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REACHING THE SCATTERED NATIONS

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

Desk globes simplify geography. A light spin brings distant nations into plain view. Remote lands lie at arm's length, even for the youngest schoolchild. Boundaries are clearly marked for reference, along with major cities and natural features. Clarity and ease are what make the educational spheres commonplace in American classrooms.

It's one thing to put a finger on national borders, but what about people groups? Can the catalog of worldwide populations – rather than lands – be charted so neatly?

The answer is no, according to a number of missions experts.

In fact, due to global migration patterns, a shaken snow globe would better resemble international people groups than a desk globe, but that doesn't mean they're out of reach.

Individuals, families and large clusters of people are scattering all across

the world, and much like the floating white particles, they eventually settle. The United States happens to be one of the most popular locations for scattered peoples to land.

What is diaspora missions?

“More than 42 million foreign born residents now live in the U.S.,” said Keelan Cook, Urban Resource Coordinator for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. “Some of the fastest growing international populations in America are in our southern cities, right in the areas where so many local churches are within arm's reach.”

Because of these population shifts, Cook said churches with nearby migrants have an evangelistic task before them. It is commonly called diaspora missions.

“Diaspora means ‘to scatter,’” said Cook, “a fancy word that refers to people who have moved away from their place of origin to another place in the world. ... It's easiest to think of diaspora peoples as migrants.”

Migrants come in four groups, he said, depending on their life situation: (1) Immigrants come through customary immigration programs; (2) international students move for educational pursuits; (3) refugees are people forced out of their homeland due to hardship, such as famine or religious persecution; and (4) undocumented migrants either overstay their visa or smuggle themselves into a country.

Cook emphasized that most migrants come to the U.S. legally, and it is unfair to assume a foreign born individual is undocumented.

Ministry to foreigners has been a typical practice throughout Christian history, according to Cook, but academic discussions about diaspora missions is a relatively new discipline.

“There are plenty of examples of diaspora missions right in the Bible,” he continued. “Israel was told to take care of the foreigners in their midst. Phillip shared the gospel with the Ethiopian

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NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

★★★★★ RUN FOR CONGRESS ★★★★★

The *Biblical Recorder* encourages our readers to express your convictions in the political process, especially by voting in every election. The primary election for U.S. Congressional candidates was moved from March 15 to June 7 due to the redesign of congressional districts in North Carolina and a legal challenge that forced the primary to be delayed.

We have identified six congressional candidates that we know to be affiliated with N.C. Baptist churches. Three are incumbents, three are ordained ministers and three are lay leaders.

We hope the following introduction to these men will be helpful to you. We are informing you, not endorsing candidates. Being a Baptist does not mean a person is a better candidate, but we believe it is our responsibility to keep Baptists informed about fellow Baptists. Please vote June 7.

– The Editor

H. Powell Dew Jr. (1st District)

H. Powell Dew Jr. is a Republican candidate for the U.S. Congress in the 1st District. Since 2001 he has served as the pastor of Fremont Missionary Baptist in Fremont. He was born in South Boston, Va., and grew up in Raleigh.

After attending Mars Hill College for two years, he transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in business administration in May 1984. He earned his master of divinity (2004) and doctor of ministry degrees (2010) from Campbell University Divinity School.

Dew and his wife, Jo Anne, who has since died from cancer, served as house parents at Kennedy Home, a North Carolina Baptist Children's Home facility in Kinston.

In a statement to the *Biblical Recorder*, Dew said, “Like many other Americans, I have

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Faith and the farmer

I grew up in rural Mississippi, an area rich in agriculture. My grandfather, a cattle farmer, lived across the road from my home, so I was raised knowing the smell of freshly cut hay and the sounds of cows mooing as my grandfather's tractor motored towards the pasture.

As I study about the intersection of faith and work, my mind often roams back to those rolling pastures in southern Mississippi, and I ask myself, "How would this impact all of the farmers at home?"

This is an effort to answer that question. To practice his vocation in accordance with God's righteous will, the farmer works as a servant of God, creation and his neighbors.

The farmer serves God

Throughout scripture, God's many acts reveal His character. His creativity is one of the first characteristics we see. All things that spring from the earth, whether a chicken or a stalk of corn, come from the sovereign act of God, and this indicates His ownership of all things. Therefore, the wise farmer seeks to bring all of his work under the lordship of God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

This truth even affects the farmer's motivation in work. Many people labor tirelessly on homesteads to feed their families, while others toil to inherit wealth and prosperity. Scripture is clear that God's ultimate purpose is His own glory.

The farmer, then, must match God's highest desire, having His glory as the fuel that powers all labor.

You may think it's odd to speak of God's glory in relation to the mundane activities of agriculture. After all, does motivation ultimately affect the way you shovel out a horse's stable or dig a posthole?

It may be difficult to see an observable difference between the everyday practices of the Christian and non-believing farmers, but that is far from saying there is no difference at all.

Motivation is huge in the Lord's eyes. A farmer who labors for years, driven by the glory of God, is pleasing to God, even if his daily practices are only slightly different than an atheist farmer.

King David exclaimed, "*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork* (Psalm 19:1)." God fashioned the universe so that from the slow-flowing brook to the soft hum of the horsefly, creation is united in singing the

chorus of God's glory. The farmer joins in by using the earth to display the glory that God has bound into its essence.

For instance, God's glory is displayed when a small pack of seeds produces a bounty of butternut squash. Therefore, there is an obligation to use all of God's resources to display God's glory, and this obligation influences how farmers steward the resources entrusted to them.

The farmer serves creation

Few vocations are as observably connected to creation as farming. The farmer literally experiences the curse that God first pronounced in Genesis 3:17b-18, working the soil to produce food and goods. As a result of intense labor, some farmers choose to use the land without consideration of its good.

Wendell Berry explains in *The Unsettling of America*, "The standards of cheapness and convenience, which are irresistibly simplifying and therefore inevitably exploitive, have been substituted for the standards of health (of both people and land)."

It is this "standard of cheapness and convenience," as Berry puts it, that drives many American farming practices. Godly farmers must critically reflect on how scripture informs their treatment of the land the Lord has given them.

Dependence upon the land should drive the farmer to sustainable practices in food production. Though God has filled the earth with vast amounts of workable land, resources are not unlimited.

Farming practices can do great harm if they are only a means to profit, not as a resource entrusted by God. This truth drives farmers to truly value their property, and consider shrewd uses for it. To state it another way, wise farming considers the long-term health of the land, seeking to unlock the life-giving potential of the land.

Scripture bears out this truth. God made provisions for the welfare of the land, such as allowing fields to have a Sabbath rest every seven years (Leviticus 25:3-4). God graciously guards the land from being overworked.

Wise care also extends to livestock. There is a temptation to view farm animals, such as cattle and chickens, as mere instruments of production, no different than a hammer. Whether used for food

production or food itself, animals possess inherent worth.

Proverbs 12 depicts the righteous man as caring for the life of animals, and Deuteronomy 25:4 forbids the muzzling of an ox while it treads wheat. God cares about the welfare of His creatures, whether they are headed for the slaughtering line or not.

The farmer serves his neighbor

We may be tempted to romanticize farming, viewing the farmer as a lone laborer providing food for himself and his family. While that may be partially true, farming practices have a wider impact, whether on customers or hired

workers.

Therefore, the godly farmer must consider how faith impacts his or her treatment of others.

The guiding principle is love.

After all, Jesus told His listeners the second greatest commandment was to "*love your neighbor as yourself*" (Matthew 22:39).

The application to farming is simple, yet far-reaching. For instance, love for one's customer will drive excellence in production quality, while also keeping the farmer from overcharging.

Love for neighbor governs every decision, from crop selection to produce packaging.

Love is not only for those with money in their pockets, though. God prescribes care and grace for those with nothing. Consider, for example, the gleanings laws of Leviticus 19.



CODY CUNNINGHAM
Guest Column

Business practices say this approach is unwise, costing potential profit. But the Lord says otherwise. The one blessed with plentiful harvest should act graciously toward those experiencing the difficulties of destitution.

Love for neighbor need not be limited to the present neighbor, either.

As one's sin can have a profound impact on future generations, such as dysfunctional relationships or poor reputations, so can a farmer's production methods affect those after him. For instance, overworking the land can lead to the desertification of large pieces of earth, which causes future generations to look elsewhere for food.

Conclusion

The modern-day farmer, like any other worker, must use godly wisdom to navigate the changing landscape. After all, technological advances constantly promise greater productivity. In addition, farmers must now compete in a globalized agricultural market, not just with the farm across town.

Hopefully this article is a small step toward helping farmers see their work in light of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. And it is the servant-mindedness of Jesus that farmers must imitate. Though they may spend the majority of their work surrounded only by livestock and crops, farmers should view solitary labor as loving acts of service to God, His creation and His children.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Cody Cunningham is the Faith & Work Intern at Chapel Hill Bible Church. He blogs periodically at codycunningham.com. This post first appeared at intersectproject.org.) **BR**

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Seeing God's hand at Summer Youth Weeks

For seven weeks each summer, youth from many of our North Carolina Baptist churches make an annual trek to Oak Island, N.C., for the Summer Youth Weeks at Fort Caswell. Middle school and high school students assemble for weeklong sessions filled with gospel-centered fun and learning about our Christian faith.

Truly, this is an incredible disciple-making opportunity – not only for students who come to the program as Christians already, but also for those who might not be believers and have been invited by their Christian friends.

