own story, [Muteti] forms the basis of a belief that God’s people need to worship together, not in separate racial and ethnic groups.”

Muteti said there was a time in the N.C. Baptist convention’s annual meeting, when he would look around and see

three or four people who weren’t Anglo-American. Now he believes the state convention is geared toward reaching others. Also, he is encouraged that many changes are happening at the national level with the election of Fred Luter as president of the SBC.

“People have told me, ‘it will never work because we have lived this way for so long,’” he said. “But I say it is not about us. It is about God, and God can make this happen. The same God who united African tribes who were at war for centuries, is the God that we worship in America. He can do it! We are people of the Book, so we should do it God’s way.”

Since the publication of his book, Muteti expected more opposition than he has seen: “Last Sunday I preached in an all white Southern Baptist church. I preached from Ephesians 2 on tearing down the wall. The response was unbelievable. People thanked me and hugged me. They said, ‘we needed to hear that sermon.’ That really touched my heart.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – The book is available on Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and Winepress.com in both the soft cover and e-book editions. Visit <http://segregationinchurches.com> or contact Muteti at (919) 616-5629 or [dr.nicm2012@gmail.com](mailto:dr.nicm2012@gmail.com).) **BR**

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