This year, the theme of the Summer Youth Weeks at Caswell is “Every ... one, thing, day, where ... Living on Mission.” What a wonderful way to encourage young people to follow Christ and to emanate Him in every area of their lives!

I give thanks for a program that has answered God's call to minister to students from our N.C. Baptist churches. God is using these Summer Youth Weeks to train up the next generation of leaders in our state.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

Caswell is a place where many make a commitment to follow Christ, others who have accepted Christ as Savior grow and mature in the faith, and some answer God's call to vocational ministry. To date, we have 275 churches with 6,701 people registered to attend. In 2015, we had 363 students who accepted Christ as Savior, 1,400 students made recommitments to Christ and 343 students acknowledged a “call” to ministry. What can be accomplished in the lives of the youth who will be at Caswell?

Each summer an offering is received during Summer Youth Weeks to buy and package food for the House of Abraham, an organization in Haiti that distributes meals as a way to help alleviate hunger while sharing the gospel.

Want to learn some amazing news? The offering received from the students at Caswell last summer exceeded \$74,000. This enabled our youth groups to package 250,000 meals at Caswell.

I am deeply indebted to youth leaders from our churches who bring their students to the convention's Summer Youth Weeks at Caswell. I would also be remiss if I did not mention Merrie Johnson from the Conven-



tion staff, who is leading this ministry for the 15th year. Merrie has been faithful in obeying God's call to work with youth across our state and to organize a ministry that promotes the love, grace and transforming power of Jesus.

Merrie selects and trains a group of student summer workers each year to serve as the BeDoTell team for leading worship at Caswell. This is a talented group of young adults who are passionate about serving Christ and making disciples.

I ask you to join with me in remembering Merrie and the BeDoTell workers in your prayers as they are preparing for Summer Youth Weeks.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – If you or your church would like to learn more about North Carolina Baptist Youth Weeks at Fort Caswell, please visit BeDoTell.com or contact youth.disciplemaking@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5105, ext. 5566. To learn more about Caswell, visit fortcaswell.com.) **BR**

IMB's Clyde Meador to retire after 41 years

By **MICHAEL LOGAN** | IMB

Clyde Meador, who retired May 13 from the International Mission Board (IMB), is known – along with his wife Elaine – among missionary teams for steady, unflappable leadership. Yet 41 years of service, with Clyde most recently serving as executive advisor to IMB's president, appear to testify to the Meadors' simple steps of obedience even more than to their strategic insights and leadership.

“When you look at Clyde's and Elaine's lives, it's step-by-step obedience in the same direction towards the Father's will for their lives,” said John Brady, vice president for Global Engagement.

Clyde has worked closely with three IMB presidents as a top advisor and vice president, and even as the mission organization's interim president from August 2010 to March 2011.

“When I first stepped into my role as president of the IMB, the first thing I did was ask Clyde to continue in leadership, for I could not imagine taking this responsibility without his leadership alongside me,” David Platt said.

Platt said he, like others within IMB, valued Clyde's steady nature and wisdom. “His steadiness has been an anchor for the IMB during the ups and downs, trials and challenges that the IMB has experienced over the previous four decades.”

The Meadors began their careers with

IMB in 1974 when they were appointed as missionaries to Indonesia. For the next 14 years, the couple served in a range of roles, with Clyde starting as a church planter in Medan, then training pastors and lay leaders in Semarang and later Purwokerto. In 1987 he became the mission administrator in Jakarta.

In 1989 Clyde took on leadership of the Southern Asia and Pacific Itinerant Mission. Former IMB President Jerry Rankin served as the Meadors' area director at the time and noted that Clyde “had sound theology and was a strategic thinker. You saw this in how he led the itinerant missionary teams.”

The itinerant approach was a creative innovation in a rapidly changing world, Rankin said. More than a decade before mission strategists had introduced concepts like creative access, Clyde and Elaine were leading roving teams of missionaries who moved in and out of South Asian countries on training circuits for local pastors and lay leaders.

Clyde and Elaine moved from leading the itinerant teams in the early '90s to leading missionary teams across the South Asia, Pacific and Oceania regions as an associate director and then an area director.

Platt said Clyde's deep relationship with Christ was the foundation for his long tenure of leadership. “His personal relationship with Christ is the spring from which everything in his life and leadership flows. He loves God, fears God, and lives to glorify God.”



In 1998, Rankin asked Clyde to take on leadership of a massive new area which included all IMB missionary teams working in Central and Southern Asia. This followed Rankin's decision in 1997 to rework the IMB's structure and focus, an initiative called New Directions.

“New Directions launched a redeployment of our mission force to focus on engagement, to change our ethos to one of church planting, and to understand people groups,” Rankin said. “Clyde's fingerprints are all over that.”

In 2001 Rankin asked the Meadors to move to Richmond and join the office of the president as part of Rankin's leadership team. “I had a vision for where I knew we needed to go,” he said, “but it was people like Clyde and Elaine, with their humble leadership, that helped make it happen.”

“Clyde was so good in working with me, with Jerry [Rankin] and, of late, with David [Platt],” Elliff said. “He would

humbly come along behind and say, ‘You have the plan. Let's talk about how I can help implement that plan.’ Not everybody is willing to do that, but Clyde could always see the big picture because, for him, it's about the Kingdom.”

IMB business

Meador was recognized in IMB's recent board meeting, along with the Wanda Lee, Woman's Missionary Union executive director. Lee retires at the end of this year after 16 years. The recognition included a gift of \$15,000 from the IMB to The Wanda Lee Joy Fund, which benefits a solid financial foundation for the operational expenses of national WMU.

The trustees held a luncheon in the Meadors' honor and presented a resolution in appreciation for their service.

Trustees approved the appointment of 29 missionaries and elected new officers.

Trustees also presented a resolution in appreciation of a one-time \$4 million gift from the North American Mission Board to aid IMB missionaries transitioning off the mission field. Platt also updated trustees that the final number of field personnel who accepted the board's Hand Raising Opportunity (HRO) was 245. The initial number IMB reported in February was 281.

The next IMB trustee meeting is Aug. 23-24 in Richmond, with the next missionary appointment service Aug. 24.

*Name changed

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Michael Logan is a writer for IMB based in Richmond.) **BR**

White House preempts N.C. gender ruling, tells schools to comply

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

The U.S. Departments of Justice and Education released a letter to public schools May 13 claiming federal civil rights laws enable transgender students to use restrooms and other sex-segregated facilities according to their gender identity. The directive, along with an accompanying document, said Title IX protections against discrimination based on biological sex include gender identity.

The release comes as the White House and North Carolina face off in a legal battle over the state's controversial bathroom law, House Bill 2 (HB 2). The bill requires state buildings and public schools to designate bathrooms and changing facilities for use according to the biological sex indicated on a person's birth certificate.

The Justice Department claims HB 2 is discriminatory against transgender people, according to a May 4 letter to Gov. Pat McCrory. The governor said the law protects women and children from sexual predators willing to exploit gender identity based bathroom policies.

The federal and state governments have each filed lawsuits, asking courts to clarify Title IX and Title VII civil rights protections. Despite the unresolved legal battle to determine whether gender identity is covered by protections designated for biological sex, the Obama administration's letter states it as fact and directs public schools to comply.

"As a condition of receiving Federal funds, a school agrees that it will not exclude, separate, deny benefits to, or otherwise treat differently on the basis of sex any person in its educational programs or activities," the letter reads. "This means that a school must not treat a transgender student differently from the way it treats other students of the same gender identity."

Title IX allows schools to provide sex-segregated facilities, athletics and other activities, according to the federal agencies, but students must be permitted to participate in ways consistent with the gender identity to which they currently identify.

Schools may also provide single-user restrooms, locker rooms or other accommodations for students wanting additional privacy, but they cannot require transgender students to use those facilities when other students do not have the same requirements.

In a press release, McCrory said the directive "changes generations of gender etiquette and privacy norms which parents, children and employees have expected in the most personal and private settings of their everyday lives."

A 19-page document accompanied the federal letter, including sample policies and emerging practices from school districts currently employing transgender non-discrimination policies.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said in a blog post, "The [federal government] here wishes to use its coercive power not simply to stop mistreatment of people but to rescript the most basic human intuitions about humanity as male and female. ... Children, then, become pawns of the state for the state to teach what is ultimately a theological lesson, not a scientific one."

"The move here toward severing self-identity from biological reality will hardly stop at 'gender.'" **BR**

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Judge allows sex offenders back into church

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

Graham County Sheriff Danny Millsaps made news headlines last year when he penned a letter to all registered sex offenders in the county, barring them from attending church services.

He cited a portion of a North Carolina law that keeps sex offenders from coming within 300 feet of areas designated for children, effectively fencing many worship facilities, since church nurseries and youth educational spaces are often located nearby. The law has raised legal questions since its passing in 2008.

A U.S. District Court Judge struck down the 300-foot rule April 22, saying it violates First Amendment rights.

"[The clause] greatly interferes with restricted sex offenders' ability to be present at public parks, libraries, movie theaters and houses of worship, among other places associated with significant First Amendment activity," said Judge James Beaty Jr. for the Middle District of North Carolina.

The decision applies to the second of three clauses in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-208.18(a). A previous ruling threw out the third section of the law, which was "unconstitutionally vague" in its definition of places designated for children, according to the court document.

The first and primary portion of the law remains in place, barring sex offenders from knowingly being "on the premises of any place intended primarily for the use, care, or supervision of minors."

Although the judge issued a permanent injunction against law enforcement officers from arresting individuals for breaking the 300-foot-rule, churches can still set their own policies and procedures regarding child safety.

John Small, legal counsel for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution.

He said churches must consider congregation size and property layout to determine what's best in order to minister to sex offenders while at the same time protecting minors. **BR**

They will know us by our love

Recently, I completed reading an autobiography and a biography about two of America's first ladies.

Though both women were of the same political party, loyal to their husbands, mothers, patriotic and known as classy women, I was struck by an evident contrast between the two women: how others thought of them.

In the autobiography of one, she came across as entitled, arrogant and self-centered. This was her description of herself. However, in the biography of the other, she was known for the love she showed to others.

Whether it was visiting a leper colony and touching the individuals inflicted with the disease, or being the first U.S. president's wife to visit an active combat zone in Vietnam, her love for others was a reputation that preceded her.

Jesus' love for others was known to all those who inhabited the land. He was the One moved with compassion who stretched out His hand to touch the unclean leper (Mark 1:40-41).

He was the One who went through

cities and villages interacting with people and felt compassion for them because they were sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36-38).

When there was a larger crowd with Him that had nothing to eat, He felt compassion for them because they had been with Him three days and had nothing to eat (Mark 8:1-2).

While walking with His disciples, Jesus saw a widow burying her only son. He felt compassion for her and approached her and told her to stop weeping and then raised her son from the dead (Luke 7:12-14).

In all of these instances, Jesus' love for others is His motivator. As believers, our love for Christ should inform how we interact with others. Are we filled with the deep empathy for others our Lord possessed? Do others know us by our love?

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Ashley Allen is consultant for Embrace Women's Ministry for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach her at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5559. Read her blog at www.worthyofthecalling.com.)



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- Tom Henry, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Shelbyville, TN

Congress Continued from page 1

become dismayed at the direction our nation has taken over the past decade. I could not be a part of the solution unless I was actively involved in the process.”

Dew said his desire to be part of the decision-making process drew him into the local political arena in his hometown of Stantonsburg. He currently serves as a town board member. That office has involved him in the N.C. League of Municipalities Tax and Finance Committee in Raleigh.



POWELL DEW

Over the past few years, I felt there was more that needed to be done besides what I was doing where I live. There has been

a slow, steady discontent in my spirit concerning our nation. The issues facing our nation will not be solved on the local level. If someone does not step up and enter the arena of Washington, D.C. where our nation’s laws are written and our budget is being crafted, and hold the line – we can say good bye to the America we grew up in – if it is not already too late!”

Some of his convictions include, “I believe the family is the bedrock of our nation and that marriage should be between one man and one woman. I believe the free enterprise system is the best economic system to reward those that work hard and encourage wealth generation to provide for their families and communities. I believe the fundamental role of government is to protect the inherent rights guaranteed to us in the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

“I believe and support the free exercise of religion and oppose any restrictions on that. I support the second amendment and the right to bear arms and oppose any laws that restrict that constitutional right.

“I believe life begins at conception and should be protected. I am opposed to abortion – and most especially partial-birth abortions.”

Dew has no Republican opponent in the June 7 primary, but faces Democratic incumbent G.K. Butterfield, one libertarian and one independent candidate in the Nov. 8 election.

George Holding (2nd District)

Republican Congressman George Holding grew up in Raleigh. He is the fifth generation in his family to attend Wake Forest University where he studied classics and law. After graduation he practiced law, then served on the staff of United States Sen. Jesse Helms in Washington, D.C. In 2006, after serving as an assistant U.S. attorney, he was appointed to serve as U.S. attorney by President George W. Bush.

He resigned in 2012 and was encouraged to run for Congress.

“When I was leaving the U.S. Attorney’s office I was going back into private practice,” he said.



GEORGE HOLDING

The districts had recently been changed and he believed the new boundaries created a favorable chance to win a congressional seat.

“This is an incredibly unique time in our history, putting it politely,” Holding said. “I think we are really at a big turning point in the history of America. I can either be at home getting angry reading the newspaper every morning and getting upset watching the TV news every night, or I can come up and get in the middle of what I think is a fight to save the America that we know and love, for another generation. That’s why I ultimately decided to run.

“My son is five years old, and I want him to have all of the same opportunities that I had. If it doesn’t work out, I want to be able to tell him I did everything I could to try to preserve those opportunities for him.

“If we get much further down the road of this progressive liberalism and moral relativism, we’re not going to be able to turn this ship around. I’m prayerful and hopeful and feel pretty good about turning it around. I wouldn’t be trying unless I thought it could happen. We just cannot give up.

“I still think America is the greatest country in the world. You’d be hard pressed to find more opportunities somewhere else.”

When asked to identify the nation’s greatest challenges, Holding said, “The overarching, biggest problems are terrorism and debt. ISIS is growing exponentially across the globe. They are not only in the Middle East, Africa and Europe, but the FBI has recently revealed that there are some 1,000 ISIS cells here in the United States. This is a tremendous problem that requires a lot of leadership to defeat. Couple that with our fiscal problem of government debt that is almost insurmountable, this will wipe our opportunities for generations to come.”

He is also deeply concerned about the moral climate of the country. “The Obama administration has a view of the world that defies common sense,” he added.

The National Journal ranks Holding the second most conservative member of Congress.

Holding and his wife, Lucy, have three daughters and a son and are members of Christ Baptist Church in Raleigh. He said, “My wife and I went to Providence Baptist Church – in fact Pastor David Horner married us in 1997 – and we went with the Christ Baptist Church plant in 2002 as part of the mother church’s mission to plant new churches.”

Holding faces Congresswoman Renee Elmers and Dr. Greg Brannon in the Republican primary on June 7.

Mark Walker (6th District)

Congressman Mark Walker was born in Alabama and grew up in the panhandle of Florida in the home of a Baptist minister who is still pastoring today. He moved to North Carolina in 1991 and worked in business and finance for five years.

Walker felt God’s call to ministry, so he enrolled in Piedmont International University in Winston-Salem. “I had the privilege of working at Calvary Baptist Church under Dr. Mark Corts and Dr. Gary Chapman. What an experience that was – listening and learning from the influence of their wisdom and godly leadership. It still impacts my life today.”

In more than 18 years of vocational ministry Walker has served as an executive pastor, lead pastor and worship pastor. He began serving

at Lawndale Baptist in Greensboro as pastor of worship arts in 2008 and resigned when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2014.

“I made the decision three years ago to run for Congress because I felt there is a need to talk about issues that are important to our culture and our community,” he said. “The thing that drove me most in making that final decision is that I felt there was a way to talk about conservative values without all of the vitriol and without all the rhetoric that we see sometimes.

“My goal in seeking the Lord’s discernment every day is to be able to hold that conservative position, but do so in the right tone and the right spirit. Ultimately, God doesn’t call us anywhere that we are exempt from being a light for Christ – even in Washington, D.C.”

When candidates use mud-slinging and name calling, it gets a lot of attention on talk shows and media outlets, but is negative self-promotion, according to Walker. “What I feel called me to do is to be a conservative voice, but earn the respect of people who disagree with me.” He hopes others will agree with his heart and tone to accomplish the right things.

In the attacks against religious liberties he said it’s hard to maintain the balance of standing firm while fighting for principles in a way that honors God. “That is a challenge, I admit it. It’s something I’m faced with every day. I know that in my own power, I’m going to lose that battle if I don’t stay close to the Lord.”

The American Conservative Union recently gave Walker a “100 percent, perfect score” rating for 2015. He was one of only six members of the 114th class of Congress who received a perfect score.

Addressing North Carolina’s HB2 legislation, Walker said, “I have a nine-year-old daughter that I believe needs to have privacy in the restroom. I believe the LGBTQ community deserves all of the rights of every other American citizen. However when it infringes on the rights of others, we have to draw the line here.”

Currently Walker is working on the First Amendment Defense Act. “I am very concerned that there is a militant wing of the left community that wants to do away with a pastor’s ability to be able to speak on certain passages from the scriptures,” he said. “And what I’m concerned with is that a pastor and a church will be threatened with their tax exempt status if they read certain passages that might be considered hate speech. We are concerned that ultimately this is where all of this is going. That’s the next fight we have to face.”

He has one Republican challenger, Chris Hardin, in the June 7 primary.

Walker’s wife is a family nurse practitioner at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem. They have three children.

David Rouzer (7th District)

Congressman David Rouzer was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican in November 2014. He serves the citizens of the 7th District, covering the Interstate 40 corridor from Johnston County to Wilmington. The new redistricting plan left 73 percent of his

district unchanged. He does not have a challenger in the June 7 primary.

Rouzer grew up as a member of First Baptist Church in Durham. He described being raised in “a very strong Christian family, and that has certainly shaped my values.”

While a senior at North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh, Rouzer participated in an international student program in Prague, Czech Republic, that included a dozen American students. His roommate was Romanian and approximately 50 other students came from communist bloc countries.

“It struck me that [those] students grew up behind the iron curtain,” he said, “but they knew more about America, its history, its purpose and its founding – and knew a whole lot more about free enterprise – than we [Americans] knew. Of course, in our defense, a lot of that is not taught in our schools today. But the other thing that struck me profoundly was that if you take America off the world timeline, this world is a very dark, dangerous place.”

Rouzer added, “There’s absolutely no doubt in my mind that it is with God’s hand that this country was founded and has prospered.”

By serving in the U. S. Congress he said, “I want to do my part to preserve the founding principles that made this country great, and of course, those are based on the moral and spiritual principles embodied in our constitution and adapted from our faith.”

When he graduated from NCSU in December 1994, Rouzer weighed his interests and the lessons he learned overseas. Although he majored in agriculture, economics and chemistry, “I decided that if I was ever going to have an opportunity to participate in what Thomas Jefferson called the great experiment in self-government, that was my opportunity. So I packed my bags, moved to D.C. and started knocking on doors.”

He met Sen. Jesse Helms and was hired to work as a senior staff aide. “He was a very strong believer and godly man. That shaped a lot of my political and legislative acumen,” Rouzer said. Later he served as a senior aide for Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

The Congressman believes the nation’s greatest need is to get back to the moral and spiritual principles that made the country great. “We have become a spiritually poor country over the last several decades,” he said. “I think it’s important for those of us in elected office to talk about those issues and bring awareness to them.”

Rouzer served two terms in the N.C. Senate from 2008-2012 representing Johnston and Wayne counties. He is single and is a small business owner.

Todd Johnson (9th District)

Todd Johnson is an insurance executive whose family was actively involved in Mount Beulah Baptist Church in Wadesboro where he grew up. His brother, Jeff, was a Southern Baptist pastor who served a number of small rural churches until he died of a brain tumor in 2003.

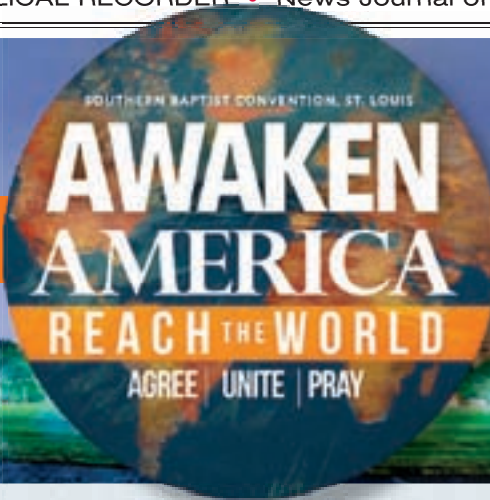
“I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Lord and Savior on July 13, 1986,” he said, “and I went to Fort Caswell every year since the fifth grade

See Congress page 15



DAVID ROUZER

2016 SBC Annual Meeting



June 14-15 - St. Louis, Mo.

Messengers can download the SBC Annual Meetings mobile application for their mobile devices. Visit the Apple App Store, Google Play or m.coreapps.com/sbc_am2016. On Twitter follow @SBCMeeting, @BaptistPress, @SBCLife and @sbccp. Use #SBC16 on social media.

CHILD CARE

Preschool child care registration for the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in St. Louis reached capacity ahead of the May 6 deadline and has surpassed 2015 registration by more than 30 percent, according to SBC Executive Committee staff.

Preschool registration closed May 4 with 142 registrants, SBC Executive Committee meeting planner Lynn Richmond said.

Registration for 6 to 12-year-olds is also strong, with about 150 already signed up and availability likely to end before the original May 30 deadline at sbcanualmeeting.net and thegiantcow.com/#!/blank/tz247.

Registrations are still being accepted for Youth On Mission, which will engage students in hands-on missions projects June 14-15 for \$55 per youth, plus a nonrefundable registration fee of \$10 per youth. Youth on Mission registration is available at sbcanualmeeting.net.

PASTORS' CONFERENCE

There are two candidates being nominated for president of the Pastors' Conference June 12-13. Dave Miller, pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, and John Avant, pastor of First Baptist Concord in Knoxville, Tenn., are the nominees.

Avant's nomination announcement came at the end of April from Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn. A former vice president for evangelization at the North American Mission Board (NAMB), Avant has pastored seven churches in Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas.

Miller's nomination will come from Todd Benkert, a pastor at Eastlake Baptist Church in Crown Point, Ind.

A former SBC second vice president and Baptist Convention of Iowa president, Miller has pastored churches in Virginia and Iowa.

His nomination was first mentioned publicly in a May 2 blog post by a group of 10 Southern Baptist pastors who refer to themselves as "Voices for a New Baptist Future." All 10 are contributors to the SBC Voices blog – some as authors and some as frequent commentators – of which Miller is editor. The last time there was more than one candidate for SBC Pastors' Conference president was 2010.

N.C. REPRESENTATIVES FOR SBC ENTITIES

Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, the four denominational boards – International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources and GuideStone Financial Resources – the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the six seminaries and the Committee on Order of Business have been selected by the 2016 SBC Committee on Nominations.

Nominees will serve if elected by the messengers to the 2016 SBC Annual Meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis. This list only shows North Carolina nominations:

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – Nominated for a second term is Stanley J. Welch, Asheville, N.C.
- **GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES** – Nominated for second term is John R. Morris, Vilas, N.C.
- **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD** – Nominated for second term is Roberta N. "Bobbi" Ashford, Coats, N.C.
- **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD** – Nominees with terms to expire in 2020 replacing trustees ineligible for re-election include Mark S. Gilbert, layperson and member of Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., replacing Bruce L. Franklin, Henderson, N.C.
- **LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES** – Nominated for term to expire in 2020 is Yana Conner, women's ministry director, Oaks Church, Raleigh, N.C., replacing Jesse W. Messer, Asheville, N.C., deceased.
- **SOUTHERN SEMINARY** – Nominated for second term is David P. Bruce, Candler, N.C.
- **NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY** – Nominee with term to expire in 2021 replacing trustees ineligible for re-election include Timothy J. Whitener, layperson and member of Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., replacing Steven A. Jirgal, Monroe, N.C.
- **SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY** – Nominees with terms to expire in 2021 replacing trustees ineligible for re-election include Carlos F. Goodrich, layperson and member of Center Grove Baptist Church, Clemmons, N.C., replacing Christopher J. "Chris" Griggs, Denver, N.C.; and Timothy C. Dale, layperson and member of Christ Community Church, Wilson, N.C., replacing Henry G. Williamson Jr., Winston-Salem, N.C.

MOVIE SCREENINGS

LifeWay Christian Resources is offering messengers and visitors to the Southern Baptist Convention an opportunity to see two movies. Each screening will start at 9 p.m. after the evening's activities.

- **June 13** – "The Insanity of God."

Based on the best-selling book by Nik Ripken, *The Insanity of God*, the movie is about the personal and lifelong journey of a couple from rural Kentucky and their crisis of faith on the international mission field.

- **June 14** – "I Am Not Ashamed: The Rachel Joy Scott Columbine Story." I Am Not Ashamed tells Rachel Joy Scott's story in her own words from her journals and writing. She was the first student killed in the April 20, 1999, massacre at Columbine (Colo.) High School.

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Our Vision “By God’s grace, we will become the strongest force in the history of this Convention for reaching people with the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Couple donates to NCMO in lieu of wedding gifts

by Emily Rojas



Last summer, when her last name was still Hodges, Sarah Stalls addressed a letter to N.C. Baptist Men (NCBM)/Baptists on Mission with a check enclosed.

Such a donation would normally not be out of place, especially with the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) emphasis right around the corner.

But something set this particular gift apart for Richard Brunson, the executive director of NCBM: Sarah and her then-fiance, Bobby, had opted to make this donation to NCBM ministries instead of receiving gifts from guests at their upcoming wedding shower.

On their shower invitations, Sarah and Bobby had asked that in lieu of gifts, guests make a donation to one of three charities associated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina: Baptist Men Disaster Relief, Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina and Door of Hope.

“We’ve never seen anything like this before,” Brunson said. “This is a very unique gift, and we are very grateful.”

Sarah and Bobby Stalls were married last October, and it was their extensive and personal backgrounds with these organizations that led the couple to include them on their shower invitations.

Sarah’s father, John Manning Hodges, who passed away in 2011, gave much of his time to NCBM Disaster Relief after his retirement. He volunteered on the North Carolina coast, and Sarah wanted the donation to be a way to remember him and honor the legacy that he left.

Sarah, who currently serves as the

public information officer for Beaufort County Schools and has worked in the communications industry for many years, also said that she saw NCBM Disaster Relief come to the aid of others while she worked in television and would cover natural disasters in eastern North Carolina.

“The (Baptist Men) Disaster Relief trucks were the first to arrive,” Sarah said. “I saw that pattern, and I believe other people did.”

“The only thing that would make this whole process better would be if someone was inspired to go out on a limb and do something similar,” Sarah added.

Bobby also had some firsthand experience with Baptist Men Disaster Relief. He worked on the coast with Department of Transportation during Hurricane Irene and said the impact that the group made was tangible. Bobby recalled that the Baptist Men Disaster Relief tents were the only place to get a hot meal or wash clothes in the area.

The other two organizations that Sarah and Bobby listed – Door of Hope and Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina – also hold a special place in their hearts. Bobby was adopted as a child and encountered Door of Hope, an adoption

ministry, on a short-term mission trip in South Africa.

The couple listed Baptist Children’s Homes on their invitations for a similar reason: they want to give children a chance to have a better future. “If someone hadn’t taken a chance on Bobby, we wouldn’t be here right now,” Sarah said.

The church that the two attend, Piney Grove Baptist Church in Williamston, has always taken a great interest in missions, the Stalls said. For them, the attitude of giving in their church was influential in their decision to include these organizations as options for their guests.

This isn’t the first time that the two have donated to NCBM, however. A year after Hurricane Irene hit, Bobby retired from the Department of Transportation. He knew he would receive a retirement gift from his coworkers, and he requested that they instead make a donation to NCBM Disaster Relief.

“People just want the opportunity to help,” Bobby said. “We just gave them an outlet to do that.”

“The only thing that would make this whole process better would be if someone was inspired to go out on a limb and do something similar,” Sarah added. “Don’t hesitate to go outside the box a little bit, even if it’s something small.”



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IMPACT

#ImpactNC
Tuesday Evening
with David Platt

IMPACT: *Compelling the lost to come to life*

November 14-15, 2016

This year, the 186th Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina theme will be “Impact: Compelling the lost to come to life.” This comes from Luke 14:23, which says, “... go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled.”

This theme is a call for Christians to complete the job that Jesus gave to His disciples. He tasked them with making disciples of all people and of all nations, regardless of race, social status, age or ability. “Impact” means that we are to follow Jesus’ orders and compel those who are lost to come to Jesus’ table – to come to life. In doing so, we will be obedient and join God in His Kingdom work.

Today, more than 5.8 million lost people live in North Carolina.

Moreover, many of these people have come

here from other countries. This means that these people truly represent the nations of the world. We as Christians have an opportunity to make an impact on lostness on a global scale by being obedient to Jesus’ call to compel the lost to come to Him.

Compelling the lost, however, is not as simple as merely inviting a lost person to come to church. Rather, it involves engaging them with the gospel and its message of transformation. This is the heart of disciple-making and Jesus calls us to make disciples of all the nations.

Join us Nov. 14-15 in Greensboro at the Koury Convention Center. Tuesday evening will feature a special worship service with David Platt, president of the International Mission Board. Follow us @ncbaptist #ImpactNC for more details coming soon.

Worship Leader Boot Camp: Special Edition
May 20-21
Boone
ncbaptist.org/bootcampse

Western Happiness Retreat
June 3-5
Truett Camp, Hayesville
ncbaptist.org/westernhappiness

Hispanic Young Adult Conference
June 3-5
Fort Caswell
ncbaptist.org/hyac16

Summer Youth Weeks
June 13 - August 6
Fort Caswell
bedotell.com

Southern Baptist Convention
June 14-15
St. Louis, Mo.
sbcannualmeeting.net

Worship Audio Training
June 24-25
Kannapolis
ncbaptist.org/audio

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Upcoming Events



The Story

The Story is an evangelism tool that can be used to introduce the gospel to others by telling the overarching story of scripture. It helps to prepare Christians to share their faith in a relational way, making witnessing to others a part of a natural conversation. The app takes the reader through the themes of creation, the fall, rescue and redemption to help the reader understand the bigger story of the Bible.

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Resource: Disciple-Making at Home Booklet

The Disciple-Making at Home booklet from the Church and Family Connect Ministry is a resource that exists to equip parents in their efforts to make disciples of their own children. This detailed guide includes ideas about how to have a family time of worship that engages children of all ages, as well as instructions for how to pray with children, how to create Bible games that facilitate disciple-making and more.

Visit ncbaptist.org/childhood to find this resource or contact Cheryl Markland with Childhood Evangelism and Discipleship Ministry at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina at cmarkland@ncbaptist.org or (800) 395-5102, ext. 5645.

Find this resource at

ncbaptist.org/childhood



Top 5 resources to transform your ministry

Every month, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina compiles a short list of helpful resources to help North Carolina Baptists make disciples and grow in their faith. This month, these resources include digital disciple-making tips for online sharing; prayer maps that show where lost people live in North Carolina and the locations of the large urban centers of the world; a booklet that can be used to gauge church health; and a booklet for discipling your children.

These resources are designed specifically to assist the churches of North Carolina in their divinely appointed mission. Please share and use these resources as your own.

To receive notifications of top resources each month subscribe to our news feed by visiting ncbaptist.org/news and filling out the newsroom subscription field on the left sidebar.

Learn more at

ncbaptist.org/featured

Nations

Continued from page 1

eunuch, who was traveling through a foreign land. ... much of Paul's strategy was working with the Jewish diaspora spread across the Roman Empire.

"Yet, in the last generation, the world has seen a spike in global migration that is unprecedented. There are more people moving more places around the world than ever before."

As a result, new demographic trends are stretching traditional missions categories.

Blurred lines, clear vision

"The line of separation is now blurred between North American and international missions," said J.D. Payne, pastor for church multiplication for The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala. "Migration provides a kingdom opportunity to make disciples of some of the world's unreached people groups."

Sammy Joo, multiculturalist consultant for collegiate ministry at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said, "Colleges in the U.S. are becoming more ethnically diverse due to incoming international students and [American] students returning from overseas experience."

He said the diversity of cultures on

university campuses creates the "natural flavor" of international ministry.

"International people are like a 21st century Moses," he said. "As God met Moses in the wilderness and sent him back to Egypt to bring his people to the Promised Land, God can meet international people in the U.S. and send them back to their people to lead them to Christ."

Local church ministry in the U.S. is changing too, according to Alan Cross, executive director of Community Development Initiatives in Montgomery, Ala.

He said it is vitally important for local churches to engage international people in their cities and neighborhoods.

"How we treat them is directly related to how well we understand our own salvation and the God who saves," said Cross. "If we do not see the immigrant as either currently or potentially a brother in Christ, then we are missing a major theme of scripture."

Jenny Yang, vice president for advocacy and policy for World Relief, echoed Cross's sincerity.

"Matthew 28:19 instructs us to 'go and make disciples of all nations,'" she said. "If we take the Great Commission seriously then engaging international people

is a non-negotiable. It's critical that local churches see migration not as a threat but as an opportunity to share the gospel with people from all nations."

Cross said, "... those who do not see it simply do not see what is already happening in their communities. America has 41 million first generation immigrants right now. Approximately 80 million first and second generation immigrants. That is 25 percent of our nation's population."

Yang added, "Some of the fastest growing churches in the United States are immigrant churches, and I believe the church has a critical opportunity to reach the nations without ever having to leave their own backyards."

Reaching the scattered nations

Because of globalized demographic patterns in the U.S. and the biblical importance of diaspora missions, Cook, Yang, Cross, Payne, Joo and others are speaking at an upcoming event to equip Christians with "practical tools for engaging immigrants, refugees and international students."

The conference is called Reaching the Nations, and it's scheduled for Aug. 26-27 in Brentwood, Tenn.

Each of the speakers encouraged all

Christians to consider attending.

"I hope attendees will be seized by what I believe to be a historic opportunity for the church and actively engage their local church in ministry for refugees and immigrants in their neighborhoods," said Yang.

The scattered peoples of the world may be difficult to represent in simplified form – no desk globe for ethnicities anytime soon – but that does not make them inaccessible.

"We are standing at a critical moment in history," Payne said. "The unreached peoples of the world are here, there and everywhere. Followers of Jesus are here, there and everywhere too. It is important for us to think about how to reach, equip, partner and send (in new ways) that all people will rejoice and shout for joy (Psalm 67:3-5)."

Cook concluded, "As Americans, we especially need to see the importance of this. ... Instead of this being a point of fear for Christians, we need to tell a different story. We need to see that God is at work, and that he has given your local church and my local church unprecedented access to our mission field."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Emily Blake, BR editorial aide, contributed to this story.) **BR**

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Avery Association forges partnership with Scottish church

Avery Baptist Association

The churches of the Avery Baptist Association (ABA) have covenanted with a local congregation in Scotland for a five-year ministry partnership.

The Scotland Partnership is an opportunity for the churches of the Avery Association to develop a Kingdom partnership with Buckhaven Community Church (BCC).

“Scottish roots run deep in western North Carolina,” said Garland Honeycutt, associational missionary for the ABA.

“Many families in our region can trace their heritage back to the land of kilts and bagpipes.

“The very geography of the High Country closely resembles that of Scotland, which more than likely explains

why Scottish immigrants settled in the area so many years ago. However, there is a major difference between the hills of Scotland and the mountains of Appalachia – Scotland is largely absent of the presence of the gospel.”

Only about 3 percent of Scots identify as evangelical Christians.

The population of Buckhaven in Fife, a small fishing town north of Edinburgh, is 6,000 people; however 98 percent of them have no contact with a local church.

“By collaborating with Peter Carr and BCC, our desire for this partnership is to impact Scotland with the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ,” Honeycutt explained.

Peter Carr, a native Scot, planted BCC in January 2015.

“While the church scene in Scotland has become largely dysfunctional, it’s not all doom and gloom,” he said.

“For many decades our country has been a sending nation, but now we are a receiving nation when it comes to missionaries.”

Carr went on to say “Scotland, I believe, is now ripe and ready for new expressions of gospel-centered, Kingdom-focused churches.”

ABA’s Scotland Partnership focuses on two primary goals. First, the partnership will work to strengthen BCC to become a healthy, self-sustaining church and second, assist BCC in the planting of new, self-sustaining, evangelical churches across Scotland.

These goals hope to be reached within the scope of the five year partnership.

“We plan to take associational mission trips to Scotland at least once each year.

Mission trips will provide ABA churches the opportunity to physically come alongside the ministry of BCC through evangelism and outreach, leadership development, and church planting,” Honeycutt explained.

“While the ABA and its churches will be the ‘sponsors’ of the partnership, we heartily extend an invitation to churches and individuals outside of the ABA to join us in this exciting gospel effort!”

Support has already been enlisted from churches outside the ABA, including churches from Mitchell County and Carter County, Tennessee.

The ABA approved moving forward with the partnership at its associational spring meeting in April.

Under the direction of the newly formed Scotland Partnership Committee,

a detailed proposal for the partnership will be presented to the churches of the ABA at its annual meeting in October 2016.

Once the proposal is approved at the October meeting, the partnership will officially launch in January 2017.

Honeycutt and other leaders from ABA took a five-day vision trip to Scotland to meet with Carr this month.

A full program was planned, including several days of prayer walking through Buckhaven and other villages in the Fife region, as well as attending a pastors’ conference in Kirkcaldy to dialogue with ministry leaders from across the nation.

“We are very excited about the opportunities ahead of us,” Honeycutt remarked.

“As an associational missionary I believe God’s people are at their best when they work together.

“Avery Baptists are lifting our eyes beyond our region, to work alongside our sisters and brothers across the pond, by impacting an unbelieving generation of Scots with the transforming message of the gospel.”

To receive more information on the partnership or to explore ways to join the effort, go to averybaptists.org/scotland. **BR**

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Williamston church honors pastor for 29 years of service

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR Staff Writer

It's a "monumental accomplishment" for most churches to keep a pastor for three years, Scott Setzer, director of missions for South Roanoke Baptist Association, told the Williamston Memorial Baptist Church congregation April 10. That Sunday the church honored Robbie Parker as he retired after 41 years of serving in full-time ministry, highlighting 29 of those years as senior pastor of Memorial Baptist.

Parker graduated from Campbell College, now Campbell University, in May 1972. He received his master of divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) in Louisville, Ky., in 1975.

Parker was ordained to the work of gospel ministry by First Baptist Church of Ahsokie in August 1975, where he served as associate pastor for two years. He then served Aulander Baptist Church as pastor from 1977 to 1986 before starting at Memorial Baptist.

Associate Pastor Dean Harrell and Youth Minister Jason Braswell recognized Parker for "a job well done" – baptizing 252 children, teens and adults; faithfully leading the church in observing communion; walking with members in seasons of grief and loss; and presiding over many marriage ceremonies. They recognized his wife, Malinda, for her support of Robbie's ministry; teaching children's Sunday School; and leading the senior adult ministry. They also thanked their children, Scott and Brad, for their involvement in worship, technology, children and youth ministries, and for sharing their parents with the church in ministry. Harrell declared Parker pastor emeritus and presented him with a plaque during the service.

In giving his remarks, Setzer spoke about often meeting with new pastors whose resumes state one to three years of experience with other churches.

"I'm thinking, 'You don't have enough time to get to know your people and establish yourself in ministry.' When I talk to new ministers who come into this association or ministers who are pastors for the first time, Robbie, I hold men like you as examples to them."

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, delivered a message that encouraged parents and grandparents to disciple children and plan for the church's future while reflecting on its history. He commended Parker for what he had accomplished in light of Paul's admonition to Timothy in 2 Tim-



Robbie and Malinda Parker, right, were honored by their church Williamston Memorial Baptist Church recently. Robbie Parker was the church's pastor for 29 years and has been in full-time ministry for 41 years. (Contributed photo)

thy 2:2, "*and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*"

"[Robbie], you have invested your life in younger men," Hollifield said. "They benefit from it, and churches benefit from it because you have been teaching others what God has taught you through other people."

Perhaps the most notable, light-hearted appreciation shown to Parker was Scott West's presentation comparing the pastor to former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning, who announced his retirement in March after winning Super Bowl 50.

West, a deacon at Memorial, said, "That's the way I view Robbie Parker. He's leaving this church at the top of his game."

West juxtaposed statistics from Manning's football career with Parker's ministry: Manning played for two teams over 18 years; Parker served this church for 29. Both performed on Sundays – Manning played 266 games; Parker preached 1,363 sermons. Manning won a record 200 games; Parker won 614 new church members.

"In all seriousness we wish you many, many years of happy retirement," West said. "We're so proud to have called you pastor for 29 years."

Throughout his ministry, Parker also served as moderator and vice moderator for the South Roanoke Baptist Association; president of the Martin County Ministerial Association; on committees with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; on the ministerial board of advisors at Chowan University; and on the board of trustees for Martin General Hospital. He currently serves on the board of trustees at Chowan University and the board of ministers at Campbell University, and sponsors a scholarship for students at Chowan University through the Chowan Christian Service Association.

Parker will be available for pulpit supply and interim positions. Email mail-parker@gmail.com. **BR**

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AROUND THE STATE

Obituary

GEORGE JEFFREYS JR., 77, of Williamston, N.C., died May 4 at Riverside Doctor's Hospital in Williamsburg, Va. He was in ministry for more than 50 years and pastored eight churches in South Carolina and North Carolina.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sarah "Irene" Dennis Jeffreys of Williamston; son, Hilton Jeffreys; daughter, Hope Lee; five grandchildren; and his sister, Shirley Guppton.

Memorials to: The Gideon's International, P.O. 812, Newton, NC 28658.

CLAUDE CONNELL, 95, of Waxhaw died April 17.

He served in ministry for more than 66 years at many churches, including

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Carthage; Kerr Street Baptist Church, Concord; Unity Baptist Church, Belmont; Bethlehem Baptist Church, Concord; Midway Baptist Church, Wingate; Oakland Baptist Church, Monroe; and Waxhaw Baptist Church where he retired for the second time.

In addition to his service as pastor, he served the local Baptist associations in various capacities.

He is survived by his wife of 12 and a half years, Virginia McWhorter Connell; his son, Dennis Wilson Connell; six step-children and two grandsons.

Memorials to: Hospice of Union County, 700 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe, NC 28110 or to Waxhaw Baptist Church, 8213 Old Waxhaw Monroe Rd., Waxhaw, NC 28173.

EARL WILSON SOSSAMON, 99, of Indian Trail died April 17.

He became the head of his family's household at age 15 after his father's death. As a young man he farmed and worked at the Charlotte Casket Factory in Charlotte. Sossamon surrendered to God's call and was ordained by Sardis Baptist Church in 1956.

He was pastor of First Baptist Church of Indian Trail for 24 years (1958-1982). After retirement, he served several churches as an interim pastor.

He is survived by his son James R. "Ron" Sossamon of Fairview, N.C.; six granddaughters; 14 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: First Baptist Church of Indian Trail, 732 Indian Trail-Fairview Road, Indian Trail N.C. 28079.

Staff changes

Harrellsville Baptist Church, Harrellsville, has called **JEFF CRABTREE** as pastor. Previously, Crabtree served at Columbia Missionary Baptist Church, Columbia, for 15 years.

FARREN ROPER has been called to Corinth Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, as pastor. Previously, Roper served at Destin First Baptist Church, Destin Fla.

Elizabeth City First Baptist Church has called **PAUL BATSON** as pastor. Batson previously served at Nobles Chapel Baptist Church, Sims.

RICHARD SEAGLE has been called as senior pastor by First Baptist Church, New Bern. Previously, he had served as the church's associate pastor.

Adamsville Baptist Church, Goldsboro, has called **KYLE BELLAMY** as worship pastor. This is Bellamy's first ministry position.

MICHAEL LEWIS has been called as pastor of Community Baptist Saulston Church, Goldsboro. Previously he served at Free Will Baptist Church, Grifton.

Miller Hill Baptist Church, Lenoir, has called **DOUGLAS PREVETTE** as pastor. Previously, he served as pastor at Cross Memorial Baptist Church, Marion.

PHILIP BRANNAN has been called as executive pastor at Temple Baptist Church, New Bern. Previously, Brannan served at Spring Valley Baptist Church, Columbia.

Warwick Baptist Church, Hobbsville, has called **KIP VINSON** as pastor. Previously, Vinson served at Oak Level Baptist Church, Rocky Mount.

LYN LAMBERT has been called as pastor for Welcome Home Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro. Lambert has been active in the association for 22 years, and served at Greater Vision Baptist Church, Millers Creek.

Robbins First Baptist, Robbins, has called **DANNY MEETZE** as senior pastor. Meetze has served churches in North Carolina and South Carolina over the past 25 years. His most previous position was at First Baptist Church, Charlotte, as pastor to high school students and families.

CHARLES ALLARD has been called by Crabtree Valley Baptist Church, Raleigh, as pastor. Previously, Allard had been serving in interim positions during his retirement.

CHURCH NEWS



Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone

Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone, is in the midst of more than a month of events for its 150th anniversary. The church began its celebration April 24 and has many special events and guests planned. Above, Milton A. Hollfield Jr., left, executive director-treasurer of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, presented Mount Vernon with a framed certificate in recognition of the milestone. The church began April 21, 1866, with a roster of 16 charter members. Other special guests scheduled through the beginning of June: The Taylors, an award-winning Southern gospel group; Keith Critcher and Terry Smith, former music directors at the church; Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; K. Allan Blume, former church pastor, now editor/president at the *Biblical Recorder*; Jim Henry, former interim pastor; Bud Russell, right, associate pastor; a college reunion weekend with Josh Eller; a talent show with cake/pie auction; bake-off; barbecue dinner; and a family fun night with hot dogs, corn hole and an old timers softball game. Greg Heisler, second from left, is pastor.



Peninsula Baptist Church, Mooresville

On April 24, Peninsula Baptist Church, Mooresville, broke ground on its new facility. The church is involved in a three-year financial campaign – "Building a Generation" – that aims to raise \$2-million dollars. Goals include providing additional space for student ministry in an 8,000+ sq.-foot building and renovations to the existing structure to update nurseries, bathrooms, worship center and entrance. Renovations will provide space for all adult groups to meet on campus. Some groups currently meet at a local school. Above is Pastor Robert Jackson as he waits for members to pull the rope attached to the plow.

Submissions

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

May 29

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

June 5

Seize the Day: A Call to Missions

Focal Passage: Acts 8:26-35

Imagine that you are standing at a large buffet line filled with all your favorite foods. There is plenty for everyone, which is why you are disturbed when you see a very large man pushing his way past others to get to the front. In fact, the last person he shoves out of the way is a small child, who appears to be terribly malnourished. Your suspicions are correct, as you discover that the child has not eaten in days.

When you confront the man about how he could push a malnourished child out of the way so that he could get to the buffet, you are stunned to hear his response: "Well, I haven't eaten since breakfast, and I've got to eat too!"

Sadly, this little parable is all too real when it comes to the approach of many churches to missions. According to the latest statistics from the International Mission Board, there are 6,793 unreached people groups in the world today. An unreached people group is defined as an

ethno-linguistic group with a common self-identity that is shared by the various members, in which less than 2 percent are evangelical Christians.

Sadly, there are 3,084 of those unreached people groups that are completely unengaged. Of those 3,084 that are unengaged unreached people groups, 334 have populations in excess of 100,000 people. Yet, according to The Joshua Project, 87 percent of total giving to international missions in the U.S. goes to groups already defined as "Christian."

When it comes to international missions, we are very much like the large man at the buffet pushing past the malnourished child.

In Acts 8:26-35, Philip responds quickly to the Lord's command to go. Philip is faithful to go wherever and to whomever God sends him. In his case, it was to a nearly deserted road where he discovered an Ethiopian. Philip was willing to cross cultural boundaries for the sake of the gospel. Are you?

**ROB POHEK**

Pastor, First Baptist Church Park Street, Charlottesville, Va.

Transformed in My Worship

Focal passage: Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18

As a child, my favorite board game was Candyland. What little girl does not love a world full of chocolate, lollipops and princesses? Of the hundreds of times I played the game with my mom, my most vivid memory is the day I proudly suggested she draw the first card. I set up the game, shuffled the deck and with a beaming smile exclaimed, "OK, Mom. This time I'm letting you go first."

Though Mom was initially impressed with my humility, moments later she discovered it was a sham. I had stacked the deck, placing the winning card second from the top. I was allowing my mom to draw first, knowing that in doing so I would win the game.

It is easy to chuckle at my strategy, but this problem of doing right things with wrong motives is not unique to four-year-olds. As Christians, our actions of obedient worship are far too often marred by the sinfulness of our hearts.

Jesus addressed the motives of his followers in the Sermon on the Mount when He cautioned, "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them" (Matthew 6:1). He warned that the spiritual disciplines of giving, fasting and prayer do not honor God when done for self-promotion.

Jesus came to redeem every aspect of our lives, even worship. He longs to transform the inner motivation of our hearts so our worship glorifies Him instead of ourselves. When we give, pray and fast in secret, we proclaim to God that He alone is worthy of our worship, and as a result, He lavishes us with an immeasurable reward.

I won the game of Candyland that day, but there was no real reason to celebrate. My reward came, but it was empty. In the same way, unless we allow Christ to transform our worship, our spiritual reward will be empty.

But, praise God, if we seek to make Christ the focus of our worship, He will reward us with Himself!

**EMILY ANTHONY**

Member, Imago Dei Church, Raleigh

May 29

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

June 5

Extraordinary

Focal Passage: Acts 12:7-12, 16-19

Our culture constantly seeks bigger and better things, and assumes new things must be better than the things they replaced.

When I was young, the Atari 2600 video game system was replaced by the Atari 5200, and people began to upgrade. A few years later gamers were drawn to a brand new system called Nintendo, which became all the rage. Fast-forward to 2016 and all those game systems seem like museum pieces. Things made by man eventually cease to impress us, because they can be surpassed by new and better innovations.

Is there anything that can't be surpassed?

In Acts 12 Herod attacked the church by executing James the son of Zebedee, and putting Peter in jail. As he awaited trial, Peter slept bound between two soldiers and guarded outside the prison by two more men. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord woke Peter and led him out of the prison. Even the gate of the city opened

by itself! Peter was reunited with the believers gathered at the home of John Mark's mother to celebrate the awesome things God had done for Peter. While God's people rejoiced, Herod ordered the guards to be executed.

People who develop technology never stop trying to propel us forward.

When God moves to open doors for His witnesses or to radically save lost sinners, no true believer says, "We're no longer impressed with that, God!"

God's perfection will never be outdone or outdated.

What do we desire most in our churches? Many of our members want better facilities,

larger attendance or more finances. While each of these things are desirable, they don't define the New Testament church. Most any worldly organization would desire these things. Many churches across the globe lack these things, but have what numerous well-polished American churches lack – a regular demonstration of the extraordinary power of God.

**TROY RUST**

Pastor, Florence Avenue Baptist Church, Oxford

Answered!

Focal Passage: 1 Samuel 1:10-18; 26-28

A town was suffering from a severe drought. A local pastor called for a town-wide prayer meeting to seek God for rain. The night of the meeting, the church was standing-room only. The pastor stood behind the pulpit and spoke these words, "You might as well go home. The prayers are not going to be effective."

Outraged, the people wanted to know why. He replied, "Look around, where are your umbrellas?"

In our study today, we find Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, coming and pleading before God because she was unable to have children. In those days, a barren woman was held in disgrace. They thought that God was punishing her for some unknown sin.

She came to the Tabernacle at Shiloh as the family did each year. Verse 10 says that she was deeply hurt and cried many tears.

She knew the only answer to her

dilemma lay in God, and Him alone. Her prayer was made in assurance that God would hear and answer her.

Verse 18 tells us that when she had finished praying her countenance and spirit was lifted. She had faith that God heard her, and she could count on Him to do what was right.

This speaks to us today, we can come to God in faith with our heartaches, our fears, our desires, our frustrations and be assured that He listens.

He sees beyond just the words that we say, He sees our very being.

He knows what is best for us and what He plans for us. In His way and in His time, we can rest assured that He will respond.

Today, consider, "Where is your umbrella?" When you come to God with your prayers do you trust Him to hear? Do you believe that He can and will answer? If not, what hinders you from having faith in the One you approach?

Confess to Him your shortcoming and ask for His empowering grace to have the faith to believe Him.

**THOMAS MARSHALL**

Member, Spring Hill Baptist Church, Wagram

Congress

Continued from page 6

through college. I have a biblical world view. While some say we should not mix religion and politics, we have to elect godly leaders.”

Johnson describes himself as “a grass-roots candidate who doesn’t have a lot of money or big endorsements.”

“I’m just a regular guy who loves his family, his community, his country and his state,” he said. “I’m simply fed up with Washington and how we have completely strayed away from where we started as a nation,” Johnson told the *Recorder*. “We were built on Christian values. We have a Congress right now that passed a budget to continue funding Planned Parenthood. To me it is the most offensive organization on earth. How can an organization that sells body parts still exist and be tax funded?”

The issue of abortion is a major concern for Johnson. “I firmly believe that a man and a woman do not make a child. I believe a child can only be conceived with the hand of God. Therefore you



TODD JOHNSON

cannot take the life of a child God has given us – under any circumstances. That’s why I am adamantly against Planned Parenthood.”

Johnson served as county commissioner in Union County from 2010-2014. “We came under scrutiny for praying in Jesus’ name before our meetings,” he said. “The Freedom From Religion Foundation in Madison, Wisc., threatened us multiple times with lawsuits, but the lawsuit never came. We continued to pray in Jesus name. Also, we were one of the first counties to pass a resolution to support the Marriage Amendment in 2012, which defined marriage between a man and a woman.”

There are fiscal matters that prompted his decision to run for Congress. “Our nation is headed toward a fiscal cliff at 100 miles per hour. It is out of control. I want to say that Planned Parenthood is not just a social issue. It’s a fiscal issue also, because tax-payer money is funding these atrocious practices.” The Republican primary is a three-man race in the 9th district. Incumbent Congressman Robert Pittinger, Mark Harris and Johnson face each other June 7.

“The other two gentlemen are professing Christians, and I feel fortunate that the 9th district has the opportunity to elect a strong Christian man. I think any of the three the voters choose – based on their profession of faith – we’re going to be in good shape. Now, I want to be that one, but I think it’s important that the *Biblical Recorder* readers know that I’m not going to get into the game of trying to ‘out-Christian’ someone. What I’m going to do is to live and

work and let you see it. I have professed my faith publicly and I will continue to do that, but I will not do it for political gain.”

Johnson earned a bachelor of arts degree in management and society from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2000. He returned to Wadesboro to work in the family business, Johnson Insurance Management, where he now serves as president.

He married his high school sweetheart, Amanda, in 2003. They moved to Monroe in 2004 and joined Lakeview Baptist Church, where they continue to actively serve along with their two sons.

Mark Harris (9th District)

Mark Harris announced his candidacy for N.C.’s 9th District seat of the United States Congress on March 28. He is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte and former candidate for the U.S. Senate. The *Biblical Recorder* ran a story about Harris and the state’s redistricting plan in the April 23 edition. **BR**

The rescheduled primary election June 7 includes candidates for the U.S. Congress and four non-partisan candidates for the N.C. Supreme Court. Early voting is May 26-June 4. Go to http://enr.ncsbe.gov/pollingplace_search/ where you will be asked to enter your address to locate your district and to see a sample ballot. A map of the new districts is at ballotpedia.org/File:Nc_remedial_map_2016.jpeg.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Memorial Baptist Church of Williamston, NC, is prayerfully seeking the man God has chosen to lead us in bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, developing them spiritually, and equipping them for His ministry. Visit membap.org for details. Accepting resumes until June 30, 2016. Email to pastorsearch@membap.org.

Tolarsville Baptist Church of St. Paul’s, North Carolina, is seeking an energetic, compassionate **bi-vocational pastor** to lead all ages as well as strive to develop the next generation of believers. We would prefer the pastor to have or be in the process of obtaining a Seminary/Divinity degree. We are accepting resumes through June 30th, 2016. Please send to tbsearch@yahoo.com.

Church Staff

Full-Time Minister of Music/Discipleship/Education needed for blended worship services for a progressive and growing church affiliated with SBC in Western North Carolina. A Masters of Music, or equivalent experience, is required. Duties will include planning, developing and implementing the music program, as well as, discipleship/educational/ministry needs as directed by the church. Knowledge of current computer technology is required. Submit resumes to: Newfound Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 6, Leicester, NC 28748, or reply electronically to tomseals@att.net. A complete job description is posted at newfoundbaptist.com >About>New Position.

Western Prong Baptist Church of Whiteville, NC, is seeking a **full-time Youth Pastor** to promote the spiritual growth of students grades 7-12. Duties would consist of the following: Primary duty to lead and plan a comprehensive youth ministry to include bible teaching, mission projects, recreational fellowship, and assist/support Pastor with administrative responsibilities. Ministerial degree preferred. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, 167 Peacock Rd, Whiteville, NC 28472.

Fraley Memorial Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC, is seeking a **full-time youth minister**. We are SBC affiliated and affirm the Baptist Faith and Message. Approx. 30k annual compensation. Belief statement is posted at fraleymemorial.com. Send resumes to Search Team, PO Box 775, Lowell, NC 28098, or office@fraleymemorial.com.

Mt. Elam Baptist Church, in Roseboro, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor for Youth and Music**. Responsibilities include leading worship on Sunday morning and weekly youth services. We are looking for someone who is willing to plant their lives in this community, in order to further the gospel work that has already been done. Mt. Elam is a family oriented Southern Baptist church located near the community of Spivey’s Corner. We affiliate ourselves with the BSCNC and the New South River Baptist Association, as well as the BF&M 2000. We will be accepting resumes until June 30, 2016.

Worship Leader, Part-Time Position. First Baptist Church Kershaw, SC, is seeking a passionate, humble and experienced individual for the role of part-time worship leadership. For detailed information please go to fbckershaw.org/welcome. Email brief cover letter expressing your testimony and detailed resume to personnel@fbckershaw.org.

New Hope Baptist Church is receiving resumes for a **full-time Youth and Children’s Minister** through June 9, 2016. Send resumes to: New Hope Baptist Church, Attention: Search Committee; PO Box 116, Earl, NC 28038, or russandmo@aol.com.

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

First Baptist Church of Washington, North Carolina, is seeking a **Minister of Youth and Education**. This is a full-time position. College and seminary/divinity school degree preferred. Washington is located in eastern North Carolina (20 miles east of East Carolina University). See the church’s website for more information about the church: www.thefirstbaptistchurch.com. Send resume to Search Team, 113 N. Harvey St., Washington, NC 27889.

Cornerstone Baptist Church seeks **FT director of Music Ministry**. Blended worship style which includes choir and praise team. Knowledge and utilization of audio/visual. Email harvbags@hotmail.com or mail resumes to 8947 Albemarle Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227.

YOUTH LEADER/PASTOR. Blackwelder Park Baptist Church seeks a part-time Youth Leader/Pastor. Send cover letter, resume, three references to Anne Corriher, Personnel, Blackwelder Park Baptist Church, 2204 Summit Ave., Kannapolis, N.C. 28081.

Swann Station Baptist Church (SSBC) is seeking a **part-time Music Director** to join our ministry team. We are seeking a musically gifted and mature follower of Christ with a desire to lead a cross-generational church in worship. The Music Director should possess the ability to create a diverse fusion of music including contemporary Christian, traditional hymns, and various other musical styles. Follow link to apply: <https://form.jotform.com/60218403288150>.

Children’s & Youth Director. Bunn Baptist Church in Bunn, NC, is looking for a part-time Children’s & Youth Director. Duties include directing, teaching, planning and coordinating special children & youth events. Contact (252) 303-1069.

Denominational

The *Biblical Recorder* has an opening for a **part-time Editorial Aide**. The job involves posting material on the website, proofing, researching and writing. Some assignments can be done remotely and some require in-office tasks. Approximately 25 hours weekly. Please submit a resume in a Word document format to Allan Blume, editor, at editor@brnow.org. For more information about the *Biblical Recorder* visit BRnow.org/About-us/Who-we-are.

Miscellaneous

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

NCBAM needs teams of 2-4 servant volunteers to “adopt” an aging adult and provide friendly visits 1-2 hours a week. All counties needed; training provided. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

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

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.20 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.42 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

AROUND THE STATE continued from page 13

Retirement

DAN DEATON has retired after 55 years in ministry. He has pastored five churches in North Carolina beginning at Whiteville First Baptist, Whiteville, where he was an associate pastor; then Beaufort First Baptist Church, Beaufort; Sharon Baptist Church, Charlotte, which he founded; Tabor City Baptist Church, Tabor City; and lastly Friendship Baptist Church, Bunnlevel. From there he became the director of missions for Little River Baptist Association, Lillington, where he served for 20 years. Deaton became a pastor in the Army Reserve, working his way up to a lieutenant colonel rank as a command chaplain. During Desert Storm he was stationed at Fort Bragg where he supervised nearly 30 other chaplains. He was a chaplain for 28 years. He served a residency at Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem where he gave pastoral care in the burn ward and to mental health patients. Deaton was active with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He served on the executive committee and general board for four years and worked to train deacons and assisted nine churches in conflict resolution. International mission work has taken him all over the world.

Now living in Lillington, Deaton continues to maintain an active ministry. He is available for deacon trainings, pulpit supply and interim positions. Contact him at (910) 261-5148.

TY TALTON will retire May 22 from Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, where he has been the minister of youth for 29 years. Talton also served as associate pastor at Union Grove, Kernersville, for seven years, and Forsyth Park Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, and spent a year as a chaplain at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Prior to that he was associate pastor at First Baptist, Waynesboro, Va. His degrees were obtained at Furman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Wake Forest University. Talton will reside in Catawba, and be available for pulpit supply, conferences and consultation. His contact phone number is (828) 241-1034.

LESLEY BRUNSON has retired after 12 years of serving Highland Baptist Church, Raleigh, as music director. She began as their interim in 2004, and assumed the long-term position in August 2007. She officially retired April 10. Brunson received a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Samford Univer-

sity. She is wife to the director of Baptists on Mission for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Richard Brunson, and mother to three children.

GLENN D. "DAN" SELLERS retired in 2015 after 50 years of ministry with his wife Faye. He began his ministry in the Wilmington Baptist Association where he served at his first two churches Watha Baptist Church and Rocky Point Baptist Church. He was the youth director for the Wilmington association for six years. From that time he served as pastor at several churches in the Eastern Baptist Association including First Baptist Church, Wallace; Concord Baptist Church, Magnolia; Shiloh Baptist Church, Chinquapin; and lastly Magnolia Baptist Church, Magnolia.

Early in his ministry Sellers felt a call to serve small, rural churches who could not afford to pay a full-time pastor. This conviction led him to bivocational pastoring for 25 years. Sellers has worked for Baptists on Mission doing disaster relief for several years, including three years as the coordinator in Chinquapin during a time of flooding. He has been, and still is, involved in missions, and is currently active in the Eastern Baptist Association. Sellers is also a member of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine which is among the most prestigious awards conferred by the governor of North Carolina.

Sellers and Faye are living in Wallace. They have three children, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

He is available for pulpit supply and interim positions. Contact (910) 285-2431.

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NEW CHURCHES NEEDED IN DURHAM AND ACROSS STATE

There are many churches in Durham, yet many more are needed.

That's because many evangelical churches are not engaging some people groups or neighborhoods have just been missed by area churches.

Dan Johnson and his team are working hard to start a new

church in downtown Durham, a few blocks from Duke University. He is one of more than 100 church planting missionaries N.C. Baptists are supporting to plant new churches and reach more of the estimated 5.8 million lost people who live across the state.

On Sunday, May 22, thousands of N.C. Baptists will pray for Johnson and his ministry through the 52 Sundays missions prayer initiative.

Want your church to join in this prayer? Go to ncbaptist.org/cpresources and download the PowerPoint with images like the one above.